

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

Number 14

2 / 15 December 2013

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

Holy Prophet Habakkuk (Abbachum)

### THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

**25th SUNDAY after PENTECOST** (*Tone 8*)

**Holy Prophet Habakkuk**

**Saturday, 14 December (2 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 15 December (3 December o.s.)**

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

**ST NICHLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

**Wednesday, 18 December (5 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Thursday, 19 December (6 December o.s.)**

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

**26th SUNDAY after PENTECOST** (*Tone 1*)

**Conception of St Anna**

**Saturday, 21 December (8 December o.s.)**

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

**Sunday, 22 December (9 December o.s.)**

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

### SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

25th Sunday after Pentecost	
3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
Eph. §224 (4:1-6)	Luke §91 (18:18-27)
26TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
M	1 Tim. §278 (1:1-7) Luke §102 (20:27-44)
Tu	1 Tim. §279 (1:8-14) Luke §106 (21:12-19)
W	1 Tim. §281 (1:18-20; 2:8-15) Luke §104 (21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24)
Th	1 Tim. §283 (3:1-13) Luke §107 (21:28-33)
F	1 Tim. §285 (4:4-8,16) Luke §108 (21:37-22:8)
Sa	Gal. §205 (3:8-12) Luke §72 (13:18-29)
26th Sunday after Pentecost	
4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §85 (17:12-19)

### FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	15 December (2 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Habakkuk Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	16 December (3 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Zephaniah Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Tuesday	17 December (4 Dec, o.s.)	GM Barbara; St John of Damascus Fast: wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	18 December (5 Dec, o.s.)	St Sabbas the Sanctified Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Thursday	19 December (6 Dec, o.s.)	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Friday	20 December (7 Dec, o.s.)	St Ambrose of Milan Normal Fast Day ( <i>No oil</i> )
Saturday	21 December (8 Dec, o.s.)	St Patapius of Thebes Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Sunday	22 December (9 Dec, o.s.)	Conception of the Theotokos Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

### NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### LAST WEEK

**Namedays** – 13th (Apostle Andrew): Andrew O'Brien, Andrew Kostadis, Reader Andrew Welsh.

#### THIS WEEK

**Namedays** – 19th (St Nicholas): Nikolai Darenkov, Reader Nicolas Schidlovsky, Nicolas Straut.

**Birthdays** – 15th: Xenia Whitacre.

**Fallen Asleep in the Lord** – 18th: Archimandrite Joasaph (McLellan) (+2009); 20th: Serge Kropov (+2009).

#### THE REST OF DECEMBER

**Namedays** – 22nd (Conception of St Anna): Anna Straut; 22nd (Righteous Hannah): Mat. Nancy Hannah Barker; 29th (Holy Forefathers): Sarah Brangwynne; 30th (Prophet Daniel): Reader Daniel Lieuwen, Daniel Palko.

**Birthdays** – 22nd: Anna Straut; 29th: Elizabeth Lieuwen; 30th: Rdr Philip Hotz.

## 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.

**Need some more Lenten recipes?** We have an excellent Lenten Cookbook available in our kiosk, entitled *Food for Paradise: A Meatless Cookbook* put out by St John the Russian Parish in Ipswich, Massachusetts. This book is available to us through the kindness of the Brangwynne family.

**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.

**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.

**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. If you let Father know in advance, he will be happy to provide a written excuse for school absence or lateness for your child.

**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 Feasts of the Nativity and the Theophany 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.

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### FROM THE PROLOGUE FROM OCHRID

By Saint Nikolai (Velimirovic)

#### Holy Prophet Habakkuk

Habakkuk was the son of Asaphat from the tribe of Simeon. He prophesied six hundred years before Christ, during the time of King Manasseh, and foretold the destruction of Jerusalem. When Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, attacked Jerusalem, Habakkuk sought refuge in the land of the Ishmaelites. From there he returned to Judea, where he lived as a farmer. One day he was carrying lunch to the workers in the fields, when suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to him and said: Go carry the dinner that thou hast into Babylon unto Daniel, who is in the lion's den (Daniel 14:34). But Habakkuk responded: Lord, I never saw Babylon; neither do I know where the den is (Daniel 14:34-35). Then the angel took him by the hair and instantly brought him to Babylon, over an immense distance, to the lion's den, where Daniel had been cast by King Cyrus as a punishment for not worshiping the idols. O Daniel, Daniel, cried Habakkuk, take the dinner which God hath sent thee (Daniel 14:37), and Daniel took it and ate. Then the angel of God again took Habakkuk and carried him back to his field in Judea. Habakkuk also prophesied the liberation of Jerusalem and the time of the coming of Christ. He entered into rest in ripe old age and was buried at Kela. His relics were discovered during the reign of Theodosius the Great.