

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XX

Number 11

12 / 25 November 2018

THE TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

**Our Father Among the Saints John, the Almsgiver;
Our Venerable Father Nilus the Faster**

SERVICES THIS WEEK

26TH SUNDAY after PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

St John the Merciful; St Nilus the Faster

Saturday, 24 November (11 November, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 25 November (12 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Coffee Hour
12:30 PM Adult Study

27TH SUNDAY after PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)

Prophet Obadiah & Martyr Barlaam of Caesarea

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 2 December (19 November, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Coffee Hour
12:30 PM Adult Study

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 25 November

<i>Su</i>	26th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §53 (10:25-37)
27TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	1 Tim. §285a (5:1-10)	Luke §75 (14:12-15)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Tim. §286 (5:11-21)	Luke §77 (14:25-35)
<i>W</i>	1 Tim. §287 (5:22-6:11a)	Luke §78 (15:1-10)
<i>Th</i>	1 Tim. §289 (6:17-21)	Luke §80 (16:1-9)
<i>F</i>	2 Tim. §290 (1:1-2, 8-18)	Luke §82 (16:15-18; 17:1-4)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Luke §49 (9:57-62)
<i>Su</i>	27th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Luke §66 (12:16-21)

ST JOHN THE MERCIFUL, PATRIARCH OF ALEXANDRIA

John was born on the island of Cyprus. His father was Prince Epiphanius. John was raised as a true Christian from childhood. At the insistence of his parents, he married and had children. However, by God's providence, his wife and children passed from this world into the next. Renowned for his compassion and piety, John was chosen as Patriarch of Alexandria in the time of Emperor Heraclius. He governed the Church of Alexandria for ten years as a true shepherd, safeguarding it from pagans and heretics. He was a model of meekness, charity and love for his fellow men. He said: "If you desire nobility, seek it not in blood but in virtues, for this is true nobility." All the saints have been distinguished by mercifulness, but St. John was completely dedicated to this wonderful virtue. Once, while celebrating the Liturgy, the patriarch remembered the words of Christ, Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee, leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift (Matthew 5:23-24), and he remembered that one of the clergy in that church had a grievance against him. He quickly left the Holy Gifts, approached that priest, fell before his feet and begged for forgiveness. And only when he had made peace with this man did he return to the table of oblation. Another time, as he was on his way to the Church of Saints Cyrus and John, it happened that he met a needy and unfortunate widow who spoke to him at length about her misfortune. The patriarch's escorts became bored by the woman's lengthy complaint,

FASTING DAYS Week of 25 November

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	28 November (15 Nov, o.s.)	MM Gurias, Samonas, & Habib Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Thursday</i>	29 November (16 Nov, o.s.)	Apostle & Evangelist Matthew Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	30 November (17 Nov, o.s.)	St Gregory of Neo-Caesarea Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Saturday</i>	1 December (18 Nov, o.s.)	Martyr Platon; Martyr Romanus Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Sunday</i>	2 December (19 Nov, o.s.)	Prophet Obadiah; Martyr Barlaam Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)

and urged the bishop to hurry to the church for the service, intimating that he could hear the woman's story afterward. John said to them: "And how will God listen to me, if I do not listen to her?" He would not leave until he heard the widow's complaint to the end.

When the Persians attacked Egypt, Patriarch John boarded a boat to escape from danger. Along the way he fell ill and, when he arrived in Cyprus, he reposed at his birthplace, in the year 620 A.D. After he entered the Immortal Kingdom of his Lord, his miracle-working relics were translated to Constantinople, then to Budapest, and finally to Presburg.

THE VENERABLE NILUS OF SINAI

Nilus was at first a prefect in the capital city, Constantinople. As a married man, he had a son and a daughter. Seeing the sinful life of the capital, he agreed with his wife to withdraw from the world. This they did. His wife and daughter went to a convent in Egypt. Nilus and his son Theodulus went to Mount Sinai. Nilus lived a life of asceticism on Mount Sinai for a full sixty years. He wrote wonderful books on the spiritual life. He entered peacefully into rest in about the year 450 A.D., in the eightieth year of his earthly existence, and took up his habitation in the blessed heavenly life. These holy words are his: "Physical passions have their origin in physical desires, and against them abstinence is necessary; but spiritual passions are born of spiritual desires, and against them, prayer is necessary."

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome the news that Michael & Lucy Fiocca became the parents of a baby boy on 11 November 2018. Fr David travelled to Philadelphia to name the baby Ignatius Sunday. Many Years to Michael, Lucy, and the infant Ignatius!

Many thanks to Nina Titus agreeing to be Parish Council Secretary. This will be a great help to the work of the Council.

We also thank Irina Plotnikova for volunteering to provide beds for the night for two of the visiting Jordanville Seminarians on Saturday, 15 December 2018. May the Lord bless her!

This is the final Sunday for the special collection for the Fund for Assistance to the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia. If you have already donated may the Lord bless you. If you have not, please consider giving today.

This is the final Sunday for our formal collection of toys and personal care items for the 'Christmas Care' Program of the Jail Chaplaincy of Somerset County. However, if you still want to donate to this worthy cause, the Jail Chaplaincy can still use toys up to the 2nd Sunday of December and personal care items until the 3rd Sunday of December. May God bless you for your generosity to the needy.

LOOKING AHEAD

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.

Two Professors and three Seminarians from Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York, on Sunday, 16 December 2018, at St Elizabeth's for the Divine Liturgy and trapeza. During the meal, the Seminarians and Professors will speak about the current state of Holy Trinity Seminary and one of the professors, Fr Deacon Andrei Psarev will offer a presentation on: 'the Inter-Council Presence of the Russian Church as a Phenomenon of Conciliarity'.

A Sister from St Elizabeth's Convent in Minsk, Belarus will be visiting us for the Feast of St Nicholas the Wonderworker on 18 and 19 December 2018. We have had Sisters visit us a few times in the past and it is always edifying. We hope that Sister will speak to the assembled children at the end of the Liturgy and give a little talk to all at trapeza following the Liturgy. The Sisters bring devotional items and handicrafts with them on their parish visits, so there will be an opportunity to buy some Christmas gifts as well.

We still need a volunteer family to provide a bed for the night of 18 December 2018 for the Sister from Belarus. She will also need to be picked up at the train station in Princeton Junction on December 18th and brought to St Elizabeth's for the Vigil Service, If you can pick up Sister from the train station and/or put her up for the night, please let Fr David know.

Ignatius Fiocca will be baptised, Lord willing, on Saturday, 22 December 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at St Elizabeth's. All our parishioners are invited to witness the Baptism

The annual St Herman of Alaska Youth Conference will take place in Albany, New York at *the Nativity of the Mother of God Church*, from Sunday, 23 December through Thursday, 27 December 2018, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia and of His Grace, Archbishop Gabriel of Montreal and All Canada. The program includes spiritual lectures and discussion groups, church services, the chance to meet other Orthodox youth, and social outings. 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 prior to the November 30th deadline and includes lodging, meals, and local transportation. Limited scholarships are available. After 30 November, 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.