

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

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SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

SERVICES THIS WEEK

SUNDAY OF PUBLICAN & PHARISEE (Tone 5)

Afterfeast of the Meeting of the Lord

Saturday, 16 February (3 February, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 17 February (4 February, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

Coffee hour

12:30 PM Adult Study

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON (Tone 6)

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 24 February (11 February, 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 17 February

<i>Su</i>	The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	2 Tim. §296 (3:10-15)	Luke §89 (18:10-14)
34TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	2 Pet. §66 (1:20-2:9)	Mark §59 (13:9-13)
<i>Tu</i>	2 Pet. §67 (2:9-22)	Mark §60 (13:14-23)
<i>W</i>	2 Pet. §68 (3:1-18)	Mark §61 (13:24-31)
<i>Th</i>	1 John §69 (1:8-2:6)	Mark §62 (13:31-14:2)
<i>F</i>	1 John §70 (2:7-17)	Mark §63 (14:3-9)
<i>Sa</i>	2 Tim. §295 (3:1-9)	Luke §103 (20:45-21:4)
<i>Su</i>	The Sunday of the Prodigal Son	
	<i>Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i>	
	1 Cor. §135 (6:12-20)	Luke §79 (15:11-32)



FASTING DAYS Week of 17 February

During this first pre-lenten week of the Triodion, the week between the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee and that of the Prodigal Son, there is a general dispensation from all fasting. Meat and animal products may be eaten every day this week, even on Wednesday and Friday.

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. (To determine the number of days of the Feast in any given year, an annual calendar should be consulted.) 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 appropriate to sing the troparion of the

Feast instead of troparion ‘O Theotokos and Virgin, Rejoice...’ at the end of our morning prayers, and kontakion of the Feast instead of the kontakion of the Annunciation (‘To thee, the champion leader...’) at the end of our evening prayers at home.

Candles were blessed on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord. If you were unable to be present at the Liturgy on the Feast and so were unable to receive a blessed candle, please speak to Father. There are candles available.

LOOKING AHEAD

On Sunday, 24 February, a lecture entitled ‘Ministry to the Incarcerated’ given by Archpriest David Straut at 6:00 p.m. in the St Vladimir’s Memorial Church Hall, 134 Perrineville Road, Jackson, New Jersey. For more information, you may contact Fr Seraphim Chemodakov at Fr.Seraphim.Chem@gmail.com or by calling (732) 580-1586.

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 TWELVE SAYINGS OF ELDER PORPHYRIOS

1. The soul is so deep only God can know it.
2. Why should we chase the darkness? We should just switch on the light and the darkness will leave

on its own. We will allow Christ to dwell throughout our soul and the demons will flee.

3. Someone can speak about their sins and be proud, and someone else can speak about their virtues and be humble.
4. Nobody can become a Christian by being lazy. It needs work, lots of work.
5. If you want, you can even become holy in the middle of a city.
6. God loves us very much; He has us in His mind each and every moment and He protects us. We should know this and not be afraid of anything.
7. You should ask God to forgive you of your sins. And because you have asked him humbly and with pain of heart, God will forgive you all your sins and heal your body, too.
8. Great sadness and sorrow do not come from God. They are a trap set by the devil.
9. God takes care of the most intimate details of our life. He is not indifferent toward us- we are not alone in the world.
10. Fill your soul with Christ, with divine longing, with divine love, with joy. The joy of Christ will heal you.
11. Don’t be concerned about others loving you, but with you loving Christ and others. This is the only way for the soul to be filled.
12. The most important things is for people to love Christ and all problems will be resolved.

OTHER SAYINGS OF ELDER PORPHYRIOS

“The Lord Himself will teach us how to pray. We won’t learn prayer on our own, nor will anyone else teach us it. Don’t let’s say to ourselves, ‘I have made such -and-such a number of prostrations, so now I have secured divine grace,’ but rather let us make entreaty for the pure light of divine knowledge to shine within us and open our spiritual eyes so that we may understand His divine words. In this way, without realizing it, we love God without contorting ourselves and without exertion and struggle. What is difficult for man is easy for God. We will love God suddenly when grace overshadows us. If we love Christ very much, the prayer will say itself. Christ will be continually in our mind and in our heart.”

“Only the Religion of Christ unites and all of us must pray that they come to this. Thus union will occur, not by believing that all of us are the same thing and that

all religions are the same. They are not the same...our
Orthodoxy is not related to other religions.”