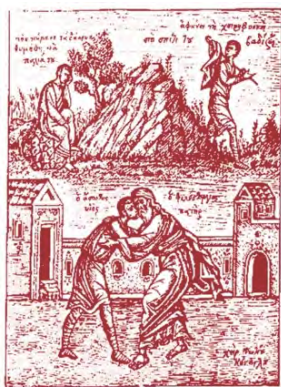


# ✠ THE NEW WITNESS ✠ TO THE ANCIENT FAITH

A Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church

FEBRUARY 2023



## *Glory to Jesus Christ!*

This month, we celebrate the cycle of liturgical services designed to prepare us for Great Lent—the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee on February 5<sup>th</sup>, the

Prodigal Son on the 12<sup>th</sup>, the Last Judgement on the 19<sup>th</sup>, and Forgiveness Sunday on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Great Lent begins on February 27<sup>th</sup>.

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*O Paradise, share in the sorrow of thy master who is brought to poverty, and with the sound of thy leaves pray to the Creator that He may not keep thy gate closed for ever. . . .*

*Bend down thy trees like living beings and fall before Him who holds the key, that thus thou mayest remain open for one who cries: “Have mercy on me, the fallen, O Merciful Lord.” †*

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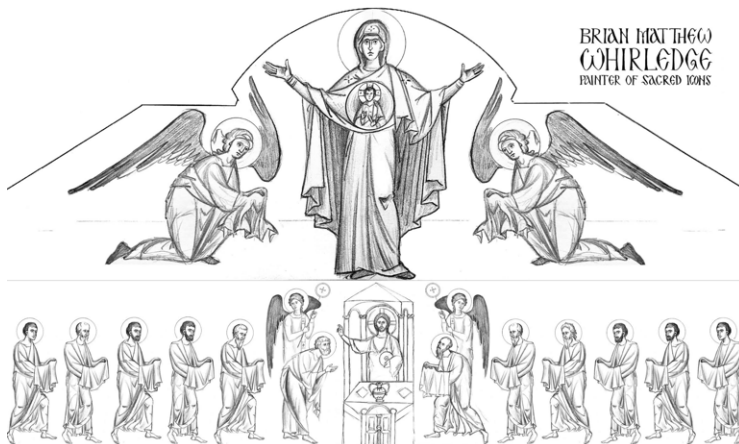
† Forgiveness Sunday, Kontakion on Adam’s Lament.

## Parish Life & Announcements

### Eastern Wall Iconography

Brian Whirledge—who painted our two new veneration icons of Christ and the Theotokos—has confirmed that he will be visiting our parish in February to paint the new icons that we have been eagerly awaiting for our eastern wall. These icons will include the Mother of God of the Sign on the upper register, and the Communion of the Apostles on the lower register behind the altar table.

Brian will be staying with us for two or three weeks as he undertakes this work. During that time, we will have scaffolding in place along the wall, so try not to be distracted by it! A sketch of the new iconography is pinned to our bulletin board is pictured below.



## New Catechumens

Recently, Allison Toth and Vic Peri were both enrolled in our catechumenate. If you have not yet welcomed them to the parish, be sure to do so soon!

## Services of Forgiveness Sunday & Clean Week

February culminates this year with the beginning of Great Lent on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Everyone should plan to attend Forgiveness Sunday Vespers on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m., following our coffee fellowship. The Great Fast officially begins following that service.

We do not have a choir to serve Great Compline, but we will still undertake to sing the Great Penitential Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete during the course of the first week of the fast (Clean Week). The Great Canon will be celebrated Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Our choir will be present for the Presanctified Divine Liturgy on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m., a wonderful way to complete Clean Week.

## Leaders of Ministries Needed

We continue to have needs for several existing ministries, including choir singers, greeters, and a coordinator for gardening. If you are able, consider one of these or another way of contributing to our common parish work!

## IOCC Charity Update

During the all-parish assembly, our parish children were busy putting together health

and hygiene kits for the IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities). We were able to assemble a total of 60 kits to distribute worldwide through the IOCC's international aid efforts. We have a surplus of some items and will keep them for a future event. Thank you to all who donated supplies!

