WEEKLY BULLETIN

June 14, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 23

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST- NORTH AMERICAN SAINTS

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
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 **Sund**

Sunday, June 14 –Sandy Graham
Sunday, June 21 – Sue Ellen Turscak
Sunday, June 28 –Hours:Melissa Trace
Epistle: Subdeacon David Trace

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

Saturday, June 13

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8

Sunday, June 14

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Father's Dy

Saturday, June 20

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20

Sunday, June 21

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak
Epistle: Romans 5:1-10
Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33

DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREAT
DORMITION MONASTERY, RIVES JUNCTION, MICHIGAN
Tuesday – Thursday, June 23 - 25

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16

…but glory, honor, and peace to everyone who works
what is good, to the Jew first and to the Greek.
For there is no partiality with God.
For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without
law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by
the law (for not the hearers of the law are just in
the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;
for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do
the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a
law to themselves, who show the work of the law
written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness,
and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else
excusing them in the day when God will judge the secrets
of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

And Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee, saw two brothers,
Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net
into the sea; for they were fishermen. Then He said to them,
"***Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."***

They immediately left their nets and followed Him. Going on
from there, He saw two other brothers, James the son of
Zebedee, and John his brother in the boat with Zebedee their
father, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately
they left the boat and their father, and followed Him.

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their
synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and
healing all kinds of sickness an all kinds of disease among
the people.

Synaxis of the Saints of North America

Commemorated on June 14

On the second Sunday after Pentecost, each local Orthodox Church commemorates all the saints, known and unknown, who have shone forth in its territory. Accordingly, the Orthodox Church in America remembers the saints of North America on this day.

Saints of all times, and in every country are seen as the fulfillment of God's promise to redeem fallen humanity. Their example encourages us to ***"lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us" and to "run with patience the race that is set before us"*** (Hebrews 12:1). The saints of North America also teach us how we should live, and what we must expect to endure as Christians

Although it is a relatively young church, the Orthodox Church in America has produced saints in nearly all the six major categories of saints: Apostles (and Equals of the Apostles); Martyrs (and Confessors); Prophets; Hierarchs;

Monastic Saints; and the Righteous. Prophets, of course, lived in Old Testament times and predicted the coming of Christ.

The first Divine Liturgy in what is now American territory (northern latitude 58 degrees, 14 minutes, western longitude 141 degrees) **was celebrated on July 20, 1741, the Feast of the Prophet Elias,** aboard the ship Peter under the command of Vitus Bering. Hieromonk Hilarion Trusov and the priest Ignatius Kozirevsky served together on that occasion. Several years later, the Russian merchant Gregory I. Shelikov visited Valaam monastery, suggesting to the abbot that it would be desirable to send missionaries to Russian America.

On **September 24, 1794**, after a journey of 7,327 miles (the longest missionary journey in Orthodox history) and 293 days, a group of monks from Valaam arrived on Kodiak Island in Alaska. The mission was headed by Archimandrite Joasaph, and included Hieromonks Juvenal, Macarius, and Athanasius, the Hierodeacons Nectarius and Stephen, and the monks Herman and Joasaph.

Saint Herman of Alaska (December 13, August 9), the last surviving member of the mission, fell asleep in the Lord in 1837.

Throughout the Church's history, the seeds of faith have always been watered by the blood of the martyrs. The **Protomartyr Juvenal** was killed near Lake Iliamna by natives in 1799, thus becoming the first Orthodox Christian to shed his blood for Christ in the New World. In 1816, **Saint Peter the Aleut** was put to death by Spanish missionaries in California when he refused to convert to Roman Catholicism.

Missionary efforts continued in the nineteenth century, with

outreach to the native peoples of Alaska. Two of the most prominent laborers in Christ's Vineyard were **Saint Innocent Veniaminov** (March 31 and October 6) and **Saint Jacob Netsvetov** (July 26), who translated Orthodox services and books into the native languages. Father Jacob Netsvetev died in Sitka in 1864 after a life of devoted service to the Church. Father John Veniaminov, after his wife's death, received monastic tonsure with the name Innocent. He died in 1879 as the Metropolitan of Moscow.

As the nineteenth century was ending, an event of enormous significance for the North American Church took place. On March 25, 1891, Bishop Vladimir went to Minneapolis to receive **Saint Alexis Toth** (May 7) and 361 of his parishioners into the Orthodox Church. This was the beginning of the return of many Uniates to Orthodoxy.

Saint Tikhon (Bellavin), the future Patriarch of Moscow (April 7, October 9), came to America as bishop of the diocese of the Aleutians and Alaska in September 1898. As the only Orthodox bishop on the continent, Saint Tikhon traveled extensively throughout North America to minister to his widely scattered and diverse flock. He realized that the local church here could not be a permanent extension of the Russian Church. Therefore, he focused his efforts on giving the American Church a diocesan and parish structure which would help it mature and grow.

Saint Tikhon returned to Russia in 1907 and was elected as Patriarch of Moscow ten years later. He died in 1925, and for many years his exact burial place remained unknown.

Saint Tikhon's grave was discovered on February 22, 1n 1992 in the smaller cathedral of Our Lady of the Don in the Don Monastery when a fire made renovation of the church necessary.

Raphael of Brooklyn (February 27) was the first Orthodox

bishop to be consecrated in North America. Archimandrite Raphael Hawaweeny was consecrated by Bishop Tikhon and Bishop Innocent (Pustynsky) at Saint Nicholas Cathedral in New York on March 13, 1904. As Bishop of Brooklyn, Saint Raphael was a trusted and capable assistant to Saint Tikhon in his archpastoral ministry. Saint Raphael reposed on February 27, 1915.

The first All American Council took place March 5-7, 1907, at Mayfield, PA, and the main topic was "How to expand the mission."

In the twentieth century, in the aftermath of the Russian Revolution, countless men, women, and children received the crown of martyrdom rather than renounce Christ**. Saints John Kochurov** (October 31) **and Alexander Hotovitzky** (December 4 and August 7) both served the Church in North America before going back to Russia. Saint John became the first clergyman to be martyred in Russia on October 31, 1917 in Saint Petersburg. Saint Alexander Hotovitzky, who served in America until 1914, was killed in 1937.

America's newest Saint, Saint Matushka Olga, was glorified on June 19, 2025.

In addition to the saints listed above, we also honor those saints who are known only to God and have not been recognized officially by the Church. As we contemplate the lives of these saints, let us remember that we are also called by God to a life of holiness.

ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA –

Gospel: Matthew 4:25-5:12

Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee
and *from* [5]Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

The Beatitudes
And seeing the multitudes, [a]He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:

"Blessed [c]are the poor in spirit,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
For they shall inherit the [1]earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
For they shall be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
For they shall obtain mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
For they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
For they shall be called sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of [n]evil against you falsely for My sake.
Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

THE APOSTLES FAST

The Apostles Fast, Also known as the Saints Peter and Paul Fast, continues through June 28. The Feast of the holy Apostles is celebrated on June 29.

DIOCESAN CLERGY RETREAT

His Eminence Archbishop Alexander and Diocesan Clergy will gather for Retreat at the Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan, June 23, 24 and 25.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Saint Elia Parish Council will meet for their monthly meeting on Monday, June 30, at 6:30 pm.

ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER'S VISIT

Our Father and Archbishop Alexander will be with us **July 18 and 19** for the celebration of our Temple Feast of Saint Elia.

OUR STEWARDSHIP: June 7, 2026

Candles	**96.00**
Tithely Offering:	**313.25**
Sunday Tray Offering:	**1,872.00**
TOTAL:	**$2,281.25**

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.

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