

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVIII

Number 12

21 November / 4 December 2016

## TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 7*) ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

#### 24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 7*) ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS

*Saturday, 3 December (20 November, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 4 December (21 November, o.s.)*

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

#### 25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

**Venerable Martyr Stephen the New**

*Saturday, 10 December (27 November, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 11 December (28 November, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
Trapeza (coffee hour)  
12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

### FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK Week of 4 December

Day	Date	Commemoration & Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	4 December (21 Nov, o.s.)	ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	5 December (22 Nov, o.s.)	Apostle Philemon & Company Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
<i>Tuesday</i>	6 December (23 Nov, o.s.)	St Amphilochius & St Gregory Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	7 December (24 Nov, o.s.)	Greatmartyr Catherine of Alexandria Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Thursday</i>	8 December (25 Nov, o.s.)	Apodosis of the Entry Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	9 December (26 Nov, o.s.)	St Innocent of Irkutsk Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Saturday</i>	10 December (27 Nov, o.s.)	Kursk Root Icon of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	11 December (28 Nov, o.s.)	Venerable Martyr Stephen the New Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

### SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

### Week of 4 December

24th Sunday after Pentecost	
ENTRY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS	
<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35 • (2) I Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • (3) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a	
<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)	
Eph. §221 (2:14-22)	Luke §66 (12:16-21)
Heb. §320 (9:1-7)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
25TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	2 Thess. §274 (1:1-10) Luke §86 (17:20-25)
<i>Tu</i>	2 Thess. §274a (1:10b-2:2) Luke §87 (17:26-37)
<i>W</i>	2 Thess. §275 (2:1-12) Luke §90 (18:15-17, 26-30)
<i>Th</i>	2 Thess. §276 (2:13-3:5) Luke §92 (18:31-34)
<i>F</i>	2 Thess. §277 (3:6-18) Luke §95 (19:12-28)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §199 (1:3-10) Luke §51a (10:19-21)
25th Sunday after Pentecost	
<i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
Eph. §224 (4:1-6)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)

### NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### Week of 27 November

**Namedays** – Nov. 27th (Apostle Philip): Sbdcn Philip Hotz, Philip Schidlovsky; 27th (St Gregory Palamas): Reader Gregory Maxey, Alex Gregory Titus; Dec. 3rd (St Edmund the Martyr): Edmund Titus;

**Birthdays** – Nov. 29th: Marina Kamensky (Golikova); 30th: Martin Macko, John Morrow; Dec. 1st: Jack (John) Welsh; 2nd: Alexander Reitano; 3rd: Sofia Fitzgerald.

**Wedding Anniversaries** – Nov. 28th: Sergey & Liudmila Efuni (1981).

#### Week of 4 December

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

**Birthdays** – 6th: (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald.

#### THE REST OF DECEMBER

**Namedays** – 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Andrew Welsh; 19th (St Nicholas): Nikolai Darenkov, Reader Nicolas Schidlovsky, Nicolas Straut, Nicholas Szydowski; 22nd (Conception of St Anna): Anna Straut; 22nd (Righteous Hannah): Mat. Nancy Hannah Barker; 25th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Sbdcn Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko, Daniel Yanovsky.

**Birthdays** – 15th: Xenia Whitacre; 22nd: Anna Straut; 26th: Nina Titus; 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen, Paul Schidlovsky; 30th: Sbdcn Philip Hotz, Tatiana Yanovsky.

**Baptism Anniversaries** – 19th: Father David Straut (1982).

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 18th: Archimandrite Joasaph (McLellan) (+2009); 20th: Serge Kropov (+2009); 22nd: Thomas Hancorn (+2013)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**2017 Wall Calendars are available** in the back of the church in English only and Russian and English. These Calendars help us to live an Orthodox Christian life by keeping abreast of the Saint(s), Scripture Readings, and fasting rule for each day of the year.

**The December Parish Calendar** is now posted on our Parish Website and available at the Candle Desk.

**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.

**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 it's 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.

**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 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 Proskomedia on the Holy Days.

**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."

**Saint Nicholas Day and Christmas** are both coming soon!! A **Book Sale** will be held at coffee hour after the liturgy Sunday, 11 December at St Elizabeth's. There will be newly published books & Akathist booklets, books for young children, school aged children, teenagers and adults: something for everyone! Elizabeth Lieuwen will be available for questions and book purchases! Do take a look at the books for both Saint Nicholas Day and Christmas!

**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.