

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

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SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY (*Tone 1*)

Afterfeast of Theophany; Venerable Father Theodosius the Cœnobiarch

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## THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

### SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY (*Tone 1*)

Venerable Theodosius the Great

*Saturday, 23 January (10 January o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 24 January (11 January o.s.)*

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

### 35TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)

Ss Athanasius & Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria

*Saturday, 30 January (17 January o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 31 January (18 January o.s.)*

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

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday after Theophany	
<i>1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matt. §116 [28:16-20]</i>	
Eph. §224a (4:7-13)	Matt. §8 (4:12-17)
30TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	Heb. §319 (8:7-13)      Mark §33 (8:11-21)
<i>Tu</i>	Heb. §321 (9:8-10, 15-23)      Mark §34 (8:22-26)
<i>W</i>	Heb. §323 (10:1-18)      Mark §36 (8:30-34)
<i>Th</i>	Heb. §326 (10:35-11:7)      Mark §39 (9:10-16)
<i>F</i>	Heb. §327 (11:8, 11-16)      Mark §41 (9:33-41)
<i>Sa</i>	1 Cor. §162 (15:39-45)      Luke §81 (16:10-15)
35th Sunday after Pentecost	
<i>Su</i>	
<i>2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §70 (16:1-8)</i>	
2 Cor. §182a (6:16b-7:1)	Luke §91 (18:18-27)

## FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	27 January (14 Jan, o.s.)	Apodosis of Theophany Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	29 January (16 Jan, o.s.)	Chains of the Apostle Peter Fast: wine, & oil permitted

## NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### LAST WEEK

**Namedays** – 20th (St John the Baptist): Ivan Darenkov.

**Birthdays** – 17th: Theodore Darenkov.

### THIS WEEK

**Namedays** – 24th (St Vitaly): Vitaly Smirnov; 25th (Martyr Tatiana): Tanya Morrow, Tatiana Yanovsky; 27th (St Nina of Georgia): (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald, (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald.

**Birthdays** – 27th: George Seneko.

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

### MONTH OF FEBRUARY

**Namedays** – 3rd (St Maximos the Confessor): Maximos Bibas; 4th (Apostle Timothy): Timothy Morrow; 6th (St Xenia of Petersburg): Xenia Whitacre; 7th (St Gregory the Theologian): Gregory Welsh; 25th (St Alexis of Moscow): Alexei Darenkov, Aleksey Vishnykov.

**Birthdays** – 2nd: Vasilissa Seneko; 5th: John Morrow; 14th: Peter Mladineo; 20th: Daniel Palko; 24th: Frank Fitzgerald; 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton; 28th: Seraphima Morrow.

**Baptism Anniversaries** – 12th: Anna Straut (1984).



## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome **Father Seraphim Chemodakov** to St Elizabeth's Church. Father Seraphim is serving here this Sunday as Father David is away in Florida attending to family business.

**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. We have an offer from our donor family of a matching gift of \$3000. We are therefore hoping to raise \$3000 from our parishioners so that we can send \$6000 to the Haitian Mission 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.

**The Feast of Theophany is celebrated** for nine days, from the Feast Day itself through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 27 January (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is one day longer than the usual eight days, underscoring how important this Feast is in our liturgical calendar. The troparion and kontakion of Theophany are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the nine days. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan ...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Thou hast appeared today unto the whole world...'*) 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.

**The Great Blessing of Water** that was performed on the Feast of Theophany is connected to our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord. In cleansing the sins of humanity in the river Jordan, Christ crushed the heads of the invisible serpents (the demons) in the waters and sanctified the nature of water. In commemoration of this event the Great Blessing of Water is performed on the feast of the Theophany. (In fact, on this day, there

are two blessings of water: one is inside the church on the eve of the feast, while on the day itself the second is performed outside, at rivers and wells).

**The practice of blessing water** on the day of Christ's Baptism was already existed in the Third century. St. John Chrysostom calls this water "agiasma" — a holy thing. It has been known from ancient times that the Holy Water of the Theophany does not go bad. This holy water is used to sprinkle and bless icons, liturgical articles, priestly vestments and crosses. It is also used to bless houses, food, automobiles and other articles. When received with faith, it has the power to cure both physical and spiritual infirmities. Although holy water cannot replace Holy Communion, it can be taken instead of Communion by one who is, for one reason or another, deprived of the consolation of the Sacrament. During times of despondency, confusion and spiritual turmoil it offers tranquility and relief. For this reason Christians keep this blessed water in a special place in their homes and partake of it in the morning, before eating any food.

**Those who would like Theophany Water** should bring small bottles with them to church. Holy Water is always available to those who wish it year round. Just give your bottle to Father or an altar server after any service and they will fill it for you.

**All homes in the parish should be blessed** at Theophany. Ideally this is done during the Festal Period (19-27 January, n.s.), but in any case the house blessings should be completed before the beginning of the Great Fast (14 March, n.s., this year.) Please arrange a time with Father when he can come and bless your home.

