WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 13~~,~~ ~~20~~26, Vol. 43, No. 35

15th 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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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, September 13 – Reader Nicholas Morelli
Sunday, September 20 - Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, September 27 Mary Beth Gray-

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

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
Panakhida requested by the Bohush Family

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS
Monday, September 14
8:00 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 7
Afterfeast & Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Saturday, September 19
5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions
Matins Gospel: Luke 2:12-35
Sunday, September 20
9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley
9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley
Epistles: Galatians 2:16-20 2 Cor. 6:1-10
Gospels: Mark 8:34-9:2 Matthw 25:13-40

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to *give* the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. *We are* hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; *we are* perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body.

For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, 14knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, ***"'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You***

shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." While the Pharisees were gathered, Jesus asked them, saying, ***"What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?"*** They said to Him, "The Son of David." He said to them, ***"How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool" If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?"*** And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.
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Forefeast of the Elevation of the Cross

Commemorated on September 13

The Forefeast of the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross is celebrated for only one day (September 13) and there are seven days of Afterfeast (September 15-21). The Leavetaking of the Feast falls on September 21.
The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross is preceded by the Saturday and Sunday before the Exaltation, and it is followed by the Sunday after the Exaltation.

Today we also commemorate the Consecration of the church of the Resurrection at Jerusalem.
Saint Constantine the Great (May 21) built the church of the Resurrection on Golgotha. On September 13, 335, the Fathers of the Council of Tyre consecrated it and, at that time, ordained the annual commemoration of its consecration.

Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) at Jerusalem - Commemorated on September 13

The Dedication of the Temple of the Resurrection of Christ at Jerusalem celebrates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by Saint Constantine the Great and his mother, the empress Helen.

After the voluntary Passion and Death on the Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the holy place of His suffering was long trampled on by pagans. When the Roman emperor Titus conquered Jerusalem in the year 70, he razed the city and destroyed the Temple of Solomon on Mount Moriah, leaving there not a stone upon a stone, as even the Savior foretold (Mt.13:1-2). Later on the zealous pagan emperor Hadrian (117-138) built on the site of the Jerusalem destroyed by Titus a new city named Aelia Capitolina for him (Hadrian Aelius). It was forbidden to call the city by its former name.

He gave orders to cover the Holy Tomb of the Lord with earth and stones, and on that spot to set up an idol. On Golgotha, where the Savior was crucified, he constructed a pagan temple dedicated to the goddess Venus in 119. Before the statues they offered sacrifice to demons and performed pagan rites, accompanied by wanton acts.

In Bethlehem, at the place the Savior was born of the All-Pure Virgin, the impious emperor set up an idol of Adonis. He did all this intentionally, so that people would forget completely about Christ the Savior and that they

would no longer remember the places where He lived, taught, suffered and arose in glory.

At the beginning of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great (306-337), the first of the Roman emperors to recognize the Christian religion, he and his pious mother the empress Helen decided to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. They also planned to build a church on the site of the Lord's suffering and Resurrection, to reconsecrate and purify the places connected with memory of the Savior from the taint of foul pagan cults. The empress Helen journeyed to Jerusalem with a large quantity of gold, and Saint Constantine the Great wrote a letter to Patriarch Macarius I (313-323), requesting him to assist her in every possible way with her task of the renewing the Christian holy places.

After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress Helen destroyed all the pagan temples and reconsecrated the places desecrated by the pagans. She was zealous to find the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, and she ordered the excavation of the place where the temple of Venus stood. There they discovered the Sepulchre of the Lord and Golgotha, and they also found three crosses and some nails.

In order to determine upon which three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius gave orders to place a dead person, who was being carried to a place of burial, upon each cross in turn. When the dead person was placed on the Cross of Christ, he immediately came alive. With the greatest of joy the empress Helen and Patriarch Macarius raised up the Life-Creating Cross and displayed it to all the people standing about.

The holy empress quickly began the construction of a large church which enclosed within its walls Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion of the Savior, and the Sepulchre of the Lord, located near each other. The holy Apostle and Evangelist John wrote about this: "Now in the place where He was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had yet been laid. Therefore, they laid Jesus there because of the Jewish preparation day, for the tomb was nearby" (John 19:41-42). The Church of the Resurrection was ten years in building, and the holy empress Helen did not survive to see its completion. She returned to Constantinople and reposed in the year 327. After her arrival in Jerusalem, the holy empress-built churches in Bethlehem, on the Mount of Olives, at Gethsemane and in many other places connected with the life of the Savior and events in the New Testament.

The construction of the church of the Resurrection, called "Martyrion" in memory of the sufferings of the Savior, was completed in the same year as the Council of Tyre, and in the thirtieth year of the reign of Saint Constantine the Great. Therefore, at the assembly of September 13, 335, the consecration of the temple was particularly solemn. Hierarchs of Christian Churches in many lands: Bythnia, Thrace, Cilicia, Cappadocia, Syria, Mesopotamia, Phoenicia, Arabia, Palestine, and Egypt, participated in the consecration of the church. The bishops who participated in the Council of Tyre, and many others, went to the consecration in Jerusalem. On this day all the city of Jerusalem was consecrated. The Fathers of the Church established September 13 as the commemoration of this remarkable event.

Make the Church's Liturgical Calendar the Compass of your life!!!

PARISH COUNCILNOMINATING COMMITTEE

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 cannot be made at the November Meeting.**

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, September 6, 2026

Candles:	**44.00**
Tray Offerings:	**1,225.00**
Tithely Offerings:	**185.00**
Improvement Fund:	**5.00**
Bookstore:	**15.00**
TOTAL:	**$1,474.00.**

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!