

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XVI

Number 11

17 / 30 November 2014

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

St Gregory the Wonderworker, Bishop of Neocæsarea

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

St Gregory the Wonderworker

Saturday, 29 November (16 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 30 November (17 November o.s.)

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

ENTRY OF THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Wednesday, 3 December (20 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Thursday, 4 December (21 November o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

Afterfeast of Entry; Greatmartyr Catherine

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 7 December (24 November o.s.)

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

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 27th (Apostle Philip): Rdr Philip Hotz, Philip Schidlovsky; 27th (St Gregory Palamas): Reader Gregory Maxey.

Birthdays – 24th: Philip Schidlovsky; 30th: John Morrow.

THIS WEEK

Birthdays – Birthdays – 1st: Jack (John) Welsh; 3rd: Sofia Fitzgerald; 6th: (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald.

THE REST OF DECEMBER

Namedays – 7th (Great-Martyr Katherine): Katharine Bibas, Katya Darenkov, Katharine Markevich; 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Reader 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; 24th-30th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Reader Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko.

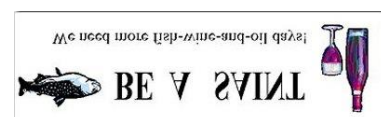
Birthdays – 15th: Xenia Whitacre; 22nd: Anna Straut; 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen, Paul Schidlovsky; 30th: Rdr Philip Hotz.

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).

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	30 November (17 Nov, o.s.)	St Gregory of Neo-Caesarea Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	1 December (18 Nov, o.s.)	M Platon; M Romanus the Deacon Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Tuesday</i>	2 December (19 Nov, o.s.)	Prophet Obadiah; Martyr Barlaam Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	3 December (20 Nov, o.s.)	St Gregory the Decapolite Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Thursday</i>	4 December (21 Nov, o.s.)	ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	5 December (22 Nov, o.s.)	Apostle Philemon & Company Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Saturday</i>	6 December (23 Nov, o.s.)	St Amphilochius & St Gregory Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	7 December (24 Nov, o.s.)	Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted



SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	25th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
	Eph. §224 (4:1-6)	Luke §66 (12:16-21)
26TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
M	1 Tim. §278 (1:1-7)	Luke §86 (17:20-25)
Tu	1 Tim. §279 (1:8-14)	Luke §87 (17:26-37)
W	1 Tim. §281 (1:18-20; 2:8-15)	Luke §90 (18:15-17, 26-30)
T	ENTRY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35 • (2) I Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • (3) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)	
	Heb. §320 (9:1-7)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
Th	1 Tim. §283 (3:1-13)	Luke §92 (18:31-34)
F	1 Tim. §285 (4:4-8,16)	Luke §95 (19:12-28)
Sa	Gal. §205 (3:8-12)	Luke §51a (10:19-21)
Su	26th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)

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.

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 needs donations for flowers for the Feasts of the Nativity and the Theophany 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.

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.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (21 November / 4 December) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts. On it we remember the presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple in Jerusalem when she was three years old by her holy parents, the Righteous Joachim and Anna, where she remained serving the Lord until she was twelve years of age. All the faithful should be in church to honor the All-Pure One on this holy day.

The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos is celebrated for five days, from the Feastday 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.

Father will provide written excuses to students who are absent or late for school due to attendance at services for any of the Great Feasts of the Church. Please notify him in advance so that he can have it ready for your child.

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."