WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 7, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 28
13th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross

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 Rev. Deacon Aaron Gray

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, 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

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

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 5
THE UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-CREATING CROSS ***Strict Fast***
Saturday, September 13
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 12:28-36
Sunday, September 14
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35
Panakhida for +George Pultea as requested by Eve Tavenier

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Glory Only in the Cross

11 See what large letters I have written to you with my
own hand! 12 As many as desire to make a good
showing in the flesh, these *would* compel you to be
circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution
for the cross of Christ. 13 For not even those who are
circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you
circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. 14 But
God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of
our Lord Jesus Christ, by [a]whom the world has been
crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 For in Christ
Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails
anything, but a new creation. 16 And as many as walk
according to this rule, peace and mercy *be* upon them,
and upon the Israel of God. 17 From now on let no one
trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the
Lord Jesus.18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came
down from heaven, *that is,* the Son of Man [a]who is in
heaven. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the
wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted
up, 15 that whoever believes in Him should [b]not perish
but have eternal life. 16 For God so loved the world that
He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes
in Him should not perish but have everlasting
life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to

condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Matthew 21:33-42
The Parable of the Wicked Vinedressers
33 "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. **34** Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. **35** And the vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. **36** Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. **37** Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' **38** But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' **39** So they took him and cast *him* out of the vineyard and killed *him.*
40 "Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?"
41 They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease *his* vineyard to other vinedressers who will [a]render to him the fruits in their seasons."
42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:
'The stone which the builders rejected
Has become the chief cornerstone.
This was the Lord's doing,
And it is marvelous in our eyes'?

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 8

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous

Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcame the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymn: ***"The East Gate bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls".*** .. (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried").

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING

Following the Divine Liturgy today, September 1

THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God will be celebrated on **Monday morning, September 8, at 8:00 am.**

PARISH COUNCIL

A Parish Council Meeting will be held this week on Tuesday, **September 9,2025 at 6:30 pm.**

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

At the Parish Meeting held last Sunday, August 31, Subdeacon David Trace was elected to be our delegate to the Diocesan Conference.

OUR STEWARDSHIP – AUGUST 31, 2025

Candles:	$ 58.00
Sunday Tray Offerings:	350.00
Parking Lot Improvement:	1,250.00
Tithely Donations:	402.12
TOTAL:	**$2,060.12**

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

OCW KICKOFF 2025-26

Sunday, September 28, 2025 2:00 4:00 pm
St. George Antiochian Church, 3204 Ridgewood Road

Eat: **Sweets, Savories, Beverages** ***Win*****: Gift Baskets**
Celebrate**: Orthodox Christian Woman of the Year**
Everyone Welcome
Guest Speaker: Kassiani Callos
presents:
"BAKING YOU HAPPY"
Reflections on living a life of service, the many blessings I've received, and lessons I'm learning along the way

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CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX COUNCIL OF AKRON

presents

Hymns of the Theotokos

October 5, 2025 -- 4:00 pm
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mogadore, Ohio

Choirs from Orthodox Christian Churches in the Greater Akron area presenting Orthodox Hymnography for the Birthgiver of God.

Free will offering to benefit COCA activities.