

THE NEW WITNESS TO THE ANCIENT FAITH

A Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church



OCTOBER 2023



Glory to Jesus Christ!

This month we celebrate the Protection of our Most-Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary on Sunday, October 1st. We look forward to

the start of the Winter Pascha with the Nativity Fast beginning November 15th.

Today the faithful celebrate the feast with joy, illumined by thy coming, O Mother of God. Beholding thy pure image, we fervently cry to thee: Encompass us beneath the precious veil of thy protection; deliver us from every form of evil by entreating Christ, thy Son and our God, that he may save our souls.

*Today the Virgin stands in the midst of the Church, and with choirs of saints she invisibly prays to God for us. Angels with bishops worship, apostles and prophets rejoice together, since for our sake she prays to the pre-eternal God.**

* Troparion and Kontakion of the Protection of the Mother of God

Parish Life & Announcements

Visit by Bishop Alexei of Sitka & Alaska

We had a great turnout for our visit from His Eminence Bishop Alexei of Sitka & Alaska, including the Akathist Service to Our Lady of Sitka and Bishop Alexei's presentation on the plight of Alaskan clergy and faithful. At the end of the evening, we were able to present His Eminence with a check for over \$4,000 raised by our parish to help grow the Alaska Clergy Stipend Endowment. Our parish continues to support this charitable effort through our Charity Sunday program, and our Parish Council has committed to a regular monthly donation.

During His Eminence's visit, we also had the great privilege of hosting and venerating the holy relics of St. Herman of Alaska and Our Lady of Sitka, one of the most revered icons in North America. Photos of Bishop Alexei's visit be found in the pages below.

New Vault Iconography

Now that we have completed the iconographical program of the western wall, we will be moving toward the program for the barrel vault of our ceiling. Our plan is to

have Brian Whirledge paint twenty-four saints along the length of it facing eastward, with twelve male saints on the south side and twelve female saints on the north side. Soon we should have a sketch by Brian to post in the parish hall. So far, we have received donations for about a third of the cost for this. We hope to raise the remainder between now and Pascha. If you would like to contribute, you can place a check designated “vault icons” in the tithe box or speak with our treasurer Nancy Conrad.

Help Needed with Charity Ministry

Our parish has recently experienced a renewal in our charity ministry, most importantly being able to commit to cooking dinner for those in need, every other month, at the Suquamish Community Kitchen.

However, we could still use help growing our charity ministry. If anyone is interested in co-leading the charity ministry with Jamie Telegin, please see Fr. John or Jamie. Many people have shared great ideas, but another one or two people to help organize and implement them would be incredibly helpful.

Livestreaming Services

We have now upgraded our internet service and will resume streaming services when we have technicians on hand during them. 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.

Online Homilies

Independent of live streaming of services, Sunday homilies continue to be recorded and posted on our parish [YouTube channel](#). Each week, we also post Father John’s most recent Sunday homily to the “resources” tab of our website ([here](#)).



Akathist Service with Bishop Alexei of Sitka & Alaska

Women's Fellowship

The Women's fellowship group began reading a new book in September—*The Scent of Holiness: Lessons from a Women's Monastery* by Constantina Palmer, an American woman who lived in Greece, visited a monastery regularly, and got to know the nuns. The Scent of Holiness is available on Amazon ([here](#)) and from the SVS Press website ([here](#)).

The Women's fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.—this month on October 3rd, when we will be reading the chapter entitled “Knot Three.” Please join us! Roxanne will be leading this discussion. You can email her at rox@tara-lu.com.

Men's Fellowship

The men's fellowship group is continuing to read *Thinking Orthodox: Understanding and Acquiring the Christian Mind* by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou. Thinking Orthodox is available at Amazon ([here](#)) and from the Ancient Faith website ([here](#)).

The men's fellowship group meets every other Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.—this month on October 14th and 28th. Come think Orthodox with us!

Parking

Parishioners should be aware that we have had occasional difficulty backing out of the main parking lot on Sundays. Please be sure to park in the second row with enough space for cars in the first row along the fence. There is an overflow area for parking on the other side of the church when needed.

Help Needed with Meal Teams

Our meal teams need your help. If you enjoy our Sunday meals together—and if you have not joined a meal team yet—please join one! Monthly meal contributions can be large or small, and every little bit helps. Email Joy at whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com or contact her at church to join a team.

Church School Cancelled

Due to a shortage of children this year, there will be no church school after the Liturgy on Sundays.



Our Lady of Sitka

Security Camera System

We have now largely completed the installation of our security camera system at Saint Elizabeth Church. Cameras have been installed outside and within both buildings. It is to be emphasized that no cameras will record audio. Furthermore, all video recordings will be contained within secure storage devices and access to them will only be granted by Father John in the case of an incident.

