WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 6, 2026, Vol. 43, No. 34

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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: 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, September 6 – Reader Michael Luc
Sunday, September 13 – Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, September 20 - Reader Joshua Wherley

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 5
The Miracle of St. 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

THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST-HOLY LADY, THEOTOKOS AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY
Tuesday, September 8
8:00 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 6
Forefeast &Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross
Saturday, September 12
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 24:1-12
Sunday, September 13
9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Nicholas Morelli
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Nocholas Morelli
Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18
Gospels:: Matthew 22:35-46 John 3:13-17

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us *is* God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
Moreover, I call God as witness against my soul, that to spare you I came no more to Corinth. Not that we have dominion over your faith, but are fellow workers for your joy; for by faith you stand.

Paul Urges Forgiveness
But I determined this within myself, that I would not come again to you in sorrow. For if I make you sorrowful, then who is he who makes me glad but the one who is made sorrowful by me?

Forgive the Offender
And I wrote this very thing to you, lest, when I came, I should have sorrow over those from whom I ought to have joy, having confidence in you all that my joy is *the joy* of you all. For out of much affliction and anguish of heart I wrote to you, with many tears, not that you should be grieved, but that you might know the love which I have so abundantly for you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14
And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son and sent out his

servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.” ’ But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them.

But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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Make the Church’s Liturgical Calendar the compass of your life!

Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae

Commemorated on September 6

In Phrygia, not far from the city of Hieropolis, in a place called Cheretopos, there was a church named for the Archangel Michael, built over a miraculous spring. This church was built by a certain inhabitant of the city of Laodicia in gratitude to God for healing his mute daughter.

The holy Chief Commander Michael appeared to this man in a dream and revealed to him that his daughter would receive the gift of speech after drinking from the water of the spring. The girl did receive healing and began to speak. After this miracle, the father and his daughter and all their family were baptized. In fervent gratitude, the father built the church in honor of the holy Chief Commander Michael. Not only did Christians begin to come to the spring for healing, but also pagans. In so doing, many of the pagans turned from their idols and were converted to the faith in Christ.

At this church of the holy Chief Commander Michael, a certain pious man by the name of Archippus served for sixty years as church custodian. By his preaching and by the example of his saintly life he brought many pagans to faith in Christ. With the general malice of that time towards Christians, and especially against Archippus, the pagans thought to destroy the church in order to prevent people from coming to that holy place of healing, and at the same time kill Archippus.

Toward this end they made a confluence of the Lykokaperos and Kufos Rivers and directed its combined flow against the church. Saint Archippus prayed fervently to the Chief Commander Michael to ward off the danger. Through his prayer the Archangel Michael appeared at the temple, and with a blow of his staff, opened a wide fissure in a rock and commanded the rushing torrents of water to flow into it. The temple remained unharmed. Seeing such an awesome miracle, the pagans fled in terror. Archippus and the Christians gathered in church glorified God and gave thanks to the holy Archangel Michael for the help. The place where the rivers plunged into the fissure received the name "Chonae", which means "plunging."

The Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated on September 8

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.
The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of

universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.
Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless. Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for

a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.
The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God is the first Major Feast of the Liturgical Year which began on Tuesday, September 1.

For the Feast of the Mary's Nativity, the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom will be celebrated on Tuesday morning, September 8, at 8:00 am

PARISH 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 30. 2026

Candles:	**87.00**
Tray Offerings:	**774.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**298.25**
St. Irene Orphanage:	**185.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,344.25**

REMEMBER THOSE IN 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 Laura Bilas
Priest Wayne Paul Wright
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Valerie Zahirsky
Florence Lambo
Michele Lambo
Mary Magensky
Sarah Nigilo
Melissa Trace
Frances Hakim
Louis Hakim
Joey Gresh
Halina Woroncow
Joseph Taylor
Sofia Wsevolodov
David Gable

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!