

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

Number 16

18 / 31 December 2017

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST: COMMEMORATION OF THE HOLY FATHERS (*Tone 5*)

SERVICES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY BEFORE THE NATIVITY (*Tone 5*)

Saturday, 30 December (17 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 31 December (18 December, o.s.)

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

Eve of the Nativity

Friday, 5 January (23 December, o.s.)

9:00 AM Royal Hours of the Nativity

Saturday, 6 January (24 December, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:00 AM Vespers for the Nativity

NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Saturday, 6 January (24 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 7 January (25 December, o.s.)

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 31 December

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| <i>Su</i> | Sunday before the Nativity: the Holy Fathers | |
| | Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21 | |
| | Heb. §328 (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) | Matt. §1 (1:1-25) |
| 31ST WEEK after PENTECOST | | |
| <i>M</i> | Heb. §329 (11:17-23, 27-31) | Mark §42 (9:42-10:1) |
| <i>Tu</i> | Heb. §333 (12:25, 26, 13:22-25) | Mark §43 (10:2-12) |
| <i>W</i> | James §50 (1:1-18) | Mark §44 (10:11b-16) |
| <i>Th</i> | James §51 (1:19-27) | Mark §45 (10:17-27) |
| <i>F</i> | Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Royal Hours | |
| | 1st Hour: Micah 5:2-4 • Heb. §303 (1:1-12) • Matt. §2 (1:18-25) | |
| | 3rd Hour: Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Gal. §208 (3:23-29) • Luke §5 (2:1-20) | |
| | 6th Hour: Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 • Heb. §304 (1:10=2:3) • Matt. §3 (2:1-12) | |
| | 9th Hour: Isaiah 9:6-7 • Heb. §306 (2:11-18) • Matt. §4 (2:13-23) | |
| <i>Sa</i> | Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Vespertine Liturgy | |
| | Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Numbers 24:2-3, 5-9, 17-18 • (3) Micah 4:6-7; 5:2-4 • (4) Isaiah 11:1-10 • (5) Baruch 3:35-4:4 • (6) Daniel 2:31-36, 44-45 • (7) Isaiah 9:6-7 • (8) Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 | |
| | Heb. §303 (1:1-12) | Luke §5 (2:1-20) |
| <i>Su</i> | NATIVITY OF THE LORD | |
| | Matins Gospel: Matt. §2 (1:18-25) | |
| | Gal. §209 (4:4-7) | Matt. §3 (2:1-12) |

FASTING DAYS Week of 31 December

| Day of Week | Date | Commemoration and Type of Fast |
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| <i>Sunday</i> | 31 December (18 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Sebastian & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |
| <i>Monday</i> | 1 January (19 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Boniface of Tarsus Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>) |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 2 January (20 Dec, o.s.) | St Ignatius; St John of Kronstadt Fast: wine, & oil permitted |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 3 January (21 Dec, o.s.) | Virgin-martyr Juliana Normal Fast Day (<i>No Oil</i>) |
| <i>Thursday</i> | 4 January (22 Dec, o.s.) | Great-martyr Anastasia Fast: wine, & oil permitted |
| <i>Friday</i> | 5 January (23 Dec, o.s.) | Ten Martyrs of Crete Normal Fast Day (<i>No Oil</i>) |
| <i>Saturday</i> | 6 January (24 Dec, o.s.) | Eve of Nativity; Martyr Eugenia Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted |

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

This is the final Sunday for the special collection for the St Herman's Youth Conference. If you have already donated may the Lord bless you. If you have not, please consider giving today.

This Month's Parish Calendar is now available at the candle desk at the back of the church. You may also view the Calendar on our parish Website: www.saint-elizabeths.org.

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.

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.

During the last five days of the Nativity Fast, from the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ (2 January, n.s.) through the Eve of the Feast (6 January, n.s.), the Fast becomes a bit stricter. Weekday fasting rules are the same as during the rest of the Nativity Fast, but Fish is no longer permitted on Saturdays and Sundays, only wine and oil.

We will have a full schedule of services at St Elizabeth's for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. On Friday (5 January, n.s.), the Royal Hours of the Nativity will be served at 9:00. On the morning of the Eve of the Nativity (6 January, n.s.), the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom at 9:30, followed immediately by the Service of Great Vespers for the Nativity at about 11:00. The Vigil Service (Great Compline, Matins, and First Hour) will be served on the evening of 6 January at 6 o'clock. On the morning of the Feast (7 January, n.s.), the Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom will be served at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10.

It is important to receive Holy Communion at the services for the Nativity of the Lord. If you have not gone to Confession and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is all the more important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion at this blessed time of year. 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.

Concerning Confession and Holy Communion: Those who have been to Confession in the previous two weeks may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies on Christmas Eve (6 January, n.s.) and Christmas Day (7

January, 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 Nativity may continue to receive Holy Communion through the Feast of Theophany under the same conditions.

LOOKING AHEAD

A special collection for the Haiti Mission of ROCOR will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of January. Each year our parish had been sponsoring a Reader and a parochial school teacher with a small stipend of \$200 a month each (i.e. \$4800 per year) total. In the past, we have raised this large sum of money through matching donations from a generous donor family, so half the total has been given by the parishioners at large and half from the donor family. As you know, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and our Haitian Orthodox brethren are too poor to fully support the needs of their young church. They need the help of those of us who have more than enough. Please give generously.

St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party will take place on the Sunday after the Nativity (8 January), after the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are urged to attend and bring dishes of food to share. Please mark your calendar.

