

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XVI

Number 18

5 / 18 January 2015

THE SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY (*Tone 7*)

Forefeast of Theophany; Holy Martyrs Theopemptus & Theonas

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY (*Tone 7*)

Eve of the Theophany of the Lord

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom;
Great Blessing of Water;
Trapeza (coffee hour)

THEOPHANY OF THE LORD

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

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

SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS (*Tone 8*)

Sunday after Theophany; Martyr Tatiana of Rome

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 25 January (12 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
Sunday	18 January (5 Jan, o.s.)	Eve of Theophany
		Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	21 January (8 Jan, o.s.)	St George the Chozebite; St Domnica
		Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
Friday	23 January (10 Jan, o.s.)	St Theophan the Recluse
		Fast: wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Sunday before Theophany	
<i>Su</i>	10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §66 (21:1-14)
	2 Tim. §298 (4:5-8) Mark §1 (1:1-8)
33RD WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	1 Pet. §59 (2:21b-3:9) Mark §48 (10:46-52)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Pet. §60 (3:10-22) Mark §50 (11:11-23)
<i>W</i>	1 Pet. §61 (4:1-11) Mark §51 (11:22b-26)
<i>Th</i>	1 Pet. §62 (4:12-5:5) Mark §52 (11:27-33)
<i>F</i>	2 Pet. §64 (1:1-10a) Mark §53 (12:1-12)
Saturday after Theophany	
<i>Sa</i>	Eph. §233 (6:10-17) Matt. §7 (4:1-11)
32nd Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of Zacchaeus)	
<i>Su</i>	10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §66 (21:1-14)
	1 Tim. §285a (4:9-15) Luke §94 (19:1-10)
Sunday after Theophany	
<i>Su</i>	Eph. §224a (4:7-13) Matt. §8 (4:12-17)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 11th (Prophet-King David): David Seneko, Fr David Straut; 14th (St Basil the Great): Vasilissa Seneko; 15th (St Seraphim of Sarov): Dcn Seraphim Komleski; 15th (St Juliana of Lazarevo): Juliana Bibas.

Birthdays – 17th: Theodore Darenkov.

THIS WEEK

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

THE REST OF JANUARY

Namedays – 25th (Martyr Tatiana): Tanya Morrow; 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

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 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 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 Feastday 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 baptised 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 today, 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.

All homes in the parish should be blessed at Theophany. Ideally this is done during the Festal Period (19-27 January, n.s.), but in any case the house blessings should be completed before the beginning of the Great Fast (18 March, n.s., this year.) Please arrange a time with Father when he can come and bless your home.

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.

22 January 2015 is the 42nd anniversary of the tragic decision of the Supreme Court of the United States to permit the destruction of children in the womb through all nine months of pregnancy. Since that time, millions of unborn babies are put to death each year in our country. The annual ‘March for Life’ will take place in Washington this year on Thursday, 22 January. Many Orthodox Christians from all over the United States will be traveling to Washington on that day to join with the ‘Orthodox Christians for Life’ in witnessing to the stand of our Orthodox Church against the grave sin of abortion. The March begins with a rally at the Mall at 7th Street in Washington at 11 AM. Thereafter, the March will proceed along Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court Building. At the conclusion of the March, Orthodox clergy will lead Orthodox participants in prayer. Please pray for the unborn, for our Nation, for our civil authorities, for the March participants on 22 January.

The Parish Council meets next Sunday (the 4th Sunday of this month) during coffee hour. All parish council members are asked to attend.