WEEKLY BULLETIN

January 25, 2025, Vol. 43, No. 4
33rd Sunday After Pentecost
Sunday of Zacchaeus

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron, Ohio 44301

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His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese,
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Rev. Deacon Aaron Gray

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2025 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Reader 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

Sunday, January 25 - Bud Graham
Sunday, February 1 - Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, February 8 - Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

33rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 8
SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS *Sanctity of Life Sunday*
St. Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constnatinople

Saturday, January 24

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

Sunday, January 25

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

SYNAXIS OF THE ECUMENICAL TEACHERS AND HIERARCHS: BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY THE THEOLOGIAN AND JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Thursday, January 29

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE
Tone 1 – *Beginning of the Lenten Triodion*

Saturday, January 31

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confession

Sunday, February 1

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: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 8:10-1

Panakhida for the repose of the soul of Samir Hakim as requested by his wife Frances and family

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epstle:1 Timothy 4:9-15

9 This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all
acceptance. **10** For to this *end* [a]we both labor and
suffer reproach, because we trust in the living
God, who is *the* Savior of all men, especially of those
who believe. **11** These things command and teach.

Take Heed to Your Ministry

12 Let no one [b]despise your youth, but be
an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in
love, [c]in spirit, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, give
attention to reading, to exhortation,
to [d]doctrine. 14 Do not neglect the gift that is in
you, which was given to you by prophecy with the
laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate
on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that
your progress may be evident to all.

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Jesus Comes to Zacchaeus'

House19 Then *Jesus* entered and passed
through Jericho. 2 Now behold, *there was* a man named
Zacchaeus who was a chief tax collector, and he was
rich. 3 And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could
not because of the crowd, for he was of short
stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed up into a
sycamore tree to see Him, for He was going to pass

that *way.* 5 And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up [a]and saw him, and said to him, “Zacchaeus, [b]make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house.” 6 So he [c]made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. 7 But when they saw *it,* they all [d]complained, saying, “He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner.” 8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold.” 9 And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

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ANNUAL PARISH MEETING,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026
Following the Divine Liturgy
Father Don will give his Rector’s report. The 2025 Financial Report and the 2026 Budget will be given.

THE 2026 PARISH COUNCIL will be installed
President: Veronica Bilas
Vice President: Daniel Ralich
Secretary: Deacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Reader Daniel Slife
Members: Anastasia Bohush, Anthony Dodovich, Bud Graham, Jefferson Hodge

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon Announces Sanctity of Life Sunday, January 25, 2026

SPRINGFIELD, VA [OCA]

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon has designated Sunday, January 25, 2026, as Sanctity of Life Sunday for the Orthodox Church in America, in conjunction with the annual March for Life in Washington, DC, which will take place on Friday, January 23, 2026.

.Orthodox Christians are also invited to gather for the March for Life. As in previous years, Orthodox participation is being coordinated by Orthodox Christians for Life.

On Friday, January 23, the day will begin with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 8:00 AM at St. Nicholas Cathedral, followed by a breakfast reception. Participants will then gather at the National Mall. At 12:30 PM, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon will lead the faithful in prayer for the Service of Supplication for an End to Abortion, prior to the beginning of the March for Life, which concludes at the Supreme Court.

All are invited to join His Beatitude and Orthodox faithful from across the nation in prayerfully remembering the victims of abortion and bearing witness to the sanctity of human life.

For more information, including locations and the full schedule of events, please visit the Orthodox Christians for Life website.

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved children in the Lord:

Glory to Jesus Christ!

During these winter months, the Church celebrates a number of feasts dedicated to the appearing of the Lord in the flesh.

At his Nativity, he is born an infant, with all the needs of an infant; he requires his Mother's nourishment, warmth, and care, and also his foster-father's protection.

At his Baptism, he enters into the rushing waters of this world, into the cascading elements of creation, into the onrushing flow of life, into the change and flux of the present age.

At his Meeting in the temple, he enters into the religious and cultural life of his people while also already showing himself to be the Fulfillment of their deepest religious yearnings, the Salvation for whom they have longed.

Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, becoming incarnate and appearing in the world, did so in order to fill every aspect of our life with himself. He has willed to be present in our basic weakness and our everyday needs; to be present among all the changes and cycles of nature and history that swirl around us; to be present in the highest aspirations of human culture, which reach beyond this life and grasp at the undying life of the age to come.

In the midst of this luminous season of feasts, we also mark our annual Sanctity of Life Sunday. Reflecting on the meaning of the sanctity of life in light of the great feasts that we have celebrated and will soon celebrate, we realize that the Lord has come so that we might have life and have it more abundantly, not just in the age to come, but in this present age as well.

Therefore, every moment of human life, from conception to natural death, is infinitely precious, because every moment of human life, every facet of human existence—except for sin—has been hallowed

by the presence of the Lord. Every phase of life, every circumstance, is an opportunity to encounter the Lord.

Our Orthodox Christian understanding of the sanctity of all human life is not, therefore, a cold and abstract principle, but an affirmation of the love of the living God revealed in Jesus Christ. This is a love that opens up the fullness of life's possibilities at every moment, fills the world with meaning, and offers the promise of renewal for individuals, communities, and entire cultures.

Therefore, as we mark this Sanctity of Life Sunday, we pray not just for legal protections for all human beings, from conception to natural death. We also pray that our entire culture would be oriented toward the physical and spiritual well-being of all people in all phases of life so that, without undue fear or trouble, in peace and health, all of us may experience this life as a place of encounter with the radiant and life-giving Love of God, Jesus Christ incarnate in human flesh.

To him who gave us life in the beginning, who sustains our life in this world and desires to fill it with himself, and who willed to save us and lead us to everlasting life in the age to come, our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, be all thanks and adoration, together with his Father and his All-holy Spirit: now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF ALL LIFE

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, who art in the bosom of the Father, fountain of life and immortality, Light of Light, who camest into the world to enlighten it: Thou wast pleased to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary for the salvation of our souls by the power of Thine All-Holy Spirit, O Master, who camest that we might have life more abundantly, we beseech Thee to enlighten the minds and hearts of those who refuse to acknowledge that human life begins at conception and that the unborn in the womb are already adorned with Thine image and likeness; grant us strength to guard, cherish, and protect the lives of all those who are unable to care for themselves. For Thou, O Giver of Life, dost bring each person from non-being into being, sealing each person with divine and infinite love. Be merciful, O Lord, for those who through ignorance or willfulness, affront Thy divine goodness and providence through the evil act of abortion. May they, with all of us, come to the light of Thy truth and glorify Thee, the merciful Savior, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

OUR STEWARDSHIP, January 18, 2026

Candles:	**$ 95.00**
St. Herman's Seminary:	**50.00**
Bookstore:	**9.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**651.87**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**2.045.00**
TOTAL:	**$2,850.87**

Winter/Spring Bible Study: The 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 note that no outside food or beverages are permitted for the sessions at Artisan**. 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 Cravcenco
Kristopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

Metropolitan Onuphry of the Ukraine
Metropolitan Theodosy of the Ukraine
Metropolitan Arseny of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Matushka Laryssa Hnntyan
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Valerie Zahersky
Florence Lambo
Michele Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Tasylor
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodov