WEEKLY BULLETIN

August 30~~,~~ ~~20~~26, Vol. 43, No. 34

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

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: Deacon 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: 2026-2027

Coordinator: Popadia Donna Freude
Staff: Natalie Slife, Eve Tavenie, Mary Marcin, Denise Brito, Frances Hakim Subdeacon David Trace, Sue Ellen Turscak, Dr. Benjamin Czarnota

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: Deacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers 2026

Sunday, August 23 - Bud Graham
Sunday, August 30 - Sandy Graham
Sunday, September 6 Reader Michael Luc

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4
Afterfeast of the Beheading of the Forerunner
Saturday, August 29 – *Strict Fast Day*
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:1-8
Sunday, August 30
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Sandy Graham
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Sandy Graham
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Monday, August 31
Placing of the Cincture of the Theotokos
Tuesday, September 1
Church's Liturgical New Year

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5
Commemoration of the Miracle of Saint Michael at Colossae
Saturday, September 5
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Mark 16:9-20
Sunday, September 6
9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Michael Luc
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Michael Luc
Epistle: 2 Cor. 1:21-2:4 Gospel: Matt. 22:1-14

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints— that you also submit to such, and to everyone who works and labors with us. I am glad about the coming of Stephanas, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was lacking on your part they supplied. For they refreshed my spirit and yours. Therefore acknowledge such men. The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house. All the brethren greet you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. The salutation with my own hand—Paul's. If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

The Parable of the Wicked Husbandmen

[33] "Hear another parable: There was a certain landowner who planted a vineyard and set a hedge around it, dug a winepress in it and built a tower. And he leased it to vinedressers and went into a far country. [34] Now when vintage-time drew near, he sent his servants to the vinedressers, that they might receive its fruit. [35] And the

vinedressers took his servants, beat one, killed one, and stoned another. [36] Again he sent other servants, more than the first, and they did likewise to them. [37] Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' [38] But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.' [39] So they took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. [40] Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vinedressers?" [41] They said to Him, "He will destroy those wicked men miserably, and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who will render to him the fruits in their seasons." [42] Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes'?

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THE BEHEADING OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Saturday, June 29, is kept as a STRICT FAST DAY. Today, Sunday, June 30, is kept as the Afterfeast of the Beheading of the Forerunner of our Lord, Saint John the Baptist. For his martyrdom, the clergy and altar servers ware red.

ST. IRENE'S ORPHANAGE

St. Irene's Orphanage in Kenya, Africa, has experienced a frost in their corn fields and now are in need of help in providing food for the children of the orphanage. We are collecting donations for them until this Sunday, **August 30.** Thank you for your generosity.

The Feast of the Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Mother of God

According to Church tradition, after the bodily death of Mary the Theotokos, she was buried by the Apostles. But Thomas was delayed, and he desired to look upon her face one last time. When the tomb was opened, her body was gone (for Christ had already granted her the bodily resurrection which awaits us all at the Second Coming). At this moment, the Theotokos appeared and gave Thomas her own belt (also called the cincture or sash) as consolation.

The belt was kept at Jerusalem until it was taken to Constantinople in the 5th century. In the 14th century, it was given to Vatopedi Monastery on Mount Athos by the emperor, and it remains there to this day.

The feast of the Cincture (Sash) of the Theotokos is celebrated on Monday, August 31, the last day of the liturgical year in the Orthodox Church.

Troparion – (*Cincture (Sash) of the Theotokos)*

Ever Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind,
you have given your people a powerful legacy:
the robe and sash of your most honored body which remained incorrupt throughout your seedless childbearing; for through you time and nature are renewed. Therefore we implore you: "Grant peace to your people and to our souls great mercy!"

Church New Year
Commemorated on September 1

The first day of the Church New Year is also called the beginning of the Indiction. The term Indiction comes from a Latin word meaning, "to impose." It was originally applied to the imposition of taxes in Egypt. The first worldwide Indiction was in 312 when the Emperor Constantine (May 21) saw a miraculous vision of the Cross in the sky. Before the introduction of the Julian calendar, Rome began the New Year on Sept. 1.

Tradition says that the Hebrews entered the Promised Land in September. According to Holy Tradition, Christ entered the synagogue on September 1 to announce His mission to mankind (Luke 4:16-22). Quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, the Savior proclaimed:

"The spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to proclaim release to captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord..."

Troparion *(Church NewYear))*

O Creator of the Universe, You appointed times by Your own power; bless the crown of this year with Your goodness, O Lord! Preserve in safety Your rulers and Your cities: and through the intercessions of the Theotokos, save us.

CHURCH NEW YEAR – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

DIRECTION IN NEW YEAR

As we begin the month of September, the first month of a NewYear, there is the sense of intently focusing on Jesus and His message. We are invited to watch closely, and to look intently for the message of God in our lives throughout the coming year.

To do this we need to be deliberate about listening to what happens in our life each day, to keep our inner eyes open so that we can see how it is that God moves through our days, to open the ears of our mind and our hearts so that we can hear the Voice of God beckoning to us in each and every person and event.

Looking intently for God amid our everyday life presumes that we believe God is there. It also requires reverence for every part of our lives, whether or not we enjoy that aspect of life because each part is an opportunity to encounter the Divine Presence. Those daily glimpses of God that we receive when we are ready and willing to listen closely provide the directions we need for our life.

Kontakion ***(Church New Year)***

O Creator and Master of time and the ages, Triune and Merciful God of all: grant blessings for the course of this year, and in Your boundless mercy save those who worship You and cry out in fear: "O Savior, grant blessings to all mankind!"

PARSH COUNCILNOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee for the 2027 Parish Council was elected on Sunday. August 23. Please present your Nominees to **Nominating Committee: Sandy Graham, Mary Marcin, Reader Joshua Wherley.**

The slate of nominees will be presented at a Parish Meeting in November for election. All Nominations must be made to the Nominating Committee before the Parish Meeting. **Nominations can not be made at the November Meeting.**

CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF MEETING

Sunday, September 7, following the Divine Liturgy

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE

The 63rd Diocesan Conference will be held at Saint Elizabeth the New Martyr Church, Perrysburg, Ohio, **October 9-10**. Fr. Don, Deacon Aaron, and Jefferson Hodge, our Delegate, will be representing St. Elia Parish.

5K MARATHON - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

IOCC - St. Elia in conjunction with COCA

OUR STEWARSHIP, August 23. 2026

Candles:	**89.00**
Tray Offerings::	**755.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**268.25**
St. Irene Orphanage:	**125.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,237.25**

REMEMBER THOSE IN THE ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr. Don and Popadia Donna
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Christopher Barnhart, son of Diego and Chanelle

REMEMBER OUR SICK AND SHUT-INS

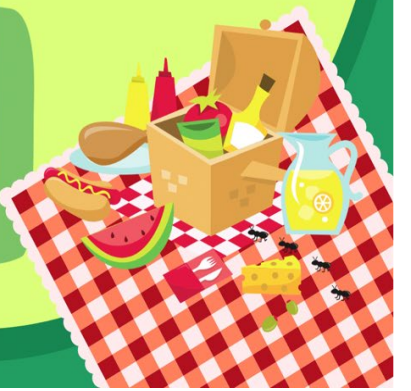
Metropolitan Onuphry of the Ukraine
Metropolitan Theodosy of the Ukraine
Metropolitan Arseny of the Ukraine
Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Archpriest Emil Huntyan
Matushka Laryssa Hnntyan
Mitred Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Priest Gabriel Bilas
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Valerie Zahirsky
Florence Lambo
Michele Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Sofia Wsevolodov
David Gable

HOLY GHOST
MACEDONO-BULGARIAN
ORTHODOX CHURCH
CELEBRATING
90
YEARS
BOARDMAN PARK
MACEDONIAN
church picnic
AT
BOARDMAN PARK
AUGUST 30, 2026
BEGINNING AT 2PM
★ FREE ADMISSION ★
FAMOUS KABOBS, ZELNIK,
AND OTHER MACEDONIAN FAVORITES
along with
PLENTY OF ETHNIC
AND AMERICAN FOODS!
Entertainment by
Od Srca
ADULT TAMBURITZANS
and the
Noćne Sove
TAMBURITZA ORCHESTRA

Parish Picnic in the Park

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH
following Divine Liturgy

Meet us at the park for food, fun and fellowship as a parish community. Tennis courts, playground, trails and covered pavillion included.

Columbia Woods Park
4060 Columbia Woods Dr.
Norton, OH

Scan here to RSVP and let us know what you're bringing!