## Pre-Lenten Women's Retreat

The pre-Lenten women's retreat is happening soon. As usual it will be at Holy Resurrection Church (OCA) in Tacoma on February 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$30 and includes lunch.

For more information and to register, go to [orthodoxtacoma.com/retreat](http://orthodoxtacoma.com/retreat) or see the flyer on the bulletin board. The deadline to register has already passed (on January 31<sup>st</sup>) but, if you are still interested in attending, you can try contacting Michelle at [mmewhinneyangel@hotmail.com](mailto:mmewhinneyangel@hotmail.com).

## Help with Pascha Eggs

Every year we have dyed red eggs for Pascha. Historically, Cheryl Lawson and Susan Ferrenberg dyed the whole batch (nine dozen eggs!). The eggs need to be dyed during Holy Week and, with Susan gone, Cheryl needs help.

We would like to spread the labor around and have multiple contributors. You can sign up to dye a dozen or two, and this would be a great project for kids to contribute to as well! If you are interested in helping, please start saving yellow onion skins now as this is how we traditionally dye the eggs. If you would rather dye them red some other way, that is fine too.

Please contact Cheryl if you would like to sign up to help during Holy Week and she can send you instructions for making the dye. You can contact Cheryl at [vincit.veritas.mmvi@gmail.com](mailto:vincit.veritas.mmvi@gmail.com).

## Women's Fellowship

The women's fellowship group is reading *Acquiring the Mind of Christ: Embracing the Vision of the Orthodox Church* by Archimandrite Sergius. You can find several new copies in the bookstore, or a Kindle version for \$8.49 on Amazon.

Our next meeting is February 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. You can bring a treat if you'd like, but that is not necessary. And if you need childcare, please let Terri Adkins know and we will provide it for you.

## Men's Fellowship

The men's fellowship group is reading *Rock and Sand* by Fr. Josiah Trenham, an Orthodox appraisal of the protestant reformers and their teachings. We meet every other Saturday at 9:00 a.m. If you are interested in attending, we'd love to have you! We are meeting this month on February 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

## Carpenter Needed

If you have carpentry skills and would be willing to make a bookshelf/base for the mailboxes in the trapeza, please contact Helenmae at church, at [mhmreed@msn.com](mailto:mhmreed@msn.com), or at (360) 917-6956.

## A Note from the Ferrenbergs

*Thank you all!*

*It was such a joy to be with all of you as we celebrated the union of Nicholas & Christen! It was such a beautiful ceremony and reception. Thank you for being there with us!*

*We wanted to also thank you all for all you did to help us make it all happen, from the loaning of cars and sharing of homes, to chauffeuring some of us around, helping to set up and clean up! You are all amazing! Thank you! We love you all and miss you much!*

*Dn. James & Susan  
Nicholas & Christen  
Kelsey  
Joseph*



# Parish Assembly Recap

We held our all-parish assembly on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. If you missed it, below is a recap:

## Pastor's Report

Our temple saw a lot of improvements in 2022. We installed beautiful custom wood chandeliers, designed and built by Gordy in coordination with Grier. We purchased new hand-painted veneration icons of Christ and the Theotokos, now housed in cherrywood kiots generously made by Mike Lindsey. We hung twelve new menaion icons across the western wall. And we contracted for new iconography on our eastern and western walls, with icons of the Theotokos and Apostles.

2022 also saw a lot of changes in our parish membership. We lost 30 members, mostly due to relocations, including the Ferrenbergs and the Hickmans for much of the year. We lost Patti Large and Vern Peterson (Memory Eternal!). This represents a loss of about 25 percent of our membership—the most in recent history. But we also welcomed 30 new members! Our parish is now composed of an increasing percentage of newer members; only 25 percent were here eight years ago when Father John arrived in 2014.

In addition to our new members, we are blessed with many new catechumens—Josh and Allison Toth, Mike Lindsey, John Olson, Chris and Grace Bynum, and Vic Peri.

Father John reminded us that membership numbers are not the only way to measure parish growth. It is just as important—and indeed, more so—for us to grow in our faith. We should all attend liturgical services regularly, including Saturday vespers at least once a month; engage in charitable outreach; and bear witness to the faith. We are blessed with many visitors and inquirers. They need to encounter an active parish and experience the love of Christ through us. That is how our parish will grow.

