

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

Number 15

9 / 22 December 2013

THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

Conception by St. Anna of the All-Holy Theotokos

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

26th SUNDAY after PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)
Conception of St Anna; Righteous Hannah
Saturday, 21 December (8 December o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 22 December (9 December o.s.)

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

27th SUNDAY after PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS
Saturday, 28 December (15 December o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 29 December (16 December o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:00 PM Teenagers' 'Lunch with Father'

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	22 December (9 Dec, o.s.)	Conception of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	23 December (10 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Menas & Companions Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Tuesday</i>	24 December (11 Dec, o.s.)	St Daniel the Stylite Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	25 December (12 Dec, o.s.)	ST HERMAN OF ALASKA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Thursday</i>	26 December (13 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Eustathius & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	27 December (14 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Thyrsus & Companions Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Saturday</i>	28 December (15 Dec, o.s.)	St Eleutherius & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	29 December (16 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Haggai Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

26th Sunday after Pentecost	
<i>Su</i>	4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19) Luke §85 (17:12-19)
27TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	1 Tim. §285a (5:1-10) Mark §33 (8:11-21)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Tim. §286 (5:11-21) Mark §34 (8:22-26)
<i>W</i>	1 Tim. §287 (5:22-6:11a) Mark §36 (8:30-34)
<i>Th</i>	1 Tim. §289 (6:17-21) Mark §39 (9:10-16)
<i>F</i>	2 Tim. §290 (1:1-2, 8-18) Mark §41 (9:33-41)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2) Luke §74 (14:1-11)
Sunday of the Holy Forefathers	
<i>Su</i>	5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)
	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.

THE REST OF DECEMBER

Namedays – 29th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Reader Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko.

Birthdays – 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen; 30th: Rdr Philip Hotz.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Fr David will be away this week at the St Herman's Youth Conference in Long Island. Should you have a pastoral emergency, please contact him via his mobile telephone at (909) 208-2367.

We grieve with Angelina Shapoval Schidlovsky and the entire Shapoval and Schidlovsky families. Angelina's Grandmother Nadezhda fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday and was buried at Novo-Diveevo Convent in Nanuet, New York, on Saturday. Please remember to pray for the repose of Nadezhda during her forty days.

Reader Gregory and Claudia Maxey will be having choir rehearsals at church to go over the Nativity music on the following dates:

- Sunday, 22 December 2013, right after coffee hour;
- Thursday, 26 December 2013, at 7:30 pm;
- Sunday, 29 December 2013, right after coffee hour; &
- Sunday 5 January 2014, right after coffee hour.

They ask all choir members to attend these rehearsals so that they can be ready to sing at the divine services for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord on 7 January.

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.

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 Proskomidia on the Holy Days.

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.

FROM THE PROLOGUE FROM OCHRID By Saint Nikolai (Velimirovic)

9 / 22 December

Conception of the Most-holy Theotokos by St Anna

The righteous Joachim and Anna were childless for fifty years of their married life. In their old age the Archangel Gabriel appeared to each one of them separately, telling them that God had heard their prayers and that they would give birth to a daughter, Mary. Then St. Anna conceived by her husband and after nine months bore a daughter blessed by God and by all generations of men: the Most-holy Virgin Mary, the Theotokos. (For more details, see September 9.)

Saint Hannah, Mother of the Prophet Samuel

Hannah was the wife of Elkanah from Ramathaim Zophim or Arimathea (I Samuel 1:1-2). Hannah had not given birth to any children because she was barren, and this caused her to weep and grieve bitterly. But the Merciful God showed pity on her and removed her barrenness because of her ceaseless sighs and prayers. Hannah bore a son, Samuel, and dedicated him to God from his childhood. Samuel was a great leader of the nation of Israel and a prophet, who anointed two kings, Saul and David. St. Hannah sang a hymn of thanksgiving to God, a hymn wonderful both in its wisdom and its beauty, which is used even to this day in the services of the Church (I Samuel 2:1).

From *The Prologue From Ochrid* by Bishop (Saint) Nikolai Velimirovich

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