

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XX

Number 16

17 / 30 December 2018

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY FOREFATHERS (Tone 6)

Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Daniel & of the Three Holy Youths

SERVICES THIS WEEK

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

1:00 PM Moleben to St Xenia of Petersburg

Forefeast of the Nativity; Great-Martyr Anastasia

Friday, 4 January (22 December, o.s.)

9:00 AM Royal Hours of the Nativity

SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY (Tone 7)

Sunday of the Fathers & Eve of Nativity

Saturday, 5 January (23 December, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 6 January (24 December, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Sunday, 6 January (24 December, o.s.)

11:30 AM Great Vespers;
Coffee Hour

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Monday, 7 January (25 December, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

No Coffee Hour today



FASTING DAYS

Week of 30 December

| Day of Week | Date | Commemoration and Type of Fast |
|-------------|----------------------------|---|
| Sunday | 30 December (17 Dec, o.s.) | Prophet Daniel & the 3 Youths Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted |
| Monday | 31 December (18 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Sebastian & Companions Xerophagy (No oil) |
| Tuesday | 1 January (19 Dec, o.s.) | Martyr Boniface of Tarsus Fast: wine, & oil permitted |
| Wednesday | 2 January (20 Dec, o.s.) | St Ignatius; St John of Kronstadt Fast: wine, & oil permitted |
| Thursday | 3 January (21 Dec, o.s.) | Virgin-martyr Juliana Fast: wine, & oil permitted |
| Friday | 4 January (22 Dec, o.s.) | Great-martyr Anastasia Xerophagy (No oil) |
| Saturday | 5 January (23 Dec, o.s.) | Ten Martyrs of Crete Fast: wine, & oil permitted |
| Sunday | 6 January (24 Dec, o.s.) | Eve of Nativity; Martyr Eugenia Strict Fast: wine, & oil permitted |

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 30 December

| | | |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Su | Sunday of the Holy Forefathers | |
| | <i>9th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §65 (20:19-31)</i> | |
| | Col. §257 (3:4-11) | Luke §76 (14:16-24) |
| 32ND WEEK after PENTECOST | | |
| M | James §53 (2:14-26) | Mark §48 (10:46-52) |
| Tu | James §54 (3:1-10) | Mark §50 (11:11-23) |
| W | James §55 (3:11-4:6) | Mark §51 (11:22b-26) |
| Th | James §56 (4:7-5:9) | Mark §52 (11:27-33) |
| F | Eve of the Nativity of the Lord: Royal Hours | |
| | <i>1st Hour: Micah 5:2-4 • Heb. §303 (1:1-12) • Matt. §2 (1:18-25)</i> | |
| | <i>3rd Hour: Baruch 3:35-4:4 • Gal. §208 (3:23-29) • Luke §5 (2:1-20)</i> | |
| | <i>6th Hour: Isaiah 7:10-16a; 8:1-4, 8b-10 • Heb. §304 (1:10=2:3) • Matt. §3 (2:1-12)</i> | |
| | <i>9yj Hour: Isaiah 9:6-7 • Heb. §306 (2:11-18) • Matt. §4 (2:13-23)</i> | |
| F | 1 Pet. §58 (1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10) | Mark §53 (12:1-12) |
| Sa | Saturday before the Nativity of the Lord | |
| | Gal. §205 (3:8-12) | Luke §72 (18:13-29) |
| Su | Sunday before the Nativity: the Holy Fathers | |
| | <i>Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21</i> | |
| | <i>10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: John §66 (21:1-14)</i> | |
| | Heb. §328 (11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40) | Matt. §1 (1:1-25) |

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

This is the final Sunday for the special collection for the St Herman's Youth Conference. If you have already donated may the Lord bless you. If you have not, please consider giving today.

The Parish still 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 Proskomedija on the Holy Days.

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 Proskomedija, 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.

Those who have been to Confession in the previous two weeks may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies on Christmas Eve (6 January, n.s.) and Christmas Day (7 January, 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 Nativity may continue to receive Holy Communion through the Feast of Theophany under the same conditions.

LOOKING AHEAD

We will have a full schedule of services at St Elizabeth's for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. The Royal Hours will be served this Friday morning (4 January, n.s.) at 9:00. Immediately following the usual Liturgy of St John Chrysostom next Sunday (6 January, n.s.), we will serve Great Vespers of Christmas. The Vigil Service (Great Compline, Matins, and First Hour) will be served this evening at 6 o'clock and the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great on the morning of the Feast (7 January, n.s.) at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10.

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.

There will be no trapeza / coffee hour on Christmas Day (7 January, n.s.) at St Elizabeth's. Please plan accordingly.

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.

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.

