

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XX

Number 15

10 / 23 December 2018

THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 5)
Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and EUGRAPHUS of Alexandria

SERVICES THIS WEEK

30TH SUNDAY after PENTECOST (Tone 5)
Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes, and EUGRAPHUS
Saturday, 22 December (9 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Coffee Hour

SUNDAY of the FOREFATHERS (Tone 6)
Holy Prophet Daniel & the Three Holy Youths
Saturday, 29 December (16 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 30 December (17 December, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Coffee Hour

FASTING DAYS Week of 23 December

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Sunday	23 December (10 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Menas & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Monday	24 December (11 Dec, o.s.)	St Daniel the Stylite Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
Tuesday	25 December (12 Dec, o.s.)	ST HERMAN OF ALASKA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Wednesday	26 December (13 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Eustathius & Companions Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Thursday	27 December (14 Dec, o.s.)	Martyr Thyrsus & Companions Fast: wine & oil permitted
Friday	28 December (15 Dec, o.s.)	St Eleutherius & Companions Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
Saturday	29 December (16 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Haggai Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Sunday	30 December (17 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Daniel & the 3 Youths Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 23 December

Su	30th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §64 (20:11-18) Col. §258 (3:12-16) Luke §85 (17:12-19)	
31ST WEEK after PENTECOST		
	Heb. §329 (11:17-23, 27-31)	Mark §33 (8:11-21)
	Heb. §333 (12:25, 26, 13:22-25)	Mark §34 (8:22-26)
	James §50 (1:1-18)	Mark §36 (8:30-34)
	James §51 (1:19-27)	Mark §39 (9:10-16)
	James §52 (2:1-13)	Mark §41 (9:33-41)
	Col. §249a (1:3-6)	Luke §74 (14:1-11)
Su	Sunday of the Holy Forefathers	
	<i>9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §65 (20:19-31) Col. §257 (3:4-11) Luke §76 (14:16-24)	

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many Years to the newly-illuminated Ignatius Fiocca who was baptised on Saturday, 22 December 2018 at St Elizabeth's. Many Years also to Ignatius' parents Lucy and Michael Fiocca, and to his Godfather, John Morrow!

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.

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.

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 Proskomedie on the Holy Days.

MANY THANKS

Many thanks to Irina Plotnikova and to Masha Lichtenstein for volunteering to provide beds for the night for the visiting Jordanville Instructors and Seminarians on Saturday, 15 December 2018. May the Lord bless Irina and Masha!

Many thanks to the Darenkov Family for transporting and providing a bed for Sister Elena from St Elizabeth's Convent in Minsk, Belarus, for the Feast of St Nicholas. May the Lord bless the Darenkovs!

Many thanks to all who gave donations for the gift bags which were given in the name of St Nicholas to the parish children attending services for the Feast of St Nicholas on 6 / 19 December.

Many thanks also to the ladies who prepared the St Nicholas gift bags for the parish children attending services for the Feast of St Nicholas.

Many thanks to the families who clean the church on a regular basis. This is a true labor of love for the Lord and His holy house. May the Lord see what you do quietly for Him and bless you!

CONCERNING CONFESSION

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.

If you have not gone to Confession and received Holy Communion during the course of the Nativity Fast, it is important to make the spiritual effort to participate in the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion during this Lenten season. The best time to go to Confession is during or following the Vigil Service on Saturday evenings and the Eve of Feasts. It is also always possible to make your Confession to a priest outside the time of the Divine Services by prior appointment. Going to Confession on a Sunday or Feast Day morning is difficult for the priest, who is very busy serving the Proskomedie, and inconsiderate of fellow parishioners, as it often delays the beginning of the Liturgy. Nevertheless there is usually time for three or four short Confessions during the Third and Sixth Hours prior to Liturgy. Those with good reason to come to Confession in the morning rather than the evening before should arrange in advance with Father to come before Liturgy begins, but they need to remember that the Confession should be as concise as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD

A special collection for the Haiti Mission of ROCOR will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of January. As you know, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and our Haitian Orthodox brethren are too poor to fully support the needs of their young church. They need the help of those of us who have more than enough. Please give generously.

During the last five days of the Nativity Fast, from the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ (2 January, n.s.) through the Eve of the Feast (6 January, n.s.), the Fast becomes a bit stricter. Weekday fasting rules are the same as during the rest of the Nativity Fast, but Fish is no longer permitted on Saturdays and Sundays, only wine and oil.

St Elizabeth's Annual Christmas Party will take place on the Sunday after the Nativity (13 January), after the Divine Liturgy. All parishioners are urged to attend and bring dishes of food to share. Please mark your calendar.

The Parish Council will meet on the third Sunday of this month rather than the second Sunday, so as to conflict with our annual Parish Christmas Party.

