

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVIII

Number 23

6 / 19 February 2017

SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGEMENT: MEATFARE SUNDAY *(Tone 2)* Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

SERVICES THIS WEEK

MEATFARE SUNDAY *(Tone 2)*

Afterfeast of the Meeting; St Bucolus of Smyrna

Saturday, 18 February (5 February, o.s.)

4:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 19 February (6 February, o.s.)

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

Tuesday, 21 February (6 February, o.s.)

5:00 PM Pannykhida for N Isachenko (40th day)
and P Brien (9th Day)

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY *(Tone 3)*

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM Forgiveness Vespers;
Trapeza (coffee hour)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 19 February

Su	Meatfare Sunday: The Sunday of the Last Judgment	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	1 Cor. §140 (8:8-9:2)	Matt. §106 (25:31-46)
	36TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Cheesefare Week)	
M	3 John §76 (1:1-14)	Luke §96 (19:29-40; 22:7-39)
Tu	Jude §77 (1-10)	Luke §109 (22:39-42, 45b-23:1)
W	6 th Hour: Joel 2:12-26 Vespers: Joel 3:12-21	No Liturgy
Th	Jude §78 ((1:11-25)	Luke §110 (23:2-34, 44-56)
F	6 th Hour: Zachariah 8:7-17 Vespers: Zachariah 8:19-23	No Liturgy
Sa	Cheesefare Saturday: Commemoration of Holy Ascetics	
	Rom. §115 (14:19-23;16:25-27)	Matt. §16 (6:1-13)
	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Matt. §43 (11:27-30)
Su	Cheesefare Sunday: The Sunday of Forgiveness	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	Rom. §112 (13:11b-14:4)	Matt. §17 (6:14-21)

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The third pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Monday after Meatfare Sunday and ending with Cheesefare Sunday, is called the 'Week of Cheesefare.' During this week meat is forbidden, but eggs, cheese and other dairy products may be eaten on all days, including Wednesday and Friday.

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Week of 12 February

Wedding Anniversaries – 15th: Joseph & Natalya Reitano (2009).

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – 13th: William George Patrick Brien (+2017).

Week of 19 February

Namedays – 25th (St Alexis of Moscow): Alexei Darenkov, Aleksey Vishnykov.

Birthdays – 20th: Daniel Palko; 24th: Frank Fitzgerald.

THE REST OF FEBRUARY

Birthdays – 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton; 28th: Seraphima Morrow.

THE MONTH OF MARCH

Namedays – 2nd (Great-Martyr Theodore the Tyro): Theodore Darenkov; 13th (St John Cassian): Cassian O'Beirne; 20th (Martyr Eugene of Cherson): Evgeny Efuni; 23rd (Martyr Vasilissa): Vasilissa Seneko; 30th (St Patrick of Ireland): Patrick Hinds.

Birthdays – 3rd: Stefania Nagy; 13th: Sarah Brangwynne; 18th: Joseph Reitano; 21st: Zydrune Ann Mladineo; 25th: Sergey Efuni, Sr.; 31st: Deacon Steven Barker.

Baptism Anniversaries – 20th: Matushka Faith Straut (1983).

Wedding Anniversaries – 16th: Father David & Matushka Faith Straut (1979).

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – 28th: Madeleine & Margaret Hotz.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We were saddened that George Patrick Brien, a founder of our parish and our Church Warden for the past 18 years, fell asleep in the Lord late in the evening on Monday, 13 February 2017. As we know, Patrick had been doing poorly since he had a mini-stroke in December 2016. Although he recovered from the symptoms of the stroke, Patrick kept having setbacks in his health and his quality of life .became worse and worse. The high points in Patrick's life during his last few months were the visits, letters, cards, gifts, and telephone calls he received from his fellow parishioners at St Elizabeth's. The support that he received on his last day of his life from so many who visited him, prayed with him, sang to him, talked to him via the telephone, or conveyed their love to him email and text messages, greatly eased his suffering and gave him courage in his ultimate journey.

There were Pannykhidas for Patrick Brien on Tuesday evening and Wednesday morning, prior to and following the services for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. Patrick was specially commemorated in the services for Meatfare Saturday, the Saturday of Souls, at Vespers, Pannykhida, and the Divine Liturgy. He was laid out in the church on Friday afternoon and our parishioners read the entire Psalter over his body. Patrick's Funeral immediately following the Soul Saturday Liturgy at St Elizabeth's, his burial at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Cemetery in Hillsborough, and his Mercy Meal at the Parish Hall of Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Manville were very well attended. William George Patrick Brien will be truly missed by us all. Your prayers are asked for his souls through his Forty Days, which will end on Saturday, 25 March, the last Mid-lenten Saturday of Souls.

Many thanks to Claudia Maxey who provided *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for the Memorial Service for Meatfare Soul Saturday.

There will be a Pannykhida this Tuesday, 21 February, at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Tuesday is the Fortieth Day for Natalia Isachenko and the Ninth Day for Patrick Brien. All are invited to pray at this service for the repose of two of our departed parishioners.

If your home has not yet been blessed this year, please arrange a time *this week* with Father when he can come to bless it *before* the Great Fast begins.

The Prayer of St Ephraim the Syrian is said in the church services and in private prayer on Wednesday and Friday of this Cheesefare Week, as well as on the weekdays of Great Lent. It is a striking characteristic of Lenten services. It is said usually with three

prostrations to the ground, twelve bows, and a final prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, a spirit of idleness, despondency, lust of power, and idle talking give me not. *Prostration.*

But rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love bestow on me Thy servant. *Prostration.*

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own failings, and not to condemn my brother; for blessed art Thou unto the ages of ages. Amen. *Prostration.*

O God, cleanse me a sinner. *Twelve times with a reverence (bow from the waist) at each.*

Then once more: O Lord and Master of my life...(the entire prayer) with a single prostration at the end.

Next Sunday is Forgiveness Sunday. Forgiveness Vespers will be immediately after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to remain in church for this beautiful service, the first liturgical service of Great Lent. This Vespers service is called Forgiveness Vespers because there is a rite of mutual forgiveness at the conclusion of the service. This is our opportunity to ask each other's forgiveness for any offence that we may have committed knowingly or unknowingly over the past year, and so to begin Great Lent with a clean slate. The service is not very long, and it is very beautiful.

There will be a blessing of Icons at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the First Sunday of Great Lent: the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Because this day is a celebration of the victory of the Orthodox Faith over the heresy of Iconoclasm, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of icons. If you have icons at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the First Sunday of the Fast.

There will be a blessing of Crosses at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the Third Sunday of Great Lent: the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross. Because this day is dedicated to our veneration of the Holy Cross, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of Crosses, both those worn around the neck and those hung on walls. If you have crosses at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the Third Sunday of the Fast.