WEEKLY BULLETIN

July 19, 2026 Vol. 43, No. 28

7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

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 PARISHL

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, July 19 - Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, July 26 – Mary Beth Gray
Sunday, August 2 – Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6
Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils
Saturday, July 18
5:00 pm Great Vespers
Sunday, June 19
9:00 am Greeting of the Archbishop
Entrance Prayer Vesting of the Archbishop
3rd and 9th Hours: Reader Michael Luc
9:30 am Pontifical Divine Liturgy
Subdeaconate Ordination of Reader Daniel Slife
Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc
Epistle: Romans 15:1-7
Gospels: Matthew 9:27-35 John 17:1-13

TROPARION OF THE HOLY FATHERS

You are most glorious, O Christ our God. You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. Through them You have guided us to the true faith. O greatly Compassionate One, glory to Youi!

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7
Repose of St. Jacob, Enlightener of the Alaskan People
Saturday, July 25
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Sunday, July 26
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Mary Beth Gray
9 :30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Mary Beth Gray
Epislle:1 Corinthians 1:10-18
Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7
We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

Epistle: Hebrews 13:7-16
Remember those who [1]rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of *their* conduct. Jesus Christ *is* [i]the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried [2]about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is* good that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them.We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate. Therefore let us go forth to Him, outside the camp, bearing His reproach. For here we have no continuing

city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of *our* lips, [4]giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35
And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.

As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spoke: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel. But the Pharisees said, He casted out devils through the prince of the devils.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people

Gospel: John 17:1-13.
Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: “Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word. Now they have known that all things which You have given Me are from You. For I have given to them the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me. “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours. And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in Your name. Those whom You gave Me I have kept; and none of them is lost except the son of perdition, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.

Fathers of the First Six Councils

Commemorated on July 19

An Ecumenical Council is comprised of archpastors and pastors of the Church, and representatives of all the local Churches, from every land of the "oikumene" (i.e. from all the whole inhabited world).

The Church venerates the Holy Fathers of the Ecumenical Councils because Christ has established them as "lights upon the earth," guiding us to the true Faith. "Clad in the garment of truth," the doctrine of the Fathers, based upon the preaching of the Apostles, has established one faith for the Church. The Ecumenical Councils, are the highest authority in the Church. Such Councils, guided by the grace of the Holy Spirit, and accepted by the Church, are infallible.

The Orthodox Church's conciliar definitions of dogma have the highest authority, and such definitions always begin with the Apostolic formula: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us..." (Acts 15: 28).

The Ecumenical Councils were always convened for a specific reason: to combat false opinions and heresies, and to clarify the Orthodox Church's teaching. But the Holy Spirit has thus seen fit, that the dogmas, the truths of faith, immutable in their content and scope, constantly and consequently are revealed by the conciliar mind of the Church, and are given precision by the holy Fathers within theological concepts and terms in exactly such measure as is needed by the Church itself for its economy of salvation. The Church, in expounding its dogmas, is dealing with the concerns

of a given historical moment, "not revealing everything in haste and thoughtlessly, nor indeed, ultimately hiding something" (Saint Gregory the Theologian).

A brief summary of the dogmatic theology of the First Six Ecumenical Councils is formulated and contained in the First Canon of the Council of Trullo (also known as Quinisext), held in the year 692. The 318 Holy Fathers of the **First Ecumenical Council** are spoken of in this Canon I of Trullo as having: "with unanimity of faith revealed and declared to us the consubstantiality of the three Persons of the Divine nature and, ... instructing the faithful to adore the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with one worship, they cast down and dispelled the false teaching about different degrees of Divinity."

The 150 Holy Fathers of the **Second Ecumenical Council** left their mark on the theology of the Church concerning the Holy Spirit, "repudiating the teaching of Macedonius, as one who wished to divide the inseparable Unity, so that there might be no perfect mystery of our hope."

The 200 God-bearing Fathers of the **Third Ecumenical Council** expounded the teaching that "Christ, the Incarnate Son of God is One." They also confessed that "she who bore Him without seed was the spotless Ever-Virgin, glorifying her as truly the Mother of God.

The 630 Holy Fathers of the **Fourth Ecumenical Council** decreed that "the One Christ, the Son of God... must be glorified in two natures."

The 165 God-bearing Holy Fathers of the **Fifth Ecumenical Council** "in synod anathematized and repudiated Theodore of Mopsuestia (the teacher of

Nestorius), and Origen, and Didymus, and Evagrius, renovators of the Hellenic teaching about the transmigration of souls and the transmutation of bodies and the impieties they raised against the resurrection of the dead."

The 170 Holy Fathers of the **Sixth Ecumenical Council** "taught that we ought to confess two natural volitions, or two wills [trans. note: one divine, and the other human], and two natural operations (energies) in Him Who was incarnate for our salvation, Jesus Christ, our true God."

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. We will greet His Eminence at the narthex at **9:00 am, followed by the Entrance Prayers and Vesting of the Archbishop**

Before the Divine Liturgy, His Eminence will **ordain Reader Daniel Joseph Slife** a Subdeacon of Saint Elia Church.

Following the Divine Liturgy, in celebration of our Temple Feast of St, Elia, we will process outside for the **blessing of vehicles** – anything on wheels: cars, trucks, motorcycles, bicycles, skateboards, roller skates, etc.

Following Vespers on Saturday: we will meet at Mi Casa Restaurant, 352 E. Waterloo Road

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday. A dinner will be held in the hall. The main dish will be provided by Sisterhood, with your covered dish.

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
Sara Niglio
Melissa Trace
Frances Jakim
Louis Hakim
JoeyGresh
Halina Woroncow
JosephTaylor
Sofia Wsevolodov

FREE Parish Outing:
An Evening of Outdoor Classical Music

On **Sunday evening, Aug. 9**, the Akron Symphony Orchestra will once again perform a free outdoor concert less than a mile away from St. Elia at Firestone (City) Park. Included this year will be familiar classics from Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Scott Joplin, and Charles Ives, as well as Akron's own Stephanie Childers-White as guest vocalist for a selection of soulful pops.

Anyone who would like to meet up for an informal parish get-together is welcome. Bring a blanket or lawn chair, and feel free to pack a picnic, and enjoy an evening of music in a relaxed, family-friendly setting.

Look for Deacon Aaron and other members of our parish so we can all sit together. No tickets are needed. See you there!

Date: Sunday, Aug. 9
Time: 7:30 to 9 p.m.
Location: Firestone Park Community Center,
1480 Girard Street, Akron

OUR STEWARDSHIP, JULY 12, 2026

Candles:	**84.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**398.25**
Sunday Tray Offerings:	**785.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,267.25**

MORE UP-COMING EVENTS

PARISH PICNIC: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
COLUMBIA WOODS PARK
Please check for the covered dish sign-up sheet

IOCC -INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES
5K Marathon St. Elia in conjunction with COCA
Saturday, October 17, 2026
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ON INWARD PEACE

"There is nothing better than peace in Christ, for it brings victory over all the evil spirits, on earth and in the air. When peace dwells in a man's heart it enables him to contemplate the grace of the Holy Spirit from within.

He who dwells in peace collects spiritual gifts as it were with a scoop, and he sheds the light of knowledge on others.

All our thoughts, all our desires, all our efforts, and all our actions should make us say constantly with the Church: 'O Lord, give us peace!' When a man lives in peace, God reveals mysteries to him."

St. Seraphim of Sarov