WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 15, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 10

Third Sunday of Great Lent

Veneration of the Precious Cross

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

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, March 15 – Sue Ellen Turscak
Snnday, March 22 – Reader Daniel Slife
Sunday, March 29 – Bud Graham
Sunday, April 5 - Sandy Graham

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak
Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

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

Wednesday, March 18 – (at St. Elia)
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday, March 20 – (at St. Elia)
6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Lenten Covered Dish

FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 8
Saint John Climacus

Saturday, March 21
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 22
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours– Reader Daniel Slife
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great
Epistle Reader: Reader Daniel Slife
Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

5:00 pm AKRON LENTEN VESPERS
St. George Church

THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY, THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

Wednesday, March 25

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle: Hebrews 2:11-18

Gospel: Luke 1:24-38

Friday, March 27

6:00 pm Akathist of the Most-Holy Theotokos

In the sixth month, the Archangel was sent to the
pure Virgin; and with his greeting "Rejoice,"
he announced the good news that the Deliverer was to
come forth from her.
Therefore, having received the salutation with faith,
she conceived You, the pre-eternal God,
Who were well-pleased ineffably to become man
for the salvation of our souls.

SIXTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 1
Saint Mary of Egypt

Saturday, March 28

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, March 29

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours – Bud Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great

Epistle Reader: Bud Graham

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS
VENERATION OF THE CROSS

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Our Compassionate High Priest

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has
passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us
hold fast *our* confession. 15 For we do not have a High
Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses,
but was in all *points* tempted as *we are, yet* without
sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace,
that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of
need.

Qualifications for High Priesthood

5 For every high priest taken from among men is appointed
for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both
gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can [a]have compassion on
those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is
also subject to weakness. 3 Because of this he is required as
for the people, so also for himself, to offer *sacrifices* for
sins. 4 And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who
is called by God, just as Aaron *was.*

A Priest Forever

5 So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High
Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him:

"You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You."

6 As *He* also says in another *place:*

"You are a priest forever
According to the order of Melchizedek";

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Take Up the Cross and Follow Him

34 When He had called the people to *Himself,* with His disciples also, He said to them,

"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. 35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. 36 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? 37 Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 38 For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

9 And He said to them,

"Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God [a]present with power."

Rejoice, O life-bearing Cross:
bright paradise of the Church, the tree of incorruption!
You have obtained for us the joy of everlasting glory.
Through you, the hosts of demons are driven out;
the choirs of angels are amazed and rejoice;
the company of the faithful gathers in celebration.
O unconquerable weapon, unbroken stronghold,
triumph of Orthodox Christians and pride of priests,
by following you may we witness the Passion and
Resurrection of Christ our God!

THE CROSS IS CENTER OF OUR EXISTENCE

The very center of our Christian faith, and indeed of the whole of human life and history, is the Cross of Christ.

The Cross contains and reveals to us the very meaning of existence. It shows us the Truth and Love and the Life of God Himself.

When the World lay in evil, and under sin to death, the Son of God became man. And not only a man, but a slave to men. And not only a slave, but dead. And not only dead, but dead in a grave. (Philippians 2:5-9)

He could not have gone further for us; for there was no further to go.

He became sin for us though He knew no sin. He became a curse for us though He was the Blessed of God.

He became dead for us so that He could be also our Resurrection and our Life

Before Thy Cross. O Master, we bow down in worship, and Thy Holy Resurrection we glorify

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 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 8, 2026

Candles	**$ 103.00**
Tithely Offering:	**268.25**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**1,070.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,441.25**

PARISH SPRING CLEAN-UP
SATURDAY, MARCH 28 – 9AM -12 NOON

We need your help for our clean-up inside and outside

PASCHAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Please make your donations for the Palms on Palm Sunday, the flowers that will adorn the Grave on Good Friday and the Church on Pascha..

Envelopes are available in the vestibule and on the candle desk in the church. Thak You

RED EGGS FOR PASCHA

Please bring a half dozen of Red Eggs to the Midnight Service of Pascha. Bring them to the Church Office and Father Don will bless them and distribute them to every one at the conclusion of the Service.

AKRON LENTEN SERVICES

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

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

NATIONAL ORTHODOX BABY SHOWER

Our community outreach group, *The Workers of Saint Elizabeth,* is joining with Orthodox parishes across the country to hold a "baby shower" to support mothers who choose life for their unborn children. Join us in collecting the listed items below to benefit ***Zoe for Life*** located in Cleveland.

Bring your items to church from March 21st to April 19th and place them in the Pack and Play located in the Church Hall.
Questions? Please contact Veronica Bilas or Deacon Aarron Gray.

Diapers sizes Newborn to 6 **Pullups (any size)**
Baby Wipes **Diaper Bags**
Baby Clothes (new up to 2T)
Blankets **Pack-n-Plays (new)**
Toys (new) **Bouncers (new)**
Cribs (new) **Strollers (new)**
Target/Walmart gift cards
Pacifiers (new)
Baby Socks **Bottles (new)**
Diaper Bags **Car Seats (new)**

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!

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 Dodovich