

THE NEW WITNESS TO THE ANCIENT FAITH

A Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church



FEBRUARY 2024



Glory to Jesus Christ!

This month we celebrate the Presentation of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Temple on Friday, February 2nd. Later, we begin the cycle of liturgical services designed to prepare us for Great Lent with the Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee on February 25th.

Rejoice, Virgin Theotokos, full of grace: from thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder: thou hast accepted in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection.

By thy nativity, though didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and didst bless Simeon's hands, O Christ God. Now Thou hast come and saved us through love; grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of mankind. †

† Troparion and Kontakion of the Presentation of the Lord

Parish Life & Announcements

Barrel Vault Iconography Update—Funds Fully Raised!

As of Sunday, January 28th, we have reached our goal of raising \$35,100 for our new barrel vault iconography project. Thank you to all who donated! We will begin moving toward the installation of the iconography in the fall.

This will be a beautiful addition to our temple, with 24 saints along the length of the vault ceiling—female on one side and male on the other—all facing eastward and moving toward the Kingdom of Heaven with us during the Divine Liturgy. Above the altar we may have an icon of Christ's Ascension. We should have a sketch by iconographer Brian Whirlledge soon to post in the parish hall.

Among the saints to be depicted will be Matushka Olga of Alaska, making our parish one of the first in the world to have an icon of this wonderful, newly glorified saint.

Parish Picnic—Saturday, July 27th

We will be holding a parish picnic this summer (in lieu of a parish camping trip, due to fast booking for campsites) on Saturday,

July 27th at the Salisbury Point picnic shelter, 3160 NW Wheeler Street in Poulsbo. This is sure to be a wonderful event so please mark your calendars. St Herman parish of Port Townsend will be joining us for the festivities.

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. This is because cabin reservations will book/close this coming October, followed by motorhome sites, with few tent spots likely to be left by January of 2025. The campout committee may opt to collect some fees and prebook a location so we can secure some space.

If you are able to help plan our parish camping trip in 2025, please contact Danielle at chantrieri@hotmail.com.

Baptism of Arthur Lee

The newest member of our parish—Arthur Alexander Lee, son of Alex and Jordyn Lee—was baptized on Sunday, January 14th. Below is a photo of young Archie with his parents Alex and Jordan after the baptism, with sponsors Josiah and Sara Gilman.



Overdue Books at the Lending Library

Our parish lending library currently has a long list of books that have been checked out for several months. If you could look around and return books that you are no longer reading, it would be greatly appreciated!

Women's Fellowship

The women's fellowship group will be meeting on Tuesday, February 6th at 6:30 p.m. We will continue with Chapter 5 of *The Scent of Holiness* by Constantina Palmer. You can email Terri with any questions at adkinsterri7@gmail.com.

Men's Fellowship

The men's fellowship group is beginning a new book this month—*The Religion of the Apostles: Orthodox Christianity in the First Century* by Fr. Stephen DeYoung—available at Amazon ([here](#)) and from the Ancient Faith website ([here](#)).

From the Ancient Faith website:

Father Dr. Stephen De Young traces the lineage of Orthodox Christianity back to the faith and witness of the apostles, which was rooted in a first-century Jewish worldview. *The Religion of the Apostles* presents the Orthodox Christian Church of today as a continuation of the religious life of the apostles, which in turn was a continuation of the life of the people of God since the beginning of creation.

The men's fellowship group meets every other Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.—this month on February 10th and 24th.

Pre-Lenten Women's Retreat

The annual pre-Lenten women's retreat at Holy Resurrection in Tacoma is scheduled for March 2nd, 2024 (Lent begins March 18th this year). The topic this year will be "Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians" with Dr. Sarah Byrne-Martelli. The cost is \$30.00.

For more information and to register, go to orthodoxtacoma.com/retreat. The deadline to register is February 16th.