## Western Wall Iconography

In addition to our new eastern wall iconography in February, our new western wall iconography is scheduled to be installed during the summer of 2023.

Below is a sketch of the plan for our western wall—a large icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos flanked by icons of Old-Testament typologies of the Theotokos (the burning bush and Jacob's ladder).



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## New Choir Director

Two of our new members are Christine and Mike Adam, who travel more than two hours each way to be with us and direct our choir on Saturdays and Sundays. Our parish could not be more grateful to Christine and Mike for their sacrifice and help!

## Treasurer's Report & 2023 Budget

Nancy Conrad gave the Treasurer's Report. With so many departures in 2022, there was a great risk that we would be in financial straits. But with many new members and generous gifts, our 2023 income is projected to be only \$15,000 less than last year. The budget was passed with only minor differences in expenditures from last year!

## Parish Ministries & History

Suzanna Jefferis recently completed her report documenting the history of our parish and shows how we have sought to fulfill various ministries over the years. This is an important project to capture knowledge about our history before it is lost. If you would like a copy of Suzanna's report, please email Father John. Suzanna will send out a final draft once she receives any suggested comments, corrections, or edits.

## Elections

With Grier's term ending, Suzanna Jefferis accepted her nomination to serve as the newest member of the Parish Council. Francis Spillane will be the alternate should a vacancy occur this year.

Sheryl Lawson will be our lay representative at this year's diocesan assembly in October. Roxanne Bennet will be the alternate.

## New Alaskan Clergy Charity

On the first Sunday of each month, we collect for one of four rotating charities. This year, we voted to replace one of them (Fishline) with a new charitable collection for the Alaska Clergy Stipend Endowment. Donations to this endowment are needed to remedy seriously impoverished living conditions of clergy in the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska—the root of Orthodoxy in America. You can learn more about this endowment on the website for the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska ([here](#)), and watch a presentation about it on the OCA website ([here](#)). Our first monthly collection for this new charity will be Sunday, April 2, 2023. Our parish will also be donating \$200 per month to this charity out of our general fund.

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## Charity Sunday

February 5th – We will be collecting this month for Kitsap Homes of Compassion, a local charity working to find housing for those in need. If you forget your checkbook on Charity Sunday, you can always make a donation later in the month. Just write “charity” in the memo line of your check.

Last month, we collected \$649 for our in-parish charity fund. Thank you for your generous donations!

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## Bookstore News

This month we have a new title in our bookstore—*Money & Salvation: An Invitation to the Good Way* by Andrew Galeris. From the Ancient Faith website:

“Too often, we as hierarchs, clergy, and lay leaders speak to our people about giving to meet the needs of the Church or the needs of the poor, and we forget to teach that the true need for each and every one of us is simply to give. God did not recommend that we give only when there is some perceived need or a capital campaign for a project. God commands that we give for our salvation. This short but profound book explores the deeper spiritual meaning—and necessity—of financial giving.”

We also have several new prayer ropes from Kodiak, Alaska, and several titles in stock for Lent, including *The Lenten Triodion*, *The Lenten Spring*, *Great Lent: Journey to Pascha*, and *Meditations for Great Lent*.

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## Recurring Dates

### Catechesis

Father John continues in-person Monday catechesis from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All of our catechumens are attending this important part of preparing for entry into the Orthodox Church. Parishioners and inquirers are invited to attend to learn more about the faith.

Sunday catechesis also continues during the second half of the Divine Liturgy—except the fourth Sunday of each month, when there is no Sunday catechesis. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to participate.

The schedule for Sunday catechesis is below.

Feb. 5	New Martyrdom in Russia
Feb. 12	Making the Home Orthodox
Feb. 19	To Be Determined
Feb. 26	No Catechesis (Forgiveness Sunday)

## Orthodox Studies

Come pray with your fellow parishioners at vespers, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m., and then stay after to discuss our Orthodox faith. This is a particularly good time for introducing family members and acquaintances to the Church. Come with questions for Fr. John!

