

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVIII

Number 16

19 December 2016 / 1 January 2017 SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST: COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS

SERVICES THIS WEEK

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)

Eve of the Nativity of Christ

Friday, 6 January (24 December, o.s.)

9:00 AM Royal Hours of the Nativity
10:30 AM Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Friday, 6 January (24 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Saturday, 7 January (25 December, o.s.)

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

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (Tone 4)

Ss Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, & Ap. James

Saturday, 7 January (25 December, o.s.)

12:30 PM Great Vespers;
Confessions

Sunday, 8 January (26 December, o.s.)

8:30 AM Matins
10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

FASTING DAYS Week of 1 January

Day	Date	Commemoration & Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	1 January (19 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Boniface of Tarsus Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	2 January (20 Dec, o.s.)	St Ignatius; St John of Kronstadt Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Tuesday</i>	3 January (21 Dec, o.s.)	Virgin-martyr Juliana Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	4 January (22 Dec, o.s.)	Great-martyr Anastasia Normal Fast Day (No oil)
<i>Thursday</i>	5 January (23 Dec, o.s.)	Ten Martyrs of Crete Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	6 January (24 Dec, o.s.)	Eve of Nativity; Martyr Eugenia Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 1 January

<i>Su</i>	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Col. §257 (3:4-11)	Luke §76 (14:16-24)
28TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	2 Tim. §294 (2:20-26)	Mark §33 (8:11-21)
<i>Tu</i>	2 Tim. §297 (3:16-4:4)	Mark §34 (8:22-26)
<i>W</i>	2 Tim. §299 (4:9-22)	Mark §36 (8:30-34)
<i>Th</i>	Titus §300a (1:5-2:1)	Mark §39 (9:10-16)
<i>F</i>	Titus §301 (1:15-2:10)	Mark §41 (9:33-41)
<i>Sa</i>	Eph. §218 (1:16-23)	Luke §74 (14:1-11)
<i>Su</i>	Sunday before the Nativity: the Holy Fathers	
	<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)
29TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	Heb. §308 (3:5-11, 17-19)	Mark §42 (9:42-10:1)
<i>Tu</i>	Heb. §310 (4:1-13)	Mark §43 (10:2-12)
<i>W</i>	Heb. §312 (5:11-6:8)	Mark §44 (10:11b-16)
<i>Th</i>	Heb. §315 (7:1-6)	Mark §45 (10:17-27)
<i>F</i>	Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Royal Hours	
	<i>1st Hour:</i> Micah 5:2-4 •	
	Heb. §303 (1:1-12) • Matt. §2 (1:18-25)	
	<i>3rd Hour:</i> Baruch 3:35-4:4 •	
	Gal. §208 (3:23-29) • Luke §5 (2:1-20)	
	<i>6th Hour:</i> Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 •	
	Heb. §304 (1:10=2:3) • Matt. §3 (2:1-12)	
	<i>9th Hour:</i> Isaiah 9:6-7 •	
	Heb. §306 (2:11-18) • Matt. §4 (2:13-23)	
<i>F</i>	Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Vespertal Liturgy	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Genesis 1:1-13 •	
	(2) Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 • (3) Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4 •	
	(4) Isaiah 11:1-10 • (5) Baruch 3:35-4:4 •	
	(6) Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45 • (7) Isaiah 9:6-7 •	
	(8) Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10	
	Heb. §303 (1:1-12)	Luke §5 (2:1-20)
<i>Sa</i>	NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §2 (1:18-25)	
	Gal. §209 (4:4-7)	Matt. §3 (2:1-12)
<i>Su</i>	Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord	
	<i>7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §63 (20:1-10)	
	Gal. §200 (1:11-19)	Matt. §4 (2:13-23)



NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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.

Week of 1 January

Birthdays – 5th: Elizaveta Efuni; 6th: Hariton Bibas; 7th: Justin Whitacre.

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).

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 – 8th: (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald; 17th: Theodore Darenkov; 27th: George Seneko.

Wedding Anniversaries – 25th: Ivan & Katya Darenkov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special collection for the Haiti Mission of ROCOR will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of January. Each year our parish had been sponsoring a Reader and a parochial school teacher with a small stipend of \$200 a month each (i.e. \$4800 per year) total. In the past, we have raised this large sum of money through matching donations from a generous donor family, so half the total has been given by the parishioners at large and half from the donor family. As you know, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and our Haitian Orthodox brethren are too poor to fully support the needs of their young church. They need the help of those of us who have more than enough. Please give generously.

During the last five days of the Nativity Fast, from the Forefast of the Nativity of Christ (2 January, n.s.) through the Eve of the Feast (6 January, n.s.), the Fast becomes a bit stricter. Weekday fasting rules are the same as during the rest of the Nativity Fast, but Fish is no longer permitted on Saturdays and Sundays, only wine and oil.

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 Proskomedie on the Holy Days.

We will have a full schedule of services at St Elizabeth's for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. On the morning of the Eve of the Nativity (6 January, n.s.), the Royal Hours of the Nativity will be served at 9:00. Immediately following the Vespers Liturgy of St Basil the Great at about 10:30. The Vigil Service (Great Compline, Matins, and First Hour) will be served on the evening of 6 January

at 6 o'clock. On the morning of the Feast (7 January, n.s.), the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom will be served at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10.

It is important to receive Holy Communion at the services for the Nativity of the Lord. If you have not gone to Confession and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is all the more important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion at this blessed time of year. 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 Proskomedie, 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.

Concerning Confession and Holy Communion: Those who have been to Confession in the previous two weeks may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies on Christmas Eve (6 January, n.s.) and Christmas Day (7 January, n.s.), 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 the Nativity may continue to receive Holy Communion through the Feast of Theophany under the same conditions.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Christ is celebrated for seven days, from the Feast Day itself through the *Apodosis* (Leaving-taking) of the Feast on 13 January (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is just short of the usual eight days, because the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord is celebrated on the eighth day after Christmas. The troparion and kontakion of the Nativity are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the seven days. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'Thy nativity, O Christ our God ...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Today the Virgin ...'*) 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.

There is no fasting, nor prostrations or kneeling in prayer, from 7 January through 17 January (n.s.), even on Wednesdays and Fridays. This is because we joyfully celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord not just for one day, but throughout this period.

St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party will take place next Sunday (the Sunday after the Nativity), after the Divine Liturgy at the home of the Morrow Family at 90 Somerville Road; Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920. All parishioners are urged to attend and bring dishes of food to share. We thank John and Tanya for opening their home to our Parish for the last several years.

The Parish Council will meet on the third Sunday of this month rather than the second Sunday, so as to conflict with our annual Parish Christmas Party.