

✠ THE NEW WITNESS ✠ TO THE ANCIENT FAITH

A Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church

DECEMBER 2022

This month, we continue our journey through the Nativity fast and then begin the Winter Pascha with the Nativity of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ on December 25th:

Prepare, O Bethlehem,

For Eden has been opened to all.

Adorn yourself, O Ephratha,

*For the Tree of Life blossoms forth
from the Virgin in the cave.*

*Her womb is a spiritual paradise
planted with the fruit divine:*

*If we eat of it, we shall live forever and
not die like Adam.*

*Christ is coming to restore the image
which He made in the beginning.†*

† Troparion of the pre-feast of the Nativity—
quoted in *The Winter Pascha*, by Fr. Thomas
Hopko.

Parish Life & Announcements

Fishline Christmas Child Campaign

This month, we will be collecting donations for Fishline's Christmas Child Campaign.



Money donated through this program will be used by Fishline to provide Christmas Child parents with Walmart gift-cards and “holiday bucks,” which they can then use at

participating local stores to buy gifts for their children. Last December, more than 400 children benefited from this program in Kitsap County, which helped both local businesses and families to offset the economic impacts of the pandemic.

Fishline is already scheduled to be our charity for December, so we will be collecting for this special charity effort on our normal Charity Sunday—December 4th. If you would like to donate after December 4th, please make your checks payable to Fishline and give them to Jamie Telegin or Nancy Conrad.

To find out more about Fishline's Christmas Child Campaign, visit their website [here](#).

Crowning of Nicholas Ferrenberg and Christen Thomas

It is a great joy to learn that our former parishioners Nicho and Christen are engaged to be married, and that the crowning service will take place at St. Elizabeth. Plans are still being finalized and Father John will keep the parish updated as we move toward a definite date.

Baptism and Chrismation

Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, and it will be a blessing to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord with the reception into Holy Orthodoxy of Blake, Christopher, Brooklyn, and Emelia Piety. Be sure to plan to arrive at 9:00 a.m. Christmas morning for this important reception (as all receptions are) in our parish life.

Nativity Fast

As we continue the forty-day Nativity Fast, remember that this period is given as an opportunity for spiritual growth through repentance. As part of this, everyone should plan to make a confession during the fast.

As always, Father John is available for confessions following Saturday evening Great Vespers and by appointment throughout the week. He has also set aside Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. to be available for confessions by appointment.

Tithe Appeal

The tithe appeal campaign is ongoing. Tithe forms are on the table in front of the tithe box. If you have not done so yet, please fill one out. Contact Nancy with any questions at nancyjuno53@gmail.com.

St. Nicholas Children's Play

Matushka Yelena is organizing a play based on an event from the life of St. Nicholas and it will be presented to the parish on Sunday, December 4th during the coffee fellowship. Please plan to attend and stay after that day to support the children in their efforts.

Girl's Christmas Party

On December 16th at 6:00 p.m., there will be a fun girls party in the parish hall—an evening of fun and pampering for girls of *all* ages—and a gift exchange to boot. Bring a fast-friendly snack to share and wear Christmas pajamas if you want. Contact Kristin Hatfield for more information, and sign up to participate [here](#).

Guatemalan Mission Presentation

Jesse Brandow, an Orthodox missionary in Guatemala, had been planning to visit our church in November but unfortunately due to a busy schedule was forced to postpone the visit until next year. Please keep him and his wife Juanita in your prayers.

Cleaning Committee

Have you wanted to serve the church in a way that is very important but nobody sees you? Please consider cleaning the temple.

We have an opening for the third week of the month. That means the cleaning can be done anytime from the 3rd Sunday of the month up to Saturday evening of that week. See Nancy or Kathy if interested. Thank you!

Leaders of Ministries Needed

Suzanna Jefferis is composing a brief history and description of the ministries of Saint Elizabeth Church. If you have helped in directing any ministries (church school, altar service, charity, coffee fellowship, groundskeeping) please make contact with her or Fr. John to help fill in the story of our parish.