## Choir Practice

The choir meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for warm-ups before liturgy.

## Confessions

Father John is available for confessions every Saturday after vespers, and anytime by appointment.

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## Classifieds

### Help Moving

David Johnson is moving back from Ellensburg and needs help driving his car back to Port Orchard. It will be a long day to and from Ellensburg, but no furniture or heavy stuff to move. He can pay a little, too. If you can help, please contact David at [boizeau55@protonmail.com](mailto:boizeau55@protonmail.com). David is also looking for an affordable housing option in Kitsap County. If you know of any, please let him know.

### House for Rent

Ellen Martin has a house rental in the Kingston area. If you are interested, please contact her at [ellen.martin@enartis.com](mailto:ellen.martin@enartis.com).

## Prayer List

### Departed

ND Bishop Tikhon  
ND Eugenie  
ND Jed  
ND Roque

### Living

Michael  
Jeff Seraphim  
Irina  
Grace Elizabeth  
Laurel Larissa  
Arlene Anastasia  
Alison  
Adrienne Elizabeth CSB  
Carrie CSB  
Eupraxia  
Peggy Genevieve  
Kristen  
Emma  
Agnes  
Chelsea CSB

*ND: Newly Departed*  
*CSB: Child She Bears*



*St. Sergius the Builder, c. 1923*  
*By Nicholas Roerich*

## Miscellaneous

### Covid Precautions

Everyone is reminded that, with continued concerns about Covid, parishioners should keep four precautions in mind:

- Everyone who wishes to do so should feel free to wear a mask, but masks are not required;
- Windows can be opened to improve ventilation;
- Doors to the parish hall can be left open during services;
- If anyone tests positive for Covid and has recently been to the church, please be sure to let Father John know.

### Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to submit any materials, announcements, classifieds, or requests for this monthly newsletter, please contact Bryan Telegin at [teleginb@gmail.com](mailto:teleginb@gmail.com).

### Contact Us

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## February 2023 Daily Readings

2/1	1 Pet 4:1-11	Mk 12:28-37
2/2	1 Pet 4:12-5:5	Mk 12:38-44
2/3	2 Pet 1:1-10	Mk 13:1-8
2/4	2 Tim 2:11-19	Lk 18:2-8
2/5	<b>2 Tim 3:10-15</b>	<b>Lk 18:10-14</b>
2/6	2 Pet 1:20-2:9	Mk 13:9-13
2/7	2 Pet 2:9-22	Mk 13:14-23
2/8	2 Pet 3:1-18	Mk 13:24-31
2/9	1 Jn 1:8-2:6	Mk 13:31-14:2
2/10	1 Jn 2:7-17	Mk 14:3-9
2/11	2 Tim 3:1-9	Lk 20:46-21:4
2/12	<b>1 Cor 6:12-20</b>	<b>Lk 15:11-32</b>
2/13	1 Jn 2:18-3:10	Mk 11:1-11
2/14	1 Jn 3:11-20	Mk 14:10-42
2/15	1 Jn 3:21-4:6	Mk 14:43-15:1
2/16	1 Jn 4:20-5:21	Mk 15:1-15
2/17	2 Jn 1:1-13	Mk 15:22-25, 33-41
2/18	1 Cor 10:23-28	Lk 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36
2/19	<b>1 Cor 8:8-9:2</b>	<b>Mt 25:31-46</b>
2/20	3 Jn 1:1-15	Lk 19:29-40, 22:7-39
2/21	Jude 1:1-10	Lk 22:39-42, 45-23:1
2/22	Joel 2:12-26, 3:12-21	
2/23	Jude 1:11-25	Lk 23:2-34, 44-56
2/24	Zech 8:7-17, 8:19-23	
2/25	Rom 14:19-23, 16:25-27	Mt 6:1-13
2/26	<b>Rom 13:11-14:4</b>	<b>Mt 6:14-21</b>
2/27	Gen 1:1-13, Isa 1:1-20	Prov1:1-20
2/28	Gen 1:14-23, Isa 1:19-2:4	Prov1:20-33

*Sundays in red*

<https://www.oca.org/readings/monthly/2023/02>