WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 31, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 27
12th Sunday After Pentecost

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301
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His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese,
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2025 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Deacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Daniel Slife
Members: Anthony Dodovich, Bud Graham, Jefferson Hodge, Daniel Ralich

Choir Director: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas
Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh, Reader Michael Luc

Church School: Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude
Staff: Natalie Slife, Eve Tavenier, Reader Nicholas Morelli, Frances Hakim, Subdeacon David Trace

Sisterhood of St. Juliana:

President: Sandy Graham V. President: Kathy Gray
Secretary: Katherine Hodge; Treasurer: Mary Magensky;
Assistant Treasurer: Anastasia Bohush

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2025

Sunday, August 31 - Bud Graham
Sunday, September 7 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, September14 – Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, September 21 –Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, September 28 –Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3
The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most-holy Theotokos
Saturday, August 30
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20
Sunday, August 31
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle: 1 Cor. 15:1-11 Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26
Panakhida requested by Bilas and Bohush families.

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4
Forefeast of the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos
SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
Saturday, September 6
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8
Sunday, September 7
9:10 am - 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 Gospel: John 3:13-17
Panakhida for Christine Coladangelo as requested by the DiPuccio Family

THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY
Monday, September 8
8:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

The Risen Christ, Faith's Reality

15 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the
gospel which I preached to you, which also you
received and in which you stand, 2 by which also you
are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached
to you—unless you believed in vain.

3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also
received: that Christ died for our sins according to the
Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose
again the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and
that He was seen by [a]Cephas, then by the
twelve. 6 After that He was seen by over five hundred
brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to
the present, but some have [b]fallen asleep. 7 After that
He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. 8 Then
last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out
of due time.

9 For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy
to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church
of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His
grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more
abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of
God *which was* with me. 11 Therefore, whether *it was* I
or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26

Jesus Counsels the Rich Young Ruler

16 Now behold, one came and said to Him,
"Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may
have eternal life?" 17 So He said to him, [b]"Why do
you call Me good? [c]No one *is* good but One, *that*
is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the
commandments."
18 He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You
shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,'
'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false
witness,' 19 'Honor your father and *your* mother,'
and 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "
20 The young man said to Him, "All these things I
have kept [d]from my youth. What do I still lack?"
21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell
what you have and give to the poor, and you will have
treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."
22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went
away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to
you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom
of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a
camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich
man to enter the kingdom of God."
25 When His disciples heard *it,* they were greatly
astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"
26 But Jesus looked at *them* and said to them, "With
men this is impossible, but with God all things are
possible."

The Feast of the Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Mother of God

According to Church tradition, after the bodily death of Mary the Theotokos, she was buried by the Apostles. But Thomas was delayed, and he desired to look upon her face one last time. When the tomb was opened, her body was gone (for Christ had already granted her the bodily resurrection which awaits us all at the Second Coming). At this moment, the Theotokos appeared and gave Thomas her own belt (also called the cincture or sash) as consolation.

The belt was kept at Jerusalem until it was taken to Constantinople in the 5th century. In the 14th century, it was given to Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos by the emperor, and it remains there to this day.

The feast of the Cincture (Sash) of the Theotokos is celebrated on August 31, the last day of the liturgical year in the Orthodox Church.

Troparion – (*Cincture (Sash) of the Theotokos)*

Ever Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind,
you have given your people a powerful legacy:
the robe and sash of your most honored body which
remained incorrupt throughout your seedless
childbearing;
for through you time and nature are renewed
Therefore we implore you: "Grant peace to your
people and to our souls great mercy!"

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

The Annual Conference of our Diocese, the Bulgarian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America, will be held on **Friday, October 10, and Saturday, October 11, at St. Nicholas Church in Burton (Flint), Michigan**

A **Parish Meeting to elect a delegate to the Conference** will be held this **Sunday, August 31**, following the Divine Liturgy.

"A tree is known by its fruit; a man by his deeds. A good deed is never lost; he who sews courtesy reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness gathers love." **St. Basil the Great**

OUR STEWARDSHIP – AUGUST 24, 2025

Candles:	**$ 83.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,265.00**
House Blessing Donation:	**100.00**
Tithely Donations:	**997.62**
PayPal Doinations:	**96.62**
TOTAL:	**$2,542.24**

"Do not say that faith in Christ alone can save you, for this is not possible if you do not attain love for Him, which is demonstrated by deeds. As for mere faith: 'The demons also believe and tremble.' " (James 2:19.)

St .Maximos the Confessor

Church New Year
Commemorated on September 1

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on September 1.

According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, the Savior proclaimed, ***"The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."***

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September.

Troparion ***(Church NewYear))***

O Creator of the Universe, You appointed times by Your own power; bless the crown of this year with Your goodness, O Lord! Preserve in safety Your rulers and Your cities: and through the intercessions of the Theotokos, save us.

SEPT. 1
DIRECTION IN NEW YEAR

As we continue in this first month of a NewYear, this sense of intently focusing on Jesus and His message invites us to watch closely, to look intently for the message of God in our lives throughout the coming year.

To do this we need to be deliberate about listening to what happens in our life each day, to keep our inner eyes open so that we can see how it is that God moves through our days, to open the ears of our mind and our hearts so that we can hear the Voice of God beckoning to us in each and every person and event.

Looking intently for God amid our everyday life presumes that we believe God is there. It also requires reverence for every part of our lives, whether or not we enjoy that aspect of life because each part is an opportunity to encounter the Divine Presence. Those daily glimpses of God that we receive when we are ready and willing to listen closely provide the directions we need for our life.

Kontakion ***(Church New Year)***
O Creator and Master of time and the ages, Triune and Merciful God of all: grant blessings for the course of this year, and in Your boundless mercy save those who worship You and cry out in fear:
"O Savior, grant blessings to <u>all</u> mankind!"

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila Cravcenco
Kristopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUTINS

Archbishop Onuphry of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Priest John Manuel
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Brian Gable
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodovna

Love One Another

"I give you a new commandment," said Jesus, "love one another." ...

He showed the newness of His command and how far the love He enjoined surpassed the old conception of mutual love by going on immediately to add:

"Love one another as I have loved you."

To understand the full force of these words, we have to consider how Christ loved us. Then it will be easy to see what is new and different in the commandment we are now given.

Do you see what is new in Christ's love for us? The law commanded people to love their brothers and sisters as they love themselves, but our Lord Jesus Christ loved us more than Himself.

He who was one in nature with God the Father and His equal would not have descended to our lowly estate, nor endured in His flesh such a bitter death for us, nor submitted the blows given Him by His enemies, to the shame, the derision, and all the other sufferings that could not be enumerated.

Nor being rich, would He have become poor, had He not loved us far more than Himself. It was indeed something new to go as far as that!

Christ commands us to love as He did, putting neither reputation, nor wealth, nor anything whatever before love of our brothers and sisters. If need be, we must even be prepared to face death for our neighbor's salvation as did our Savior's blessed disciples and those who followed in their footsteps. To them the salvation of others mattered more than their own lives, and they were ready to do anything to save souls that were perishing,

The Savior urged us to practice this love that transcends the law as the foundation of true devotion to God. He knew that only in this way could we become pleasing in God's eyes, and that it was by seeking the beauty of the love implanted in us by Himself that we should attain to the highest blessings.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law." **Galatians 5:22-23**