

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 23

3 / 16 February 2020 THE SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 2*) Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (*Tone 2*)

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)

Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls

Saturday, 22 February (9 February, o.s.)

5:15 AM General Pannykhida

MEATFARE SUNDAY: Last Judgment (*Tone 3*)

Saturday, 22 February (9 February, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 23 February (10 February, o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

The second pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week beginning with the Sunday of the Prodigal Son and ending with Meatfare Sunday, is called the Week of 'Carnival' or 'Meatfare.' It is so termed because it is the last week that we eat meat and meat products before Pascha. The usual fast is kept on Wednesday and Friday. Otherwise there is no special fasting.

FASTING DAYS Week of 15 February

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Wednesday	19 February (6 Feb, o.s.)	St Bucleus; St Photius the Great Fast: wine & oil permitted
Friday	21 February (8 Feb, o.s.)	Apodosis of the Meeting Fast: wine & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 15 February

Su	The Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)
35TH WEEK after PENTECOST (Meatfare Week)		
M	1 John §71 (2:18-3:10a)	Mark §49 (11:1-11)
Tu	1 John §72 (3:10b-20)	Mark §64 (14:10-42)
W	1 John §73 (3:21-4:6)	Mark §65 (14:43-15:1)
Th	1 John §74 (4:20-5:21)	Mark §66 (15:1-1-15)
F	2 John §75 (1:1-13)	Mark §68 (15:22, 25, 33-41)
Sa	Meatfare Saturday: Saturday of Souls	
	1 Cor. §146 (10:23-28)	Luke §105 (21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36)
	1 Thess. §270 (4:13-17)	John §16 (5:24-30)
Su	Meatfare Sunday: The Sunday of the Last Judgment	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	1 Cor. §140 (8:8-9:2)	Matt. §106 (25:31-46)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special collection for Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York, has been mandated by our Metropolitan and the Synod of Bishops of ROCOR on the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Three Hierarchs: 12 February, n.s. A special collection will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of February. This collection will help the Orthodox Theological Seminary of our Russian Orthodox Church Abroad to continue to educate the future clergy of our Church in a spirit of fidelity to Orthodox Tradition in a monastic setting. Funds are needed to pay faculty, provide scholarships to students, maintain facilities, and expand programming. Holy Trinity Seminary now conducts instruction in the English language and is moving forward to with plans to institute a Master of Divinity (MDiv) program. Please give generously.

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. (This year the Feast is celebrated for the full eight days. The Apodosis of the Feast is Friday, 8 / 21 February.) 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.

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

The Saturday of Souls (or Soul Saturday) is a day set aside for commemoration of the departed within the Orthodox Christian liturgical year. Saturday is a traditional day for prayer for the dead, because our Lord’s body lay dead in the Tomb while His soul descended to hades on Saturday. There are several Soul Saturdays throughout the year:

- The Saturday of Meatfare Week, the second Saturday before Great Lent begins, the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgement (Meatfare Sunday)
- The second Saturday of Great Lent
- The third Saturday of Great Lent
- The fourth Saturday of Great Lent
- *Radonitsa (Tuesday after Thomas Sunday)*
- The Saturday before Pentecost
- Demetrius Saturday (the Saturday before the feast of the Great Martyr Demetrius: 26 October / 8 November).

The Divine Services on these days have special hymns added to them to commemorate the departed. There is normally a Pannykhida (Memorial Service) served either after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday morning, or after Vespers on Friday evening, for which *kolyva* (a dish made of sweetened boiled wheat) is prepared and placed in front of the cross before which the Pannykhida is served. After the service, the priest blesses the *kolyva* and it is then eaten as a memorial by all present.

This Saturday is the most important of the Soul Saturdays of the year. *There will be no Friday evening services or Saturday morning Liturgy for this Soul Saturday this year.* A General Pannykhida (Memorial Service) will be served on Saturday afternoon at 5:15, immediately preceding the Saturday evening Vigil. The names of the Departed in all the Commemoration Books kept at the church will be commemorated at these services. If you need to update your books, please take this opportunity to do so.

If anyone is able to provide a donation of *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for this Soul Saturday, please let Father know.

Only the names of Orthodox Christians are permitted to be commemorated at Memorial Services and at the Proskomedia. If you have included Non-Orthodox in your Commemoration Book or Commemoration Lists, please clearly indicate which persons named, if any, are Non-Orthodox.

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

There will be a blessing of Crosses at St Elizabeth’s at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the Third Sunday of Great Lent: the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross. Because this day is dedicated to our veneration of the Holy Cross, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of Crosses, both those worn around the neck and those hung on walls. If you have crosses 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 Third Sunday of the Fast.



THE MEETING OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE
