

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

Number 13

27 November / 10 December 2017

**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** (*Time 2*)  
**'Kursk-Root' Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos of the of the Sign**

## SERVICES THIS WEEK

### 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)

**'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

### 28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 3*)

**St John of Damascus; Holy Martyr Barbara**  
**Saturday, 16 December (3 December, o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 17 December (4 December, o.s.)**

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

## SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 10 December

<i>Su</i>	<b>27th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)</i>	
	Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)
	<b>28TH WEEK after PENTECOST</b>	
<i>M</i>	2 Tim. §294 (2:20-26)	Luke §97 (19:37-44)
<i>Tu</i>	2 Tim. §297 (3:16-4:4)	Luke §98 (19:45-48)
<i>W</i>	2 Tim. §299 (4:9-22)	Luke §99 (20:1-8)
<i>Th</i>	Titus §300a (1:5-2:1)	Luke §100 (20:9-18)
<i>F</i>	Titus §301 (1:15-2:10)	Luke §101 (20:19-26)
<i>Sa</i>	Eph. §218 (1:16-23)	Luke §67 (12:32-40)
<i>Su</i>	<b>28th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
	<i>6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)</i>	
	Col. §250 (1:12-18)	Luke §76 (14:16-24)



## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

A special collection for St Herman's Youth Conference will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of December. Your donations help the St Herman's Executive Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many Youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference at the end of this month. Please give generously.

## FASTING DAYS Week of 10 December

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	10 December (27 Nov, o.s.)	Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	11 December (28 Nov, o.s.)	Venerable Martyr Stephen the New Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
<i>Tuesday</i>	12 December (29 Nov, o.s.)	Martyr Paramon & Companions Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	13 December (30 Nov, o.s.)	Holy Apostle Andrew Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Thursday</i>	14 December (1 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Nahum Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	15 December (2 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Habakkuk Normal Fast Day ( <i>No Oil</i> )
<i>Saturday</i>	16 December (3 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Zephaniah Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	17 December (4 Dec, o.s.)	GM Barbara; St John of Damascus Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

## Preparation for Confession

### St John of Kronstadt

A meditation for those preparing to stand before the Creator and Church community in the awesome Mystery of Holy Confession, thereby being given the renewal of a second baptism.

- I, a sinful soul, confess to our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ, all of my evil acts which I have done, said or thought from baptism even unto this present day.
- I have not kept the vows of my baptism, but have made myself unwanted before the face of God.
- I have sinned before the Lord by lack of faith and by doubts concerning the Orthodox Faith and the Holy Church; by ungratefulness for all of God's great and unceasing gifts; His long-suffering and His providence for me, a sinner; by lack of love for the Lord, as well as fear, through not fulfilling the Holy Commandments of God and the canons and rules of the Church.
- I have not preserved a love for God and for my neighbor nor have I made enough efforts, because of laziness and lack of care, to learn the Commandments of God and the precepts of the Holy Fathers. I have sinned: by not praying in the morning and in the evening and in the course of the day; by not attending the services or by coming to Church only halfheartedly.
- I have sinned by judging members of the clergy. I have sinned by not respecting the Feasts, breaking the Fasts, and by immoderation in food and drink.
- I have sinned by self-importance, disobedience, willfulness, self-righteousness, and the seeking of approval and praise.
- I have sinned by unbelief, lack of faith, doubts, despair, despondency, abusive thoughts, blasphemy and swearing.
- I have sinned by pride, a high opinion of my self, narcissism, vanity, conceit, envy, love of praise, love of honors, and by putting on airs.
- I have sinned: by judging, malicious gossip, anger, remembering of offenses done to me, hatred and returning evil for evil; by slander, reproaches, lies, slyness, deception and hypocrisy; by prejudices, arguments, stubbornness, and an unwillingness to give way to my neighbor; by gloating, spitefulness,

taunting, insults and mocking; by gossip, by speaking too much and by empty speech.

- I have sinned by unnecessary and excessive laughter, by reviling and dwelling upon my previous sins, by arrogant behavior, insolence and lack of respect.
- I have sinned by not keeping my physical and spiritual passions in check, by my enjoyment of impure thoughts, licentiousness and unchastity in thoughts, words and deeds.
- I have sinned by lack of endurance towards my illnesses and sorrows, a devotion to the comforts of life and by being too attached to my parents, children, relatives and friends.
- I have sinned by hardening my heart, having a weak will and by not forcing myself to do good.
- I have sinned by miserliness, a love of money, the acquisition of unnecessary things and immoderate attachment to things.
- I have sinned by self-justification, a disregard for the admonitions of my conscience and failing to confess my sins through negligence or false pride.
- I have sinned many times by my Confession: belittling, justifying and keeping silent about sins.
- I have sinned against the Most-holy and Life-creating Mysteries of the Body and Blood of our Lord by coming to Holy Communion without humility or the fear of God.
- I have sinned in deed, word and thought, knowingly and unknowingly, willingly and unwillingly, thoughtfully and thoughtlessly, and it is impossible to enumerate all of my sins because of their multitude. But I truly repent of these and all others not mentioned by me because of my forgetfulness and I ask that they be forgiven through the abundance of the Mercy of God.

### Prayer\*

May Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, inspire the sincere image of repentance in all our hearts so that we may learn the standards of God, truly face our sins and humbly confess them to Him, both in our private prayers and in public Confession, and so be unburdened, relieved and freed from guilt, and reunited to the Body of Christ - the Church. How great a gift is the mystery of Confession!

\* Not part of St John's meditation on Confession