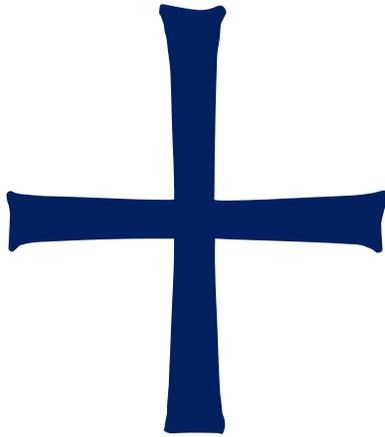


SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

February 11, 2024—36th 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.

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

Bulletin News

- ✦ Barrel Vault Iconography, Funds Fully Raised—Thank you everyone for your financial support for this project. We received additional funds of \$9,000 on Sunday, January 28th. We now have an excess in the fund of \$1,682 which will be used for additional expenses incurred when Brian Whirledge arrives to begin work on the iconography. Glory to God!
- ✦ 2024 Parish Picnic—In lieu of a camping trip this year we will be holding a parish picnic on July 27th at the Salsbury Point picnic shelter at 3160 NW Wheeler Street in Poulsbo. St. Herman parish of Port Townsend will be joining us. For more details, please see Danielle. You can contact her at Chantrieri@hotmail.com.
- ✦ 2025 Parish Camping Trip Coordinators Needed—Looking ahead to 2025, we will need a coordinator/planning group in place by August of 2024 to begin arrangements for a camping trip next year. If you are interested in helping us coordinate next year's camping trip, please contact Danielle at Chantrieri@hotmail.com.
- ✦ Meal Teams Need Your Help!—With so many families leaving over the past year, our meal teams are in need of help. If you have not joined a meal team yet, please consider doing so by contacting Joy at whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com.

February Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ✦ Name days—St. Abigail (Feb. 11); St. Mary of Alexandria (Feb. 12); Sts. Akilas & Priskila (Feb. 13); St. Anna of Novgorod (Feb. 10)
- ✦ Birthdays—Suzanna Jefferis (Feb. 15)

This Week at St. Elizabeth

Feb. 12th—Monday
6:30pm Catechesis

Feb. 17th—Saturday
6:00pm Great Vespers

Feb. 14th—Wednesday
6:30pm Reader's Vespers

Today's Hymns

36th Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 3.

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to 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. Blaise)*

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 Blaise, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

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 2 Kontakion *(St. Blaise)*

Godly shoot, unfading flower,
most fruitful branch of Christ the Vine,
God-bearing Blaise, fill with joy those who in faith honor thy
memory//
as thou unceasingly intercedest for us all.

Now and Ever . . .

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

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! (Ps. 46:6)

Epistle Reading—1 Timothy 1:15–17

This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 15:21–28

And Jesus went away from there and withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

Today's Commemorations

The Hieromartyr Blaise

Blaise was born in the province of Cappadocia. From his early childhood he was God-fearing and meek. Because of his great virtues, he was chosen as bishop of the city of Sebaste [in Armenia]. Blaise was a great spiritual and moral beacon in this pagan city. During a grave persecution of Christians, St. Blaise encouraged his flock and visited the martyrs of Christ in prison. Foremost among them was the eminent and glorious Eustratius. When the city of Sebaste was completely emptied of Christians--some were slain and others fled--the elderly Blaise withdrew to Mount Argeos and settled there in a cave. Wild beasts recognized the holy man and gathered around him, and he tenderly caressed them. But the persecutors found the saint in this remote place and brought him to trial. Along the way, Blaise cured a young boy who had a bone caught in his throat. At the plea of a poor widow whose pig had been snatched by a wolf, the saint, by the power of his prayer, made the wolf return it. The sinister judges tortured Blaise severely, flogging him and scrapping him with an iron comb. By his steadfastness in the Christian Faith, Blaise converted many pagans to the Faith. Seven women and two children languished in prison with him. The women were beheaded first, and afterward the wonderful Blaise was beheaded with the two children. He suffered and was glorified in the year 316 A.D. People pray to St. Blaise for the well-being of their domestic livestock and for protection against wild beasts. In the west, he is also invoked against diseases of the throat.

The Holy Martyr George of Kratovo

By origin, George was a Serb from the town of Kratovo. He was a silversmith by trade, and in his heart and soul he was a convinced and devout Christian. George was eighteen years old when the Turks tried to convert him to Islam, but George remained as firm as a diamond in his faith. The Turks tortured him with many cruel tortures and finally burned him at the stake. He suffered for the beautiful Faith of Christ on February 11, 1515 A.D., in Sofia, Bulgaria, during the reign of Sultan Selim, and was glorified with unfading glory in the heavens.

—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.

