

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVIII

Number 14

5 / 18 December 2016

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

OUR VENERABLE & GOD-BEARING FATHER, SABBAS THE SANCITIED

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## SERVICES

### DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

#### 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

**Venerable Sabbas the Sanctified**

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

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

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

#### **ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Monday, 19 December (6 December, o.s.)*

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

#### SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS (*Tone 2*)

**St Herman of Alaska; St Spyridon of Trimythous**

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

*No Vigil Service at St Elizabeth's*

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

*No Divine Liturgy at St Elizabeth's*

#### SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (*Tone 3*)

**Commemoration of the Holy Fathers**

*Saturday, 31 December (18 December, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 1 January (19 December, o.s.)*

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

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## NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Week of 11 December

**Namedays** – 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Andrew Welsh.

**Birthdays** – 15th: Xenia Whitacre.

### Week of 18 December

**Namedays** – 19th (St Nicholas): Nikolai Darenkov, Reader Nicolas Schidlovsky, Nicolas Straut, Nicholas Szydlovski; 22nd (Conception of St Anna): Anna Straut; 22nd (Righteous Hannah): Mat. Nancy Hannah Barker.

**Birthdays** – 22nd: Anna Straut.

**Baptism Anniversaries** – 19th: Father David Straut (1982).

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 18th: Archimandrite Joasaph (McLellan) (+2009); 20th: Serge Kropov (+2009); 22nd: Thomas Hancorn (+2013)

### Week of 25 December

**Namedays** – 25th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Sbdcn Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko, Daniel Yanovsky.

**Birthdays** – 26th: Nina Titus; 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen, Paul Schidlovsky; 30th: Sbdcn Philip Hotz, Tatiana Yanovsky.

## THE MONTH OF JANUARY

**Namedays** – 8th (Prophet-King David): David Seneko, Fr David Straut; 9th (St Stephen the Protomartyr): Deacon Steven Barker, Deacon Stephanos Bibas, Stephen Skuratovskiy, Stefania Nagy; 14th (St Basil the Great): Vassili Golikov, Vasilissa Seneko, Vasily Yanovsky; 15th (St Seraphim of Sarov): Dcn Seraphim Komleski; 15th (St Juliana of Lazarevo): Juliana Bibas; 20th (St John the Baptist): Ivan Darenkov; 24th (St Vitalis of Gaza): Vitaly Smirnov; 25th (Martyr Tatiana): Tanya Morrow, Tatiana Yanovsky; 27th (St Nina of Georgia): (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald, (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald., Nina Titus

**Birthdays** – 5th: Elizaveta Efuni; 6th: Hariton Bibas; 7th: Justin Whitacre; 8th: (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald; 17th: Theodore Darenkov; 27th: George Seneko.

**Wedding Anniversaries** – 25th: Ivan & Katya Darenkov.

**Chrismation Anniversaries** – 6th: Sbdcn Philip Hotz, Jennifer Mary Hotz, Noah George Hotz (2008); David Seneko (2013).

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 2nd: Beverly May Zimmerman (+2009).

**FASTING DAYS**  
**Week of 18 December**

Day	Date	Commemoration & Type of Fast
Sunday	18 December (5 Dec, o.s.)	St Sabbas the Sanctified Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	19 December (6 Dec, o.s.)	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Tuesday	20 December (7 Dec, o.s.)	St Ambrose of Milan Fast: wine & oil permitted
Wednesday	21 December (8 Dec, o.s.)	St Patapius of Thebes Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Thursday	22 December (9 Dec, o.s.)	Conception of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Friday	23 December (10 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Menas & Companions Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Saturday	24 December (11 Dec, o.s.)	St Daniel the Stylite Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

**FASTING DAYS**  
**Week of 25 December**

Day	Date	Commemoration & Type of Fast
Sunday	25 December (12 Dec, o.s.)	ST HERMAN OF ALASKA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	26 December (13 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Eustathius & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Tuesday	27 December (14 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Thyrsus & Companions Fast: wine & oil permitted
Wednesday	28 December (15 Dec, o.s.)	St Eleutherius & Companions Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Thursday	29 December (16 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Haggai Fast: wine & oil permitted
Friday	30 December (17 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Daniel & the Three Youths Fast: wine & oil permitted
Saturday	31 December (18 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Sebastian & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Sunday	1 January (19 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Boniface of Tarsus Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**  
**Week of 18 December**

Su	<b>26th Sunday after Pentecost</b>	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §85 (17:12-19)
<b>27TH WEEK after PENTECOST</b>		
M	1 Tim. §285a (5:1-10)	Luke §102 (20:27-44)
M	<b>ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER</b>	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Proverbs 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 32, 34, 4, 12, 14 17, 5-9; 1:23 • (2) Proverbs 10:31-11:12 • (3) Wisdom 4: 7-15	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> John §36 (10:9-16)	
	Heb. §335 (13:17-21)	Luke §24 (6:17-23a)
Tu	1 Tim. §286 (5:11-21)	Luke §106 (21:12-19)
W	1 Tim. §287 (5:22-6:11a)	Luke §104 (21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24)
Th	1 Tim. §289 (6:17-21)	Luke §107 (21:28-33)
F	2 Tim. §290 (1:1-2, 8-18)	Luke §108 (21:37-22:8)
Sa	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Luke §72 (13:18-29)
Su	<b>Sunday of the Holy Forefathers</b>	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Col. §257 (3:4-11)	Luke §76 (14:16-24)

