

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

Commemoration of our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom

SERVICES THIS WEEK

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

Our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom

Saturday, 25 November (12 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 26 November (13 November, o.s.)

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

APOSTLE PHILIP; ST GREGORY PALAMAS

Sunday, 26 November (13 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Great Vespers & Matins;
Confessions

Monday, 27 November (14 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;

26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

Forefast of the Entry; St Gregory of Decapolis

Saturday, 2 December (19 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 3 December (20 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Adult Study

ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Sunday, 3 December (20 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Monday, 4 December (21 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;



FASTING DAYS

Week of 26 November

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Tuesday</i>	28 November (15 Nov, o.s.)	Martyrs Gurias, Samonas, & Habib Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Wednesday</i>	29 November (16 Nov, o.s.)	Apostle & Evangelist Matthew Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Thursday</i>	30 November (17 Nov, o.s.)	St Gregory of Neo-Caesarea Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	1 December (18 Nov, o.s.)	M Platon; M Romanus the Deacon Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Saturday</i>	2 December (19 Nov, o.s.)	Prophet Obadiah; Martyr Barlaam Fish, Wine, & Oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	3 December (20 Nov, o.s.)	St Gregory the Decapolite Fish, Wine, & Oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 26 November

Su	25th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §71 (16:9-20)</i>	
	Eph. §224 (4:1-6)	Luke §53 (10:25-37)
26TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	1 Tim. §278 (1:1-7)	Luke §75 (14:12-15)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Tim. §279 (1:8-14)	Luke §77 (14:25-35)
<i>W</i>	1 Tim. §281 (1:18-20; 2:8-15)	Luke §78 (15:1-10)
<i>Th</i>	1 Tim. §283 (3:1-13)	Luke §80 (16:1-9)
<i>F</i>	1 Tim. §285 (4:4-8,16)	Luke §82 (16:15-18; 17:1-4)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §205 (3:8-12)	Luke §49 (9:57-62)
Su	26th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)</i>	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §66 (12:16-21)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the final Sunday for the special collection for the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. If you have already donated may the Lord bless you. If you have not, please consider giving today.

This is the final Sunday for our formal collection of toys and personal care items for the 'Christmas Care' Program of the Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset County. However, if you still want to donate to this worthy

cause, the Jail Chaplaincy can still use toys up to the 2nd Sunday of December and personal care items until the 3rd Sunday of December. May God bless you for your generosity to the needy.

Our Young Adults' 'Lunch with Father' is today. During coffee hour, the High School and College Students are encouraged to sit with Father David at their own table for questions and answers, instruction, and spiritual conversation. All parents are encouraged to come to coffee hour with their young people so they may attend.

We thank those who donated funds for the Icon in the High Place behind the Altar Table of Christ the Great High Priest. A few parish families have made it possible to have this beautiful, large icon, painted by our iconographer Protodeacon Paul Drozdowski, adorn our altar. This icon underscores for us that it is Jesus Christ Himself, our great High Priest, Who Himself feeds us with His most holy Body and precious Blood in the Divine Liturgy, the Mystery of the Eucharist. May God bless them for their generosity in adorning God's holy temple!

The Nativity Fast, also known as the 'St Philip's Fast' because it begins the day after the Feast of the Apostle Philip, begins 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.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

All Parishes of the Eastern American Diocese have been directed by the Metropolitan to take a special collection to be given to the St Herman's Youth Conference Executive Committee. These donations help the Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference in December. At St Elizabeth's, we will be asking for special donations for this worthy cause on the Sundays of December. Please give generously.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (21 November / 4 December) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts. On it we remember the presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple in Jerusalem when she was three years old by her holy parents, the Righteous Joachim and Anna, where she remained serving the Lord until she was twelve years of age. All the faithful should be in church to honor the All-Pure One on this holy day.

The Feast of the Entry of the Mother of God is celebrated for only five days, from the Feast Day itself through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 8 December (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is shorter than the usual eight days due to its falling within the Nativity Fast. The troparion and kontakion of the Entry are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the five days. The texts for these hymns may be found in the *Jordanville Prayer Book*. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'Today is the prelude of God's good will...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'The most pure temple of the Saviour...'*) 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.

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.