Our New Choir Directors

With our beloved and long-time choir director Kelsey Ferrenberg now moved to North Dakota with her family, we are delighted to have Christine Alexandra Adam directing our choir on Saturdays and Sundays. She and her husband Michael will be traveling from the eastside of Puget Sound to help us as long as we lack a permanent choir director.

We are very grateful to Christine and Michael for making this sacrifice. Also, Subdeacon Gregory Hendry has agreed to sing Daily Vespers for us on Wednesday evenings going forward. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

Ride-Share Ministry

We are still trying to compile a list of parishioners who are willing to give rides to and from church to others who lack their own transportation. As a driver volunteer,

you will be contacted by phone, text or email when a need arises.

Please contact Jamie Telegin at 503-726-9449 or teleginj@gmail.com if you are interested in signing up to provide transportation. Let her know your name, email, phone number, which church services or events you are available to support, and where you are able to pick up and drop off (e.g., Poulsbo, Silverdale, etc.).

Additionally, if you need of a ride to and from church, please contact Jamie, who can hopefully match you up with an available volunteer. Thank you for your support!

Visitation and Meal-Train Teams

Similar to the rideshare opportunity, we are compiling a list of parishioners willing to be on our visitation team or on our meal train team.

The visitation team will visit fellow parishioners who have difficulty attending services, such as those in the hospital, rehab center, or personal care home. The goal is to provide support and offset the loneliness that can often accompany these stays.

The meal train team will provide food or groceries for those who have upcoming surgeries, a new baby, have lost a loved one, or are suffering from illness or injury. Whether you like to cook or not, it is a great chance to serve! You can purchase the meals, you can cook them, or you can simply provide the family with a restaurant or store gift card.

If you are interesting in serving in these important ministries, please contact Jamie Telegin at 503-726-9449 or teleginj@gmail.com. We will add you to a

new email list where you will be kept informed of each new opportunity to serve.

Please also contact Jamie if you or someone you know would like to be added as someone who is in need of these ministries.

Women's Fellowship

The women's fellowship group is continuing to read and discuss *The Jesus Prayer* by Met. Kallistos Ware. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. Please join us!

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! Our first meeting this month will be Saturday, December 3rd.

Game Night

Game night is December 9th at 6:30 p.m. All ages are welcome. Bring your Lenten snacks!



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. Parishioners who have invited non-Orthodox to visit are encouraged to let them know they are welcome to participate.

The schedule for Sunday catechesis is below.

Dec. 4	The Liturgical Arts
Dec. 11	Growing up in an Orthodox Village
Dec. 18	The Coming of the Great Schism
Dec. 25.	No Catechesis (Nativity of the Lord)

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!

Choir Practice

Christine Adam will be meeting with the choir each 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. Email him at rector@stelizabethorthodox.org.

Bookstore News

The Age of Nihilism

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Fr. John's fourth book, *The Age of Nihilism: Christendom from the Great War to the Culture Wars*.

From the Ancient Faith website:

“In this final volume of the series, John Strickland tells the story of Christendom's most tumultuous century. As nihilism began to cast its menacing shadow on the eve of the First World War, a self-styled ‘antichrist’ named Friedrich Nietzsche and an obstinately Christian Fyodor Dostoevsky both offered ominous visions of what the West would become if ‘God is dead’ and any moral act thus becomes permissible.

“Though total warfare seemed to confirm such predictions, a project arose in its wake to rebuild utopia with secular ideologies that, in the case of Nazism, opened the abyss even further. Communism and liberalism were left after the Second World War to compete for ultimate preeminence, but both would ultimately fail to replace the lost transcendence of the West's deep first-millennium past. As the twenty-first century opened, utopia was as elusive as ever, and a culture of paradise once again beckoned to a civilization exhausted by centuries of secularism.”

The Age of Nihilism is also available as an audio book on Audible, where it can be purchased with one credit.

