WEEKLY BULLETIN

October 26, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 43

20th Sunday After Pentecost

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America
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Alexander Archbishop of Toledo Bulgarian Diocese,
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude,

Rev. Protodeacon James 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 26 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, November 2 – Bud Graham
Sunday, November 9 – Reader Daniel Slife

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3
HOLY AND GREATMARTYR DEMETRIUS THE MYRRHGUSHER OF THESALONICA
Saturday, October 25
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:19=-31
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 John 15:17-16:2

Monday, October 27
Martyr Nestor of Thessalonica

Troparion – Saint Demetrius

The world has found you to be a great defense against tribulation and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer.
As you bolstered the courage of Nestor, who then humbled the arrogance of Lycaeus in battle.
Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy.

21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 4
Saturday, November 1
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 21-14
Sunday, November 2
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19

Call to Apostleship

11 But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which
was preached by me is not according to man. 12 For I neither
received it from man, nor was I taught *it,* but *it*
came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

13 For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism,
how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure
and *tried to* destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond
many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more
exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my
mother's womb and called *me* through His grace, 16 to reveal
His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,
I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, 17 nor did
I go up to Jerusalem to those *who were* apostles before me;
but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus.

Contacts at Jerusalem

18 Then after three year I went up to Jerusalem to see [a]Peter,
and remained with him fifteen days. 19 But I saw none of the
other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

The Rich Man and Lazarus

19 "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple
and fine linen and [a]fared sumptuously every day. **20** But

there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who
was laid at his gate, **21** desiring to be fed with [b]the crumbs
which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs
came and licked his sores. **22** So it was that the beggar died,
and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich
man also died and was buried. **23** And being in torments in
Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and
Lazarus in his bosom.

24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on
me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in
water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this
flame.' **25** But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your
lifetime you received your good things, and likewise
Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are
tormented. **26** And besides all this, between us and you there
is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from
here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

27 "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would
send him to my father's house, **28** for I have five brothers,
that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place
of torment.' **29** Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and
the prophets; let them hear them.' **30** And he said, 'No, father
Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will
repent.'

31 But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the
prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise
from the dead.' "

Gospel: John 15:17-16:2

17 These things I command you, that you love one another.

The World's Hatred

18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me
before *it hated* you. 19 If you were of the world, the world
would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world,
but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates
you. 20 Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is
not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will
also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep
yours also. 21 But all these things they will do to you for My
name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent
Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken to them, they would
have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. 23 He
who hates Me hates My Father also. 24 If I had not done
among them the works which no one else did, they would
have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me
and My Father. 25 But *this happened* that the word might be
fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me
without a cause.'

The Coming Rejection

26 "But when the [a]Helper comes, whom I shall send to you
from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the
Father, He will testify of Me. 27 And you also will bear
witness, because you have been with Me from the
beginning.

Jesus Warns and Comforts His Disciples

16 "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not
be made to stumble. 2 They will put you out of the
synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you
will think that he offers God service

Holy, Glorious Demetrios the Myrrh-gusher of Thessaloniki

Commemorated on October 26

The Great Martyr Demetrios (Dēmḗtrios) the Myrrh-gusher of Thessaloniki was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessaloniki. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of Saint Demetrios were secret Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home.

By the time Demetrios had reached maturity and his father had died, Emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrios's education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessaloniki district. The young commander's principal duties were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The Emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply: "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The Emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrios he had provided him with the opportunity to bring many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrios returned to Thessaloniki and confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the

inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and the worship of idols. The compiler of his Life, Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became “a second Apostle Paul” for Thessaloniki, particularly since “the Apostle to the Gentiles” founded the first community of believers in the city (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined Saint Demetrios to follow Saint Paul on the path to martyrdom. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the Emperor's rage knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the area of the Black Sea, the Emperor decided to lead his army through Thessaloniki, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, Saint Demetrios ordered his faithful servant Lupus to give his wealth to the poor saying, “Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves.” He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the Emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrios, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian ordered Demetrios to be thrown into prison. An Angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the Emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of

