

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVII

Number 24

15 / 28 February 2016
SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 6*)

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 5*)

Saturday, 27 February (14 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 28 February (15 February o.s.)

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

Meatfare Saturday: Commemoration of Departed

Friday, 4 March (20 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Ninth Hour; Vespers
6:45 PM General Pannykhida;
Confessions

Saturday, 5 March (21 February o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Litya for the Departed

MEATFARE SUNDAY (*Tone 6*)

Saturday, 5 March (21 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 6 March (22 February o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The second pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and ending with Meatfare Sunday, is called the Week of 'Carnival' or 'Meatfare.' It is so termed because it is the last week that we eat meat and meat products before Pascha. The usual fast is kept on Wednesday and Friday. Otherwise there is no special fasting.

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

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

Birthdays – 24th: Frank Fitzgerald; 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton.

THIS WEEK

Namedays – Mar. 2nd (Great-Martyr Theodore the Tyro): Theodore Darenkov.

Birthdays – Feb. 28th: Seraphima Morrow; Mar. 3rd: Stefania Nagy.

THE REST OF MARCH

Namedays – 13th (St John Cassian): Cassian O'Beirne; 23rd (Martyr Vasilissa): Vasilissa Seneko; 30th (St Patrick of Ireland): William Patrick Brien.

Birthdays – 13th: Sarah Brangwynne; 21st: Zydrune Ann Mladineo; 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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son		
	<i>6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)</i>	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)
35TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Meatfare Week)		
<i>M</i>	1 John §71 (2:18-3:10a)	Mark §49 (11:1-11)
<i>Tu</i>	1 John §72 (3:10b-20)	Mark §64 (14:10-42)
<i>W</i>	1 John §73 (3:21-4:6)	Mark §65 (14:43-15:1)
<i>Th</i>	1 John §74 (4:20-5:21)	Mark §66 (15:1-1-15)
<i>F</i>	2 John §75 (1:1-13)	Mark §68 (15:22, 25, 33-41)
<i>Sa</i>	Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls	
	1 Cor. §146 (10:23-28)	Luke §105 (21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36)
	1 Thess. §270 (4:13-17)	John §16 (5:24-30)
<i>Su</i>	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)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have met our goal for the special collection for the Haiti Mission of ROCOR taken in January. We raised just over \$3000 to match the gift offered by our donor family. We can send now the full \$6000 to Haiti! Thank you for your generosity

Many of the books and media in our Parish Library are missing. We would like those who have borrowed them to let our Parish Librarian, Elizabeth Lieuwen, what items they have borrowed and return any items they are done with.

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

The Saturday of Souls (or Soul Saturday) is a day set aside for commemoration of the departed within the Orthodox Christian liturgical year. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because our Lord's body lay dead in the Tomb while His soul descended to hades on Saturday. There are several Soul Saturdays throughout the year:

- The Saturday of Meatfare Week, the second Saturday before Great Lent begins, the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)
- The second Saturday of Great Lent
- The third Saturday of Great Lent
- The fourth Saturday of Great Lent
- *Radonitsa* (Tuesday after Thomas Sunday)
- The Saturday before Pentecost
- Demetrius Saturday (the Saturday before the feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius: 26 October / 8 November).

The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is normally a Pannykhida (Memorial Service) served either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which *kolyva* (a dish made of sweetened boiled wheat) is prepared and placed in front of the cross before which the Pannykhida is served. After the service, the priest blesses the *kolyva* and it is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

This Saturday is the most important of the Soul Saturdays of the year. Ninth Hour and Vespers will be served at 6 o'clock on Friday evening, followed by a General Pannykhida (Memorial Service), with an opportunity for Confession afterwards. On Saturday morning, the Liturgy will be served at 9:30, followed by a short Litya for the Departed. The names of the

Departed in all the Commemoration Books kept at the church will be commemorated at these services. If you need to update your books, please take this opportunity to do so.

If anyone is able to provide a donation of *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for this Soul Saturday, please let Father know.

Only the names of Orthodox Christians are permitted to be commemorated at Memorial Services and at the Proskomedie. If you have included Non-Orthodox in your Commemoration Book or Commemoration Lists, please clearly indicate which persons named, if any, are Non-Orthodox.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

The annual special collection for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land will be taken at the Sunday Liturgies at St Elizabeth's during the month of March. What we collect will be sent to the Synod of Bishops for the R.E.M. at Palm Sunday. This Palm Sunday collection is a major source of funding for our mission in the Holy Land, and some of us have had occasion to receive their hospitality. Please give generously.

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held on the third Sunday of February. The Rector, Church Warden, and Treasurer will present year-in-review reports for the past year. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.

Those attending the Annual Meeting are asked to bring a dish of food for the meal that will precede the Meeting. Please let Matushka know what you plan to bring.

We have a few individuals and families who regularly attend services at St Elizabeth's, and even confess and commune, but have not yet sought to become formal members of the Parish. If you are one of these and would like to be a formal member of the Parish, please speak to Fr David about this.