

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

Number 22

27 January / 9 February 2014

SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE (Tone 8)
SUNDAY OF THE HOLY NEW-MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN & PHARISEE (Tone 8)
NEW MARTYRS & CONFESSORS OF RUSSIA
Saturday, 8 February (26 January o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 9 February (27 January o.s.)

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

MEETING OF THE LORD

Friday, 14 February (1 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Saturday, 15 February (2 February o.s.)

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

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Tone 1)

Saturday, 15 February (2 February o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 16 February (3 February o.s.)

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

Su	The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee	
	<i>11th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §67 (21:15-25)	
	2 Tim. §296 (3:10-15)	Luke §89 (18:10-14)
	Sunday of the New Martyrs & Confessors of Russia	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Isaiah 43:9-14a • (2) Wisdom 3:1-9 • (3) Wisdom 4:7-15	
	Rom. §99 (8:28-39)	Luke §106 (21:12-19)
	34TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
M	2 Pet. §66 (1:20-2:9)	Mark §59 (13:9-13)
Tu	2 Pet. §67 (2:9-22)	Mark §60 (13:14-23)
W	2 Pet. §68 (3:1-18)	Mark §61 (13:24-31)
Th	1 John §69 (1:8-2:6)	Mark §62 (13:31-14:2)
F	1 John §70 (2:7-17)	Mark §63 (14:3-9)
Sa	THE MEETING OF THE LORD	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Exodus 12:51, 13:1-3, 10-16, 22:29; Numbers 8:16; Leviticus 12:1-4, 12:6, 8; Numbers 8:16-17 • (2) Isaiah 6:1-12 • (3) Isaiah 19:1-5, 12, 16, 19-21	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §8 (2:25-32)	
	Heb. §316 (7:7-17)	Luke §7 (2:22b-40)
Sa	2 Tim. §295 (3:1-9)	Luke §103 (20:45-21:4)
Su	The Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	<i>1st Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §116 [28:16-20]	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 3rd (St Maximos the Confessor): Maximos Bibas; 4th (Apostle Timothy): Timothy Morrow; 6th (St Xenia of Petersburg): Xenia Whitacre; 7th (St Gregory the Theologian): Gregory Welsh.

Birthdays – 5th: John Morrow.

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 14th (St Bridget of Ireland): Patricia Brigid Barker.

Birthdays – 14th: Peter Mladineo.

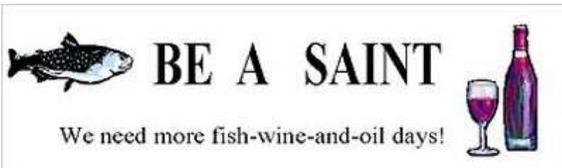
THE REST OF FEBRUARY

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

Birthdays – 20th: Daniel Palko; 24th: Frank Fitzgerald; 26th: Elena Kostin; 27th: Nadezhda Sexton; 28th: Seraphima Morrow.

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

During this first pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week between the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and that of the Prodigal Son, there is a general dispensation from all fasting. Meat and animal products may be eaten every day this week, even on Wednesday and Friday.



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 / 15 February) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It commemorates the Presentation of our Saviour in the Temple as a forty-day-old child and the purification according to the Mosaic Law of His Immaculate Mother after His birth. The faithful should attend as many of the services for the Feast as they are able.

The Blessing of Candles is performed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in some Orthodox traditions, including that of the Russian Church. This custom is also found in the Western Church. It undoubtedly comes from the reference to Christ "the Light to enlighten the Gentiles" in the Song of St Symeon first uttered at the time of the Saviour's Presentation in the Temple. Blessed Candles are brought home by the Faithful and kept with reverence in the Icon Corner. They are lit as a supplication to Christ for help or protection, as during a storm or in time of family dissension.

Request Forms for Blessed Candle are in the back of the church. These forms help ensure that a sufficient number of candles will be blessed so that no one is disappointed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. Please fill out the form with your family name, the number of blessed candles that you are requesting, and amount of your donation, and leave them at the candle desk with your donation. The blessed beeswax candles are more than three times larger than those that are normally offered at the candle desk, so your donation should reflect this. The Blessed Candle Request Forms can be filled out any time prior to the Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord (15 February, n.s.). Your blessed candles may be picked up any time after the Blessing of the Candles. Your candles will be reserved for you even if you are unable to attend the Liturgy on the Feast.

The Feast of the Meeting is celebrated for a variable number of days, from a single day to a full eight days, depending on when the Great Fast begins. (To determine the number of days of the Feast in any given year, an annual calendar should be consulted.) The troparion and kontakion of the Meeting are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the days of the festal period. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast (*'Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos ...'*) can be sung

instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast (*'Thou Who didst sanctify the Virgin's womb by Thy birth ...'*) 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.

Concerning Confession and Holy Communion: Those who have been to Confession this weekend may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting (15 February, 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 Meeting may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy the following Sunday morning under the same conditions.

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.

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held on the second Sunday of March. The Annual Meeting will replace the usual March Parish Council Meeting. Year-in-review reports for the past year are to be presented by the Rector, Church Warden, Treasurer, Auditing Committee, and Building Committee. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard, and Parish Council members for the coming year elected. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.

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.