

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

Number 18

4 / 17 January 2016

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY (*Tone 8*)

Forefeast of Theophany, The Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY (*Tone 8*)

Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

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

EVE OF THEOPHANY

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

9:00 AM Royal Hours of Theophany
10:30 AM Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil the Great;
Great Blessing of Water

HOLY THEOPHANY OF THE LORD

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Great Blessing of Water

SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY (*Tone 1*)

Venerable Theodosius the Great

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Monday	18 January (5 Jan, o.s.)	Eve of Theophany
		Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	20 January (7 Jan, o.s.)	Synaxis of the Forerunner
		Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Friday	22 January (9 Jan, o.s.)	HM Philip, Met. of Moscow
		Fast: wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	Sunday before Theophany	
	<i>11th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §67 (21:15-25)</i>	
	2 Tim. §298 (4:5-8)	Mark §1 (1:1-8)
M	Eve of Theophany of the Lord: Royal Hours	
	<i>1st Hour: Isaiah 35:1-10 • Acts §33 (13:25-33a) • Matt. §5 (3:1-11)</i>	
	<i>3rd Hour: Isaiah 1:16-20 • Acts §42 (19:1-8) • Mark §1 (1:1-8)</i>	
	<i>6th Hour: Isaiah 12:3-6 • Rom. §91 (6:3-11) • Mark §2 (1:9-15)</i>	
	<i>9th Hour: Isaiah 49:8-15 • Titus §302 (2:11-14; 3:4-7) • Matt. §6 (3:13-17)</i>	
M	Eve of Theophany of the Lord: Vespertal Liturgy	
	<i>Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Exodus 14:15-18, 21-23, 27-29a • (3) Exodus 15:22-16:1a • (4) Joshua 3:7-8, 15-17 • (5) IV [II] Kings 2:6-14 • (6) IV [III] Kings 5:9-14 • (7) Isaiah 1:16-20 • (8) Genesis 32:1-10a • (9) Exodus 2:5-10 • (10) Judges 6:36-40 • (11) III [I] Kings 18:30-39 • (12) IV [II] Kings 2:19-22 • (13) Isaiah 49:8-15</i>	
	1 Cor. §143 (9:19-27)	Luke §9 (3:1-18)
Tu	THEOPHANY: BAPTISM OF THE LORD	
	<i>Matins Gospel: Mark §2 (1:9-11)</i>	
	Titus §302 (2:11-14; 3:4-7)	Matt. §6 (3:13-17)
W	Heb. §312 (5:11-6:8)	Luke §104 (21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24)
Th	Heb. §315 (7:1-6)	Luke §107 (21:28-33)
F	Heb. §317 (7:18-25)	Luke §108 (21:37-22:8)
Sa	Saturday after Theophany	
	Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Matt. §7 (4:1-11)
Su	Sunday after Theophany	
	<i>1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Matt. §116 [28:16-20]</i>	
	Eph. §224a (4:7-13)	Matt. §8 (4:12-17)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 10th (Prophet-King David): David Seneko, Fr David Straut; 14th (St Basil the Great): Vassili Golikov, Vasily Yanovsky; 15th (St Seraphim of Sarov): Deacon Seraphim Komleski; 15th (St Juliana of Lazarevo): Juliana Bibas.

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 20th (St John the Baptist): Ivan Darenkov.
Birthdays – 17th: Theodore Darenkov.

THE REST OF JANUARY

Namedays – 25th (Martyr Tatiana): Tanya Morrow, Tatiana Yanovsky; 27th (St Nina of Georgia): (Mrs.) Nina Fitzgerald, (Miss) Nina Fitzgerald.

Birthdays – 27th: George Seneko.

Wedding Anniversaries – 25th: Ivan & Katya Darenkov.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. This year, we will also be giving for another special need. The senior priest in Haiti, Fr Gregoire Lagouté unexpectedly fell asleep in the Lord in his mid-fifties, leaving a widowed Matushka and other dependents. They desperately need help. So we must raise more money than ever this year. We have an offer from our donor family of a matching gift of \$3000. We are therefore hoping to raise \$3000 from our parishioners so that we can send \$6000 to the Haitian Mission this year. 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.

Father David and Matushka Faith, Fr Deacon Seraphim and Matushka Anna Gail, Fr Deacon Steven and Matushka Hannah, Fr Deacon Stephanos and Matushka Juliana, and Reader Gregory and Claudia Maxey would like to thank all the Parishioners who gave cards and very generous gifts to their families on Christmas. The love that this demonstrated was overwhelming. May the Incarnate Lord abundantly bless you for your kindness.

We thank John and Tanya Morrow for opening their home to our Parish for so many years for St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party which took place last Sunday after the Divine Liturgy. We also thank all who brought food and beverages for the meal, and all who attended, making the party such a success.

The Parish Council meets today (the 3rd Sunday of the month) during coffee hour. It was moved from the second Sunday this month, so as to conflict with our annual Parish Christmas Party. All parish council members are asked to attend.

The Eve of Theophany (5 / 18 January) is a fast day on whatever day it falls, even Sunday. By fasting on this day, we prepare to celebrate the Feast of Theophany. We eat no meat, meat products, eggs, dairy products, or fish on this day. In the Russian practice, wine and olive oil are permitted on this day on whatever day it falls. In Greek practice, wine and oil are only permitted on the Eve of Theophany when it falls on Saturday or Sunday.

The Feast of the Theophany of the Lord Jesus Christ is celebrated on 6 / 19 January. It commemorates the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan and is one of the most important of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. The unique pattern of liturgical services for this Holy Day exactly parallels that of Christmas, underscoring the fact that in the early Church the events that these two Feasts commemorate were originally celebrated on the same day, and that the Feast of Theophany is no less important than the Nativity. In fact, there is one element added to the Feast of Theophany which is not present at Christmas: the Great Blessing of Water. This very special sacramental rite is ordinarily only performed twice each year: on the Eve of Theophany and on the Day of Theophany itself. (On the other days of the year, the Lesser Blessing of Water is performed instead.) The faithful should attend as many of the services as they are able for the Feast.

The Feast of Theophany is celebrated for nine days, from the Feast day itself through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 27 January (n.s.). The festal period of this Feast is one day longer than the usual eight days, underscoring how important this Feast is in our liturgical calendar. The troparion and kontakion of Theophany are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the nine days. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan ...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Thou hast appeared today unto the whole world...'*) 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.

Father can provide written excuses for absence or lateness for students attending Liturgy for a Great Feast. Just let him know you need it in advance.

Those who would like Theophany Water should bring small bottles with them to church on the Feast or the Sunday following. Holy Water is always available to those who wish it year round. Just give your bottle to one of the clergy or an altar server after any service and they will fill it for you.

Concerning Confession and Holy Communion: Those who have been to Confession any time since the Eve of the Nativity of the Lord may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies on the Eve of Theophany (18 January, n.s.) and the Feast of Theophany itself (19 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 Theophany may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy the following two Sundays under the same conditions.