

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

Number 13

30 November / 13 December 2015
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 3)
Holy Apostle Andrew the First-Called

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

28TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 3)

Holy Apostle Andrew

Saturday, 12 December (29 November o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service; Confessions

Sunday, 13 December (30 November o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;

Trapeza (coffee hour)

12:30 PM Inquirers & Adult Study

ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service; Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

29TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 4)

St Ambrose of Milan

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service; Confessions

Sunday, 20 December (7 December o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;

Trapeza (coffee hour)

12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

28th Sunday after Pentecost		
<i>Su</i>	<i>6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)</i>	
	Col. §250 (1:12-18)	Luke §71 (13:10-17)
29TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	Heb. §308 (3:5-11, 17-19)	Luke §97 (19:37-44)
<i>Tu</i>	Heb. §310 (4:1-13)	Luke §98 (19:45-48)
<i>W</i>	Heb. §312 (5:11-6:8)	Luke §99 (20:1-8)
<i>Th</i>	Heb. §315 (7:1-6)	Luke §100 (20:9-18)
<i>F</i>	Heb. §317 (7:18-25)	Luke §101 (20:19-26)
<i>Sa</i>	Eph. §220a (2:11-13)	Luke §67 (12:32-40)
29th Sunday after Pentecost		
<i>Su</i>	<i>7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §63 (20:1-10)</i>	
	Col. §258 (3:12-16)	Luke §85 (17:12-19)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

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

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

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Andrew Welsh; 19th (St Nicholas): Nikolai Darenkov, Reader Nicolas Schidlovsky, Nicolas Straut.

Birthdays – 15th: Xenia Whitacre.

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)

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Namedays – 22nd (Conception of St Anna): Anna Straut; 22nd (Righteous Hannah): Mat. Nancy Hannah Barker; 27th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Sbdcn Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko, Daniel Yanovsky.

Birthdays – 22nd: Anna Straut; 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen, Paul Schidlovsky; 30th: Sbdcn Philip Hotz, Tatiana Yanovsky.

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	13 December (30 Nov, o.s.)	Holy Apostle Andrew Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	14 December (1 Dec. o.s.)	Prophet Nahum Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Tuesday</i>	15 December (2 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Habakkuk Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	16 December (3 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Zephaniah Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Thursday</i>	17 December (4 Dec, o.s.)	GM Barbara; St John of Damascus Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	18 December (5 Dec, o.s.)	St Sabbas the Sanctified Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Saturday</i>	19 December (6 Dec, o.s.)	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	20 December (7 Dec, o.s.)	St Ambrose of Milan Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

A special collection for St Herman's Youth Conference will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of December. Your donations help the St Herman's Executive Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many Youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference at the end of this month. Please give generously.

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."

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.

Although the Parish Council usually meets on the 2nd of the month during coffee hour, the meeting has been moved to the 3rd Sunday this month in order to better fit the schedules of some of the key members. All parish council members are asked to note the change of date and to make an effort to attend the meeting next Sunday.

Today at coffee hour we will continue our series of Adult Studies for both inquirers and other interested persons in the basic elements, beliefs, and practices of the Orthodox Christian Faith. Father David will lead these sessions, with questions and sharing encouraged for all participants. The basic text we will be using for these Adult Studies is *The Law of God* by Priest Daniel Sysoev, with his *Catechetical Talks* as a supplement. These Adult Studies should meet two Sundays a month

at about 12:30 p.m., after we've had something to eat at Trapeza.

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 both these men just prior to the Vigil Service for St Nicholas at about 5:45 pm on 18 December.

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.

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 your child needs a ride to and from Albany for the St Herman's Conference this year, Father David has room in his van. Just let him know.