WEEKLY BULLETIN

November 16, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 46

23rd 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, OCA
V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Rector

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, November 16 – Sandy Graham
Sunday, November 23 – Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, November 30 – Reader Nicholas Morelli

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

THE NATIVITY FAST

"The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled"

23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 6
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew
Saturday, November 15
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20
Sunday, November 16
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10 Gospel: Luke 10:25-37
Lighting of the First Candle on the Advent Wreath

Holyday
THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE
Thursday, November 20
6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

24th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 7
Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple
Saturday November 22
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8
Sunday, October 23
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: Ephesians 2:14-22 Gospel: Luke 12:`16-21
Lighting of the Second Candle on the Advent Wreath

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great
love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were
dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ
(by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised *us* up
together, and made *us* sit together in the
heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to
come He might show the exceeding riches of His
grace in *His* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For
by grace you have been saved through faith, and that
not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, 9 not of works,
lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His
workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good
works, which God prepared beforehand that we
should walk in them.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 And behold, a certain [a]lawyer stood up and tested
Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit
eternal life?"

26 He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is
your reading *of it?*"

27 So he answered and said, " 'You shall love
the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your
soul, with all your strength, and with all your

mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' "[28] And He said to him, "You have answered rightly; do this and you will live."

[29] But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

[30] Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain *man* went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among [b]thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded *him,* and departed, leaving *him* half dead. [31] Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. [32] Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side.

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[3] But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. [34] So he went to *him* and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. [35] On the next day, [c]when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave *them* to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' [36] So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?"[37] And he said, "He who showed mercy." Jesus said to likewise."

GOD'S PLAN

November 20

Forefeast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

The blessed and ever-Virgin Mary springs from the royal stock and family of David. Her father's name was Joachim and her mother's name was Anna. Their lives were plain and righteous before the Lord and irreproachable and pious before men. Being childless, they were spurned by the Jewish people who consider it a curse from God and their gifts were rejected by the priest in the Temple. They continually offered prayers that God would bless them with a child.

An angel appeared on Joachim and then to Anna telling them that their prayers had been heard. When Anna heard she would conceive a child she said***: "As the Lord my God lives, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God and it shall minister unto Him all the days of its life."***

When all hope was gone, Joachim and Anna gave birth to the pure Virgin, and, in piety, they promised to offer her to God. Today they fulfill their promise, giving their child as a sacrifice in the house of God.

Troparion of the Forefeast: ***Today Anna bequeaths joy to all instead of sorrow, by bringing forth her fruit, the only ever-Virgin. In fulfillment of her vow; today with joy she brings to the temple of the Lord, the true temple and pure Mother of God the Word.***

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

November 21

Seven days within the time of Advent, on November 21st, the Feast of Mary's Entrance into the Temple as a child is celebrated. This Feast is filled with important spiritual significance for we, the believers.

The texts of the Services tell how Mary was brought by her parents as a small child to the Temple in order to be raised there, consecrated to the service of the Lord, until the time of her betrothal in marriage.

According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community, which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to prepare herself to become the "holy of holies" of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine Child Who was to be born of her.

The main theme of Mary's Entrance into the Temple is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the LIVING TEMPLE OF GOD, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament that "THE DWELLING PLACE OF GOD IS WITH MAN."

THE VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY for the Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple will be celebrated on Thursday evening, November 20 at 6:00 pm.

MADE TO CONTAIN GOD

The most wonderful thing about man is that he was created to contain God. This is the miracle of miracles! Each one was made to be a temple of God, a golden chalice, a tabernacle of God's Presence. The infinitely great God Who revealed Himself in Jesus as the great God of love waits to take up residence in us. He stands at the door of our soul and knocks until we hear His voice and His knock to open and let Him come in and sup with us in the heavenly banquet. He will not rest until He has invaded our heart and made it His throne. If we allow Him in, He will change our lives into the beautiful life of Jesus. As St. Paul expresses it: ***"I live, yet not I, but Christ live in me."*** (Galatians 2:20)

"From the moment the Virgin Mary entered the "holy of holies," life itself became the Temple. And when we celebrate The Entrance into the Temple, we celebrate man's divine meaning and the brightness of his divine calling. These cannot be washed away or uprooted from human memory"

The Virgin Mary, Fr. Alexander Schmemann

Kontakion of the Feast

The most pure Temple of our Holy Savior, and the most precious and Bridal Chamber, the Virgin, sacred treasury of the glory of God, openly appears today in the Temple of the Lord, bringing with her the grace of the Most Holy Spirit. Wherefore the angels of God are singing: This is the heavenly Tabernacle.

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord together with Feast of His Baptism in the Jordan are Feasts of Light celebrating the coming and manifestation of Christ the Light of the world. Nature itself helps us to experience these Feasts of Light.

With the coming of winter, the days get shorter and the nights longer, but once we reach Christmas itself the reverse begins to happen. Nature prepares for the Coming of Christ, the Light in the darkness and so do we during the Holy Season of Advent.

The prophet Isaiah calls out in our darkness, ***"Come…walk in the light of the Lord"*** (Isaiah 2:5). That's not a streetlamp. That's a person: Jesus Christ is the Light of the World, and our pathfinder

To help in our preparation, we have an Advent Wreath in Church. The Wreath, made of evergreens, will have six candles on it: one for each Sunday in Advent. After the homily, the children will come up to light the candles on the wreath each Sunday.
Beginning today, Sunday, November 16, we will light the first candle on the wreath.

Think about the holiday demands that stress you most. Picture them as flashing lights. Try to close your eyes to them by imagining instead the first candle lit on the Advent Wreath, a reminder of Christ, the Light shining in darkness.

TONSURING CONGRATULATIONS

Prior to the Pontifical Divine Liturgy last Sunday, November 9, our Father and Archbishop Alexander tonsured Daniel Slife as a Reader of St. Elia Church. As a Parish Family we extend our prayerful congratulations to Reader Daniel, to his wife Ntalie and to his children Otto and Eliza. **Many Years!**

PARISH MEETING TODAY

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

Please submit your Nominees to a member of the Nominating Committee: Anastasia Bohush, Reader Joshua Wherley, Daniel Williamson.

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.

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

October 5, 2025 – April 26, 2026

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 their classes.

Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude
Preschool: Mrs. Natalie Sife, Mrs. Eve Tavenier
School Age: Reader Nicholas Morelli, Mrs. Frances Hakim
High School: Subdeacon David Trace
Music Program: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
And tangle shapes

The Church School time is limited. Please refrain from congregating **and talking in the hall during this time. Thank you for your cooperation**

Two teenagers on a tour of a modern art gallery found themselves alone in a room of modern sculptures. Staring at the twisted pipes, broken glass and tangled shapes, one of them said, "Let's get out of here before they accuse us of wrecking this place.

OUR STEWARDSHIP – November 9 , 2025

Candles:	**$ 134.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,375.00**
PayPal:	**4.85**
Tithely:	**410/62**
TOTAL:	**$1,924.47**

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Kristopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

REMEMBERING OUR SICK & SHUTINS

Archbishop Onuphry of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Priest Gabriel Bilas
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
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodov