

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY: COMMEMORATION OF THE FATHERS

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (Tone 5)

Saturday, 3 January (21 December o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 4 January (22 December o.s.)

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

Eve of the Nativity of the Lord

Tuesday, 6 January (24 December o.s.)

9:00 AM Royal Hours
10:30 AM Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Tuesday, 6 January (24 December o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service (Grt Compline; & Matins)
Confessions

Wednesday, 7 January (25 December o.s.)

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

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY (Tone 6)

Saturday, 10 January (28 December o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 11 January (29 December o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
12:00 PM Annual Parish Christmas Party

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	4 January (22 Dec. o.s.)	Great-martyr Anastasia Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Monday	5 January (23 Dec. o.s.)	Ten Martyrs of Crete Normal Fast Day (<i>No Oil</i>)
Tuesday	6 January (24 Dec. o.s.)	Eve of Nativity; Martyr Eugenia Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	Sunday before the Nativity: the Holy Fathers	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21	
	<i>8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §64 (20:11-18)	
	Heb. §328 (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40)	Matt. §1 (1:1-25)
31ST WEEK after PENTECOST		
M	Heb. §329 (11:17-23, 27-31)	Mark §48 (10:46-52)
Tu	Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Royal Hours	
	<i>1st Hour:</i> Micah 5:2-4 • Heb. §303 (1:1-12) • Matt. §2 (1:18-25)	
	<i>3rd Hour:</i> Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Gal. §208 (3:23-29) • Luke §5 (2:1-20)	
	<i>6th Hour:</i> Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 • Heb. §304 (1:10=2:3) • Matt. §3 (2:1-12)	
	<i>9yj Hour:</i> Isaiah 9:6-7 • Heb. §306 (2:11-18) • Matt. §4 (2:13-23)	
W	NATIVITY OF THE LORD	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §2 (1:18-25)	
	Gal. §209 (4:4-7)	Matt. §3 (2:1-12)
Th	James §51 (1:19-27)	Mark §52 (11:27-33)
F	James §52 (2:1-13)	Mark §53 (12:1-12)
Sa	Saturday after the Nativity of the Lord	
	1 Tim. §288 (6:11b-16)	Matt. §46a (12:15-21)
Su	Sunday after the Nativity of the Lord	
	<i>9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §65 (20:19-31)	
	Gal. §200 (1:11-19)	Matt. §4 (2:13-23)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

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

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

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – Jan. 2nd: Beverly May Zimmerman (+2009).

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 9th (St Stephen the Protomartyr): Deacon Steven Barker, Sbdcn Stephanos Bibas, Stephen Skuratovskiy.

Birthdays – 6th: Hariton Bibas; 7th: Justin Whitacre; 8th: (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald.

Chrismation Anniversaries – 6th: Rdr Philip Hotz, Jennifer Mary Hotz, Noah George Hotz (2008); David Seneko (2013).

THE REST OF JANUARY

Namedays – 11th (Prophet-King David): David Seneko, Fr David Straut; 14th (St Basil the Great): Vasilissa Seneko; 15th (St Seraphim of Sarov): Dcn Seraphim Komleski; 15th (St Juliana of Lazarevo): Juliana Bibas; 20th (St John the Baptist): Ivan Darenkov; 25th (Martyr Tatiana): Tanya Morrow; 27th (St Nina of Georgia): (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald, (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald.

Birthdays – 17th: Theodore Darenkov; 27th: George Seneko.

Wedding Anniversaries – 25th: Ivan & Katya Darenkov.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

The Parish needs donations for flowers for the Feast of the Nativity 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.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Christ is celebrated for seven days, from the Feastday itself through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 13 January (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is just short of the usual eight days, because the Feast of the Circumcision of the Lord is celebrated on the eighth day after Christmas. The troparion and kontakion of the Nativity are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the seven days. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'Thy nativity, O Christ our God ...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Today the Virgin ...'*) 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.

There is no fasting, nor prostrations or kneeling in prayer, from 7 January through 17 January (n.s.), even on Wednesdays and Fridays. This is because we joyfully celebrate the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord not just for one day, but throughout this period.

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 Vespereal 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.

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.

It is important to receive Holy Communion at the services for the Nativity of the Lord. If you have not gone to Confession and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is all the more important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion at this blessed time of year. 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 Proskomedia, 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.

Concerning Confession and Holy Communion: Those who have been to Confession in the past two weeks may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies on Christmas Eve (6 January, n.s.) and Christmas Day (7 January, 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 Nativity may continue to receive Holy Communion through the Feast of Theophany under the same conditions.

St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party will take place next Sunday (the Sunday after the Nativity), after the Divine Liturgy at the home of the Morrow Family at 90 Somerville Road; Basking Ridge, New Jersey 07920. All parishioners are urged to attend and bring dishes of food to share. We thank John and Tanya for opening their home to our Parish for the last several years.

The Parish Council will meet on the fourth Sunday of this month rather than the second Sunday, so as to conflict with our annual Parish Christmas Party next Sunday and the busy Sunday before the Feast of Theophany.