WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 28, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 31
16th 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 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 28 –Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, October 5 – Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, October 12 – Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, October 19 – Sue Ellen Turscak

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

Holyday

PROTECTION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Tuesday, September 30

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 8

Saturday, October 4

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:36-53

Sunday, October 5

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-17:1
Gospels: Luke 6:31-36

4:00 pm COCA Concert: Hymns of the Theotokos at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Mogadore, Ohio

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:1-10

6 We then, *as* workers together *with Him* also plead
with *you* not to receive the grace of God in vain. [2] For
He says:

"In an acceptable time I have heard you,
And in the day of salvation I have helped you."

Behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the
day of salvation.

[3] We give no offense in anything, that our ministry
may not be blamed. [4] But in all *things* we commend
ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in
tribulations, in needs, in distresses, [5] in stripes, in
imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness,
in fastings;

[6] by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by
kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by [b]sincere love, [7] by the
word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of
righteousness on the right hand and on the left, [8] by
honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as
deceivers, and *yet* true; [9] as unknown, and *yet* well
known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened,
and *yet* not killed; [10] as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing;
as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing,
and *yet* possessing all things.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

The Great Catch of Fish

5[1] So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, [2] and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. [3] Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat.

[4] When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." [5] But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." [6] And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. [7] So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. [8] When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" [9] For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; [10] and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." [11] So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

The Protection of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary Commemorated on October 1

This miraculous appearance of the Mother of God occurred in the mid-tenth century in Constantinople, in the Blachernae church where her robe, veil, and part of her belt were preserved after being transferred from Palestine in the fifth century.

On Sunday, October 1, during the All Night Vigil, when the church was overflowing with those at prayer, the Fool-for-Christ Saint Andrew (October 2), at the fourth hour, lifted up his eyes towards the heavens and beheld our most Holy Lady Theotokos coming through the air, resplendent with heavenly light and surrounded by an assembly of the Saints. Saint John the Baptist and the holy Apostle John the Theologian accompanied the Queen of Heaven. On bended knees the Most Holy Virgin tearfully prayed for Christians for a long time. Then, coming near the Bishop's Throne, she continued her prayer.

After completing her prayer she took her veil and spread it over the people praying in church, protecting them from enemies both visible and invisible. The Most Holy Lady Theotokos was resplendent with heavenly glory, and the protecting veil in her hands gleamed "more than the rays of the sun." Saint Andrew gazed trembling at the miraculous vision and he asked his disciple, the blessed Epiphanius standing beside him, "Do you see, brother, the Holy Theotokos, praying for all the world?" Epiphanius answered, "I do see, holy Father, and I am in awe."

The Ever-Blessed Mother of God implored the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the prayers of all the people calling on His Most Holy Name, and to respond speedily to her intercession, ***"O Heavenly King, accept all those who pray to You and call on my name for help. Do not let them go away from my icon unheard."***

Saints Andrew and Epiphanius were worthy to see the Mother of God at prayer, and "for a long time observed the Protecting Veil spread over the people and shining with flashes of glory. As long as the Most Holy Theotokos was there, the Protecting Veil was also visible, but with her departure it also became invisible. After taking it with her, she left behind the grace of her visitation."

At the Blachernae church, the memory of the miraculous appearance of the Mother of God was remembered. In the fourteenth century, the Russian pilgrim and clerk Alexander, saw in the church an icon of the Most Holy Theotokos praying for the world, depicting Saint Andrew in contemplation of her.
The Primary Chronicle of Saint Nestor reflects that the protective intercession of the Mother of God was needed because an attack of a large pagan Russian fleet under the leadership of Askole and Dir. The feast celebrates the divine destruction of the fleet which threatened Constantinople itself, sometime in the years 864-867 or according to the Russian historian Vasiliev, on June 18, 860. Ironically, this Feast is considered more important by the Slavs then by the Greeks.
seem that Saint Andrew, contemplating the miraculous vision was a Slav, was taken captive, and became the

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 Subdeacon David Trace is our elected 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 21, 2025

Candles:	$ 93.00
Sunday Tray Offerings:	680.00
Tithely Donations:	463.62
TOTAL:	**$1,235.62**

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