WEEKLY BULLETIN

March 29, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 13

Fifth Sunday of Great Lent

Saint Mary of Egypt

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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www.saintelia.com

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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 29 – Bud Graham
Sunday, April 5 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, April 12 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, April 19 Reader Nicholas Morelli

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

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

GREAT AND HOLY BRIDEGROOM MONDAY

Mondy, 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.

GRAVE WATCH

On **Good Friday evening, following the Services,** a Vigil will be kept at the tomb of our Lord, remembering His sufferings and death for our salvation.

A Holy Vigil at the Tomb of Christ is also referred to as Grave Watch. After our Lord died the Cross, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus took the Body of Jesus down from the Cross, bound it in linen cloths with spices and buried it in a new tomb. Mary Magdalene and the other women sat opposite the tomb watching where the Lord was buried.

A Holy Vigil at Christ's tomb is our opportunity to spend time in spiritual reading, meditation and prayer while one or

more people read the Psalms and the Gospel before the Tomb in the Church. The Vigil is kept after the services on Friday night u**ntil services on Holy Saturday morning.**

A Sign-up sheet is in the vestibule of the Church at the Candle Desk. Please sign up for your hour of watch.

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 29,
SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

The Heavenly Sanctuary

11 But Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to
come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not
made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His
own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for
all, having obtained eternal redemption.

13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a
heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying
of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ,
who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself
without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead
works to serve the living God?

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Jesus' Third Prophecy of His Passion

Jesus a Third Time Predicts His Death and Resurrection
32 Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and
Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And
as they followed, they were afraid.

Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell
them the things that would happen to Him: 33 ***"Behold, we
are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be
betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they
will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the
Gentiles; 34 and they will mock Him, and [a]scourge Him,
and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will
rise again."***

Greatness Is Serving
35 Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask."
36 And He said to them, **"What do you want Me to do for you?"**
37 They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory."

38 But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"

39 They said to Him, "We are able."
So Jesus said to them, ***"You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; 40 but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared."***

41 And when the ten heard *it,* they began to be greatly displeased with James and J***ohn. 42 But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great one's exercise authority over them. 43 Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. 44 And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. 45 For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."***

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"Let us praise Him Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake. He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead. By Orthodoxy confirm Your Church, O Christ. Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of Man." Vesper Stichera, Tone 1

SAINT MARY OF EGYPT

The biography of this wonderful saint was written by St. Sophronius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Once, during the Honorable Fast [Lenten Season], a certain priest-monk (Hieromonk), the Elder Zosimus, withdrew into the wilderness beyond the Jordan, a twenty-day trek. Suddenly, he caught sight of a human being with a withered and naked body whose hair was as white as snow and who began to flee from the sight of Zosimus.

The elder ran for a long while until this person crouched down in a brook and cried out: "Abba Zosimus forgive me for the sake of the Lord. I cannot face you for I am a naked woman." Zosimus then tossed his outer garment to her which she wrapped around herself and then showed herself to him. The elder was frightened upon hearing his name spoken from the mouth of this woman he did not know. Following his prolonged insistence, the woman related her life story

She was born in Egypt and at the age of twelve began to live a life of debauchery in Alexandria where she spent seventeen years in this perverted way of life. Driven by the adulterous flame of the flesh, one day she boarded a boat which was sailing for Jerusalem. Arriving at the Holy City, she wanted to enter the church in order to venerate the Honorable Cross but some invisible force restrained her and prevented her from entering the church. In great fear, she gazed upon the icon of the All-Holy Mother of God in the vestibule and prayed that she be allowed to enter the church to venerate the Honorable Cross, all the while confessing her sinfulness and uncleanness and promising that she would go wherever the All-Pure One would direct her.

She was then permitted to enter the church. Having venerated the Cross she again entered the vestibule and, before the icon, gave thanks to the Mother of God. At that very moment she heard a voice saying: "If you cross over Jordan you will find real peace!"

Immediately she purchased three loaves of bread and started out for the Jordan where she arrived that same

evening. The next day she received Holy Communion in the Monastery of St. John and crossed over the Jordan river.

She remained in the wilderness for forty-eight years in great torment, fear and struggle with passionate thoughts as though with wild beasts. She fed on vegetation.

Afterward, when she stood for prayer, Zosimus saw her levitate in the air. She begged him to bring her Holy Communion the following year on the shore of the Jordan where she would then come to receive it. The following year, Zosimus arrived on the shore of the Jordan in the evening with Holy Communion. He wondered how this saint would cross the Jordan. At that moment, in the light of the moon, he saw her as she approached the river, made the sign of the cross over it and walked upon the water as though upon dry land.