Game Night

Game night has returned with a new place and time—first Friday of every month, this month on October 6th—at the club house where Nancy and Walter live. The night begins at 5:30 and runs till about 10:15 p.m. The address is 7771 NE Beacon Place in Bremerton. There is parking alongside the entrance lane leading into the community parking area. Bring your games!

For more information, email Danielle at chantrieri@hotmail.com.

Charity Sunday

October 1st— After Liturgy we will be collecting for our parish. This fund is to assist members of the parish, their family members, and those in the community who have asked for assistance. You can give to this fund after Liturgy on the 1st or anytime throughout the month of May. Please indicate “charity” on the memo line of your check so we can ensure the money goes to the appropriate fund.

Over the past two months, parish donations to the Alaska Clergy Stipend Endowment totaled more than \$4,000. And in July, parish donations to the St. Nicholas Uganda Children’s Fund totaled \$800. Thank you for giving so generously!



Holy Relics of St. Herman of Alaska

Recurring Dates

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 and Monday Catechesis

Father John teaches our evening catechesis every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We also hold Sunday catechesis during the second half of the Divine Liturgy—except for the fourth Sunday of each month, when there is no Sunday catechesis.

Moleben of Healing

The first Wednesday of every month, our parish holds a moleben of healing at 6:00 p.m., just before Wednesday vespers. This month the moleben of healing will be held on October 4th.

Choir Practice

The choir meets 30 minutes prior to each service to warm up and review the music of the day. The choir also meets a couple times a month for choir practice. This month, practices are scheduled for Saturday, October 7th and Saturday, October 21st at 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about choir or if you are interested in joining, please email our choir director, Christine Adam, at christineadam.choirdirector@gmail.com.

Confessions

Father John is available for confessions every Saturday after vespers and by appointment. Email him at rector@stelizabethorthodox.org.

Classifieds

Free Kids' Bikes & Car Speakerphone

Sandy Wenberg has a number of free items if anyone can use them:

- Girl's bike in good condition (it was ridden by a 6 year old but the seat can be raised quite a bit more, includes training wheels)
- Boy's bike in good condition (was ridden by a 9 year old but the seat can be raised more)
- Jabra brand in-car speakerphone with user guide for hands free calls and you can stream music or podcasts from your phone

If interested, you can pick these up at the Wenberg house or they can bring them to church. Contact Sandy at 360.908.8040 or sandywenberg@gmail.com.

Prayer List

Departed

ND Priscilla
ND Elizabeth
ND Theodore

Living

Pr. Symeon
Michael
Cheryl Magdalena
Allison Brigit
Jordyn CSB
Walter
John
Camilla
Rd. Cornelius
Jeff Seraphim
Carrie CSB

ND: Newly Departed

CSB: Child She Bears

Pr./ Archpr.: Priest/ Archbishop

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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*New Western Wall Iconography at St. Elizabeth Parish
by Brian Whirlledge*

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October 2023

Daily Readings

10/1	2 Cor 6:16-7:1	Lk 6:31-36
10/2	Eph 4:25-32	Lk 6:24-30
10/3	Eph 5:20-26	Lk 6:37-45
10/4	Eph 5:25-33	Lk 6:46-7:1
10/5	Eph 5:33-6:9	Lk 7:17-30
10/6	Eph 6:18-24	Lk 7:31-35
10/7	1 Cor 15:39-45	Lk 5:27-32
10/8	2 Cor 9:6-11	Lk 7:11-16
10/9	Phil 1:1-7	Lk 7:36-50
10/10	Phil 1:8-14	Lk 8:1-3
10/11	Phil 1:12-20	Lk 8:22-25
10/12	Phil 1:20-27	Lk 9:7-11
10/13	Phil 1:27-2:4	Lk 9:12-18
10/14	1 Cor 15:58-16:3	Lk 6:1-10
10/15	2 Cor 11:31-12:9	Lk 8:5-15
10/16	Phil 2:12-16	Lk 9:18-22
10/17	Phil 2:17-23	Lk 9:23-27
10/18	Phil 2:24-30	Lk 9:44-50
10/19	Phil 3:1-8	Lk 9:49-56
10/20	Phil 3:8-19	Lk 10:1-15
10/21	2 Cor 1:8-11	Lk 7:1-10
10/22	Gal 1:11-19	Lk 16:19-31
10/23	Phil 4:10-23	Lk 10:22-24
10/24	Col 1:1-2, 7-11	Lk 11:1-10
10/25	Col 1:18-23	Lk 11:9-13
10/26	Col 1:24-29	Lk 11:14-23
10/27	Col 2:1-7	Lk 11:23-26
10/28	2 Cor 3:12-18	Lk 8:16-21
10/29	Gal 2:16-20	Lk 8:26-39
10/30	Col 2:13-20	Lk 11:29-33
10/31	Col 2:20-3:3	Lk 11:34-41

Sundays in red.

<https://www.o.ca.org/readings/monthly/2023/10>