

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

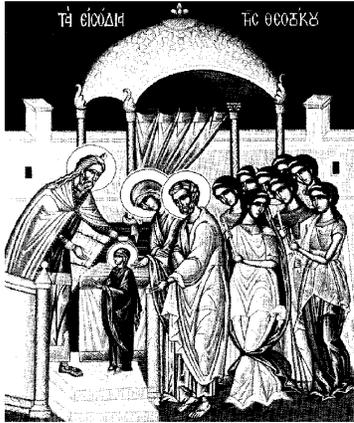
Volume XIX

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20 November / 3 December 2017

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 1)

Forefeast of the Entry of the Theotokos; St Gregory the Decapolite



SERVICES THIS WEEK

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 1)
Forefeast of the Entry; St Gregory of Decapolis
Saturday, 2 December (19 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 3 December (20 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Adult Study

ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Sunday, 3 December (20 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Monday, 4 December (21 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 7)

‘Kursk Root’ Icon of the Mother of God
Saturday, 9 December (26 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 10 December (27 November, o.s.)

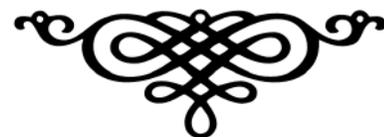
9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

FASTING DAYS Week of 3 December

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	3 December (20 Nov, o.s.)	St Gregory the Decapolite Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	4 December (21 Nov, o.s.)	ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Tuesday</i>	5 December (22 Nov, o.s.)	Apostle Philemon & Company Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	6 December (23 Nov, o.s.)	St Amphilochius & St Gregory Normal Fast Day (No oil)
<i>Thursday</i>	7 December (24 Nov, o.s.)	Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	8 December (25 Nov, o.s.)	Apodosis of the Entry Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Saturday</i>	9 December (26 Nov, o.s.)	St Innocent of Irkutsk Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	10 December (27 Nov, o.s.)	Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 3 December

Su	26th Sunday after Pentecost	
	4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §66 (12:16-21)
27TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
M	ENTRY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS	
	Vespers Paramia: (1) Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35 • (2) I Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • (3) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a	
	Matins Gospel: Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)	
	Heb. §320 (9:1-7)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
<i>M</i>	1 Tim. §285a (5:1-10)	Luke §86 (17:20-25)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Tim. §286 (5:11-21)	Luke §87 (17:26-37)
<i>W</i>	1 Tim. §287 (5:22-6:11a)	Luke §90 (18:15-17, 26-30)
<i>Th</i>	1 Tim. §289 (6:17-21)	Luke §92 (18:31-34)
<i>F</i>	2 Tim. §290 (1:1-2, 8-18)	Luke §95 (19:12-28)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Luke §51a (10:19-21)
Su	27th Sunday after Pentecost	
	5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We thank those who donated funds for the Icon in the High Place behind the Altar Table of Christ the Great High Priest. A few parish families have made it possible to have this beautiful, large icon, painted by our iconographer Protodeacon Paul Drozdowski, adorn our altar. This icon underscores for us that it is Jesus Christ Himself, our great High Priest, Who Himself feeds us with His most holy Body and precious Blood in the Divine Liturgy, the Mystery of the Eucharist. May God bless them for their generosity in adorning God's holy temple!

We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast, which began on 28 November (n.s.) and continues for forty days until the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord on 7 January (n.s.). We eat no animal products (meat, meat products, eggs, and dairy products) throughout the forty days. The general rules for this period are as follows: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays are normal fast days; on Tuesdays and Thursdays, wine and oil are permitted; and on Saturdays and Sundays we may eat fish, wine, and oil. But since greater Saints' Days frequently brings a further mitigation of the fast from the general rules, it is important to consult an annual Orthodox calendar to find the correct fasting regimen for a particular weekday.

All Parishes of the Eastern American Diocese have been directed by the Metropolitan to take a special collection to be given to the St Herman's Youth Conference Executive Committee. These donations help the Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference in December. At St Elizabeth's, we will be asking for special donations for this worthy cause on the Sundays of December. Please give generously.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (21 November / 4 December) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts. On it we remember the presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple in Jerusalem when she was three years old by her holy parents, the Righteous Joachim and Anna, where she remained serving the Lord until she was twelve years of age. All the faithful should be in church to honor the All-Pure One on this holy day.

The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos is celebrated for five days, from the Feast Day itself through the *Apodosi* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 8 December (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is shorter than the usual eight days, because the Feast falls within the Nativity Fast. The troparion and kontakion of the Entry are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the five days. To celebrate the Feast at home,

the troparion of the Feast ('Today is the prelude of God's good will...') can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast ('The most pure temple of the Saviour ...') can be sung instead of the usual thanksgiving troparion after each meal. It would also be most appropriate to sing the troparion and kontakion of the Feast at the end of our morning and evening prayers at home.

Father will provide written excuses to students who are absent or late for school due to attendance at services for any of the Great Feasts of the Church. Please notify him in advance so that he can have it ready for your child.

Because of the great number of communicants at our parish, especially during the Lenten Seasons, the number of parishioners needing to go to Confession at St Elizabeth's Church is usually quite high. Having only one priest, who must serve in the altar as well as hear all the Confessions, presents practical difficulties in applying the usual rule of the Russian Church insisting on Confession before every Communion. The only workable solution seems to be applying the exceptional practice of Holy Week to the rest of the year. For those who desire it, or for those whom a Spiritual Father recommends or requires it, Confession before every Communion will certainly be provided. But for those who are able to lead a disciplined spiritual life, abstaining from serious sin, and fulfilling the other preparations for Holy Communion, a more relaxed rule is in order. Confession before the Liturgy of one weekend will suffice for all the Liturgies for the next two weeks, so that regular communicants will only have to go to Confession every other weekend. There may also be some cases when a Spiritual Father has allowed, in certain individual cases, for an even more relaxed rule on Confession before Holy Communion, so it is important for us to abstain from judging others regarding the frequency of their Confessions before Holy Communion.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Parish needs donations for flowers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Please mark flower donations clearly. You may include a Commemoration List with your donation and the names will be commemorated at the Proskomedia on the Holy Days.

The Parish gives gift bags in the name of St Nicholas to the children who attend services for the Feast of St Nicholas (December 18th & 19th.). If you would like to participate in this worthy effort, we ask you to give a small monetary donation so that Lenten candy and snacks can be purchased to be put in these bags. Please mark your donation 'St Nicholas Bags.'