the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to Saint Demetrios, his instructor in the Faith, asking for his blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Saint Demetrios, Nestor defeated the fierce German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor (October 27) and sent a guard to the prison to kill Saint Demetrios. At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the Saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, Saint Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of Saint Demetrios he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified the blood of Saint Demetrios, Saint Lupus began to heal the infirm. The Emperor ordered his soldiers to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrios was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of Saint Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of Saint Demetrios. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrios, so he is called “the Myrrh-gusher.”

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
Preschool: Mrs. Natalie Slife and Mrs. Eve Tavanier;
School Age: Reader Nicholas Morelli and
Mrs. Frances Hakim;
High School +: Subdeacon David Trace

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FALL FAMILY FUNFEST TODAY

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

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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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTION TODAY

Following the Divine Liturgy today, October 26, we will elect a Nominating Committee of three (3) people who will prepare a slate for the 2025 Parish Council who then will be elected on Sunday, November 16

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. Our Chancellor, Father Arcady Muganov will be accompanying Archbishop Alexander

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.

Washington Court Issues Order Protecting Seal of Confession

SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA]

On Friday, October 10, 2025, attorneys for the State of Washington filed a stipulated Order through which the state government and its county prosecutors agreed to entry of a permanent injunction from enforcing a law that would have required priests to report certain information obtained through the Sacrament of Confession. The State of Washington further agreed not to deny clergy the benefit of any privileged communication exceptions that are available under the law to other mandatory reporters.

This is a significant legal victory not only for Orthodox Christians, but for all Christians who recognize the Sacrament of Confession or sacred confidences.

This successful outcome is the result of a legal challenge brought earlier this year by the Orthodox Church in America and several other Orthodox jurisdictions and clergy in response to a Washington State law that specifically targeted clergy and would have compelled priests to violate the Seal of Confession under a wide variety of circumstances.

Such an outcome would have forced priests to choose between following canon law or secular law, a choice that carried with it the penalty of significant fines and even imprisonment. Moreover, the unwarranted intrusion of the government into the Sacrament of Confession would ultimately have deterred many penitents from seeking absolution in the first place.

This ruling represents an important affirmation of religious freedom for Christians everywhere, and the Orthodox Church in America is grateful to all who contributed to this effort on behalf of clergy and faithful.

Commenting on the ruling, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon said, "The bishops and priests of the Orthodox Church in America carry a sacred obligation to maintain the seal of confession without compromise. This decision affirms that duty both in law and in conscience. We thank God for this resolution and for all who labored to bring it about."

More information is available at the websites of the Alliance Defending Freedom and the Ethics and Public Policy Center

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Joshua and Rebeccah (DiPuccio) Elliott were united in the Holy Mystery of Matrimony on Saturday, October 18, at St. Mary's Orthodox Church, Falls Church, Virginia.
MANY YEARS!

GENERAL PARISH MEETING

A General Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 16, following the Divine Liturgy to elect the 2026 Saint Elia Parish Council.

FOR THE ALASKAN SEMINARY – OCA

"So let each one give as he proposes in his heart God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor, 9:6)

During Advent – from **November 15-December 14-** we will make our charitable offerings in support of the Seminarians and Catechists enrolled at St. Herman's Seminary in Kodiak, Alaska.

BEGINNING OF THE NATIVITY FAST

"The Sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled"

The Nativity Fast, Advent, begins on Saturday, Nov 15. On **Friday November 14 at 6:00 pm The Advent Paraclesis will be served as we begin to Prepare for the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ**

OUR STEWARDSHIP – October 19, 2025

Candles:	**$ 68.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**390.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**664.62**
TOTAL:	**$1,122.62**

REMEMBERINGHOSE 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
Priest Gabriel Bilas
MatushkaLaryssaHuntyan
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