# WEEKLY BULLETIN

~~October 18, 20~~26, Vol. 43, No. 40

**20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

# THE VOICE

# SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH

**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**
***Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese***
***V. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude***
***Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Rev. Deacon Aaron***

# SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

## 2026 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Daniel Ralich
Secretary: Deacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Subdeacon 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
**Staff:** Natalie Slife, Eve Tavenier, 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

**Sunday, October 18: Sue Ellen Turscak**
**Sunday, October 25: Subdeacon Daniel Slife**

## ***SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES***

**20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3**
**Holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke**
**Saturday, October 17**
**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**
**Matins Gospel: John 20:19-31**
**Sunday, October 18**
**9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Sue Ellen Turscak**
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**
**Epistle Reader: Sue Ellen Turscak**
**Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19**
**Gospel: Luke 8:5-15**

**21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 4**
**Martyrs Marcian and Martyrius, the Notaries of Constantinople**
**Saturday, October 24**
**5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions**
**Matins Gospel: John 1:1-14**
**Sunday, October 25**
**9:10 am 3rd & 6th Hours: Subdeacon Daniel Slife**
**9:30 am Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**
**Epistle Reader: Subdeacon Daniel Slife**
**Epistle: Galatians2:16-20**
**Gospel: Luke 16:19-31**

**Monday, October 26 – HOLY AND GLORIOUS GREATMARTR DEMETRIUS THE MYRRHGUSHER OF THESALONICA**

# SUNDAYSCRIPTURE READINGS

**Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19**

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

**Gospel Luke 8:5-15**

"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded [a]a crop a hundredfold."

When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

And He said, ***“To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that***

***‘Seeing they may not see,***
***And hearing they may not understand.’***

**The Parable of the Sower Explained**

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of [c]temptation fall away.

Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.

But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience

# FALL FAMILY FUNFEST

## NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

**9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY**

**Followed by**

**Covered Dish Luncheon**

**And**

**OUR ANNUAL TRUNK-A-TREAT**

***EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING***

**A TREAT TO SHARE WITH ALL THE KIDS – young and old**

**Please sign the List for your Covered Dish**

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## CHURCH SCHOOL PROGRAM

**After Communion and Father has taken the Chalice to the Table of Oblations, the children will go to the Hall where the classrooms are set up. Please refrain from gathering and talking in the hall when the classes are in session.**

## CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX COUNCIL

**Meeting at St. Elia on Monday, October 19**

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 pm**

## PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Please present your Nominees for the 2027 Parish Council to the **Nominating Committee: Sandy Graham, Mary Marcin, Reader Joshua Wherley.** All Nominations must be made to the Nominating Committee before the Parish Meeting. **Nominations cannot be made at the Parish Election Meeting to be held in November.**

**OUR STEWARSHIP, October 11, 2026**

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|---|---|
| **Candles:** | **101.00** |
| **Tray Offerings:** | **1,791.00** |
| **Tithely Offerings:** | **348.25** |
| **TOTAL:** | **$2,240.25** |

**REMEMBERING 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 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

# *A NEW ANTIMENSION*

.An **antimension** (from the Greek ἀντιμήνσιον, meaning "instead of the table") is a rectangular piece of linen or silk placed on the altar in Orthodox Christian churches. It contains a small relic of a martyr and is signed and consecrated by a bishop, serving as his permission for a priest to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and other sacraments in his diocese. Without it, the Eucharist cannot be celebrated, making it essential for Orthodox liturgical practice.

All of the Parishes of our Diocese of Toledo received a new Antimension, signed by His Eminence our Father and Archbishop Alexander.

The Relics of the Antimension signed by Bishop Kyrill in 1967 were  of the Hieromartyr Hermogenes. These Relics were removed and sewn into the new Antimension.

## *Hieromartyr Hermogenes, Patriarch of Moscow,*
### *Wonderworker of All Russia*

***Commemorated on February 17 and May 12***

The Hieromartyr Hermogenes, Patriarch of Moscow and all Rus, was born in Kazan around 1530, and was descended from the Don Cossacks. According to the Patriarch's own testimony, he served as priest in Kazan in a church dedicated to Saint Nicholas (December 6 and May 9), near the Kazan bazaar. Soon he became a monk,

and from 1582 was archimandrite of the Savior-Transfiguration monastery at Kazan. On May 13, 1589 he was consecrated bishop and became the first Metropolitan of Kazan.

While he was the priest at Saint Nicholas, the wonderworking Kazan Icon of the Mother of God (July 8) was discovered in Kazan in 1579. With the blessing of Archbishop Jeremiah of Kazan, he carried the newly-appeared icon from the place of its discovery to the Church of Saint Nicholas. Having remarkable literary talent, the saint in 1594 compiled an account describing the appearance of the wonderworking icon and the miracles accomplished through it. In 1591 the saint gathered newly-baptized Tatars into the cathedral church and for several days he instructed them in the Faith.

On January 9, 1592 Saint Hermogenes addressed a letter to Patriarch Job, in which he asked for permission to commemorate in his See of Kazan those Orthodox soldiers who gave their lives for the Faith and the nation in a battle against the Tatars. In the past, it was customary to enter into the diptychs the names of all Orthodox warriors who had fallen in battle, and to commemorate them.

