WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 4, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 1

30th 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-2026-2027

Sunday, January 4- Reader Daniel Slife
Sunday, January 11 – Bud Graham
Sunday, January 18 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, January 25 - Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

Saturday January 3

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18

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: Mark1:1-8

Panakhida for the repose of the souls of Temelko, Nadesda, Edward, Angeline, Sandra, Philip as requested by Anthony Dodovich

THE HOLY THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND. SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Monday, January 5 – *STRICT FAST DAY*

6:00 pm Vigil of Theophany -Compline and
Matins – *Matins Gospel: Mark 1:9-11*
Great Sanctification of Water

Tuesday, January 6

8:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

31ST SUNDAY AFTERN PENTECOST – TONE 6
SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY

Saturday January 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31

Sunday, January 11

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle:Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel:Matthew 4:12-17

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4: 5-8

5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do
the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering,
and the time of my departure is at hand. **7** I have fought the
good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the
faith. **8** Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of
righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give
to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who
have loved His appearing.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of
God. **2** As it is written in [a]the Prophets:

"Behold, I send My messenger before Your face,
Who will prepare Your way before You."
3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the LORD;
Make His paths straight.' "

John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a
baptism of repentance [b]for the remission of sins. **5** Then all the
land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and
were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their
sins. **6** Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a
leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild
honey. **7** And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me
who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to
stoop down and loose. **8** I indeed baptized you with water, but
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

THE GREAT SANCTIFICATION OF WATER

Following the Vigil on **Monday evening, January 5**, the Great Sanctification of Water will be celebrated. On the following **Sunday, January 11**, weather permitting, we will go the Towpath on Wilbeth Road to bless the Canal.

As the Holy Cross is plunged into the waters the Troparion of Theophany for the Baptism of our Lord is sung:

When Thou, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to Thee, and called Thee His beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word. O Christ our God, Thou have revealed Thyself and have enlightened the world, glory to Thee.

BLESSING OF HOMES

Father Don is planning , weather permitting, to bless homes Tuesday through Friday, January 6th -9th, with the driving assistance of Popadia Donna.

If it is your wish that Father comes to your home for this blessing, please sign the list located on the Vestibule Counter or call Father at 330-724-7009 or 330-618-4878. Please pick up the brochure and list the names of the living and deceased that you wish to be prayed for.

OUR STEWARDSHIP – December 28, 2025

Candles:	**$. 205.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,990.00**
St. Herman's Seminary:	**50.00**
Tithely Donations:	**1,422.12**
TOTAL:	**$3,677.12**

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

FEAST OF THE THEOPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the ***Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights***, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine ***"those who sat in darkness," and "in the region of the shadow of death"*** (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Undivided. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms. The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism, keeping clean this priceless garb, for "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ" (Gal 3:27).

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

Metropolitan Onuphry of the Ukraine
Metropolitan Theodosy of Cherkasy and Kaniv, Ukraine
Metropolitan 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
Reader John Paluch
Florence Lambo
Michele Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Niglio
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodov