

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

Number 14

4 / 17 December 2017

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 3*)

Holy Greatmartyr Barbara & Our Venerable Father John of Damascus

SERVICES THIS WEEK

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 3*)

St John of Damascus; Holy Martyr Barbara

Saturday, 16 December (3 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 17 December (4 December, o.s.)

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

ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

Monday, 18 December (5 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Tuesday, 19 December (6 December, o.s.)

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

SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS (*Tone 4*)

Saturday, 23 December (10 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 24 December (11 December, o.s.)

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

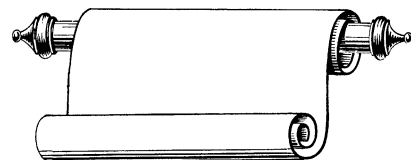
We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast, which began on 28 November (n.s.) and continues for forty days until the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord on 7 January (n.s). We eat no animal products (meat, meat products, eggs, and dairy products) throughout the forty days. The general rules for this period 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.

FASTING DAYS Week of 17 December

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	17 December (4 Dec, o.s.)	GM Barbara; St John of Damascus Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	18 December (5 Dec, o.s.)	St Sabbas the Sanctified Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Tuesday</i>	19 December (6 Dec, o.s.)	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	20 December (7 Dec, o.s.)	St Ambrose of Milan Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Thursday</i>	21 December (8 Dec, o.s.)	St Patapius of Thebes Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	22 December (9 Dec, o.s.)	Conception of the Theotokos Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Saturday</i>	23 December (10 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Menas & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	24 December (11 Dec, o.s.)	St Daniel the Stylite Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 17 December

<i>Su</i>	28th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §114 (24:36-53)	
	Col. §250 (1:12-18)	Luke §85 (17:12-19)
	29TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	Heb. §308 (3:5-11, 17-19)	Luke §102 (20:27-44)
<i>Tu</i>	ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Proverbs 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 32, 34, 4, 12, 14 17, 5-9; 1:23 • (2) Proverbs 10:31-11:12 • (3) Wisdom 4: 7-15	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> John §36 (10:9-16)	
	Heb. §335 (13:17-21)	Luke §24 (6:17-23a)
<i>Tu</i>	Heb. §310 (4:1-13)	Luke §106 (21:12-19)
<i>W</i>	Heb. §312 (5:11-6:8)	Luke §104 (21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24)
<i>Th</i>	Heb. §315 (7:1-6)	Luke §107 (21:28-33)
<i>F</i>	Heb. §317 (7:18-25)	Luke §108 (21:37-22:8)
<i>Sa</i>	Eph. §220a (2:11-13)	Luke §72 (13:18-29)
<i>Su</i>	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers	
	<i>7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §63 (20:1-10)	
	Col. §257 (3:4-11)	Luke §76 (14:16-24)



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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.

The Parish needs donations for flowers for the Feast of the Nativity 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 Proskomedie on the Holy Days.

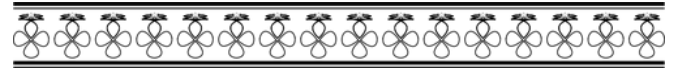
Our former parishioner, Archimandrite Joasaph McLellan, the Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land, fell asleep in the Lord on the Feast of St Sava the Sanctified, 18 December 2009. Another former parishioner, Serge Kropov, who served our Country in the United States Marines, was killed in Afghanistan two days later on 20 December 2009. We also remember Thomas Hancorn who departed this life on 22 December 2013. We will have a Litya for the Departed to pray for the repose the three of these men just prior to the Vigil Service for St Nicholas at about 5:45 pm on 18 December.

Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra in Lycia is among the most beloved of Saints by Orthodox Christians, regardless of their nationality. St Nicholas is always one of the most popular Patron Saints for both Orthodox churches and boys. St Nicholas has two feast days: his main feast day on 6 / 19 December, universally observed by Orthodox Christians, and the Translation of the Relics of St Nicholas from Myra to Bari on 9 / 22 May, particularly beloved by Russian Orthodox Christians. (There is also a Feast of the Nativity of St Nicholas on 29 July / 11 August, but this is little known.) St Nicholas is known for his love and care for the poor. He defended the oppressed and those wrongly accused before the rich and powerful. St Nicholas was a champion of the Orthodox Faith against the heresy of Arius at and after the First Ecumenical Council. Because of his love for children, St Nicholas is considered the Patron Saint of the young. Because of his manifest intercessors for those in danger at sea, he is the Patron Saint of sailors and fishermen. He is venerated as the Patron Saint of many lands, including Greece, Russia, Italy, Germany Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium, and hundreds of cities and towns the world over.

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.

Father will provide written excuses to students who are absent or late for school due to attendance at services for St Nicholas' Day. Please notify him in advance so that he can have it ready for your child.



CONCERNING CONFESSION

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.

If you have not gone to Confession and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion during this Lenten season. The best time to go to Confession is during or following the Vigil Service on Saturday evenings and the Eve of Feasts. It is also always possible to make your Confession to a priest outside the time of the Divine Services by prior appointment. Going to Confession on a Sunday or Feast Day morning is difficult for the priest, who is very busy serving the Proskomedie, and inconsiderate of fellow parishioners, as it often delays the beginning of the Liturgy. Nevertheless there is usually time for one or two short Confessions during the Sixth Hour prior to Liturgy. Those with good reason to come to Confession in the morning rather than the evening before should arrange in advance with Father to come before Liturgy begins, but they need to remember that the Confession should be as concise as possible.