At the same time he mentioned three martyrs who had suffered at Kazan for their faith in Christ, one of whom was a Russian named John (January 24) born at Nizhny Novgorod and captured by the Tatars. The other two, Stephen and Peter (March 24), were newly-converted Tatars.

The saint expressed regret that these martyrs were not inserted into the diptychs read on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, and that "Memory Eternal" was not sung for them. In answer to Saint Hermogenes, the Patriarch issued a decree on February 25, which said: "to celebrate at Kazan and throughout all the Kazan metropolitanate a panikhida for all the Orthodox soldiers killed at Kazan and the environs of Kazan, on the Saturday following the Feast of the Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos (October 1), and to inscribe them in the great Synodikon read on the Sunday of Orthodoxy," and also ordered that the three Kazan martyrs be inscribed in the Synodikon, leaving it to Saint Hermogenes to set the day of their memory. Saint Hermogenes circulated the Patriarchal decree throughout his diocese, and required all the churches and monasteries to serve Liturgies, Panikhidas and Lityas for the three Kazan martyrs on January 24.

Saint Hermogenes displayed zeal in the faith and firmness in the observance of Church traditions, and he devoted himself to the enlightenment of Kazan Tatars with the faith of Christ.

Having been found worthy of the patriarchal throne, Metropolitan Hermogenes was elected to the primatial See, and on July 3, 1606 he was installed as Patriarch by the assembly of the holy hierarchs at Moscow's Dormition cathedral. Metropolitan Isidore handed the Patriarch the staff of the holy hierarch Peter, Moscow Wonderworker (October 5, December 21, August 24), and the Tsar gave as a gift to the new Patriarch a panagia, embellished with precious stones, a white klobuk and

staff. In the ancient manner, Patriarch Hermogenes made his entrance riding upon a donkey.

The activity of Patriarch Hermogenes coincided with a difficult period for the Russian state: the appearance of the false Tsarevich Demetrius and the Polish king Sigismund III. The first hierarch devoted all his powers to the service of the Church and the nation.

Patriarch Hermogenes was not alone in this exploit: his self-sacrificing fellow-countrymen followed his example and assisted him. With special inspiration His Holiness the Patriarch stood up against the traitors and enemies of the nation, who wanted to spread Uniatism and Western Catholicism throughout Russia and to wipe out Orthodoxy, while enslaving the Russian nation.

When the imposter arrived at Moscow and settled himself at Tushino, Patriarch Hermogenes sent two letters to the Russian traitors. In one of them he wrote: "...You have forgotten the vows of our Orthodox Faith, in which we are born, baptized, nourished and raised. You have violated your oath and the kissing of the Cross to stand to the death for the house of the Most Holy Theotokos and for the Moscow realm, but have fallen for your false would-be Tsarevich ... My soul aches, my heart is sickened, all within me agonizes, and all my frame shudders; I weep and with sobbing I lament: Have mercy, have mercy, brethren and children, on your own souls and your parents departed and living ... Consider, how our nation is devastated and plundered by foreigners, who offer insult to the holy icons and churches, and how innocent blood is spilled, crying out to

God. Think! Against whom do you take up arms: is it not against God, Who has created you? Is it not against your own brothers? Do you not devastate your own country?... I adjure you in the name of God, give up your undertaking, there is yet time, so that you do not perish in the end." In the second document the saint appeals: "For the sake of God, come to your senses and turn around, gladden your parents, your wives and children; and we stand to pray God for you..."

Soon the righteous judgment of God fell upon the Brigand of Tushino: he was killed by his own close associates on December 11, 1610. But Moscow continued to remain in peril, since the Poles and traitors, loyal to Sigismund III, remained in the city. The documents sent by Patriarch Hermogenes throughout the cities and villages, exhorted the Russian nation to liberate Moscow from the enemies and to choose a lawful Russian Tsar.

The Muscovites rose up in rebellion, and the Poles burned the city, shutting themselves up in the Kremlin. Together with Russian traitors they forcefully seized Patriarch Hermogenes from the patriarchal throne and imprisoned him in the Chudov monastery.

On Bright Monday in 1611, the Russian militia approached Moscow and began the seige of the Kremlin, which continued for several months. Besieged within the Kremlin, the Poles often sent messengers to the Patriarch with the demand that he order the Russian militia to leave the city, threatening him with execution if he refused.

The saint firmly replied, “What are your threats to me? I fear only God. If all our enemies leave Moscow, I shall bless the Russian militia to withdraw from Moscow; but if you remain here, I shall bless all to stand against you and to die for the Orthodox Faith.”

While still in prison, the Hieromarttyr Hermogenes sent a final epistle to the Russian nation, blessing the liberating army to fight the invaders. The Russian commanders could not come to an agreement over a way to take the Kremlin and free the Patriarch. He languished more than nine months in dreadful confinement, and on February 17, 1612, he died a martyr’s death from starvation.

The body of the Hieromarttyr Hermogenes was buried in the Chudov monastery, but in 1654 was transferred to the Moscow Dormition cathedral. The glorification of Patriarch Hermogenes as a saint occurred on May 12, 1913.

**Troparion — Tone 4**

***By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. Hieromarttyr Hermogenes, entreat Christ God to save our souls.***