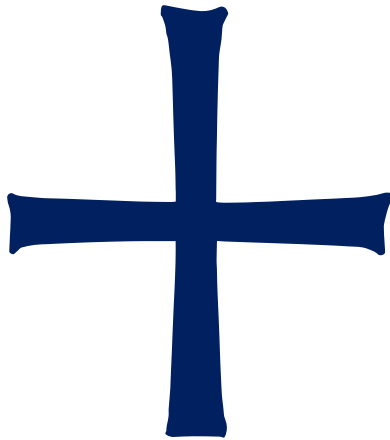


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

July 9, 2023—Fifth Sunday After  
Pentecost



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## Welcome to St. Elizabeth

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted you are here. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church. Please join us after the service for coffee and refreshments in our fellowship hall. If you have questions about any facet of Orthodox worship, our priest—Father John Strickland—would be very happy to meet and assist you in any way possible.

If you are not familiar with the Orthodox Church, you may see some things that are new to you—icons and incense, the sign of the cross, veneration of the saints, and a lot of standing. These elements have been part of traditional Christian worship from ancient times. They reflect the heavenly nature of the Church.

If you would like to learn more about Orthodoxy, we have a small bookstore where Orthodox publications may be purchased and a lending library where many Orthodox books and periodicals can be borrowed. If you would like to learn more about our parish, please visit our website at <https://stelizabethorthodox.org>. There, you can find a link to our parish YouTube page where you can view Father John's Sunday homilies.

Please note that Orthodox priests may serve Communion only to baptized and chrismated members of the Orthodox Church. The Eucharist is the paramount expression of unity among Christians; but the reality today is that many Christians are not united in matters of doctrine and practice. While some Christians are content to agree to disagree, we believe true unity will occur only when modern Christians are reconciled to the ancient Church, with its faith and life delivered “once, and for all.” In light of this, we respectfully request that rather than partaking of the Eucharistic Chalice, our non-Orthodox guests join us in receiving the *antidoron*—or blessed bread—served at the end of the Divine Liturgy.

Please feel free to contact Fr. John any time at (360) 598-9700 or [rector@stelizabethorthodox.org](mailto:rector@stelizabethorthodox.org).

—Thank you for joining us today. Glory to Jesus Christ!

## Bulletin News

- ❖ Sign-Up Sheet for Bishop's Visit—There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for tasks that need to be completed for Archbishop Benjamins' visit, including flower arrangements, dressing the tables in our parish hall, dusting, and cleaning. Please sign up! And see Helenmae with any questions.
- ❖ Women's Fellowship—There will be no women's fellowship group meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday. Instead, we will be meeting Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. Please see Terri with any questions.
- ❖ All-Parish Potlucks—We will be having all-parish potluck meals on Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with Archbishop Benjamin; on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup> following the Divine Liturgy for St. Elizabeth's feast day; and on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup> as it is the fifth Sunday of the month with no meal team assigned. Sign-up sheets are posted for these meals on the bulletin board.
- ❖ If you enjoy our Sunday meals and have not joined a meal team, please join one! We need your help. Contact Joy at whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com or talk to her at church to join a team.

## July Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ❖ Name days—St. Vladimir (July 15<sup>th</sup>); Royal Passionbearer Tsarina Alexandra (July 17<sup>th</sup>); St. Maria of Paris (July 20<sup>th</sup>); St. Mary Magdalene (July 22<sup>nd</sup>); St. Christina (July 24<sup>th</sup>);
- ❖ Birthdays—Reader Vladimir (July 28<sup>th</sup>)
- ❖ Anniversaries—Christine & Michael Adam (July 8<sup>th</sup>)

## This Week at St. Elizabeth

July 12 <sup>th</sup> —Wednesday 6:30pm Reader's Vespers	July 16 <sup>th</sup> —Sunday 10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
July 15 <sup>th</sup> —Saturday 4:00pm Choir Practice 5:30pm Arrival of Archbishop Benjamin 6:00pm Great Vespers	12:00pm Festal Meal with Archbishop Benjamin (All-Parish Potluck)

## Today's Hymns

Fifth Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 4.  
Hieromartyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina

### **Tone 4      Troparion    *(Resurrection)***

When the women disciples of the Lord  
learned from the angel the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,  
they cast away the ancestral curse  
and elatedly told the apostles:  
“Death is overthrown!  
Christ God is risen, //  
granting the world great mercy!”

