

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVIII

Number 1

5 / 18 September 2016

**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 4)**  
**Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Holy & Righteous Elizabeth,**  
**the Parents of the Honourable Forerunner John the Baptist**

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## SERVICES THIS WEEK

### 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 4)

#### **Righteous Zacharias and Elizabeth**

*Saturday, 17 September (4 September, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 18 September (5 September, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Coffee Hour  
12:30 PM Adult Study

### NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS

*Tuesday, 20 September (7 September, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Wednesday, 21 September (8 September, o.s.)*

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

### 14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 5)

#### **Apodosis of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

*Saturday, 24 September (11 September, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 25 September (12 September, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
12:00 PM Annual Parish Picnic

## NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### LAST WEEK

**Namedays** – 13th (St Aidan of Lindisfarne): Aidan O’Beirne; 16th (St Phoebe the Deaconess): Phoebe (Addie) O’Beirne.

**Birthdays** – 11th: Nicholas Szydowski; 14th: Mat. Hannah Barker.

## THIS WEEK

**Namedays** – 18th (St Elizabeth): Elizabeth Lieuwen; 22nd (St Anna): Anna (Anya) Fitzgerald, Mat. Anna Komleski, Zydrune Ann Mladineo.

**Birthdays** – 18th: Noah George Hotz; 20th: Claudia Maxey.

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – George Schidlovsky (+2009).

## THE REST OF SEPTEMBER

**Namedays** – 30th: (Martyr Sophia): Sofia Fitzgerald; 28th (St Nicetas the Goth): Nikita Smirnov; 29th (Martyr Ludmilla): Liudmila Efuni; 30th: (Martyr Faith): Mat. Faith Straut; 30th: (Martyr Hope): Nadezhda Sexton.

**Birthdays** – 25th: Andrew Kostadis.

## FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	21 September (8 Sept, o.s.)	NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS Fast: Fish, Wine & Oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	23 September (10 Sept, o.s.)	Martyr Menodora & those with her Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	13th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §70 (16:1-8)	
	1 Cor. §166 (16:13-24)	Matt. §87 (21:33-42)
14TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	2 Cor. §195 (12:10-19)	Mark §16 (4:10-23)
<i>Tu</i>	2 Cor. §196 (12:20-13:2)	Mark §17 (4:24-34)
<i>W</i>	NATIVITY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Genesis 28:10-17 • (2) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a • (3) Proverbs 9:1-11	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)	
	Phil. §240 (2:5-11)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
<i>W</i>	2 Cor. §197 (13:3-14)	Mark §18 (4:35-41)
<i>Th</i>	Gal. §198 (1:1-10, 20-2:5)	Mark §19 (5:1-20)
<i>F</i>	Gal. §201 (2:6-10)	Mark §20 (5:22-24, 35-6:1)
<i>Sa</i>	1 Cor. §130 (4:1-5)	Matt. §93 (23:1-12)
Su	14th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
	2 Cor. §170 (1:21-2:4)	Matt. §89 (22:1-14)

## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Happy New Year?** Some may not many know that the Church Year began on 1 September, old style (14 September, new style). The ancient Christian computation of years also differs from the standard Western reckoning. The years are counted from Adam, and so we begin the Church year 7525 on 1 / 14 September 2016. This computation was the official calendar of the Christian Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. It was also used in Russia until Tsar Peter the Great changed the New Year to 1 January and began counting years A.D. like the rest of Europe. It's not too late your New Year resolutions!

**Two of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church** fall in the month of September. These are the Feasts of the Nativity of the Theotokos (8 / 21 September) and the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross (14 / 27 September). All faithful Orthodox Christians should be in church to celebrate these important Feasts.



**The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God** (8 / 21 September) begins the cycle of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It comes one week after the Ecclesiastical New Year (1 / 14 September). Thus Our Lady's Birth begins the cycle of these Great Feasts and another of her Feasts, her glorious Dormition, brings the cycle to a close, just two weeks before the end of the Liturgical Year. Thus we begin and end the year with the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

**The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady teaches us** that our salvation in Christ begins with the conception and Birth of His All-Pure Mother. Without her existence and her acceptance to voluntarily become the Ever-Virgin Mother of our Saviour, His incarnation would not have taken place. So the miraculous birth of the Theotokos of her aged parents, Joachim and Anna, is a source of rejoicing for all Christians.

**The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos** is celebrated for five days, from the Feast Day itself

through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 25 September (n.s). The festal period of this Feast is shorter than the usual eight days, because of the close proximity of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. The troparion and kontakion of the Nativity are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the five days. The texts for these hymns may be found in the *Jordanville Prayer Book*. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast ('*Thy nativity, O Theotokos Virgin ...*') can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast ('*Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness...*') 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 can provide written excuses** for absence or lateness for students attending Liturgy for a Great Feast. Just let him know you need it in advance.

**Concerning Confession and Holy Communion:** Those who have been to any time during the two weeks prior to Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, may receive Holy Communion on the Feast, provided that no serious sin has been committed which would require another Confession and that the other usual preparations for Holy Communion are observed (i.e. attendance of the Vigil Service the evening before Holy Communion, reading the Pre-Communion Prayers, and the forgiveness of others). Likewise, those who have been to Confession for the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy the following two Sundays and on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, under the same conditions.

**St Elizabeth's Annual Picnic** will be held on the 4th Sunday of September instead of our usual Sunday coffee hour. Please plan to attend. It will be a great opportunity for Parish fellowship. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and buns will be provided by the parish. We need salads, baked beans, chips, drinks, and other accompaniments brought by parishioners. Please let Matushka know if you plan to attend and what you plan to bring. The Parish also needs to borrow an additional gas grill with fuel. Please speak to Father if you can bring one. The grills can be brought to church on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning.

**Donations are sought for flowers** to adorn the Holy Cross on the Feast of the Exaltation (14 / 27 September). If you would like to make a donation toward flowers for that day, please place it in the collection basket marked 'flowers.' You may certainly include a commemoration list so that your loved ones may be remembered at the Liturgy on that day.