WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 22, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 12

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent

Saint John Climacus

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, March 22 – Reader Daniel Slife
Sunday, March 29 – Bud Graham
Sunday, April 5 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, April 12 - Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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
Saint 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

Wednesday, April 1

6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Friday, April 3

6:00 pm Vigil of Lazarus Saturday

Beginning of Great and Holy Week

Saturday, April 4

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

5:00 pm Vigil of Palm Sunday

Blessing of Palms and Willows

PALM AND FLOWERY SUNDAY

The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

Sunday, April 5

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18

5:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

Sad Sunday

CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight,
and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching;
and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless.
Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep,
lest you be given up to death,
and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom!
But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy, holy, holy, are You, O our God!"
Through the Theotokos have mercy on us!

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM MONDAY
Monday, April 6
6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM TUESDAY
Tuesday, April 7
6:00 pm Matins of the Bridegroom

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM WEDNESDAY
Wednesday, April 8
6:00 pm Mystery of Holy Unction

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY
Thursday, April 9
8:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy St. Basil the Great
6:00 pm Matins of Great and Holy Friday with the Twelve Passion Gospels

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Friday, April 10

9:00 am Royal Hours – *Christ Hangs on the Cross*

6:00 pm Great Vespers and Lamentations

Christ dies on the Cross, is taken down from the Cross, is buried and descends into hell.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Saturday, April 11

9:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

11:30 pm Nocturnes

Removal of the Shroud from the Grave

THE HOLY PASCHA

Holy Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

12:00 Midnight
Resurrection Matins

Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: John 1:1-17

11:00 am
Agape Vespers of Holy Pascha
Gospel: John 20:19-25

BRIGHT WEEK

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 13

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

SUNDAY, MARCH 22,
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

God's Infallible Purpose in Christ

For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, 14 saying, ***"Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you."***

15 And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. 16 For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation *is* for them an end of all disputes.

17 Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the [a]immutability of His counsel, [b]confirmed *it* by an oath, 18 that by two [c]immutable things, in which it *is* impossible for God to lie, we [d]might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before *us*.

19 This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the *Presence* behind the veil, 20 where the forerunner has entered for us, *even* Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

And he asked the Scribes, "What are you discussing with them (disciples)?

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So, I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless[a] generation, how
long shall I be with you? How long shall I [b]bear with you?
Bring him to Me.” 20 Then they brought him to Him.
And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed
him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the
mouth.

21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been
happening to him?”
And he said, “From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown
him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But
if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help
us.”

23 Jesus said to him, “If[c] you can believe, all
things *are* possible to him who believes.”
24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with
tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

25 When Jesus saw that the people came running together,
He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “Deaf and dumb
spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no
more!” 26 Then *the spirit* cried out, convulsed him greatly,
and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that
many said, “He is dead.” 27 But Jesus took him by the hand
and lifted him up, and he arose.

28 And when He had come into the house, His disciples
asked Him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”
29 So He said to them, “This kind can come out by nothing
but prayer [d]and fasting.”

Jesus Again Predicts His Death and Resurrection

30 Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee,
and He did not want anyone to know *it.* 31 For He taught His
disciples and said to them, “The Son of Man is being
betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And
after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”

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

Please remember in your prayers the repose of the soul of **+Ronald Bilas,** the brother of Subdeacon Terrence Bilas, who passed away on Wednesday, March 18.

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 15, 2026

Candles	**130.00**
Special Intentions:	**350.00**
Flowers:	**20.00**
Tithely Offering:	**533.25**
Bookstore:	**5.00**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**3.016.00**
TOTAL:	**$4,054.25**

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:

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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)"