# WEEKLY BULLETIN

**March 8, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 9**
**Second Sunday of Great Lent**
***Saint Gregory Palamas***

# 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**
**www.saintelia.com**
**www.facebook.com/sainteliakron**

***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

## 2026 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Daniel Ralich
Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Reader Daniel Slife
Members: Anastasia Bohush, Anthony Dodovich, Bud Graham, Jefferson Hodge,

**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, Mar. 8 - Hours: Subd. Terence Bilas**
**Epistle: Anastasia Bohush**
**Sunday, Mar. 15 – Sue Ellen Turscak**
**Snnday, Mar. 22 – Reader Daniel Slife**

# *SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES*

## *THIRD WEEK OF GREAT LENT*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 6**
**Saint Gregory Palamas**
**Saturday, March 7**
**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confesssions**
**Sunday, March 8**
**9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours:Subd. Terrence Bilas**
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great**
**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush**
**Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12**

**5:00 pm AKRON LENTEN VESPERS**
**Presentation of Our Lord Church**

**Wednesday, March 11 – (at St. Elia)**
**6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**
**Friday, March 13 – (at St. Elia)**
**6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**
**Lenten Covered Dish**

## *FOURTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT*

**THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 7**
**VENERATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS**
**Saturday, March 14**
**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**
**Sunday, March 15**
**9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subd. Terrence Bilas**
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great**
**Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush**
**Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1**

**5:00 pm AKRON LENTEN VESPERS AT**
**SAINT ELIA CHURCH**
**Homilist: Protodeacon James Gresh**

# SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

## Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

10 And:

"You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.
11 They will perish, but You remain;
And they will all grow old like a garment;
12 Like a cloak You will fold them up,
And they will be changed.
But You are the same,
And Your years will not fail."

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said:

***"Sit at My right hand,***
***Till I make Your enemies Your footstool"?***

14 Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

## Do Not Neglect Salvation

2 Therefore we must give [a]the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just [b]reward, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him,*

**Gospel: Mark 2:1-12**

# Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

- 2 And again He entered Capernaum after *some* days, and
it was heard that He was in the house. 2 [a]Immediately
many gathered together, so that there was no longer room
to receive *them,* not even near the door. And He preached
the word to them. 3 Then they came to Him, bringing
a paralytic who was carried by four *men.* 4 And when
they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they
uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had
broken through, they let down the bed on which the
paralytic was lying.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the
paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."
6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and
reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this *Man* speak
blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God
alone?"

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that
they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to
them, "Why do you reason about these things in your
hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic,
'*Your* sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up
your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the
Son of Man has [b]power on earth to forgive sins"—He
said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your
bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took
up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so
that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We
never saw *anything* like this!"

## 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 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 TB

**OUR STEWARDSHIP – March 1, 2026**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Candles:** | **$ 226.00** |
| **Improvement Fund:** | **5.00** |
| **Tithely Offering:** | **628.25** |
| **Sunday Tray Offering:** | **2,546.00** |
| **TOTAL:** | **$3,405.25** |

## AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

**During Great Lent, our Greater Akron Orthodox Community will come together for VESPERS each Sunday evening:**

***March 8 - St. Gregory Palamas***
***5:00 pm – Presentation of Our Lord Church***
***March 15 – Veneration of the Cross***
***5:00 pm - St. Elia Church***
***March 22 – St. John Climacus***
***5:00 pm – St. George Church***
***March 29 – St. Mary of Egypt***
***5:00 pm - Sacrament of Holy Unction***
***St. Nicholas Church***

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## OCW LENTEN RETREAT

**Saturday, March 7, 2026**

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm**

**Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church**

***Speaker: Fr. Paul Abernathy***

***Neighborhood Resilience Project***

**St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church**

**Pittsburgh, Pa.**

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## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, March 10 – 6:30 pm**

# Food items needed for local refugees

From now until the Sunday of the Cross (March 15), our parish will be collecting food items for the **International Institute of Akron (IIA).** Following a change in federal policy, on November 1 over 1,300 refugees and asylees in Summit County lost supplemental food assistance permanently. The IIA is a nonprofit organization that has supported local immigrants and refugees since 1916, with help including resettlement, legal aid, employment and education. They are requesting the following items to help those most affected:

**Non-perishable food items**

- **White rice**
- **Cooking oil**
- **Salt**
- **Dried beans and lentils**
- **Rice noodles**
- **Egg noodles**
- **White flour**
- **Wheat Flour**
- **Maize flour (fine)**
- **Yeast**

**Grocery store gift cards**

- **Aldi**
- **Wal Mart**
- **Acme**

**Please look for the bin in church to deposit items, and see Deacon Aaron Gray with any questions. Thank you for your care and help for those in need!**

# The Jesus Prayer

## *Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner*

United to Jesus through Holy Baptism, we are called and given the grace to know Jesus in a personal way.

Jesus is present in our midst and in each one of us.

Understanding the healing and comforting power of the Name of Jesus, the Jesus prayer is a simple prayer around this "Name that is above all other names…the

Name by which we are saved" [Acts 4:12; Phil. 2:9-11]

The Jesus Prayer, or the Prayer of the Heart, centers on the Holy Name of Jesus itself.

This simple prayer, prayed with faith and with perseverance, calls forth the Holy Spirit in our hearts, and, in time, gives birth to the experienced Presence of Jesus living in us.

Jesus calls us to make our home in Him; as He will make His home in us:

***Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.***

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. [John 15:4-5]***

Abiding in Christ is living out our union with Him in faith, baptism, love and obedience. The figure of the vine and the branches shows our union with Christ as intimate and real. We are a new people with Christ.

This simplest of prayers, prayed from time to time throughout the day will gradually lead us into the Presence of Jesus in our thoughts.

Focused wholly on Jesus, in time, this prayer will begin to strike roots in our heart, where its continued practice will ever deepen the reality of Jesus living in us – to heal us, to comfort us, and to strengthen us in our faith.

**REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING 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 Taylor
Ellen Rees
David Elioff
Sofia Wsevolodov
Gary Thompson
Phyllis Dodovic