WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 11, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 2

31st 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 Office: 330-724-7009

www.saintelia.com
www.facebook,com/sainteliaakron

Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo,
Bulgarian 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 11 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, January 18 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, January 25 - Bud Graham

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

31st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6
SUNDAY AFTER THE THEOPHANY

Venerable Theodosius the Great

Saturday January 10

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:9-31

Sunday, January 11

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc
Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13 Gospel: Matt. 4:12-17

32nd SUNDAY AFTERN PENTECOST – Tone 7

Saints Athanasius the Great and Cyril of Alexandria

Saturday January 17

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 21:1-14

Sunday, January 18

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: 1Timothy 1:15-17 Gospel: Luke 18:35-43
PANAKHIDA for the repose of the soul of
Larissa Freude Newman requested by her family

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Tone 8. SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS

Saturday, January 24

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 21:15-25

Sunday, January 25

9:10 am. 3rd and 6th Hours: Bud Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Bud Graham
Epistle:1 Timothy 4:9-15 Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Ephesians 4:7-13

.But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men."* (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-17

Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: *"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."* From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, *"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*

THE GREAT SANCTIFICATION OF WATER

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 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 – January 4, 2026

Candles:	**$ 72.00**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**1,515.00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Tithely Donations:	**450.12**
TOTAL:	**$2,042.12**

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 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST and THE SANCTIFICATON OF THE WORLD

It is the faith of Christians that since the Son of God has taken human flesh and has appeared in the world, Immersed in the streams of the Jordan (which is itself full of biblical significance), all flesh and all matter is sanctified and made pure and holy in Him, purged of death-dealing qualities inherited from the devil and the evil and wickedness of men.

In the Lord's Epiphany to the world, all creation becomes good again, indeed *"very good,"* the way that God called it and created it to be in the beginning of time, (Genesis 1:31) For in the beginning the Voice of the Lord spoke, as at the time of Jesus' baptism, and *"the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters."* (Genesis 1:2) At this time as well the *"Breath of Life"* was breathing in man and in everything that was made to be alive in God for a life of living communion with Him. (Genesis 1:30, 2:7)

The world and everything in it is *"very good*". And when it becomes polluted and corrupted and dead, filled with evil and not with God, then God Himself does everything to save it and glorify it once more. This is what Epiphany, and the Great Blessing of Water specifically tells us: that God has saved and glorified by Christ and the Spirit the "very good" creation that He made through the same Christ and the same Spirit in the very beginning of the world.

Father Thomas Hopo

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

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