

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

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25 January / 7 February 2016

**THIRTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 3)  
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY NEW-MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA**

## THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

### 36TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 3)

**Holy New-Martyrs & Confessors of Russia**

**Saturday, 6 February (24 January o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 7 February (25 January o.s.)**

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

### 37TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 4)

**Forefeast of the Meeting; Martyr Tryphon**

**Saturday, 13 February (31 January o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 14 February (1 February o.s.)**

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

### MEETING OF THE LORD IN THE TEMPLE

**Sunday, 14 February (1 February o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Monday, 15 February (2 February o.s.)**

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Blessing of Candles

## FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Wednesday	10 February (28 Jan, o.s.)	St Ephraim the Syrian
		Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Friday	12 February (30 Jan, o.s.)	Synaxis of the Three Hierarchs
		Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

## SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

36th Sunday after Pentecost	
<b>Sunday of the New Martyrs &amp; Confessors of Russia</b>	
<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Isaiah 43:9-14a • (2) Wisdom 3:1-9 • (3) Wisdom 4:7-15	
<i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
1 Tim. §280a (1:15-17)	Luke §93 (18:35-43)
Rom. §99 (8:28-39)	Luke §106 (21:12-19)
32ND WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	James §53 (2:14-26)      Mark §48 (10:46-52)
<i>Tu</i>	James §54 (3:1-10)      Mark §50 (11:11-23)
<i>W</i>	James §55 (3:11-4:6)      Mark §51 (11:22b-26)
<i>Th</i>	James §56 (4:7-5:9)      Mark §52 (11:27-33)
<i>F</i>	1 Pet. §58 (1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10)      Mark §53 (12:1-12)
<i>Sa</i>	1 Thess. §273 (5:14-23)      Luke §84 (17:3-10)
37th Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of Zacchaeus)	
<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
1 Tim. §285a (4:9-15)	Luke §94 (19:1-10)

## NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### LAST WEEK

**Namedays** – 3rd (St Maximus the Confessor): Maximos Bibas; 4th (Apostle Timothy): Timothy Morrow; 6th (St Xenia of Petersburg): Xenia Whitacre.

**Birthdays** – 2nd: Vasilissa Seneko; 5th: John Morrow.

### THIS WEEK

**Namedays** – 7th (St Gregory the Theologian): Gregory Welsh.

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

### THE REST OF FEBRUARY

**Namedays** – 25th (St Alexis of Moscow): Alexei Darenkov, Aleksey Vishnykov.

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



## THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We have not yet met our goal for the special collection** for the Haiti Mission of ROCOR taken in January. The collection will continue during the month of February.

**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.

**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.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord**, God and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 / 15 February) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It commemorates the Presentation of our Saviour in the Temple as a forty-day-old child and the purification according to the Mosaic Law of His Immaculate Mother after His birth. The faithful should attend as many of the services for the Feast as they are able.

**The Blessing of Candles is performed** on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in some Orthodox traditions, including that of the Russian Church. This custom is also found in the Western Church. It undoubtedly comes from the reference to Christ "the Light to enlighten the Gentiles" in the Song of St Symeon first uttered at the time of the Saviour's Presentation in the Temple. Blessed Candles are brought home by the Faithful and kept with reverence in the Icon Corner. They are lit as a supplication to Christ for help or protection, as during a storm or in time of family dissension.

**Request Forms for Blessed Candle** are in the back of the church. These forms help ensure that a sufficient number of candles will be blessed so that no one is disappointed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. Please fill out the form with your family name, the number of blessed candles that you are requesting, and

amount of your donation, and leave them at the candle desk with your donation. The blessed beeswax candles are more than three times larger than those that are normally offered at the candle desk, so your donation should reflect this. The Blessed Candle Request Forms can be filled out any time prior to the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (15 February, n.s.). Your blessed candles may be picked up any time after the Blessing of the Candles. Your candles will be reserved for you even if you are unable to attend the Liturgy on the Feast.

**The Feast of the Meeting is celebrated** for a variable number of days, from a single day to a full eight days, depending on when the Great Fast begins. (In 2016, the Feast lasts the full eight days, with the Apodosis taking place on Monday, 22 February.) The troparion and kontakion of the Meeting are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the days of the festal period. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos ...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth ...'*) 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.

**Father can provide written excuses** for absence or lateness for students attending Liturgy for a Great Feast. Just let him know you need it in advance.

**Concerning Confession and Holy Communion:** Those who have been to Confession in the past two weeks may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting (15 February, 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 Meeting may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy the following two weeks under the same conditions.

**St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting** will be held on the third Sunday of March. Year-in-review reports for the past year are to be presented by the Rector, Church Warden, Treasurer, Auditing Committee, and Building Committee. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard, and Parish Council members for the coming year elected. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.