After Zosimus administered Holy Communion to her, she begged him to come the following year to the same brook where they had first met. Zosimus came and discovered her lifeless body on that spot. Above her head in the sand was written: "Abba Zosimus, bury the body of the humble Mary on this site; render dust to dust. I died on April 1, the same night of the saving-suffering of Christ, after having received Communion of the Divine Mysteries."

From this inscription Zosimus first learned her name and the other and awesome miracle was that she, on that same night the previous year, when she received Holy Communion, arrived at this brook which took him twenty days to travel. Thus, Zosimus buried the body of this wonderful saint, Mary the Egyptian.

When he returned to the monastery Zosimus related the entire history of her life and the miracles which he had personally witnessed. Thus, the Lord knows how to glorify penitent sinners.

St. Mary is commemorated on the Fifth Sunday of the Honorable Fast and on April 1. The Church holds her up as an example to the faithful during these fast days as an incentive for repentance. She died about the year 530 A.D.

REMEMBERING THOSE SER**VING 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

Beginning of HOLY WEEK

Lazarus Saturday, April 4

On this coming Saturday, Saturday before Holy Week, the Orthodox Church commemorates a major feast of the year, the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when He raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days. Here, at the end of Great Lent and the forty days of fasting and penitence, the Church combines this celebration with that of Palm Sunday.

In triumph and joy the Church bears witness to the power of Christ over death and exalts Him as King before entering the most solemn week of the year, one that leads the faithful in remembrance of His suffering and death and concludes with the great and glorious feast of Pascha.

This miracle is performed by Christ as a reassurance to His disciples before the coming Passion: they are to understand that, though He suffers and dies, yet He is Lord and Victor over death.

The resurrection of Lazarus is a prophecy in the form of action. It foreshadows Christs own Resurrection eight days later, and at the same time it anticipates the resurrection of all the righteous on the last day: Lazarus is ***"the saving first-fruits of the regeneration of the world."***

As the liturgical texts emphasize, the miracle at Bethany reveals the two natures of Christ the God-man. Christ asks where Lazarus is laid and weeps for him, and so He shows the fulness of His manhood, involving as it does genuine grief for a beloved friend. Then disclosing the fulness of His divine power, Christ raises Lazarus from the dead, even though his corpse has already begun to decompose and stink.

This double view of the Lord's divinity and His humanity is to be kept in view throughout Holy Week, and above all

on Good Friday. On the Cross we see a genuine human agony, both physical and mental, but we see more than this: we see not only suffering man but suffering God.

Lazarus Saturday Services
Friday, April 3, 6:00 pm – Vigil
Saturday, April 4, 9:00 am – Divine Liturgy

Palm Sunday, April 5

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha, and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year – Palm Sunday, commemorating the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem.

The Biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:1-18). Five days before Passover. Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Hm a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city.

People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teachings and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting***, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"*** On this day we worship Christ in the same manner as King and Lord.

Palm Sunday Services
Saturday, April 4, 5:00 pm -
Vigil and Blessing of Palms and Willows
Sunday, April 5, 9:30 am -
Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

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 22, 2026

Candles	**117.00**
Flowers:	**30.00**
Tithely Offering:	**273.25**
Pantocrator Icon:	**200.00**
Bookstore:	**20.00**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**881.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,521.25**

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 Red Eggs to the Midnight Service of Pascha. Bring them to the Church Office and Father Don will bless them and distribute them to everyone 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 29 – St. Mary of Egypt

5:00 pm - Sacrament of Holy Unction
St. Nicholas Church

CONFESSIONS

Holy Week begins on Lazarus Saturday, April 4, and is packed with Services and preparations for Holy Pascha. Please plan come for Confession before Good Friday. This would be very helpful for Father Don

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)"**

Join us for our annual

Bingo Salad Supper

SATURDAY, MAY 2ND

Chicken Salad Dinner - Drinks - Dessert
BINGO - Prizes - Raffle Baskets - 50/50

Doors Open at 5:00 PM
Dinner and BINGO 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Saint Elia Orthodox Church
64 W. Wilbeth Rd., Akron

Tickets $17 each/ $8 for children ages 5-12

Advance Reservations Only
Call Ana Bohush - 607-821-9225
or scan the QR code to register online