

## PRAYERS NEEDED

Bethel Adamov  
June Slavoff  
Chris Popovich  
Olimpia Maftean  
Spasenija Spasenovski  
Biljana Spasenovski  
Anne Bowden  
Carol Egnatuk  
Zachary & Gabriel Beronja  
Peggy Hanchar  
Alexander Hanchar  
Leonora Keathley  
Olga VanNiman  
Ramona Repair  
Barbara Repair  
Phoebe Davis  
Radovan Schall  
Tami M.  
Grace Ann  
Sveta  
Menka  
Alexandra  
Christian  
Peter Holoviak  
Carleigh Byrd  
Child of God Alexander Micevski  
Child of God Gabriella  
Child of God Sebastian



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/2 Angela Boyer  
2/4 Fr. Roman Star  
2/7 Joe Britten  
2/16 MaryEllen Jackson  
2/17 Addison Nicolich  
2/18 Annie Rafalski  
2/24 Ashleigh Tilley  
2/26 Ana Olarean  
2/27 Zach Stanton  
2/28 Thomas Oliphant

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2/8 Fr. Lawrence & Matushka Marie Bacik  
2/19 Jon & Stephanie Rambow

*The Eternal Lamp is being offered throughout the month  
of February by*

*Fr. Lawrence & Matushka Marie Bacik  
and Deborah Sancenito,*

*in loving memory of*

*+John & +Alice Bacik, +John Bacik III,*

*+George & +Marie Conway,*

*+Andrew Wooten and +Mark Sancenito.*



*God's blessings and many thanks is expressed to Reader Alexander Bacik, for sponsoring the February  
newsletter edition in honor of his parents' 37th Wedding Anniversary on February 8, 2023.  
Many years!*

*Patriarchal Parishes of the Russian Orthodox Church in the USA*

# *St. Elias Eastern Orthodox Church*

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StEliasblog.wordpress.com

E-MAIL: LawrenceBacik@Yahoo.com

Very Rev. Archpriest Lawrence Bacik, Pastor

Residence/Cell: 269-665-9313

Church: 269-979-2146

Mr. Fred Beronja, Parish President: 269-968-1233

Mr. Alexander Hanchar, Sacristan: 269-929-8774

## **Welcome Visitors!**

The pastor and parishioners of St. Elias are pleased to have you worshipping with us! Following the veneration of the Cross, please join us for coffee hour so that we may meet you!

## *February 2023 Parish Newsletter*

### **Welcome!**

Let us offer a warm welcome to all of our visitors!



Our humble parish is dedicated to imitating the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ by sharing the good news with our words and living it with our lives. We seek to strengthen and encourage one another in this ancient faith so that we may be equipped to welcome many more members into the fold of our parish family as fellow disciples of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. Like the mustard seed in the Gospel (Matthew 13:31-32), our parish community is growing into a shady tree under which those who are outside our pasture might find shelter. To this end, our services are conducted primarily in English, enabling people from all backgrounds to find a spiritual home with us.

Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God (Romans 15:7).

With love in Christ our Savior, Very Rev. Archpriest Lawrence Bacik

**PRAYERS NEEDED**

As the war rages on, please increase your prayers for those suffering in Ukraine and those individuals who have perished as a result of this terrible invasion since its start on 24 February 2022.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Many Years!** Congratulations and God's choicest blessings to both Matt "Matthias" Starkweather on his Baptism/Chrismation and Zach "Isaac" Stanton on his Chrismation on 6 January, Christmas Eve. May the Newborn Savior bless and guide them as they embark on this new life in Christ Jesus!

**Pastor's Assignment:** Fr. Lawrence Bacik was officially assigned as St. Elias' new pastor 18 years ago on 9 February 2005 by the Rt. Rev. Mercurius (Ivanov), Bishop of Zaraisk & Administrator of the Patriarchal Parishes.

