THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XVI **Number 21**

26 January / 8 February 2015
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON *(Tone 2)*
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY NEW-MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON *(Tone 2)*
New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia
Saturday, 7 February (25 January o.s.)
6:00 PM Vigil Service; Confessions
Sunday, 8 February (26 January o.s.)
9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy; Trapeza (coffee hour)

Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls
Friday, 13 February (31 January o.s.)
6:00 PM Ninth Hour, Vespers;
6:45 PM General Pannykhida
Saturday, 14 February (1 February o.s.)
8:30 AM Baptism of Sampson Cooley
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy; Trapeza (coffee hour)

MEATFARE SUNDAY *(Tone 3)*
MEETING OF THE LORD
Saturday, 14 February (1 February o.s.)
6:00 PM Vigil Service; Confessions
Sunday, 15 February (2 February o.s.)
9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy; Trapeza (coffee hour)

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The second pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and ending with Meatfare Sunday, is called the Week of 'Carnival' or 'Meatfare.' It is so termed because it is the last week that we eat meat and meat products before Pascha. The usual fast is kept on Wednesday and Friday. Otherwise there is no special fasting.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	**The Sunday of the Prodigal Son**	
	2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §70 (16:1-8)	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)
	35TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Meatfare Week)	
M	1 John §71 (2:18-3:10a)	Mark §49 (11:1-11)
Tu	1 John §72 (3:10b-20)	Mark §64 (14:10-42)
W	1 John §73 (3:21-4:6)	Mark §65 (14:43-15:1)
Th	1 John §74 (4:20-5:21)	Mark §66 (15:1-1-15)
F	2 John §75 (1:1-13)	Mark §68 (15:22, 25, 33-41)
Sa	**Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls**	
	1 Cor. §146 (10:23-28)	Luke §105 (21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36)
	1 Thess. §270 (4:13-17)	John §16 (5:24-30)
Su	**THE MEETING OF THE LORD**	
	Vespers Paramia: (1) Exodus 12:51, 13:1-3, 10-16, 22:29; Numbers 8:16; Leviticus 12:1-4, 12:6, 8; Numbers 8:16-17 • (2) Isaiah 6:1-12 • (3) Isaiah 19:1-5, 12. 16, 19-21	
	Matins Gospel: Luke §8 (2:25-32)	
	Heb. §316 (7:7-17)	Luke §7 (2:22b-40)
	Meatfare Sunday: The Sunday of the Last Judgement	
	1 Cor. §140 (8:8-9:2)	Matt. §106 (25:31-46)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 3rd (St Maximos the Confessor): Maximos Bibas; 4th (Apostle Timothy): Timothy Morrow; 6th (St Xenia of Petersburg): Xenia Whitacre; 7th (St Gregory the Theologian): Gregory Welsh.

Birthdays – 2nd: Vasilissa Seneko; 5th: John Morrow.

THIS WEEK

Birthdays – 14th: Peter Mladineo.

Baptism Anniversaries – 12th: Anna Straut (1984).

THE REST OF FEBRUARY

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

Birthdays – 20th: Daniel Palko; 24th: Frank Fitzgerald; 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton; 28th: Seraphima Morrow.

Baptism Anniversaries – 12th: Anna Straut (1984).

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Next Saturday, 14 February, Sampson Cooley, the son of Juliana (Straut) and Alexander Cooley, and grandson of Father David and Matushka Faith, will be baptized at 8:30 a.m. Our parishioners are invited to attend the Baptism. Immediately after the Baptism, the Divine Liturgy for Meatfare Saturday will begin, at which Sampson will receive Holy Communion for the first time. A Trapeza celebrating the Cooley Baptism will follow the Liturgy. If you plan to come to the trapeza, please place your name on the sign up sheet in the back of the church (or email Fr David this week) to assist the family in providing enough food for the meal.

The Saturday of Souls (or Soul Saturday) is a day set aside for commemoration of the departed within the Orthodox Christian liturgical year. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because Christ lay dead in the Tomb on Saturday. There are several Soul Saturdays throughout the year:

- The Saturday of Meatfare Week, the second Saturday before Great Lent begins, the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)
- The second Saturday of Great Lent
- The third Saturday of Great Lent
- The fourth Saturday of Great Lent
- *Radonitsa* (Tuesday after Thomas Sunday)
- The Saturday before Pentecost
- Demetrius Saturday (the Saturday before the feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius: 26 October / 8 November).

The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is normally a Pannykhida (Memorial Service) served either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, and/or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which *kolyva* (a dish made of sweetened boiled wheat) is prepared and placed in front of the cross before which the Pannykhida is served. After the service, the priest blesses the *kolyva* and it is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

This Saturday is the most important of the Soul Saturdays of the year. Ninth Hour and Vespers will be served at 6 o'clock on Friday evening, followed by a General Pannykhida (Memorial Service), with an opportunity for Confession afterwards. On Saturday morning, the Liturgy will be served at 9:30, followed by a short Litya for the Departed. The names of the Departed in all the Commemoration Books kept at the church will be commemorated at these services. If you need to update your books, please take this opportunity to do so.

If anyone is able to provide a donation of *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for the General Pannykhida on Friday evening and/or for the Litya for the Departed on Saturday morning, please let Father know.

Only the names of Orthodox Christians are permitted to be commemorated at Memorial Services and at the Proskomedia. If you have included Non-Orthodox in your Commemoration Book or Commemoration Lists, please clearly indicate which persons named, if any, are Non-Orthodox.

The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 / 15 February) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It commemorates the Presentation of our Saviour in the Temple as a forty-day-old child and the purification according to the Mosaic Law of His Immaculate Mother after His birth. The faithful should attend as many of the services for the Feast as they are able.

The Blessing of Candles is performed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in some Orthodox traditions, including that of the Russian Church. This custom is also found in the Western Church. It undoubtedly comes from the reference to Christ "the Light to enlighten the Gentiles" in the Song of St Symeon first uttered at the time of the Saviour's Presentation in the Temple. Blessed Candles are brought home by the Faithful and kept with reverence in the Icon Corner. They are lit as a supplication to Christ for help or protection, as during a storm or in time of family dissension.

Request Forms for Blessed Candle are in the back of the church. These forms help ensure that a sufficient number of candles will be blessed so that no one is disappointed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. Please fill out the form with your family name, the number of blessed candles that you are requesting, and amount of your donation, and leave them at the candle desk with your donation. The blessed beeswax candles are more than three times larger than those that are normally offered at the candle desk, so your donation should reflect this. The Blessed Candle Request Forms can be filled out any time prior to the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (15 February, n.s.). Your blessed candles may be picked up any time after the Blessing of the Candles. Your candles will be reserved for you even if you are unable to attend the Liturgy on the Feast.

There will be a blessing of Icons at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the First Sunday of Great Lent: the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Because this day is a celebration of the victory of the Orthodox Faith over the heresy of Iconoclasm, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of icons. If you have icons at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the First Sunday of the Fast.

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held on the second Sunday of March. The Annual Meeting will replace the usual March Parish Council Meeting. 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.