Livestreaming Services

We have now upgraded our internet service and will resume streaming services when we have technicians on hand to help. It is important to remember two things about watching services online. The first is that it is offered as a ministry for parishioners who due to health limitations (such as being sick during a given service) cannot attend. In this case it cannot be an alternative to being present with the assembly of the Body of Christ and participating in the sacraments. Second, it is offered as a ministry for non-parishioners—especially non-Orthodox—who want to learn about the Orthodox Church's worship and our parish.

👉 Please e-mail Bryan Telegin at bulletin@stelizabethorthodox.org for the Zoom link. The link may also be found in the signature line of Bryan's regular parish-wide emails.

Online Homilies

Independent of live streaming of services, Sunday homilies continue to be recorded and posted on our parish [YouTube](#) channel. We

also post Fr. John's most recent Sunday homily to the "resources" tab of our website.

2024 Parish Assembly Recap

We held our annual all-parish assembly on Sunday, January 28th. If you missed it, below is a recap:

Summary of Pastor's Report

Our temple saw a lot of improvements in 2023—most prominently with our new eastern and western wall iconography (the Icon of the Sign and Communion of the Apostles on the eastern wall, and Dormition and prophets on the western wall). We now have five new solid wood icon stands, designed by Gordy Becker and built by Gordy and Mike Lindsey. We installed a new security system (with big thanks to Dorian). Internet access at our parish is now greatly improved. We secured Christine Adams as our permanent choir director.

In terms of membership, our parish experienced two deaths this year—Camilla Athanasia Dirks on Christmas Day, and in March, Arlene Anastasia Henderson (memory eternal). We received seven new members through baptism and/or chrismation on Pascha. Our catechumenate continues to grow, with 13 catechumens awaiting reception at Pascha in 2024. There are currently 91 names on our parish's Proskedia list.

All members are encouraged to remember that attendance at the divine services serves both a personal and evangelical purpose. It is important that we all make a strong

commitment to attending the services, so that visitors and newcomers experience a strong, vibrant, energetic parish.

Treasurer's Report & 2023 Budget

Nancy Conrad presented the treasurer's report and proposed 2024 budget. Our parish's financial outlook for 2024 is healthy, with few differences from last year. The proposed budget was passed without change.

Parish Ministries & History

Last year Suzanna Jefferies put together a written history of our parish and overview of ongoing parish ministries. This has now been revised and a copy is available for viewing on the table in the narthex.

As always, everyone is encouraged to get involved in one or more ministries. We are especially in need of additional greeters, choir members, and members of the cleaning team. A directory of ministries (and who to contact to get involved) can be found at the front of the binder with Suzanna's write-up in the narthex.

Elections

Nancy Conrad's term on the Parish Council ended this year. Bryan Telegin was elected to fill her seat.

Sandy Wenberg was elected to be our lay delegate to the Annual Diocesan Assembly in October. Cheryl Lawson was elected to be her alternate.

Bookstore News

In the next few weeks, please be on the lookout for new and "new to us" books and icons at the bookstore.

Also, if you have used Orthodox books that you would like to sell, the bookstore will credit you 30% of the retail value, to be used in the parish bookstore. Used books will be sold for 50% of the retail value. Contact Sheryl at bookstore@stelizabethorthodox.org for more information

Charity Sunday

February 4th—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 \$913 for our in-parish charity fund. Thank you for your generous donations!

Recurring Dates

Resurrectional Vigil

In addition to our regular Saturday evening Great Vespers services, our parish is now serving the Resurrectional Vigil every first Saturday of the month at 6:00 p.m. This is a beautiful service of great importance to our Orthodox worship, culminating in the proclamation of the eleven Matins gospels from the altar. We would love to increase

parish-wide attendance at this important service. This month, the Resurrectional Vigil will be served on Saturday, February 3rd.

