

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XVI

Number 22

2 / 15 February 2015

**SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT: MEATFARE SUNDAY (Tone 3)  
MEETING OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST**

### THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

#### 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)

#### CHEESEFARE SUNDAY (Tone 4)

*Saturday, 21 February (8 February o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 22 February (9 February o.s.)*

8:40 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy  
11:00 AM Forgiveness Vespers;  
Trapeza (coffee hour)

### SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	THE MEETING OF THE LORD	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (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	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke 8 (2:25-32)	
	Heb. §316 (7:7-17)	Luke §7 (2:22b-40)
	<b>Meatfare Sunday: The Sunday of the Last Judgement</b>	
	1 Cor. §140 (8:8-9:2)	Matt. §106 (25:31-46)
	<b>36TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Cheesefare Week)</b>	
M	3 John §76 (1:1-14)	Luke §96 (19:29-40; 22:7-39)
Tu	Jude §77 (1-10)	Luke §109 (22:39-42, 45b-23:1)
W	<i>6th Hour:</i> Joel 2:12-26 <i>Vespers:</i> Joel 3:12-21	<i>No Liturgy</i>
Th	Jude §78 ((1:11-25)	Luke §110 (23:2-34, 44-56)
F	<i>6th Hour:</i> Zachariah 8:7-17 <i>Vespers:</i> Zachariah 8:19-23	<i>No Liturgy</i>
Sa	<b>Cheesefare Saturday: Commemoration of Holy Ascetics</b>	
	Rom. §115 (14:19-23;16:25-27)	Matt. §16 (6:1-13)
	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Matt. §43 (11:27-30)
Su	<b>Cheesefare Sunday: The Sunday of Forgiveness</b>	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Rom. §112 (13:11b-14:4)	Matt. §17 (6:14-21)

### NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### LAST WEEK

**Birthdays** – 14th: Peter Mladineo.  
**Baptism Anniversaries** – 12th: Anna Straut (1984); Sampson Cooley (2015).

#### THIS WEEK

**Birthdays** – 20th: Daniel Palko.

#### THE REST OF FEBRUARY

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

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

#### MARCH

**Namedays** – 2nd (Great-Martyr Theodore the Tyro): Theodore Darenkov; 13th (St John Cassian): Cassian O'Beirne; 23rd (Martyr Vasilissa): Vasilissa Seneko; 30th (St Patrick of Ireland): William Patrick Brien.

**Birthdays** – 13th: Sarah Brangwynne; 21st: Zydrune Ann Mladineo; 31st: Deacon Steven Barker, Natasha (Natalia) Prokopenko Ghandour.

**Baptism Anniversaries** – 20th: Matushka Faith Straut (1983).

**Wedding Anniversaries** – 16th: Father David & Matushka Faith Straut (1979); 23rd: Sami and Natasha (Natalia) Ghandour.

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 28th: Madeleine & Margaret Hotz.

### FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The third pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Monday after Meatfare Sunday and ending with Cheesefare Sunday, is called the 'Week of Cheesefare.' During this week meat is forbidden, but eggs, cheese and other dairy products may be eaten on all days, including Wednesday and Friday.

### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many Years to the newly-illuminated Sampson Cooley, the son of Juliana (Straut) and Alexander Cooley, and grandson of Father David and Matushka Faith, who was baptized,

chrismated, and received his first Holy Communion yesterday on Meatfare Saturday.

**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.

**The Feast of the Meeting is celebrated** for a variable number of days, from a single day to a full eight days, depending on when the Great Fast begins. (To determine the number of days of the Feast in any given year, an annual calendar should be consulted.) The troparion and kontakion of the Meeting are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the days of the festal period. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*‘Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos ...’*) can be sung instead of the ‘Our Father’ before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*‘Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin’s womb by Thy birth ...’*) 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.

**Concerning Confession and Holy Communion:** Those who have been to Confession in the past two weeks may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting (15 February, 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 Meeting may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy the following two weeks under the same conditions.

**The Prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian** is said in the church services and in private prayer on Wednesday and Friday of this Cheesefare Week, as well as on the weekdays of Great Lent. It is a striking characteristic of Lenten services. It is said usually with three prostrations to the ground, twelve bows, and a final prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, lust of power, and idle talking give me not. *Prostration.*

But rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love bestow on me Thy servant. *Prostration.*

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own failings, and not to condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen. *Prostration.*

O God, cleanse me a sinner. *Twelve times with a reverence (bow from the waist) at each.*

*Then once more:* O Lord and Master of my life...*(the entire prayer) with a single prostration at the end.*

**Next Sunday is Forgiveness Sunday.** Forgiveness Vespers will be immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to remain in church for this beautiful service, the first liturgical service of Great Lent. This Vespers service is called Forgiveness Vespers because there is a rite of mutual forgiveness at the conclusion of the service. This is our opportunity to ask each other’s forgiveness for any offence that we may have committed knowingly or unknowingly over the past year, and so to begin Great Lent with a clean slate. The service is not very long, and it is very beautiful.

**The Hours and the Holy Liturgy** will be served a half hour early next Sunday morning. As in previous years, we begin the services early on Cheesefare Sunday to make it easier for people to remain for Forgiveness Vespers on that day.

**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.