

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

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SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY: THE HOLY FATHERS (*Tone 6*)

## THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

### SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (*Tone 6*)

**Sunday of the Holy Fathers**

**Saturday, 2 January (20 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 3 January (21 December o.s.)**

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

**Eve of the Nativity of the Lord**

**Wednesday, 6 January (24 December o.s.)**

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

### NATIVITY OF THE LORD

**Wednesday, 6 January (24 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Thursday, 7 January (25 December o.s.)**

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Festal Trapeza

### SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (*Tone 7*)

**Prophet David, Righteous Joseph, Apostle James**

**Saturday, 9 January (27 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 10 January (28 December o.s.)**

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
12:30 PM Parish Christmas Party

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	<b>Sunday before the Nativity: the Holy Fathers</b>	
	Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21	
	9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §65 (20:19-31)	
	Heb. §328 (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)	Matt. §1 (1:1-25)
<b>32ND WEEK after PENTECOST</b>		
M	James §53 (2:14-26)	Mark §42 (9:42-10:1)
Tu	James §54 (3:1-10)	Mark §43 (10:2-12)
W	<b>Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Royal Hours</b>	
	1st Hour: Micah 5:2-4 • Heb. §303 (1:1-12) • Matt. §2 (1:18-25)	
	3rd Hour: Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Gal. §208 (3:23-29) • Luke §5 (2:1-20)	
	6th Hour: Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 • Heb. §304 (1:10=2:3) • Matt. §3 (2:1-12)	
	9th Hour: Isaiah 9:6-7 • Heb. §306 (2:11-18) • Matt. §4 (2:13-23)	
W	<b>Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Vespers Liturgy</b>	
	Vespers Paramia: (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)
Th	<b>NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	
	Matins Gospel: Matt. §2 (1:18-25)	
	Gal. §209 (4:4-7)	Matt. §3 (2:1-12)
F	<b>Synaxis of the Most Holy Theotokos</b>	
	Heb. §306 (2:11-18)	Matt. §4 (2:13-23)
Sa	<b>Saturday after the Nativity of the Lord</b>	
	1 Tim. §288 (6:11b-16)	Matt. §46a (12:15-21)
Su	<b>Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord</b>	
	10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §66 (21:1-14)	
	Gal. §200 (1:11-19)	Matt. §4 (2:13-23)

## NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### LAST WEEK

**Namedays** – 27th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Sbdcn Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko, Daniel Yanovsky.

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

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

## FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	3 January (21 Dec, o.s.)	Virgin-martyr Juliana Fast: wine & oil permitted
Monday	4 January (22 Dec, o.s.)	Great-martyr Anastasia Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Tuesday	5 January (23 Dec, o.s.)	Ten Martyrs of Crete Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	6 January (24 Dec, o.s.)	Eve of Nativity; Martyr Eugenia Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted

## THIS WEEK

**Namedays** – 9th (St Stephen the Protomartyr): Deacon Steven Barker, Deacon Stephanos Bibas, Stephen Skuratovskiy, Stefania Nagy.

**Birthdays** – 6th: Hariton Bibas; 7th: Justin Whitacre; 8th: (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald.

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

## JANUARY

**Namedays** – 10th (Prophet-King David): David Seneko, Fr David Straut; 14th (St Basil the Great): Vassili Golikov, Vasilissa Seneko, Vasily Yanovsky; 15th (St Seraphim of Sarov): Deacon Seraphim Komleski; 15th (St Juliana of Lazarevo): Juliana Bibas; 20th (St John the Baptist): Ivan Darenkov; 25th (Martyr Tatiana): Tanya Morrow, Tatiana Yanovsky; 27th (St Nina of Georgia): (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald, (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald.

**Birthdays** – 17th: Theodore Darenkov; 27th: George Seneko.

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

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## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**During the last five days of the Nativity Fast**, from the Forefeast 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.

**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. This year, we will also be giving for another special need. The senior priest in Haiti, Fr Gregoire Lagouté unexpectedly fell asleep in the Lord in his mid-fifties, leaving a widowed Matushka and other dependents. They desperately need help. So we must raise more money than ever this year. 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.

**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.

**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 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.

**Concerning Confession and Holy Communion:** Those who have been to Confession in the past 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.

**St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party** will take place in two Sundays (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.