WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 19, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 16

2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Saint Thomas Sunday

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, April 19 -Hours: Melissa Trace
Epistle: Subdeacon David Trace
Sunday, April 26 - Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, May 3 - Mary Beth Gray

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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

THE BREAKING OF THE ARTOS

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECUMENATE:
Benjamin Fagan, Stephen Larson and Aaron Jones

CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 2
HOLY MYRRGHBEARING WOMEN

Saturday, April 25

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 26

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours – Reader Nicholas Morelli

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader – Reader Nicholas Morelli
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also, a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Gospel 20:19-31

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he poured into them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost: whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, we have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the

doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

THE BREAKING OF THE ARTOS

Following the Midnight Service of Pascha, the ARTOS was blessed. The 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 a Passover lamb

Christ is our Passover Lamb Who has freed us from the bondage of sin and death. The ARTOS, offered and blessed on Holy Pascha, symbolizes our Lord Jesus Christ Who is our Angelic Bread, the Bread of Eternal Life.

This custom seemingly dates to the apostolic tradition: when the disciples of Christ gathered after His Resurrection for a meal, they placed a particle of bread on the table for Him as they always did for Him during His earthly life.

The Fathers of the Church carried on this tradition and on the Feast of Feasts – on Pascha – to remind us that Jesus is Himself the True Bread of Life and is always invisibly present with the Church as He promised: "*..**and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*** (Matthew 28:20b) Our Lord Jesus Christ said of Himself: ***I am the bread of life, he who comes to Me will never hunger"***

Today, on the Eight Fay of Pascha, St Thomas Sunday, we break the Bread and partake of it **as disciples of our Risen Lord Jesus.**

PRAYER AT THE BREAKING OF THE ARTOS

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the Angelic Bread, the Bread of Life Eternal, Who came down from Heaven, and has nourished us on these bright days with the spiritual food of Thy divine benefits, for the sake of the saving Resurrection on the Third Day: Do Thou look down now also, we humbly beseech Thee, upon our prayers and thanksgivings, and as Thou didst bless the five loaves in the wilderness, do Thou bless now this bread, that all who taste of it may be counted worthy of bodily and spiritual health and blessing, through the grace and compassion of Thy love for mankind.

For Thou art our sanctification and unto Thee do we send up glory, together with Thy Father Who is without beginning, and Thy All-holy, Good, and Lifegiving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN

Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese - Church Slavonic
Hristos voskrese! Vo isitna voskrese! Bulgarian
Kristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese! Russian
Khristos voskres! Voistinu voskres! Ukranian
Khrystos uvaskros1 Saprawdy uvaskros! Byelorussian
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti! - Greek
Al Masseh Qam! Hakken kahm! - Arabic
Hristos a Inviat! Adevarat a Inviat! - Romanian
Krishti U Ngjail! Vertet U Ngjall - Albanian
Hristos Vaskrese! Vaistinu voskrese! - Serbian
Christos e' risorto! Verament e' risorto! - Italian
Christus ist Auferstandent! Wahrlich Er ist auferstandent German
Le Christ est Ressucite! En verite il ressuscite! French
Christo Ressuscitou! Em verdade ressuscitou! Portugese
Cristo se ha resucitado!En Verdad ha resucitado! Spanish
Kriste aghsdga! Chesmaritad aghsdga! Georgian
Kristus Zmartvikstau! Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal! Polish
Kristus vital z mrtvych! Vpravde vstal z martych! Slovak
Krisztus feltamadt! Valoban feltamadt! Hungarian
Ta Criosd ar eiright! Godeimhu, ta ar eiright! Gaelic Irish

Tha Criosad air eiridt! Gu dearbh, taha e air eiridt! Gaelic Scottish!
Khristus anahgrecum! Alhecum anahgrecum! Aleut
Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq! Yupik
Krisdos *kug wudigut! X'eiga kug wudigut!* Tlingit

RECEPTION INTO THE CATECHUMENATE

Following the Divine Liturgy **today, April 20,** Benjamin Fagan, Steven Larson and Aaron Sloan will be received into the Catechumenate as they continue their journey to Orthodoxy. Let us all remember them in our private prayers as we will be praying for them at every Divine Liturgy.

CHURCH SCHOOL PRESENTATION

On this Sunday, Saint Thomas Sunday, our Church School children will be presenting a play written by Otto Slife, entitled Moses and the Red Sea, preceded by a song about Mosese and concluding with Paschal Song, under the direction of Deaconisa Heidi Gresh.

IN APPRECIATION

As a Parish Family we have much to be grateful for and to be appreciative of the efforts offered by so many. First, let us be grateful for one another and for one another's prayerful presence at Divine Services.

THANK YOU to Subdeacon Terrence Bilas and all the members of the choir in offering all the prayers of the Liturgical Services of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha; to Protodeacon James, Deacon Aaron, Readers and Servers.
THANK YOU to Natalie Slife and Daniel Ralich for baking the Prosphora for the Divine Liturgy and to Natalie Slife for baking the ARTOS that we will partake today.
THANK YOU to all who prepared and brought the RED EGGS to share with one another.
THANK YOU to all who graciously donated for the Palms and Flowers; and to Subdeacon Terrence Bilas for cutting and bringing the Pussy Willows.
THANK YOU to all who participated in the SPRING CLEANING inside and outside.

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
Marc Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Sofia Wsevolodov
Gary Thompson

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)

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 12, 2026

Candles	**$ 379.50**
Bookstore:	**20.00**
Tithely Offering:	**373.25**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**1,303.00**
TOTAL:	**$2.075.75**