WEEKLY BULLETIN

May 17, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 20

5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA

The Blind Man

THE VOICE

SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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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
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. May 17 - Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday. May 24 – Reader Daniel Slife

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 5
BLIND MAN

Saturday, May 16

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: John 20:11-18

Sunday, May 17

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Anastasia Bohush
Epistle: Acts 16:16-34 Gospel: John 9:1-38

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

HOLY EQUAL-TO-THE-APOSTLES: EMPEROR CONSTANTINE AND HIS MOTHER, HELEN

Wednesday, May 20

6:00 pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Saint John

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 6 – HOLY FATHERS OF THE FIRST ECMENCAL COUNCIL

Saturday, May 23

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 7:17-30

Sunday, May 24

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Daniel Slife
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Daniel Slife
Epistle: Acts 21:8-14 Gospel: John 14:27-15:7

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday of the Blind Man

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain slave girl possessed with a spirit of divination met us, who brought her masters much profit by fortune-telling. This girl followed Paul and us, and cried out, saying, "These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation." And this she did for many days.

But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour. But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities.

And they brought them to the magistrates, and said, "These men, being Jews, exceedingly trouble our city; and they teach customs which are not lawful for us, being Romans, to receive or observe." Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Saved

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." Then he called for a light, ran in,

and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

So they said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.” Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Gospel: John 9:1-38

A Man Born Blind receives Sight

Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing. Therefore the neighbors and those who previously had seen that he was blind said, “Is not this he who sat and begged?” Some said, “This is he.” Others said, “He is like him.” He said, “I am he.” Therefore they said to him, “How were your eyes opened?” He answered and said, “A Man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed, and I received sight.”

Then they said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

The Pharisees Excommunicate the Healed Man

They brought him who formerly was blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also asked him again how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.”

Therefore some of the Pharisees said, “This Man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them.

They said to the blind man again, “What do you say about Him because He opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” But the Jews did not believe concerning him, that he had been blind and received his sight, until they called the parents of him who had received his sight. And they asked them, saying, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered them and said, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but by what means he now sees we do not know, or who opened his eyes we do not know. He is of age; ask him. He will speak for himself.” His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, “Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.”

He answered and said, “Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.”

Then they said to him again, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?”

He answered them, “I told you already, and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?”

Then they reviled him and said, “You are His disciple, but we are Moses’ disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.”

The man answered and said to them, “Why, this is a marvelous thing, that you do not know where He is from; yet He has opened my eyes! Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, He hears him. Since the world began it has been unheard of that anyone opened the eyes of one who was born blind. If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing.”

They answered and said to him, “You were completely born in sins, and are you teaching us?” And they cast him out.

True Vision and True Blindness

Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, “Do you believe in the Son of God?”

He answered and said, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?”

And Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him and it is He who is talking with you.” Then he said, “Lord, I believe!” And he worshiped Him.

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Leavetaking of Pascha

Commemorated on May 20

On Wednesday of the sixth week of Pascha, we celebrate the Leavetaking of the Feast of Pascha.. The Feast of Feasts, has its Leavetaking on the **thirty-ninth day**. .The Winding Sheet (Plaschanitsa) is taken from the altar and is put in its proper place.

ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

The **fortieth day** is the **Feast of the Lord’s Ascension,** which marks the end of the Lord’s physical presence on earth. He does not abandon us, however. He has promised to be with us always, even until the end of the age (MT 20:28).

For forty days of Great Lent, we journeyed with Christ along the solemn road that led up the Mount of Golgotha to the Cross. There we experienced the agony of the Lord's suffering and death, followed soon by the ecstasy of His glorious resurrection. Then came forty days of exultation as we rejoiced in the victory of Christ over mankind's great enemies – Sin and Death. Now has come the time of the Lord's triumphant return to the Father, His Solemn Ascension. His work on earth was done, so He prepared to go to His eternal home

The time was at hand for Jesus to bid farewell to His beleoved friends. How graphically the Gospel depicts His leaving: Christ led the Apostles to a mount towards Bethany: this was as far as they could go. The Lord spoke to them for the last time - … ***wait here in the city until you are clothed with power from on high…You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witness…to the ends of the earth…Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them…teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

Then, as Christ blessed them, He was parted from them, a cloud enveloped Him as He rose, and Angels came to minister to the Apostles. They, in turn, returned to Jerusalem ***"with great joy,"*** remembering the Lord's promise to abide with them and to send the Holy Spirit upon them.

The Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Ascension will be celebrated on Wednesday evening, May 20 at 6:00 pm

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
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 and Patricia Thompson

PARISH COUNCIL

St. Elia Parish Council will meet for the monthly meeting on May 26 at 6:30 pm

COCA - ORTHODOX YOUNG ADULT EVENT

MAY 30 at ST. ELIA CHURCH

*** Pentecost Vigil, May 30, 5:00 pm**

*** Pizza after Vigil**

***Talk presented by Protodeacon James:**

"How he lives out his Orthodox Faith in his vocation of forest care!"

***Q and A afterwards**

Coming soon to St. Elia Parish Theater Hall - **Friday evening, June 12, at 6:30 pm**. A FREE SCREENING of ***'American Orthodox.'*** The film is approximately 50 minutes and additional time for Q&A and discussion. It explores the living presence of Orthodoxy in America through saints, sacred places, and personal stories of faith. ***All ages are welcome!***

OUR STEWARDSHIP: May 10, 2026

Candles	**61.00**
Tithely Offering:	**528.25**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**997.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,586.25**

GRASS-CUTTING HELP NEEDED

Please look for the sign-up sheet on the counter in the Church narthex and choose any date that you would be able to assist with cutting the grass using our Parish riding-mower. Please see Subdeacon Terrence Bilas if you have any further questions.

The Perfect Person's Rule of Faith

The perfect person does not only try to avoid evil. Nor does he do good for fear of punishment, still less in order to qualify for the hope of a promised reward.

The perfect person does good through love.

His actions are not motivated by desire for personal benefit, so he does not have personal advantage as his aim. But as soon as he has realized the beauty of doing good, he does it with all his energies and in all that he does.

He is not interested in fame, or a good reputation, or a human or divine reward.

The rule for life for a perfect person is to be the image and likeness of God.

Clement of Alexandria