### **Tone 5      Troparion    *(Church)***

O God-wise Elizabeth,  
with humility thou didst hide thy nobility and honor Christ  
especially by imitating the labors of Martha and Mary.  
As a sacrifice to God, thou didst arm thyself with works of mercy,  
patience, and love.  
Seeing thy life of good works and suffering, we sincerely beseech  
thee, our true teacher.  
O Venerable Martyr, Grand Duchess Elizabeth, //  
entreat Christ our God to enlighten and save our souls.

### **Tone 4      Troparion    *(St. Pancratius)***

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, thou didst become a  
successor to their throne.  
Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine  
contemplation, O inspired one of God;  
by teaching the word of truth without error, thou didst defend the  
Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. //  
O Hieromartyr Pancratius, entreat Christ God to save our  
souls!

**Tone 4      Kontakion    (*Resurrection*)**

My Savior and Redeemer  
as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their  
chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell,  
and as Master,//

He has risen on the third day!

**Tone 2      Kontakion    (*Church*)**

Who can tell of thy great acts of faith,  
O long suffering Grand Duchess Elizabeth,  
while enduring death in the depths of the earth,  
thou didst radiate the brightness of Paradise.  
Rejoicing in psalms and hymns, thou didst pray with the angels for  
thy torturers,

"O Lord forgive them for they know not what they do." //  
O Christ our God, through her prayers, have mercy, and save  
our souls.

**Glory . . .**

**Tone 4      Kontakion    (*St. Pancratius*)**

O Pancratius, thou wast revealed as a brilliant star for the people of  
Taormina.

Thou wast also shown to be a sufferer for Christ.//

Since now thou standest before Him, O blessed one, pray for  
those who honor thee.

**Now and Ever . . .**

. . . Over

## **Tone 6      Steadfast Protectress**

Steadfast Protectress of Christians,  
constant advocate before the Creator,  
despise not the entreating cries of us sinners,  
but in thy goodness come speedily to help us who call on thee in  
faith,  
hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos,//  
for thou dost always protect those who honor thee.

## **Today's Scripture Readings**

### **Epistle Reading—Romans 10:1–10**

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, 'Who will descend into the abyss?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **Gospel Reading—Matthew 8:28–9:1**

And when he came to the other side, to the country of the Gadarenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one could pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some

distance from them. And the demons begged him, “If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine.” And he said to them, “Go.” So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

## **Today’s Commemorations**

### **Priestly-Martyr Pancratius, Bishop of Taormina**

This saint was born in Antioch, during the time when the Lord Jesus Christ walked as a man among men on earth. Hearing about the miracles of Christ, the parents of Pancratius desired to see the Lord, the Miracle-worker. Together with Pancratius, they traveled to Jerusalem, where they saw Jesus, heard His words, and witnessed His miracles. There Pancratius became acquainted with the Apostle Peter. After the Ascension of the Lord, both the parents and the son were baptized in Antioch. Pancratius withdrew to a cave in Pontus, where the Apostle Peter found him. In agreement with the Apostle Paul, he appointed Pancratius as the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily. In Taormina, St. Pancratius worked many miracles, destroyed the idols, baptized the unbaptized, strengthened the baptized, and righteously governed the Church of God. A heathen commander by the name of Aquilinus heard that the entire city of Taormina had become Christian, and set out with an army in order to destroy the city. St. Pancratius calmed the fears of the faithful, and he himself went out from the city with the clergy, carrying in his hands the invincible weapon, the Honorable Cross. When the army approached the city, a darkness fell upon them and the soldiers were overcome with great fear. They were seized with great confusion, and turned against one another, stabbing and slaughtering each other with their swords. Thus the God-pleaser Pancratius saved the city and his flock by the power of his prayer before the Lord. Finally, Pancratius was stoned to death by envious and evil heathens, and found his rest in the Lord. His holy relics lie in Rome.

—From the Prologue of Ohrid

### **The Nicene Creed: the Symbol of Faith** (sung together)

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages: Light of Light, true God of true God; begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father; by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man; and He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end.

And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets.

In one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### **Pre-Communion Prayers** (said together)

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that Thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Who camest into the world to save sinners, of whom I am first. I believe also that this is truly Thine own pure Body, and that this is truly Thine own precious Blood. Therefore I pray Thee: have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance. And make me worthy to partake without condemnation of Thy most pure Mysteries, for the remission of my sins, and unto life everlasting. Amen.

Of Thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant; for I will not speak of Thy Mystery to Thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give Thee a kiss; but like the thief will I confess Thee: Remember me, O Lord in Thy Kingdom.

May the communion of Thy Holy Mysteries be neither to my judgment, nor to my condemnation, O Lord, but to the healing of soul and body. Amen.

