WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 19, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 42
19th 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 ParishRector
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 19 – Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, October 26 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, November 2 – Bud Graham
Sunday, November 9 – Reader Daniel Slife

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 2
Prophet Joel. Translation of the Relics of Venerable John,Abbot of the Rila Monastery in Bulgaria
Saturday, October 18
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18
Sunday, October 19
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9
Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

Troparion of Saint John of Rila
Your angelic life was a foundation of repentance and a model of compunction,
an image of consolation and spiritual perfection.
O venerable father John.
You persevered in prayer, fasting and tears:
Intercede with Christ God for our souls.

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3
HOLY AND GREATMARTYR DEMETRIUS THE MYRRHGUSHER OF THESALONICA
Saturday, October 25
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, October 26
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19
Gospels: Luke 16:19=31

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 11:31-12:9

31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is
blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. 32 In Damascus
the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city
of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest
me; 33 but I was let down in a basket through a window in
the wall, and escaped from his hands.

12 It is [a]doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will
come to visions and revelations of the Lord: 2 I know a
man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the
body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not
know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third
heaven. 3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or
out of the body I do not know, God knows 4 how he
was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible
words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such a
one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in
my infirmities. 6 For though I might desire to boast, I will
not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest
anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or
hears from me.
7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the
abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was
given to me, a messenger of Satan to [b]buffet me, lest I be
exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded
with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for
My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most
gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power
of Christ may rest upon me.

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

5 "A Sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed,
some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and
the birds of the air devoured it. 6 Some fell on rock; and as
soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked
moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns
sprang up with it and choked it. 8 But others fell on good
ground, sprang up, and yielded [a]a crop a
hundredfold." When He had said these things He cried,
"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

9 Then His disciples asked Him, saying, "What does this
parable mean?"
10 And He said, "To you it has been given to know
the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is*
given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see,
And hearing they may not understand.'

The Parable of the Sower Explained
11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of
God. 12 Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then
the devil comes and takes away the word out of their
hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. 13 But the
ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive
the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe
for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 Now
the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they
have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and
pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. 15 But the
ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having
heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and
bear fruit with patience.[

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

2025-2026, October 5 – April 26

After Father Don has completed giving Holy Communion and has taken the Chalice to the side table, the children will go down to the hall for the classes.

Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude
Music Program: Deaconisa Heidi Gesh

Classes are separated into three groups:
Preschool: Mrs. Natalie Slife and Mrs. Eve Tavanier;
School Age: Reader Nicholas Morelli and
Mrs. Frances Hakim;
High School +: Subdeacon David Trace

SAINT ELIA PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, October 21 – 6:30 pm

CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX COUNCIL OF AKRON MEETING

Monday, October 20 – 6:30 pm at St. Elia

OUR STEWARDSHIP – October 12, 2025

Candles:	**$ 74.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,574.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**393.12**
Bookstore:	**1.00**
TOTAL:	**$2.042.12**

PEACEMAKING IN TROUBLED TIMES

St. Vladimir's Seminary just announced an upcoming 4-week distance class about how to be a Christian peacemaker in a world overwhelmed by conflict and division. We are considering participating as a parish, but want to make sure there are enough people interested and willing to "chip in" to cover the $500 cost for the parish. (With a sufficient number of people, it would be a savings over the $200 it would cost for an individual to participate on their own.) Any donation amount is acceptable!

This course will explore what it means to make peace in light of the Gospel. Through biblical reflection and insights from the Church Fathers, Fr. Sergius Halvorsen will guide us through a Christian vision of peace rooted in thanksgiving, humility, and the cross. Fr. Sergius is Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Rhetoric at St. Vlad's.

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

- Differentiate between worldly peacekeeping and the Gospel's call to peacemaking
- Understand the connection between gratitude, patience, and interior peace
- Reflect on the Crucifixion as the foundation of true peace
- Begin to cultivate daily practices of thanksgiving that shape the heart

All classes would be on a Tuesday. The dates would be Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 11, and Nov. 28.

The format each Tuesday would be as follows:

6:30 p.m. Arrive at Church.

6:45 p.m. Watch the 45-minute pre-recorded lecture while sharing a potluck meal.

7:30 p.m. Break time for in-person discussion of the lecture and fellowship.

8:00 p.m. Join live Zoom session with the professor and other participants from around the country.

8:45 p.m. End of Zoom session and head home.

If you are interested in this, please let Deacon Aaron know as soon as possible so we can see if we have enough people to go ahead with it.

"BLESSING BAGS" for those in need

This fall **o**ur Parish Family will be collecting items to include in "blessing bags" containing necessities for those who are homeless or otherwise in need. The blessing bags will be given to Peter Maurin Center to be distributed to those in need, Below is a list of ideas of items that may be contributed. Thank you for doing your part to help.

Baby Wipes
Hand Sanitizer (travel size)
Deodorant (travel size)
ToothbrushesJ
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

Akron SK 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, refreslunents immediately to follow

HOSTED BY

St. Elia the Prophet Orthodox Church

64 W. Wilbeth Road, Akron OH 44301

SK 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

ST. GREGORY CLASSICAL ACADEMY

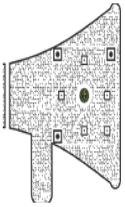
PARENT INFORMATION MEETINGS

TWO OPTIONS:

Wednesday, October 22
@ 6:30 p.m.
St. Nicholas Orthodox Church
755 S. Cleveland Ave.
Mogadore, Ohio 44260

Thursday, November 13
@ 6:30 p.m.
St. Matthew Orthodox Church
10383 Albion Rd
North Royalton, Ohio 44133

Tentative Agenda:
Introduce Headmaster, Matushka Christine DiGiacobbe
What is an Orthodox Classical School
School Location
Curriculum& Book Review
Tuition & Financial Aid
Enrollment Launch Date & Links



If you cannot attend in person, we will offer a virtual Zoom option at the October 22 session at St. Nicholas Please use your camera and point to the QR code to join the live meeting.

Call/text the Headmaster, Matushka Chris DiGiacobbe, with any questions about these informative meetings
330-207-9486 Cell
330-333-6680 School

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