Vespers & Orthodox Studies

Come pray with your fellow parishioners at vespers, Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.—and then stay after for a half-hour or so discussing interesting and important topics of our Orthodox faith. This is a particularly good time for introducing family members and acquaintances to the Church. Come with questions for Father John!

Sunday & Monday Catechesis

Father John continues to teach catechesis every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Catechesis is also held each Sunday during the second half of the Divine Liturgy—except for the fourth Sunday of each month, when there will be no Sunday catechesis.

Game Night

Our parish game night is normally held the first Friday of every at 6:30 p.m. However, there will be no game night in February due to scheduling conflicts with the service for the Meeting of the Lord.

Game night will resume Friday, March 1st at 7711 NE Beacon Place in Bremerton at 6:00 p.m. Kids and food are welcome!

Choir Practice

The choir meets 30 minutes before each service to warm up and a couple times a month for practice. This month, practices are scheduled for Saturday, February 10th and 24th at 4:00 p.m.

Moleben of Healing

Our parish serves a moleben of healing on the first Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. before vespers—this month on February 7th.

Classifieds

Coffins by Gordy

Gordy Becker is ready to begin making coffins again. If you are interested in having a coffin built, or if you are interested in purchasing a coffin kit that can be assembled later, please contact Gordy either in person or by calling him at (206) 295-4237.

Prayer List

Departed

ND Camilla Athanasia
ND Gordon

Living

Pr. Symeon
Michael
Allison Brigit
Walter
John
Douglas Michael
Douglas John
Thomas
Rd. Cornelius
Jeff Seraphim
Nicholas
Raelynn

ND: Newly Departed
CSB: Child She Bears

Miscellaneous

Newsletter Submissions

If you would like to submit any materials, announcements, classifieds, or requests for this monthly newsletter, please contact Bryan Telegin at bulletin@stelizabethorthodox.org.

Contact Us

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[Website](#) • [Facebook](#) • [YouTube](#)



February 2024

Daily Readings

2/1	Heb 10:35-11:7	Mk 9:10-16
2/2	Heb 11:8, 11-16	Mk 9:33-41
2/3	Eph 5:1-8	Lk 14:1-11
2/4	Col 3:12-16	Mt 25:14-30
2/5	Heb 11:17-23, 27-31	Mk 9:42-10:1
2/6	Heb 12:25-26, 13:22-25	Mk 10:2-12
2/7	Jas 1:1-18	Mk 10:11-16
2/8	Jas 1:19-27	Mk 10:17-27
2/9	Jas 2:1-13	Mk 10:23-32
2/10	Col 1:3-6	Lk 16:10-15
2/11	1 Tim 1:15-17	Mt 15:21-28
2/12	Jas 2:14-26	Mk 10:46-52
2/13	Jas 3:1-10	Mk 11:11-23
2/14	Jas 3:11-4:6	Mk 11:22-26
2/15	Jas 4:7-5:9	Mk 11:27-33
2/16	1 Pet 1:1-2, 10-12, 2:6-10	Mk 12:1-12
2/17	1 Thess 5:14-23	Lk 17:3-10
2/18	1 Tim 4:9-15	Lk 19:1-10
2/19	1 Pet 2:21-3:9	Mk 12:13-17
2/20	1 Pet 3:10-22	Mk 12:18-27
2/21	1 Pet 4:1-11	Mk 12:28-37
2/22	1 Pet 4:12-5:5	Mk 12:38-44
2/23	2 Pet 1:1-10	Mk 13:1-8
2/24	2 Tim 2:11-19	Lk 18:2-8
2/25	2 Tim 3:10-15	Lk 18:10-14
2/26	2 Pet 1:20-2:9	Mk 13:9-13
2/27	2 Pet 2:9-22	Mk 13:14-23
2/28	2 Pet 3:1-18	Mk 13:24-31
2/29	1 Jn 1:8-2:6	Mk 13:31-14:2

Sundays in red.

<https://www.oca.org/readings/monthly/2024/02>