**Pastor's Vacation:** Although Fr. Lawrence will be away for two Sundays, Reader's services, also known as "Typica," will be held during his absence on Jan. 29 & Feb. 5. If an emergency arises where a canonical priest is needed, please contact Fr. Joshua Frigerio, pastor of Holy Ascension Orthodox Church in Albion. Telephone: 269.830.6297

**Parish Social:** This wonderful event was held on Jan. 13 during the fast-free period following the Nativity of Christ ("Sviatki"). Many thanks to everyone who supported this enjoyable fundraiser and also the soup luncheon held on Jan. 15. A total of \$811.08 was collected to benefit the new roof! An abundance of gratitude is expressed to the following individuals for their dedication and generosity: Matushka Marie & Alex Bacik, Abbey Fuller, Al Hanchar, MaryEllen Jackson, Zach Stanton, Matt Starkweather and Larry Weitting.

**Feeding the Poor:** We will need some volunteers to help prepare breakfast for people "in need" in downtown Battle Creek on Sat. Feb. 25 at St. Thomas Church (16 E. Van Buren St.) from 7am - 10:30am. Supplies are not needed, everything will be made available for the meal's preparation, serving and clean-up. Alex Bacik, coordinator.

**Prospora Bakers:** An abundance of thanks is expressed to Zivka Nanos and Olga Popovich for faithfully baking prospora for divine services.

**Spiritual Food for Thought:**

Lent appears gloomy until we cross its threshold. Begin it and you will see that it is light after the night; freedom after chains; privilege after a life of burdens. Have you heard in the Epistle, "The night is past and the day approaches" (Romans 13:12)? Night is the time before Lent, the day is Lent. The Apostle Paul wants us to greet Lent as eagerly as we greet the dawn after a long night. Take to heart what Lent requires, gives and promises, and you will see that it cannot be otherwise. For what does Lent require? Repentance and correction of life. What does it give? Complete forgiveness and the return of all God's mercies. What does it promise? Joy in the Holy Spirit here and eternal blessedness there. Take all this to heart, and it will be impossible for you not to desire Lent.

--St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894)

| <i>February 2023 Parish Calendar</i>  |  |   |   |                            |        |  |
|---|--|---|---|----------------------------|--------|--|
| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY                   | FRIDAY | SATURDAY   |
| <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Sacred Scripture Quote:</b><br/>"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts." --Psalm 139:23</p> </div> |  |   | 1   | 2                          | 3      | 4  |
| 5 Tone 1<br><b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10AM<br><br>Prospora/donuts:<br>Helen Repair  | 6  | 7   | 8   | 9<br><br>Sisterhood Recess | 10     | 11<br><br><b>Great Vespers</b> 6PM   |
| <b>Fast-free week</b>   |  |   |   |                            |        |  |
| 12 Tone 2<br><b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10AM<br><br>Prospora/donuts:<br>Galina Emelyanova  | 13   | 14<br><br><b>Great Vespers</b> , 6PM                                | 15<br><br><b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10AM; <b>Meeting of the Lord</b> (Blessing of Candles)  | 16                         | 17     | 18<br><br><b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10AM; "Soul" Saturday                      |
| 19 Tone 3<br><b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10AM<br><br>Prospora/donuts:<br>Milica Nicolich  | 20   | 21  | 22  | 23                         | 24     | 25<br><br>Volunteer Breakfast @ St. Thomas<br><br><b>Great Vespers</b> 6PM |
| 26 Tone 4<br><b>Divine Liturgy</b> 10AM<br><br>Prospora/donuts:<br>MaryEllen Jackson  | 27<br><b>Great Lent Begins</b> ; Clean Monday<br><br><b>Great Penitential Canon</b> (St. Andrew of Crete), 6PM | 28<br><br><b>Great Penitential Canon</b> (St. Andrew of Crete), 6PM | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Emergency Contacts during Fr. Lawrence Family Vacation:<br/><br/>Fr. Joshua Frigerio, 269.830.6297<br/>Fred Beronja, Parish President: 269-968-1233<br/>Alexander Hanchar, Sacristan: 269-929-8774</p> </div> |                            |        |  |