

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

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SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE (*Tone 5*)

Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN & PHARISEE (*Tone 5*)

Afterfeast of the Meeting; Greatmartyr Theodore

Saturday, 20 February (7 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 21 February (8 February o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 5*)

Saturday, 27 February (14 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 28 February (15 February o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

During this first pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week between the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and that of the Prodigal Son, there is a general dispensation from all fasting. Meat and animal products may be eaten every day this week, even on Wednesday and Friday.

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Birthdays – 14th: Peter Mladineo; 20th: Daniel Palko.

THIS WEEK

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

Birthdays – 24th: Frank Fitzgerald; 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton.

THE REST OF FEBRUARY

Birthdays – 28th: Seraphima Morrow.

THE MONTH OF MARCH

Namedays – 2nd (Great-Martyr Theodore the Tyro): Theodore Darenkov; 13th (St John Cassian): Cassian O'Beirne; 23rd (Martyr Vasilissa): Vasilissa Seneko; 30th (St Patrick of Ireland): William Patrick Brien.

Birthdays – 3rd: Stefania Nagy; 13th: Sarah Brangwynne; 21st: Zydrune Ann Mladineo; 31st: Deacon Steven Barker.

Baptism Anniversaries – 20th: Matushka Faith Straut (1983).

Wedding Anniversaries – 16th: Father David & Matushka Faith Straut (1979).

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – 28th: Madeleine & Margaret Hotz.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

<i>Su</i>	The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)</i>	
	2 Tim. §296 (3:10-15)	Luke §89 (18:10-14)
34TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	2 Pet. §66 (1:20-2:9)	Mark §59 (13:9-13)
<i>Tu</i>	2 Pet. §67 (2:9-22)	Mark §60 (13:14-23)
<i>W</i>	2 Pet. §68 (3:1-18)	Mark §61 (13:24-31)
<i>Th</i>	1 John §69 (1:8-2:6)	Mark §62 (13:31-14:2)
<i>F</i>	1 John §70 (2:7-17)	Mark §63 (14:3-9)
<i>Sa</i>	2 Tim. §295 (3:1-9)	Luke §103 (20:45-21:4)
<i>Su</i>	The Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	<i>6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)</i>	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parish Council meets today during coffee hour. All parish council members are asked to attend.

We have not quite met our goal for the special collection for the Haiti Mission of ROCOR taken in January. So far we have raised \$2810, just \$190 short of our goal of the \$3000 matching gift offered by our donor family. The collection will continue through next Sunday so that we can send the full \$6000 to Haiti.

If your home has not yet been blessed this year, please arrange a time with Father when he can come to bless it *before* the Great Fast begins.

Many of the books and media in our Parish Library are missing. We would like those who have borrowed them to let our Parish Librarian, Elizabeth Lieuwen, what items they have borrowed and return any items they are done with.

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. (To determine the number of days of the Feast in any given year, an annual calendar should be consulted.) 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 appropriate to sing the troparion of the Feast instead of troparion 'O Theotokos and Virgin, Rejoice...' at the end of our morning prayers, and kontakion of the Feast instead of the kontakion of the Annunciation ('To thee, the champion leader...') at the end of our evening prayers at home.

Candles were blessed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. If you were unable to be present at the Liturgy on the Feast and so were unable to receive a blessed candle, please speak to Father. There are a few blessed candles available.

LOOKING AHEAD

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held on the third Sunday of February. The Rector, Church Warden, and Treasurer will present year-in-review reports for the past year. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.

Those attending the Annual Meeting are asked to bring a dish of food for the meal that will precede the Meeting. Please let Matushka know what you plan to bring.

We have a few individuals and families who regularly attend services at St Elizabeth's, and even confess and commune, but have not yet sought to become formal members of the Parish. If you are one of these and would like to be a formal member of the Parish, please speak to Fr David about this.

The annual special collection for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land will be taken at the Sunday Liturgies at St Elizabeth's during the month

of March. What we collect will be sent to the Synod of Bishops for the R.E.M. at Palm Sunday. This Palm Sunday collection is a major source of funding for our mission in the Holy Land, and some of us have had occasion to receive their hospitality. Please give generously.



CONFESSION OF ONE'S SINS

In Confession, the Church wants one to reveal his hidden shadow [the hidden thing that overshadows him].

In Confession, the Church wants one to show the wounds to his soul that he is hiding behind the appearance of health.

In Confession, the Church wants one to reveal the weakness that he is hiding behind the mask of strength.

In Confession, the Church wants one to reveal the festering sore on his soul, the sore whose surface he is artfully occluding with perfumed ointments.

In Confession, the Church wants one who is playing the role of the splendid knight to show himself for what he is, the ruinous person he actually is when he is alone.

No one goes to a physician to boast about his health. He goes in order to reveal to him the place on his health that is rotten. In precisely the same way, one goes to a spiritual director to reveal to him some dangerous crack in his righteousness

When one crosses the threshold of a doctor's office, he leaves behind all of his pride, so that he can pick it up again as he goes out again among people. When a person goes to Confession, he must leave all of his pride outside the threshold of the church. And it is good for him to leave it there when he again goes out among people. God grant that at the exit, he find a different crutch: instead of picking up his pride, that he take up humility to give him support in life.

- St Nikolai Velimirovic