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**  
**Week of 18 December**

Su	<b>Sunday of the Holy Forefathers</b>	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Col. §257 (3:4-11)	Luke §76 (14:16-24)
<b>28TH WEEK after PENTECOST</b>		
M	2 Tim. §294 (2:20-26)	Mark §33 (8:11-21)
Tu	2 Tim. §297 (3:16-4:4)	Mark §34 (8:22-26)
W	2 Tim. §299 (4:9-22)	Mark §36 (8:30-34)
Th	Titus §300a (1:5-2:1)	Mark §39 (9:10-16)
F	Titus §301 (1:15-2:10)	Mark §41 (9:33-41)
Sa	Eph. §218 (1:16-23)	Luke §74 (14:1-11)
Su	<b>Sunday before the Nativity: the Holy Fathers</b>	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21	
	<i>6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §114 (24:36-53)	
	Heb. §328 (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)	Matt. §1 (1:1-25)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Our former parishioner, Archimandrite Joasaph McLellan**, the Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land, fell asleep in the Lord on the Feast of St Sava the Sanctified, 18 December 2009. Another former parishioner, Serge Kropov, who served our Country in the United States Marines, was killed in Afghanistan two days later on 20 December 2009. We also remember Thomas Hancorn who departed this life on 22 December 2013. We had a Litya for the Departed to pray for the repose both these men just prior to the Vigil Service on Saturday, 17 December.

**Our Church Warden, Patrick Brien**, is doing much better. He is recovering from a mini-stroke. He is now in the Holly Center, the Rehabilitation Center of Arbor Glenn, 100 Monroe Street, Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807. His is on the second floor, in Room 660. Patrick would enjoy visits from our parishioners. He also has a bedside telephone, but may find it hard at times to reach it.

**We are taking a free will offering for the Sisters** of the Convent of St Elizabeth in Minsk this Sunday and tomorrow, the Feast of St Nicholas the Wonderworker. Sister Natalia from the Convent will be with us for the services for St Nicholas' Day and will be with us at a special festal Trapeza on Monday after the Liturgy to discuss the Convent's work and to offer items for sale made by the Convent. Please mark your donation "St Elizabeth's Convent."

**This is the final Sunday for the special collection** for the St Herman's Youth Conference. If you have already donated may the Lord bless you. If you have not, please consider giving today.

**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."

**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.

**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.

**Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra in Lycia** is among the most beloved of Saints by Orthodox Christians, regardless of their nationality. St Nicholas is always one of the most popular Patron Saints for both Orthodox churches and boys. St Nicholas has two feast days: his main feast day on 6 / 19 December, universally observed by Orthodox Christians, and the Translation of the Relics of St Nicholas from Myra to Bari on 9 / 22 May, particularly beloved by Russian Orthodox Christians. (There is also a Feast of the Nativity of St Nicholas on 29 July / 11 August, but this is little known.) St Nicholas is known for his love and care for the poor. He defended the oppressed and those wrongly accused before the rich and powerful. St Nicholas was a champion of the Orthodox Faith against the heresy of Arius at and after the First Ecumenical Council. Because of his love for children, St Nicholas is considered the Patron Saint of the young. Because of his manifest intercessors for those in danger at sea, he is the Patron Saint of sailors and fishermen. He is venerated as the Patron Saint of many lands, including Greece, Russia, Italy, Germany Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium, and hundreds of cities and towns the world over.

**We will have a full schedule of services** for St Nicholas' Day. The Vigil Service will be served on the eve of the Feast (18 December) at 6 o'clock and the Divine Liturgy on the morning of the Feast (19 December) at 9:30. Please bring your children to the services for the Feast of St Nicholas. As we know, St Nicholas had a great fondness for children, and he is often thought of as the 'Patron Saint' of little ones.

**Father will provide written excuses to students** who are absent or late for school due to attendance at services for St Nicholas' Day. 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.

**If you have not gone to Confession** and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion during this Lenten season. The best time to go to Confession is during or following the Vigil Service on Saturday evenings and the Eve of Feasts. It is also always possible to make your Confession to a priest outside the time of the Divine Services by prior appointment. Going to Confession on a Sunday or Feast Day morning is difficult for the priest, who is very busy serving the Proskomedia, and inconsiderate of fellow parishioners, as it often delays the beginning of the Liturgy. Nevertheless there is usually time for one or two short Confessions during the Sixth Hour prior to Liturgy. Those with good reason to come to Confession in the morning rather than the evening before should arrange in advance with Father to come before Liturgy begins, but they need to remember that the Confession should be as concise as possible.

**St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party** will take place on the Sunday after the Nativity (8 January), after the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are urged to attend and bring dishes of food to share. Please mark your calendar.