WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 12, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 15

PASCHA

The Resurrection of our Lord

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, April 12 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, April 19 - Hours: Melissa Trace
Epistle: Subdeacon David Trace
Sunday, April 26 - Reader Nicholas Morelli

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

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

Blessing of the Artos and Red Paschal Eggs

Blessing of the Paschal Baskets in the Hall

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

Proclamation of the Gospel in many languages

BRIGHT WEEK

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 13

9:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

SECOND SUINDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 1 SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY

Saturday, April 18

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 19

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours – Melissa Trace

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader – Subdeacon David Trace
Epistle: Acts 5:12-20 Gospel: John 20:19-31

CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

HOLY PASCHA, FEAST OF FEASTS, April 12

Before midnight (11:30 pm) on Saturday evening, the Canon of Holy Saturday Matins is repeated, and the Shroud is lifted out of the tomb as we sing:

Do not lament Me, O Mother, seeing Me in the Tomb, the Son conceived in the womb without seed. FOR I SHALL ARISE AND BE GLORIFIED WITH ETERNAL GLORY AS GOD. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love" …
ushering in the stroke of midnight.

The Matins of the Resurrection begin in complete darkness. The priest takes the light from the vigil light, (at St. Elia this light is from the Holy Fire in Jerusalem-1917) and gives it to the faithful who are holding candles.

The priest chants:

"Come ye and receive the light from the unwaning light and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead."

All the people join singing the hymn again and again: "Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing. Enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart."

From this moment, every Christian holds the paschal candle as a symbol of his vivid, deep faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ as Savior. The priest leads the faithful outside circling the Temple three times and coming before the doors the Gospel is proclaimed:

"He is Risen; He is not here." (Mark 16:1-8)

Then comes the breathless moment as the faithful wait for the priest to start the hymn of the Resurrection, which they join in singing repeatedly: Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

From this moment the entire service takes on a joyous Paschal atmosphere. The hymns of the Odes and Praises of Resurrection which follow are of superb meaning and expression as we confess:

"This is the Day of Resurrection, let us be illumined by the Feast, let us embrace each other and let us call brothers even those that hate us; and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry, Christ is risen from the dead!

By this hymn we admit that love of one's fellowman is the

solid foundation of the faith in the Resurrection of Christ. As part of this marvelous festival the sermon of St. John Chrysostom is read, which calls upon us to:

"Take part in this fair and radiant festival. Let no one be fearful of death, for the death of the Savior has set us free… O death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is risen and Thou art overthrown. To Him be glory and power from all ages to all ages."

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is then celebrated.

AGAPE VESPERS

Later on Sunday, at 11:00 am, the faithful gather once more for Agape Vespers. The Gospel according to Saint John (20:19-25) is read in various languages, proclaiming the Good News of Resurrection all over the universe to all peoples. The fruit of faith in the Resurrection of the Lord is love in His Named; therefore, this day is called "Sunday of Agape" (love feast), a day dedicated to Christian principles, especially to forgiveness and charity.

BLESSING OF THE ARTOS

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the ARTOS will be blessed. Artos is a Paschal Bread and bears on it the Icon of the Resurrection. In the Old Covenant the Jews commemorated the Passover from bondage in Egypt by sacrificing

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 in church at the end of the Liturgy.

RED EGGS symbolize the New Life in the Risen Christ granted to us through His Precious Blood shed on the Cross. As Father presents each one of us with a red egg, he will greet us with ***"Christ is Risen"*** and we respond ***"Indeed, He is Risen"***

PASCHAL BASKET BLESSING

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the Paschal Baskets will be blessed in the Church Hall. Children are encouraged to bring their baskets for blessing.

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

Following the Great Vespers on Saturday, April 19, Benjamin Fagan, Stephen Larson and Aaron Sloan will be received into the Catechumenate as they continue their journey to Orthodoxy.

CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

Following the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, Saint Thomas Sunday, our Church School children will be presenting a play written by Orro Slife, entitled Moses and the Red Sea and a couple songs directed by Deaconisa Heidi Gresh.

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
Sofia Wsevolodov
Gary Thompson

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 TBA

OUR STEWARDSHIP: April 5, 2026

Candles	**257.00**
Pantocrator Icon:	**1,450.00**
Paschal Flowers:	**55.00**
Tithely Offering:	**333.25**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**2,460.25**
TOTAL:	**$4,255.50**

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)

PASCHA SCIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: ***Acts 1:1-8***

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which [1]He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many [2]infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit Promised

And being assembled together with *them,* He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said,* "you have [f]heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, [h]but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not m any days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, [i]"It is not for you to [j]know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive p

ower [l]when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and [m]you sh all be [3]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and [n]S

Gospel: John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lightest every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the

Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spoke, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me. And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.