

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XVI

Number 14

8 / 21 December 2014

**THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 3)**  
**St Patapius of Thebes**

### THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

#### **28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 2)**

**St Patapius of Thebes**

**Saturday, 20 December (7 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 21 December (8 December o.s.)**

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

#### **SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (Tone 3)**

**Saturday, 27 December (14 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 28 December (15 December o.s.)**

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

### FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

| Day of Week | Date                       | Commemoration and Type of Fast                                   |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|
| Sunday      | 21 December (8 Dec, o.s.)  | St Patapius of Thebes<br>Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted       |
| Monday      | 22 December (9 Dec, o.s.)  | Conception of the Theotokos<br>Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |
| Tuesday     | 23 December (10 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Menas & Companions<br>Fast: wine, & oil permitted         |
| Wednesday   | 24 December (11 Dec, o.s.) | St Daniel the Stylite<br>Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )       |
| Thursday    | 25 December (12 Dec, o.s.) | ST HERMAN OF ALASKA<br>Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted         |
| Friday      | 26 December (13 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Eustathius & Companions<br>Fast: wine, & oil permitted    |
| Saturday    | 27 December (14 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Thyrsus & Companions<br>Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |
| Sunday      | 28 December (15 Dec, o.s.) | St Eleutherius & Companions<br>Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |

### SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

| Su                        | 28th Sunday after Pentecost                            |                     |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
|                           | 6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53) |                     |
|                           | Col. §250 (1:12-18)                                    | Luke §85 (17:12-19) |
| 29TH WEEK after PENTECOST |  |                     |
| M                         | Heb. §308 (3:5-11, 17-19)                              | Mark §33 (8:11-21)  |
| Tu                        | Heb. §310 (4:1-13)                                     | Mark §34 (8:22-26)  |
| W                         | Heb. §312 (5:11-6:8)                                   | Mark §36 (8:30-34)  |
| Th                        | Heb. §315 (7:1-6)                                      | Mark §39 (9:10-16)  |
| F                         | Heb. §317 (7:18-25)                                    | Mark §41 (9:33-41)  |
| Sa                        | Eph. §220a (2:11-13)                                   | Luke §74 (14:1-11)  |
| Su                        | Sunday of the Holy Forefathers                         |                     |
|                           | 7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §63 (20:1-10)   |                     |
|                           | Col. §257 (3:4-11)                                     | Luke §76 (14:16-24) |

### NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### LAST WEEK

**Namedays** – 19th (St Nicholas): Nikolai Darenkov, Reader Nicolas Schidlovsky, Nicolas Straut.

**Birthdays** – 15th: Xenia Whitacre.

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 18th: Archimandrite Joasaph (McLellan) (+2009); 20th: Serge Kropov (+2009)

#### THIS WEEK

**Namedays** – 22nd (Conception of St Anna): Anna Straut; 22nd (Righteous Hannah): Mat. Nancy Hannah Barker.

**Birthdays** – 22nd: Anna Straut.

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 22nd: Thomas Hancorn (+2013)

#### THE REST OF DECEMBER

**Namedays** – 28th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Reader Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko.

**Birthdays** – 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen, Paul Schidlovsky; 30th: Rdr Philip Hotz.

## 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 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 Proskomedie on the Holy Days.

**Many thanks to all who gave donations** for the gift bags which will be given in the name of St Nicholas to the parish children attending services for the Feast of St Nicholas on 6/19 December.

**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.

**If you have not gone to Confession** and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion during this Lenten season. The best time to go to Confession is during or following the Vigil Service on Saturday evenings and the Eve of Feasts. It is also always possible to make your Confession to a priest outside the time of the Divine Services by prior appointment. Going to Confession on a Sunday or Feast Day morning is difficult for the priest, who is very busy serving the Proskomedie, and inconsiderate of fellow parishioners, as it often delays the beginning of the Liturgy. Nevertheless there is usually time for one or two short Confessions during the Sixth Hour prior to Liturgy. Those with good reason to come to Confession in the morning rather than the evening before should arrange in advance with Father to come before Liturgy begins, but they need to remember that the Confession should be as concise as possible.

**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.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**During the last five days of the Nativity Fast**, from the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ (2 January, n.s.) through the Eve of the Feast (6 January, n.s.), the Fast becomes a bit stricter. Weekday fasting rules are the same as during the rest of the Nativity Fast, but Fish is no longer permitted on Saturdays and Sundays, only wine and oil.

**We will have a full schedule of services** at St Elizabeth's for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. On the morning of the Eve of the Nativity (6 January, n.s.), the Royal Hours of the Nativity will be served at 9:00. Immediately following the Vespertine Liturgy of St Basil the Great at about 10:30. The Vigil Service (Great Compline, Matins, and First Hour) will be served on the evening of 6 January at 6 o'clock. On the morning of the Feast (7 January, n.s.), the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom will be served at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10.

**St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party** will take place on the Sunday after the Nativity (11 January), after the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are urged to attend and bring dishes of food to share. Please mark your calendar.