

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

Number 13

25 November / 8 December 2013

**THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 7)
Apodosis of the Entry of the Theotokos; HM Clement, Pope of Rome**

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

24th SUNDAY after PENTECOST (Tone 7)
Apodosis of Entry; HM Clement of Rome
Saturday, 7 December (24 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 8 December (25 November o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

25th SUNDAY after PENTECOST (Tone 8)

Holy Prophet Habakkuk
Saturday, 14 December (2 December o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 15 December (3 December o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
12:00 PM Teenagers' 'Lunch with Father'

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	8 December (25 Nov, o.s.)	Apodosis of the Entry Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	9 December (26 Nov, o.s.)	St Innocent of Irkutsk Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Tuesday	10 December (27 Nov, o.s.)	Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	11 December (28 Nov, o.s.)	Venerable Martyr Stephen the New Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
Thursday	12 December (29 Nov, o.s.)	Martyr Paramon & Companions Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Friday	13 December (30 Nov, o.s.)	Holy Apostle Andrew Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Saturday	14 December (1 Dec. o.s.)	Prophet Nahum Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Sunday	15 December (2 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Habakkuk Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	24th Sunday after Pentecost	
	2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §70 (16:1-8)	
	Eph. §221 (2:14-22)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)
25TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
M	2 Thess. §274 (1:1-10)	Luke §97 (19:37-44)
Tu	2 Thess. §274a (1:10b-2:2)	Luke §98 (19:45-48)
W	2 Thess. §275 (2:1-12)	Luke §99 (20:1-8)
Th	2 Thess. §276 (2:13-3:5)	Luke §100 (20:9-18)
F	2 Thess. §277 (3:6-18)	Luke §101 (20:19-26)
Sa	Gal. §199 (1:3-10)	Luke §67 (12:32-40)
Su	25th Sunday after Pentecost	
	3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
	Eph. §224 (4:1-6)	Luke §91 (18:18-27)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – Dec. 7th (Great-Martyr Katherine): Katharine Bibas, Katya Darenkov.

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

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 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; 30th: Rdr Philip Hotz.

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

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Parish Council meets today (the 2nd of the month) during coffee hour. All parish council members are asked to attend.

Remember, next Sunday (the 3rd of the month) is 'Lunch with Father' for our teenagers. During coffee hour, the teenagers will sit with Fr David at their own table for questions and answers, instruction, and spiritual conversation. All parents are asked arrange for their teenage children to attend.

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.

Need some more Lenten recipes? We have an excellent Lenten Cookbook available in our kiosk, entitled *Food for Paradise: A Meatless Cookbook* put out by St John the Russian Parish in Ipswich, Massachusetts. This book is available to us through the kindness of the Brangwynne family.

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.

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.

We will have a full schedule of services for St Nicholas' Day. The Vigil Service will be served on the eve of the Feast (18 December) at 6 o'clock and the Divine Liturgy on the morning of the Feast (19 December) at 9:30. Please bring your children to the services for the Feast of St Nicholas. As we know, St Nicholas had a great fondness for children, and he is often thought of as the "Patron Saint" of little ones. If you let Father know in advance, he will be happy to provide a written excuse for school absence or lateness for your child.

LOOKING AHEAD

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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 Proskomedia on the Holy Days.