WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 21, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 230
15th Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday After 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
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

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 21 –Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, September 28 –Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, October 5 – Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, October 12 – Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6
SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS
Saturday, September 20
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12
Sunday, September 21
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Nicholas Morelli
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Gospels: Mark 8:34-9:1; Matthew 22:35-46

Tuesday,, September 23
Conception of Saint John the Baptist
Wednesday, September 24
Holy New Martyrs of Alaska, Hieromonk Juvenaly and Peter the Aleut
Holy Protomartyr and Equal-to-the-Apostles Thecla
Thursday, September 25
Repose of Venerable Sergius of Radonezh

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 7
Venerable Chariton the Confessor, Abbot of Palestine
Martyrdom of St. Wenceslaus, Prince of the Czechs
Saturday, September 27
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:12-35
Sunday, September 28
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10
Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20

16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of
the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have
believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by
faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by
the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.
17 "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we
ourselves also are found sinners, *is* Christ therefore a
minister of sin? Certainly not! 18 For if I build again
those things which I destroyed, I make myself a
transgressor. 19 For I through the law died to the law
that I might live to God. 20 I have been crucified with
Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in
me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by
faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave
Himself for me.

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

34 When He had called the people to *Himself,* with His
disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to
come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his
cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save
his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My
sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it
profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his
own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for
his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My

words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”
9 And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God [a]present with power.”

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

35 Then one of them, a lawyer, asked *Him a question,* testing Him, and saying, 36 “Teacher, which *is* the great commandment in the law?”
37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is *the* first and great commandment. 39 And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

41 While the Pharisees were gathered, Jesus asked them, 42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son, is He?”
They said to Him, “*The Son* of David.”
43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:
44 ‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”?
“If then David calls Him Lord, how then is He, His Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did dare question Him anymore.

Akron 5K Walk/Run Event To Benefit IOCC

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Check In 8:15 am • Opening Prayer/Photo 8:45 am
Walk/Run 9:00 am • Fellowship, refreshments immediately to follow

HOSTED BY

St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church

64 W. Wilbeth Road, Akron OH 44301

5K will begin at the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail Wilbeth Road Trailhead (380 W. Wilbeth Road) and follow the towpath to the Manchester Road Trailhead and back.

– *Any distance or level of participation is welcome* –

Registration fee is $25.

Learn more at

iocc.org/akron

Questions? Contact Deacon Aaron
330.413.8324 • grayaaron@outlook.com

“BLESSING BAGS” for those in need

This fall, our Parish Family will be collecting items to include in “blessing bags” containing necessities for those who are homeless or otherwise in need. Look for the bin located near the entrance of the church and drop off your items as you come each week. **The blessing bags will be assembled following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, October 5,** so all items must be turned in by then. The bags will be given to **Peter Maurin Center** to be distributed to those living in tents in the Akron area and otherwise in need, with any extra loose items to be made available through their twice-a-month toiletry pantry. **Below is a list of ideas of items that may be contributed. Thank you for doing your part to help those in need.**

Baby Wipes
Hand Sanitizer (travel size)
Deodorant (travel size)
Toothbrushes
Toothpaste (travel size)
Shampoo (travel size)
Conditioner (travel size)
Combs
Chapstick
Tissues (travel size)
Feminine Products
Socks
Small Water Bottles
Small Packs of Trail Mix/Granola, etc.
Gum/Mints

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Parish Church School will begin on **Sunday, October 5.** After Holy Communion and Father has taken the Chalice of the Holy Gifts to the Preparation Table, the children will go to the classrooms in the hall and the High School students to the Office.

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 on Sunday, August 31, Subdeacon David Trace was elected to be our delegate to the Diocesan Conference.

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER'S PASTORAL VISIT

Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will be with us on **Saturday, November 8, for Vespers, and on Sunday, November 9 for the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. On** Sunday, the Archbishop will Tonsure Daniel Slife as a Reader, who, with the encouragement and blessing of the Archbishop, has entered our Diocesan Deaconal Program

OUR STEWARDSHIP – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Candles:	$ 55.00
Sunday Tray Offerings:	1,097.00
Candle Desk Donation:	20.00
Tithely Donations:	401.12
TOTAL:	**$ 1,573.12**

Conception of the Honorable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

Commemorated September 23

The holy Prophet Malachi prophesied that before the Messiah's birth His Forerunner would appear and would indicate His coming. The Jews therefore in awaiting the Messiah also awaited the appearance of His Forerunner.

In a city of the hills of Judea in the land of Palestine lived the righteous priest Saint Zachariah and his wife Saint Elizabeth, zealously observing the commandments of the Lord. The couple, however, had a misfortune: they remained childless in their old age, and they prayed unceasingly to God to grant them a child.

Once, when Saint Zachariah took his turn as priest at the Temple of Jerusalem, he went into the Sanctuary to offer incense. Going behind the veil of the Sanctuary, he beheld an angel of God standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

Saint Zachariah was astonished and halted in fear, but the angel said to him, "Fear not, Zachariah, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John." But Zachariah did not believe the words of the heavenly

messenger, and then the angel said to him, “I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you the good news. Behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words....”

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zachariah, and they were astonished that he had not come out from the Sanctuary after so long a time. And when he did come out, he was supposed to pronounce a blessing upon the people but could not do so because he had been struck speechless. When Zachariah explained by gestures that he was unable to speak, the people then understood that he had experienced a vision. The prophecy of the Archangel was fulfilled, and Righteous Elizabeth was delivered from her barrenness, and gave birth to John, the Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord

Troparion of the Conception of the Honorable Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist

Rejoice, O barren one, who formerly did not bear a child, for thou hast conceived the Lamp of the Sun, Who is to illumine the whole universe darkened by blindness! Rejoice, O Zachariah, and cry out with boldness: “The Prophet of the Most High desires to be born!”

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.