

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

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7 / 20 October 2013

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 8)
St Jonah, Bishop of Hankow, Manchuria

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

17th SUNDAY after PENTECOST (Tone 8)

Ss Sergius & Bacchus; St Jonah of Manchuria

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

17th SUNDAY after PENTECOST (Tone 1)

Holy Father of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Saturday, 26 October (13 October o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 27 October (14 October o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
12:00 PM Teenagers' 'Lunch with Father'

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Wedding Anniversaries – 16th: Oleg & Elena Kostin (1994).

THIS WEEK

Birthdays – 21st: Patricia Brigid Barker; 23rd: Leana Brangwynne.

THE REST OF OCTOBER

Wedding Anniversaries – 27th: Reader Nicolas & Angelina Schidlovsky (2002).

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Wednesday	23 October (10 Oct, o.s.)	Synaxis of the Optina Elders Wine & Oil permitted
Friday	25 October (12 Oct, o.s.)	St Martin the Merciful of Tours Wine & Oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	17th Sunday after Pentecost	
	6th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)	
	2 Cor. §182a (6:16b-7:1)	Luke §30 (7:11-16)
18TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
M	Eph. §227 (4:25-32)	Luke §33 (7:36-50)
Tu	Eph. §230 (5:20-26)	Luke §34 (8:1-3)
W	Eph. §231 (5:25-33a)	Luke §37 (8:22-25)
Th	Eph. §232 (5:33-6:9)	Luke §41 (9:7-11)
F	Eph. §234 (6:18-24)	Luke §42 (9:12b-18a)
Sa	1 Cor. §162 (15:39-45)	Luke §22 (6:1-10)
Su	18th Sunday after Pentecost	
	7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §63 (20:1-10)	
	2 Cor. §188 (9:6-11)	Luke §35 (8:5-15)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

During October we will have a Special Collection to help cover our contribution to the Diocese of Eastern America and New York. All parishes are required to give ten percent of their regular income to the Diocese. This special collection will help to minimize the impact of our parish's obligation on our General Fund. Please give generously.

Remember, next Sunday (the 4th of the month) is 'Lunch with Father' for our teenagers. During coffee hour, the teenagers will sit with Fr David at their own table for questions and answers, instruction, and spiritual conversation. All parents are asked arrange for their teenage children to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will have a full schedule of services at St Elizabeth's for the Feast of St John of Kronstadt: on the Eve of the Feast, 31 October, the Vigil Service begins at 6 o'clock and on the morning of the Feast, 1 November, the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10.

Bishop Jonah of Manchuria
A NEW SAINT IS PROCLAIMED

**Proclamation of the Sobor of Bishops
Meeting in New York,
31 August / 13 September 1996**

By the time of his righteous repose on October 7 B (OS), 1925, Bishop Jonah of Hankow (Manchuria) had already made a deep impression on his contemporaries by his God-pleasing life, his ebullient activity, and his unremitting ascetic labors. His brief, three-year episcopacy was marked by a wealth of accomplishments. He died at the age of only 37, crowned by holiness.

Orphaned as a boy and shadowed by poverty, he managed while still young to learn the language of the Old Testament, and was in the top of his class at seminary and again at the Kazan Theological Academy. In his third year at the academy he received the monastic tonsure. Upon graduating, he accepted a professorship, teaching New Testament; this was quite against his will, but in his humility he submitted to the strict guidance of his elder from the renowned Optina Hermitage. A great field of opportunity spread out before the young hieromonk -- a scholar, priest and preacher -- but very soon it was eclipsed by the horrific events of 1917. The pastor-ascetic was banished from Kazan; in Perm he was arrested and then beaten to unconsciousness by the Bolsheviks.

Having thus shared the lot of Russia's new confessors, he was providentially freed by the Whites and subsequently raised to the rank of hegumen and appointed senior priest of the southern volunteer army. With Dutow's army, Fr. Jonah retreated across the eastern frontier into China. The strenuous trek across the Pamirs was made more difficult by a scarcity of supplies. In places they had to scale ice-covered dills, clutching onto projections and scant shrubs, their bare bands torn and bleeding.

Through all this the Lord preserved Fr. Jonah, as he himself declared, for later service as a bishop.

In the three years of his episcopate, he fulfilled Christ's principal commandment concerning love for one's neighbor to such a measure as to take anyone else, even a diligent worker, several decades. The dimensions and strength of this activity were remembered equally by the Orthodox and non-Orthodox. His Eminence Melety, then Bishop of Zabaikal, precisely summed up Bishop Jonah's activity: "He fed the hungry, gave drink to the thirsty, took in strangers, clothed the naked, and visited the sick."

The fulfillment of this commandment, prepared for by a life of ascetic struggle, was the substance of Bishop Jonah's whole life -- it was that good work which a bishop is enjoined to desire. It flowered in Manjuria [present-day Manchuli] in unflagging efforts on behalf of children, for whom an orphanage was established. Nor were the needs of adults neglected; somehow he found time and strength for everyone, Russian and non-Russian. And everyone mourned his death.

It was only for himself that he found no time. When he fell ill with angina, he continued to focus his attention on the needs of others, and without giving it much thought, rinsed his throat with kerosene; it quickly led to blood poisoning.

When, to everyone's dismay, it became evident that death was imminent, then, according to Archbishop Melety, a devout witness of the Saint's final hours, he began preparing himself, solemnly and imperturbably, for his passage to eternity. He had confession and partook of the Holy Mysteries, then he typed out his brief testament (several thousand copies were made and passed out on the day of his funeral). He bade farewell to everyone, and, whispering because his throat was sore, conveyed his final wishes. He expressed the desire to go to the church but, heeding the advice of those around him, he lay down. He departed to Christ as Archbishop Melety read the prayers for the departure of the soul.

The throngs of people that gathered for the funeral, the universal mourning (overcome by grief, one of the bishop's admirers died of a heart attack during the services), the ten-year old paralyzed boy who was miraculously healed when Saint Jonah appeared to him the night of the funeral and told the boy to take his legs -- all that is widely known.

For over sixty years, the Church consciousness has venerated Bishop Jonah as a God-pleaser who acquired the grace to intercede for those who call upon his name.

With the blessing of the Synod of Bishops of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad, émigrés from Manchuria realized a long-standing intent to go to China and try to find and bring back Saint Jonah's remains, which had been buried in 1925 near the St Innocent cathedral. Subsequently the cathedral was blown up and the graves demolished. Those who went succeeded in obtaining permission from local officials to excavate, but at the supposed site of the grave, they found nothing.

The memory of the life, the ascetic labors and the righteous repose of Bishop Jonah did not die out. In consensus with the unanimous voice of Bishop Jonah's contemporaries -- archpastors of the Far East, his clergy and flock -- and revering his labors as a church teacher, his extraordinary works of charity, his whole life aflame with love for his neighbor; recalling his exploit of confession and the miracle wrought after his burial, the Synod of Bishops ... has determined that Bishop Jonah of Hankow be revered as a God-pleaser in the choirs of saints who shone forth in the Russia land. It has further determined that he be commemorated on October 7 (OS), the date of his repose, and that his glorification take place on that date this year. Preparation for this solemnity and dissemination of related information is entrusted to Archbishop Anthony of Western America and San Francisco, and to Bishop Kyrill of Seattle.

We appeal to everyone to give thanks to God, wondrous in His saints, and we entrust all to the prayers of the newly-glorified Saint Jonah. Amen.

(signed) Metropolitan Vitaly and all the hierarchs participating in the Sobor

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