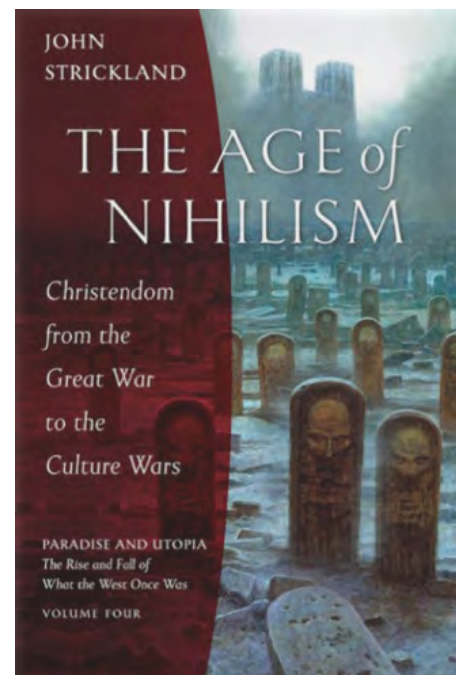
Other New Arrivals

In addition to Fr. John's new book, the book store is featuring several new releases this month, including:

Healing Work: Giving Humanity a Second Chance, by Joshua Macoul.

Reclaiming the Great Commission: A Roadmap to Parish Health, by Fr. Evan Armatas.

Finally, thank you to everyone for participating in our pre-order calendar program.



Prayer List

Departed

Donald
Echo

Living

Michael
Jeff Seraphim
Irina
Sara CSB
Alison
Elizabeth
Sydney

ND: Newly Departed
CSB: Child She Bears



Miscellaneous

Covid Precautions

Everyone is reminded that, with continued concerns about Covid, parishioners should keep four particular 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.

Contact Us

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

December 2022

Daily Readings

12/1	2 Thess 2:13-3:5	Lk 20:9-18
12/2	2 Thess 3:6-18	Lk 20:19-26
12/3	Gal 1:3-10	Lk 12:32-40
12/4	Eph 4:1-6	Lk 17:12-19
12/5	1 Tim 1:1-7	Lk 20:27-44
12/6	1 Tim 1:8-14	Lk 21:12-19
12/7	1 Tim 1:18-20, 2:8-15	Lk 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24
12/8	1 Tim 3:1-13	Lk 21:28-33
12/9	1 Tim 4:4-8, 16	Lk 21:37-22:8
12/10	Gal 3:8-12	Lk 13:18-29
12/11	Col 3:4-11	Lk 14:16-24
12/12	1 Tim 5:1-10	Mk 8:11-21
12/13	1 Tim 5:11-21	Mk 8:22-26
12/14	1 Tim 5:22-6:11	Mk 8:30-34
12/15	1 Tim 6:17-21	Mk 9:10-16
12/16	2 Tim 1:1-2, 8-18	Mk 9:33-41
12/17	Gal 5:22-6:2	Lk 14:1-11
12/18	Heb 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40	Mt 1:1-25
12/19	2 Tim 2:20-26	Mk 9:42-10:1
12/20	2 Tim 3:16-4:4	Mk 10:2-12
12/21	2 Tim 4:9-22	Mk 10:11-16
12/22	Titus 1:5-2:1	Mk 10:17-27
12/23	Titus 1:15-2:10	Mk 10:23-32
12/24	Gal 3:8-12	Lk 13:18-29
12/25	Gal 4:4-7	Mt 2:1-12
12/26	Heb 2:11-18	Mt 2:13-23
12/27	Heb 4:1-13	Mk 11:11-23
12/28	Heb 5:11-6:8	Mk 11:22-26
12/29	Heb 7:1-6	Mk 11:27-33
12/30	Heb 7:18-25	Mk 12:1-12
12/31	Eph 2:11-13	Lk 17:3-10

Sundays in red

<https://www.oca.org/readings/monthly/2022/12>