

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

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SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 2*)

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS & CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA

SERVICES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 2*)

Saturday, 3 February (21 January, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 4 February (22 January, o.s.)

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

Blessed Xenia of St Petersburg

Tuesday, 6 February (24 January, o.s.)

9:30 AM Moleben with Akathist

Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls

Saturday, 10 February (28 January, o.s.)

5:15 PM General Pannykhida

MEATFARE SUNDAY (*Tone 3*)

Sunday of the Dread Judgment

Saturday, 10 February (28 January, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 11 February (29 January, o.s.)

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



FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The second pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and ending with Meatfare Sunday, is called the Week of 'Carnival' or 'Meatfare.' It is so termed because it is the last week that we eat meat and meat products before Pascha. The usual fast is kept on Wednesday and Friday. Otherwise there is no special fasting.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 4 February

Su	The Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	Resurrectional Matins Gospel:	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)
	35TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Meatfare Week)	
M	1 John §71 (2:18-3:10a)	Mark §49 (11:1-11)
Tu	1 John §72 (3:10b-20)	Mark §64 (14:10-42)
W	1 John §73 (3:21-4:6)	Mark §65 (14:43-15:1)
Th	1 John §74 (4:20-5:21)	Mark §66 (15:1-1-15)
F	2 John §75 (1:1-13)	Mark §68 (15:22, 25, 33-41)
Sa	Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls	
	1 Cor. §146 (10:23-28)	Luke §105 (21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36)
	1 Thess. §270 (4:13-17)	John §16 (5:24-30)
Su	Meatfare Sunday: The Sunday of the Last Judgement	
	Resurrectional Matins Gospel:	
	1 Cor. §140 (8:8-9:2)	Matt. §106 (25:31-46)



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special collection for Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York, has been mandated by our Metropolitan and the Synod of Bishops of ROCOR on the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Three Hierarchs: 12 February, n.s. A special collection will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of February. This collection will help the Orthodox Theological Seminary of our Russian Orthodox Church Abroad to continue to educate the future clergy of our Church in a spirit of fidelity to Orthodox Tradition in a monastic setting. Funds are needed to pay faculty, provide scholarships to students, maintain facilities, and expand programming. Holy Trinity Seminary now conducts instruction in the English language and is moving forward to with plans to institute a Master of Divinity (MDiv) program. Please give generously.

If your home has not yet been blessed this year, please arrange a time *in the next two weeks* with Father

when he can come to bless it *before* the Great Fast begins.

The Saturday of Souls (or Soul Saturday) is a day set aside for commemoration of the departed within the Orthodox Christian liturgical year. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because our Lord's body lay dead in the Tomb while His soul descended to hades on Saturday. There are several Soul Saturdays throughout the year:

- The Saturday of Meatfare Week, the second Saturday before Great Lent begins, the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)
- The second Saturday of Great Lent
- The third Saturday of Great Lent
- The fourth Saturday of Great Lent
- *Radonitsa (Tuesday after Thomas Sunday)*
- The Saturday before Pentecost
- Demetrius Saturday (the Saturday before the feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius: 26 October / 8 November).

The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is normally a Pannykhida (Memorial Service) served either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which *kolyva* (a dish made of sweetened boiled wheat) is prepared and placed in front of the cross before which the Pannykhida is served. After the service, the priest blesses the *kolyva* and it is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

This Saturday is the most important of the Soul Saturdays of the year. *There will be no Friday evening services or Saturday morning Liturgy for this Soul Saturday this year.* A General Pannykhida (Memorial Service) will be served on Saturday at 5:15 p.m., immediately preceding the Saturday evening Vigil. The names of the Departed in all the Commemoration Books kept at the church will be commemorated at these services. If you need to update your books, please take this opportunity to do so.

If anyone is able to provide a donation of *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for this Soul Saturday, please let Father know.

Only the names of Orthodox Christians are permitted to be commemorated at Memorial Services and at the Proskomedia. If you have included Non-Orthodox in your Commemoration Book or Commemoration Lists, please clearly indicate which persons named, if any, are Non-Orthodox.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Blessing of Candles is performed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in some Orthodox traditions, including that of the Russian Church. This custom is also found in the Western Church. It undoubtedly comes from the reference to Christ 'the Light to enlighten the Gentiles' in the Song of St Symeon first uttered at the time of the Saviour's Presentation in the Temple. Blessed Candles are brought home by the Faithful and kept with reverence in the Icon Corner. They are lit as a supplication to Christ for help or protection, as during a storm or in time of family dissension.

Request Forms for Blessed Candle are in the back of the church. These forms help ensure that a sufficient number of candles will be blessed so that no one is disappointed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. Please fill out the form with your family name, the number of blessed candles that you are requesting, and amount of your donation, and leave them at the candle desk with your donation. The blessed beeswax candles are the larger size candle offered the candle desk, so your donation should reflect this. The Blessed Candle Request Forms can be filled out any time prior to the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (15 February, n.s.). Your blessed candles may be picked up any time after the Blessing of the Candles. Your candles will be reserved for you even if you are unable to attend the Liturgy on the Feast.

There will be a blessing of Icons at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the First Sunday of Great Lent: the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Because this day is a celebration of the victory of the Orthodox Faith over the heresy of Iconoclasm, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of icons. If you have icons at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the First Sunday of the Fast.

There will be a blessing of Crosses at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the Third Sunday of Great Lent: the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross. Because this day is dedicated to our veneration of the Holy Cross, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of Crosses, both those worn around the neck and those hung on walls. If you have crosses at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the Third Sunday of the Fast.