

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 12

18 November / 1 December 2019

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 7*) Commemoration of the Holy Martyrs Plato and Romanus

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 7*)

Martyr Platon of Ancyra; Hieromartyr Romanus

Saturday, 30 November (17 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 1 December (18 November, o.s.)

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

ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS

Tuesday, 3 December (20 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Wednesday, 4 December (21 November, o.s.)

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

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 8*)

Apodosis of the Entry; HM Clement of Rome

Saturday, 7 December (24 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 8 December (25 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 Parish Council Meeting

FASTING DAYS Week of 1 December

| Day of Week | Date | Commemoration and Type of Fast |
|------------------|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sunday</i> | 1 December (18 Nov, o.s.) | Martyr Plato; Martyr Romanus Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |
| <i>Monday</i> | 2 December (19 Nov, o.s.) | Prophet Obadiah; Martyr Barlaam Xerophagy (<i>No oil</i>) |
| <i>Tuesday</i> | 3 December (20 Nov, o.s.) | St Gregory the Decapolite Fast: wine & oil permitted |
| <i>Wednesday</i> | 4 December (21 Nov, o.s.) | ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |
| <i>Thursday</i> | 5 December (22 Nov, o.s.) | Apostle Philemon & Company Fast: wine & oil permitted |

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| <i>Friday</i> | 6 December (23 Nov, o.s.) | St Amphilochius & St Gregory Xerophagy (<i>No oil</i>) |
| <i>Saturday</i> | 7 December (24 Nov, o.s.) | Great Martyr Catherine Fast: wine & oil permitted |
| <i>Sunday</i> | 8 December (25 Nov, o.s.) | Apodosis of the Entry Fast: wine & oil permitted |

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 1 December

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|-----------|--|-------------------------------|
| <i>Su</i> | 24th Sunday after Pentecost | |
| | 2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §70 (16:1-8) | |
| | Eph. §221 (2:14-22) | Luke §66 (12:16-21) |
| | 25TH WEEK after PENTECOST | |
| <i>M</i> | 2 Thess. §274 (1:1-10) | Luke §86 (17:20-25) |
| <i>Tu</i> | 2 Thess. §274a (1:10b-2:2) | Luke §87 (17:26-37) |
| <i>W</i> | ENTRY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS | |
| | Vespers Paramia: (1) Exodus 40:1-5, 9-10, 16, 34-35 • (2) I Kings 7:51; 8:1, 3-7, 9-11 • (3) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a | |
| | Matins Gospel: Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56) | |
| | Heb. §320 (9:1-7) | Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28) |
| <i>W</i> | 2 Thess. §275 (2:1-12) | Luke §90 (18:15-17, 26-30) |
| <i>Th</i> | 2 Thess. §276 (2:13-3:5) | Luke §92 (18:31-34) |
| <i>F</i> | 2 Thess. §277 (3:6-18) | Luke §95 (19:12-28) |
| <i>Sa</i> | Gal. §199 (1:3-10) | Luke §51a (10:19-21) |
| <i>Su</i> | 25th Sunday after Pentecost | |
| | 3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §71 (16:9-20) | |
| | Eph. §224 (4:1-6) | Luke §71 (13:10-17) |

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.

All Parishes of the Eastern American Diocese have been directed by the Metropolitan to take a special

collection to be given to the St Herman's Youth Conference Executive Committee. These donations help the Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference in December. At St Elizabeth's, we will be asking for special donations for this worthy cause on the Sundays of December. Please give generously.

The Parish needs donations for flowers for the Feast of the Nativity 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.

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.

The annual St Herman of Alaska Youth Conference will take place in Boston, Massachusetts, at *Holy Epiphany Church*, from Sunday, 23 December through Thursday, 27 December 2019. Youth from age 16 through young adult are invited. The Registration fee includes all lectures, activities, meals and lodging (quad occupancy). Transportation will be provided from the hotel to all activities and services. *The cost for the conference will be a discounted rate of \$300 if you register by December 1st.* After 1 December, the price will increase to \$350. Please register early, as space is limited. For further information and registration, please visit the website at www.StHermanConference.com This is a wonderful

opportunity to meet and socialize with other Orthodox Christian youth and clergy from the United States, Canada, Russia, and elsewhere. We would love to see all our youth from St Elizabeth's in Rocky Hill participate in this event.

The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (21 November / 4 December) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts. On it we remember the presentation of the Mother of God in the Temple in Jerusalem when she was three years old by her holy parents, the Righteous Joachim and Anna, where she remained serving the Lord until she was twelve years of age. All the faithful should be in church to honor the All-Pure One on this holy day.

The Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos is celebrated for five days, from the Feast Day itself through the *Apodosi* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 8 December (n.s). The festal period of this Feast is shorter than the usual eight days, because the Feast falls within the Nativity Fast. The troparion and kontakion of the Entry are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the five days. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast ('Today is the prelude of God's good will...') can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast ('The most pure temple of the Saviour ...') 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 will provide written excuses to students who are absent or late for school due to attendance at services for any of the Great Feasts of the Church. Please notify him in advance so that he can have it ready for your child.

Many Thanks:

- **To the men who hung** the large central icon of the Communion of the Apostles above the High Place in the Altar.
- **To the men who transported and stored** our new adult Baptismal Tank in the attic above the pavilion.

Help Needed:

- **A person or two to dust** and replace the burned out light bulbs on the chandelier in the nave.
- **A group of people** to empty, tighten, and refill the 5 sand-filled candle stands in the nave.