

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XVI

Number 12

24 November / 7 December 2014

**THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 1)
Afterfeast of the Entry of the Theotokos; Holy Greatmartyr Catherine**

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

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)

27th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 2)

Holy Prophet Nahum

Saturday, 13 December (30 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 14 December (1 December o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	7 December (24 Nov, o.s.)	Greatmartyr Catherine Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	8 December (25 Nov, o.s.)	Apodosis of the Entry Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Tuesday	9 December (26 Nov, o.s.)	St Innocent of Irkutsk Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	10 December (27 Nov, o.s.)	Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Thursday	11 December (28 Nov, o.s.)	Venerable Martyr Stephen the New Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Friday	12 December (29 Nov, o.s.)	Martyr Paramon & Companions Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
Saturday	13 December (30 Nov, o.s.)	Holy Apostle Andrew Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Sunday	14 December (1 Dec. o.s.)	Prophet Nahum Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Birthdays – Nov. 30th: John Morrow; Dec. 1st: Jack (John) Welsh; 3rd: Sofia Fitzgerald; 6th: (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald.

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 7th (Great-Martyr Katherine): Katharine Bibas, Katya Darenkov, Katharine Markevich; 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Reader Andrew Welsh.

THE REST OF DECEMBER

Namedays – 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.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – 18th: Archimandrite Joasaph (McLellan) (+2009); 20th: Serge Kropov (+2009); 22nd: Thomas Hancorn (+2013)

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

26th Sunday after Pentecost		
<i>Su</i>	4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)
27TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	1 Tim. §285a (5:1-10)	Luke §97 (19:37-44)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Tim. §286 (5:11-21)	Luke §98 (19:45-48)
<i>W</i>	1 Tim. §287 (5:22-6:11a)	Luke §99 (20:1-8)
<i>Th</i>	1 Tim. §289 (6:17-21)	Luke §100 (20:9-18)
<i>F</i>	2 Tim. §290 (1:1-2, 8-18)	Luke §101 (20:19-26)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Luke §67 (12:32-40)
27th Sunday after Pentecost		
<i>Su</i>	5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Luke §91 (18:18-27)

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.

A special collection for St Herman's Youth Conference will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of December. Your donations help the St Herman's Executive Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many Youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference at the end of this month. Please give generously.

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."

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 Proskomidia 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

There will be services at St Elizabeth's Church for the last Sunday of December (29 & 30 December). Father David will be travelling back from the St Herman's Conference in Toronto all day on Saturday, so the Vigil on Saturday evening will probably be a Reader's Service (and so there will be no opportunity for Confession that Saturday evening). But the Hours and Divine Liturgy will be served on Sunday, as usual, with Father David serving.

FROM THE PROLOGUE

24 November / 7 December

The Holy and Great Martyr Katharine.

The daughter of King Constus, she lived with her mother in Alexandria after her father's death. Her mother was secretly a Christian and, through her spiritual father, brought Katharine to the Christian faith. In a vision, St Katharine received a ring from the Lord Jesus Himself as a sign of her betrothal to Him. This ring remains on her finger to this day. Katharine was greatly gifted by God, exceptionally well-educated in Greek philosophy, medicine, rhetoric and logic, and added great physical beauty to this. When the wicked Emperor Maxentius offered sacrifice to idols and ordered everyone to do the same, St Katharine came with daring before him and denounced his idolatrous errors. The Emperor, seeing that she surpassed him in wisdom and learning, summoned fifty of the wisest men, to dispute with her about faith and put her to shame, but Katharine was wiser than they, and put them to shame. The furious Emperor commanded that all fifty wise men be burned. These wise men, at St Katharine's prayers, all confessed the name of Christ at the moment of death, and proclaimed themselves Christians. When the martyr was in prison, she brought Porphyrius the general, with two hundred of his soldiers, to the Faith, and also the Empress, Augusta-Vasilissa. They all suffered for Christ. At St Katharine's martyrdom, an angel of God appeared to her, stopping and breaking the wheel on which she was being tortured, and after that the Lord Christ Himself appeared to her, strengthening her. After many tortures, Katharine was beheaded with the sword at the age of eighteen, on November 24th, 310. Milk flowed from her body in place of blood. Her wonderworking relics are preserved on Sinai.

From *The Prologue From Ochrid* by Bishop (Saint) Nikolai Velimirovich

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