WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 21, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 51

28th 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

Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgaria Diocese OCA

V. Rev. Mitered 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 - 2026
Sunday, December 21 - Hours – Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle – Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, December 28 - Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, January 4 – Reader Daniel Slife

SCHEDULE OF DIVINSERVICES

THE NATIVITY FAST

"The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled

CHRISTMAS HOLY WEEK

Friday, December 19 – 6:00 pm
Vespers of the Forefeast of the Christmas

28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 3
SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY
FOREFEAST OF THE NATIVITYOF CHRIST
Saturday December 20

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

Sunday, December 21

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Lighting of the Sixth Candle on the Advent Wreath

5:00 pm Vespers of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

Monday, December 22 – 6:00 pm
Vespers of the Forefeast of the of the Nativity of Christ

Tuesday, December 23 – 6:00 pm
Royal Hours of Christmas

FEAST OF CHRISTMAS
Nativity According to the Flesh of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

CHRISTMAS EVE
Wednesday, December 24 – 5:00 pm
Vigil of Christmas – Compline and Matins
Matins Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

CHRISTMAS DAY
Thursday, December 25
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12
Lighting of the Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath

SECOND DAY OF THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY
SYNAXIS OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS
Friday, December 26
9:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

29th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4
Afterfeast and Sunday after the Nativity of Christ.
Holy Righteous Ones: Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James the Brother of the Lord

Saturday, December 27

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Martins Goepel: John 20:1-10

Sunday. December 28

9:10 am 3rd an 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader Sue Ellen Turscak
Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 Gospel: Matthew 2:13-25

THE CIRCUMCISION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.
St. Basil the Great, Archbishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia

Wednesday, December 31 – *NewYear's Eve*

5:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
Prayers For the NEW YEAR 2026

30th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5
SUNDAY BEFORE THE THEOPHANY
FOREFEAST OF THE THEOPHANY

Saturday, January 3

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, January 4

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Daniel Slife
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Daniel Slife
Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 Gospel: Mark 1:1

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40
Sunday Before Christmas

9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as *in* a foreign
country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs
with him of the same promise, 10 for he waited for the city
which has foundations, whose builder and maker *is* God.

The Faith of the Patriarchs

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac,
and he who had received the promises offered up his only
begotten *son,* 18 [c]of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed
shall be called," 19 concluding that God *was* able to
raise *him* up, even from the dead, from which he also
received him in a figurative sense.
20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things
to come. 21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed
each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the
top of his staff. 22 By faith Joseph, when he was dying,
made mention of the departure of the children of Israel,
and gave instructions concerning his bones.

The Faith of Moses

23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three
months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a
beautiful child: and they were not afraid of the
king's command.
32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me
to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah,
also, *of* David and Samuel and the prophets: 33 who

through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,
34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to fight the armies of the aliens.
35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. 36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. 37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, [h]were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in* dens and caves of the earth.39 And all these, having obtained good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

1 The book of the genealogy[a] of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:

2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. **3** Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. **4** Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. **5** Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, **6** and Jesse begot David the king.

David the king begot Solomon by her [b]*who had been the wife* of Uriah. **7** Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot [c]Asa. **8** Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. **9** Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. **10** Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot [d]Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. **11** Josiah begot [e]Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon.

12 And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. **13** Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. **14** Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. **15** Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. **16** And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David *are* fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon *are* fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ *are* fourteen generations.

Christ Born of Mary

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being [f]a just *man,* and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. **20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is [g]conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name [h]JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

24 Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, **25** and did not know her till she had brought her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

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ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath, made of evergreens, has 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. ***This Sunday, December 21, we will light the fifth candle on the wreath.***

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS DONATIONS

With the celebration of Christmas just weeks away, please consider donating for poinsettias and decorations. **Christmas Flower Offering Envelopes** are available on the candle desk. Thank you for your generosity. The envelope has a space, if you wish, to make your offering "in memory."

SAINT ELIA CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

A St. Elia Christmas Ornament, designed by our Deacon Aaron, is available in our Bookstore for $10.00.

Winter/Spring BIBLE STUDY: Epistle to the Hebrews

Join us as we study and discuss this rich and meaningful book of the New Testament that is read in the Orthodox Church throughout the year. All sessions will be from **6:30 To 7:30 p.m.**, with locations split between the St. Elia parish hall and Artisan Coffee at 662 Canton Road in Ellet, which has a private room available for us to reserve (and excellent food and coffee!). **Please see Deacon Aaron with any questions. We look forward to learning together!**

Session 1: Hebrews Introduction — Hebrews 1:1 to 1:4
• Thursday, Jan. 22, at Artisan Coffee

Session 2: A Name Superior to Angels — Hebrews 1:5 to 4:13
• Thursday, Feb. 5, at St. Elia

Session 3: A Merciful and Faithful High Priest
Hebrews 4:14 to 6:20
• Thursday, Feb. 19, at Artisan Coffee

Session 4: High Priest of A New and Better Covenant
Hebrews 7:1 to 10:39
• Monday, March 9, at St. Elia

Session 5: A Good Testimony Through Faith
Hebrews 11:1 to 12:13
• Thursday, April 23, at Artisan Coffee

Session 6: Let Brotherly Love Continue
Hebrews 12:14 to 13:25
• Thursday, May 14, location TBD

REMEMBERING THOSE 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

Metropolitans Onuphry,Theodosy, Areseny of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Andrew Moulton
Archpriest Emil Huntyan, Matushka Laryssa Huntyan
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak, Matushka Myra Kovalak
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Florence Lambo
Michele Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim, Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodov

OUR STEWARDSHIP – December 14, 2025

Candles:	**$ 74.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,105.00**
St. Herman's Seminary:	**460.00**
Christmas Flowers:	**45.00**
Bookstore:	**15.00**
Tithely Donations:	**399.12**
TOTAL:	**$2,098.12**

THE HIDDEN WAY

"It is hard for me to imagine that God would reveal His Divine Presence to us in the self-empty, humble was of the man from Nazareth. So much in me seeks influence, power, success, and popularity. But the way of Jesus is hiddenness, powerlessness, and littleness. It does not seem a very appealing way. Yet, when I enter true deep communion with Jesus, I will find that it is the small way that leads to real peace and joy."

Henri Nouwen

CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

Church School classes are held on Sunday mornings following Divine Liturgy.

Preschool: Mrs. Natalie Slife, Mrs. Eve. Tavenier

School Age: Reader Nicholas Morelli, Mrs. Frances Hakim

High School: Subdeacon David Trace

Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freud