WEEKLY BULLETIN

December 28, 2025, Vol. 42, No. 52

29th 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 Aar

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 28 - Sue Ellen Turscak

Sunday, January 4 – Reader Daniel Slife

Sunday, January11 - Bud Graham

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

"The sayings of the prophets are now fulfilled

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
After feast 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 2:13-23

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

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: Galatians 1:11-19
Sunday After Christmas

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 years 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: Matthew 2:13-23
Sunday After Christmas

The Flight into Egypt

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord
appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the
young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there
until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child
to destroy Him."
14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother
by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the
death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken
by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I
called My Son."
Massacre of the Innocents
16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the
wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put

to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. [17] Then what was fulfilled was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying:

[18] "A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning,
Rachel weeping *for* her children,
Refusing to be comforted,
Because they are no more."

Home in Nazareth

[19] Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, [20] saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." [21] Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

[22] But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. [23] And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene.

BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF TOLEDO —
Orthodox Church in America
519 Brynhaven Drive, Oregon, OH 43616

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER
Diocesan Prelate

NATIVITY OF OUR LORD 2025

Beloved in Christ,

"This is our God; none shall be compared to Him, Who, being born of a Virgin, dwelt among men" (see Isaiah 40:18, Festal Canon).

Today the uncreated Light shines forth in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it. The One enthroned upon the cherubim is laid in a humble manger; the Giver of the Law rests in the arms of the Maiden who knew not man.

The heavens declare the glory of God, for the angels sing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men." The earth receives her King, as the Magi fall down in worship and the shepherds behold the

Great Shepherd. The cave becomes heaven; the Virgin's womb, more spacious than the heavens, bears Him Whom the universe cannot contain.

This, brothers and sisters, is the great exchange: God becomes man, that man might become god by grace. The Nativity is not merely the remembrance of a distant night in Bethlehem, but the present manifestation of Emmanuel—God with us—calling each of us to bear His light within, until the glory of the Incarnate One fill
s all creation.

Let us, then, enter spiritually into that cave and join the hymn of the angels, offering the worship of hearts purified by love. For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and His kingdom shall have no end.

To Him be glory, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

With love in the newborn King, Alexander

Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

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 21, 2025

Candles:	**86.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,790.00**
St. Herman's Seminary:	**565.00**
Christmas Flowers:	**45.00**
Tithely Donations:	**1,069.62**
TOTAL:	**$3,555.62**