

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

Number 12

23 November / 6 December 2015

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)

Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos; St Amphilochius of Iconium

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)

Afterfeast of the Entry; St Alexander Nevsky

Saturday, 5 December (22 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 6 December (23 November, o.s.)

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

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 3*)

Holy Apostle Andrew

Saturday, 12 December (29 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 13 December (30 November o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	6 December (23 Nov, o.s.)	St Amphilochius & St Gregory Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	7 December (24 Nov, o.s.)	Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Tuesday	8 December (25 Nov, o.s.)	Apodosis of the Entry Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	9 December (26 Nov, o.s.)	St Innocent of Irkutsk Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Thursday	10 December (27 Nov, o.s.)	Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Friday	11 December (28 Nov, o.s.)	Venerable Martyr Stephen the New Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
Saturday	12 December (29 Nov, o.s.)	Martyr Paramon & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Sunday	13 December (30 Nov, o.s.)	Holy Apostle Andrew Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

27th Sunday after Pentecost	
5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Luke §66 (12:16-21)
28TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
M	2 Tim. §294 (2:20-26) Luke §86 (17:20-25)
Tu	2 Tim. §297 (3:16-4:4) Luke §87 (17:26-37)
W	2 Tim. §299 (4:9-22) Luke §90 (18:15-17, 26-30)
Th	Titus §300a (1:5-2:1) Luke §92 (18:31-34)
F	Titus §301 (1:15-2:10) Luke §95 (19:12-28)
Sa	Eph. §218 (1:16-23) Luke §51a (10:19-21)
28th Sunday after Pentecost	
6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)	
Col. §250 (1:12-18)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Birthdays – Nov. 29th: Marina Kamensky (Golikova); 30th: Martin Macko, John Morrow; Dec. 1st: Jack (John) Welsh; 3rd: Sofia Fitzgerald.

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 7th (Great-Martyr Katherine): Katharine Bibas, Katya Darenkov.

Birthdays – 6th: (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald.

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Namedays – 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Andrew Welsh; 19th (St Nicholas): Nikolai Darenkov, Reader Nicolas Schidlovsky, Nicolas Straut; 22nd (Conception of St Anna): Anna Straut; 22nd (Righteous Hannah): Mat. Nancy Hannah Barker; 27th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Sbdcn Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko, Daniel Yanovsky.

Birthdays – 15th: Xenia Whitacre; 22nd: Anna Straut; 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen, Paul Schidlovsky; 30th: Sbdcn Philip Hotz, Tatiana Yanovsky.

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)

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.

The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos is celebrated for five days, from the Feast day itself through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 8 December (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is shorter than the usual eight days, because the Feast falls within the Nativity Fast. The troparion and kontakion of the Entry are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the five days. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast ('Today is the prelude of God's good will...') can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast ('The most pure temple of the Saviour ...') 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.

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.

All Parishes of the Eastern American Diocese have been directed by the Metropolitan to take a special collection to be given to the St Herman's Youth Conference Executive Committee. These donations help the Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference in December. At St Elizabeth's, we will be asking for special donations for this worthy cause on the Sundays of December. Please give generously.

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.

Today at coffee hour we will continue our series of Adult Studies for both inquirers and other interested persons in the basic elements, beliefs, and practices of the Orthodox Christian Faith. Father David will lead these sessions, with questions and sharing encouraged for all participants. The basic text we will be using for these Adult Studies is *The Law of God* by Priest Daniel Sysoev, with his *Catechetical Talks* as a supplement. These Adult Studies should meet two Sundays a month at about 12:30 p.m., after we've had something to eat at Trapeza.

The annual St Herman of Alaska Youth Conference will take place in Albany, New York, at *Nativity of the Mother of God Church*, from Tuesday, 22 December through Saturday, 26 December 2015. The featured speakers will be our own parishioner *Nadezhda Sexton*, and *Archpriest John Whiteford*. The program includes spiritual lectures and discussion groups, church services, the chance to meet other Orthodox youth, and social outings. Youth from age 16 through young adult are invited. The cost for the conference will be \$300 and includes lodging, meals, and local transportation. For further information and registration, please visit the website at www.StHermanConference.com