WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 5, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 32
17th Sunday After Pentecost

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301
Church Hall: 330-724-7129
Office: 330-724-7009
www.saintelia.com
www.facebook.com/sainteliakron

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, October 5 – Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, October 12 – Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, October 19 – Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, October 26 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 8
Church Musician Sunday
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

Monday, October 6
Glorification of Saint Innocent, Metropolitan of Moscow, Enlightener of the Aleuts and Apostle to the Americas
Thursday, October 9
Glorification of Saint Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia, Enlightener of North America

18th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 1
COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS OF THE SEVENTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
Saturday, October 11
5:00 pm Vespers - Protodeacon James Gresh
Sunday, October 12
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 7:11-16

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 6:16-17:1

6:[16] And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

"I will dwell in them
And walk among them.
I will be their God,
And they shall be My people."

[17] Therefore
"Come out from among them
And be separate, says the Lord.
Do not touch what is unclean,
And I will receive you."
[18] ***"I will be a Father to you,***
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty."

17:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

"Like the apple of Thine eye, preserve me, O Lord God; defend me and beneath Thy wings shelter me from temptations.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

Gospel: Luke 6:31-36

Be Merciful

31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.
32 "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them.
33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same.
34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.
35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.
36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.

"Love for God and one's neighbor, they go together and cannot be divorced. Love towards one's brother cultivates love towards God."
"One thing is needful in our life—love, adoration of Christ and love towards our fellow men. What is required is for us all to be one, with Christ as the head. This is the only way in which we will acquire grace, heaven and eternal life."

Wounded By Love, Elder Porphyrius

Martyr Charitina of Amisos

Commemorated on October 5

Saint Charitina (Charitínē) was from Amisos (Amisós) in Pontus and lived during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (284-305). Orphaned at a young age, she became the servant of a noble Roman Christian named Claudianus, or Claudius, who brought her up as his own daughter. The young girl was very pretty, sensible, and kind. She imparted her love for Christ to others and brought many to the path of salvation.

Saint Charitina was meek, humble, obedient and silent. Although she was not yet baptized, she was a Christian at heart. She studied the Law of God day and night and vowed to preserve her virginity as a true bride of Christ.

Because Saint Charitina brought many others to the Christian Faith, Dometius, one of Emperor Diocletian's governors, came to hear of her and sent a letter to Claudius, ordering him to send Charitina to him so that he might question her. Claudius had no doubts about the result of this interrogation. Grieved at the prospect of losing her, he put on sackcloth and wept bitter tears. Charitina comforted him, saying: "Do not grieve, my Master, but rejoice, for I am to become an acceptable sacrifice to God, for my sins and for yours. "Claudius replied: "O Servant of God, remember me when you stand before the heavenly King in the ranks of the Holy Martyrs."

The Saint was brought before a judge at the tribunal. He asked her: "Is it true that you are a Christian, and that you delude others by bringing them

to your impious faith?" Charitina replied: "It is true that I am a Christian, but it is a lie that I delude others. On the contrary, I lead them from deception to the path of truth, bringing them to my Christ."

Then the judge ordered her hair to be cut off, but by the power of God, her hair grew back even longer than before. Then burning coals were placed on her head, and vinegar was poured over her scorched flesh, increasing her pain. They drove flaming sticks through her breasts and burnt her sides with candles. Finally, they tied a stone around her neck and threw her into the sea. She cried out: "This is my Baptism." Suddenly, the stone was loosened and sank, and God delivered her from the sea unharmed.

When the judge saw her on the shore, he ordered his men to seize her and strip her naked and then tie her to a wheel which turned over burning coals, but an Angel of God stopped the wheel and once again Saint Charitina remained unharmed. The judge became furious and ordered that the nails of her hands and her feet be torn out, and that all her teeth be broken. Then the wicked judge sent many dissolute men to rape her. Fearing this dishonor, Saint Charitina prayed that God would receive her soul before these vile men could defile her virginal body; and so, as she prayed, she surrendered her pure soul to God.

When the judge saw that she was dead, he had her body placed in a sack weighted with stones and tossed it into the sea. By Divine Providence, her body was brought to the shore three days later. Her master Claudius found her body and buried her with appropriate honor and reverence

CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX COUNCIL OF AKRON

presents

Hymns of the Theotokos

Today -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

****

CHURCH SCHOOL

Our Parish Church School begins **today, Sunday, October 5**. After the Divine Liturgy, the children will come forward for the Prayer and Blessing of the opening of Church School and then to welcome a special guest.

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.

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 12,** 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

FALL FAMILY FUNFEST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
Followed by
Covered Dish Luncheon
And
OUR ANNUAL TRUNK-A-TREAT

EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING
A TREAT TO SHARE WITH ALL THE KIDS – young and older

****

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 Pontifical 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:	$ 79.00
Sunday Tray Offerings:	1,855.00
Parking Lot Improvement:	1,250.00
Tithely Donations:	889.12
TOTAL:	**$4,073.12**

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 Wsevolodov