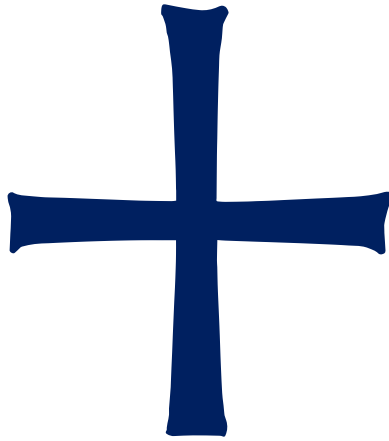


# SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday Bulletin

February 4, 2024—35<sup>th</sup> Sunday After  
Pentecost. Afterfeast of the Meeting. New  
Martyrs & Confessors of Russia.



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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

- ✦ 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, Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 Camping Trip—If you are interested in participating in a parish camping trip this year (or not) please let Danielle know. We need to know what the attendance might be for adults and kids, as well as who wants RV hookups, tents, or cabins. Also, if anyone else would help coordinate this event, please see Danielle. You can contact her at [Chantrieri@hotmail.com](mailto:Chantrieri@hotmail.com).
- ✦ Meal Teams Need Your Help!—Our meal teams are in need of help. With so many families leaving over the past year, and others away during winter, our parish is struggling to maintain our traditional meal together after Liturgy. If you can help out, please contact Joy at [whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com](mailto:whitetigerofjoy@gmail.com) to join a team.

## February Birthdays, Name Days & Anniversaries

- ✦ Name days—St. Brigid (Feb. 2); 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. 5<sup>th</sup>—Monday

6:30pm Catechesis

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>—Tuesday

6:30am Women's Fellowship

Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>—Wednesday

6:00pm Moleben of Healing

6:30pm Vespers & Orthodox  
Studies

Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>—Saturday

10:00am Men's Fellowship

6:00pm Great Vespers

## Today's Hymns

35<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost—Tone 2.  
Afterfeast of the Meeting. New Martyrs of Russia (Old  
Calendar).

### **Tone 2**      **Troparion**      *(Resurrection)*

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://

“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

### **Tone 1**      **Troparion**      *(Feast)*

Rejoice, O 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 didst accept in thine arms the ^Redeemer of our souls,//  
Who grants us the Resurrection!

### **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    *(New Martyrs)***

Today the Church of Russia forms a chorus in joy,  
praising her new martyrs and confessors;  
hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes  
and princesses,  
venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians.  
Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of  
godless persecution,  
they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.//  
By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land  
in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

**Tone 2      Kontakion    *(Resurrection)***

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior,  
seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!  
The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with  
Thee,//  
and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

**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 3      Kontakion    (*New Martyrs*)**

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God,  
and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:  
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor,  
and power, and strength be to our God//  
unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

**Now and Ever . . .**

**Tone 1      Kontakion    (*Feast*)**

By Thy Nativity Thou 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 Man!

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**Today's Scripture Readings**

*The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. (Ps. 117:14)*  
*My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.*  
*(Lk. 1:46-47)*

**Epistle Reading—Colossians 3:12–16**

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

## Gospel Reading—Matthew 25:14–30

"For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'

## Today's Commemorations

### The Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>)

The fortieth day after His birth, the All-holy Virgin brought her divine Son into the Temple of Jerusalem, in accordance with the Law, to dedicate Him to God and to purify herself (Leviticus 12:2-7; Exodus 12:2). Even though neither the one nor the other was necessary, the Lawgiver did not want in any way to transgress His own Law, which He had given through Moses, His servant and prophet. At that time, the high-priest Zacharias, the father of John the Forerunner, was serving in the Temple. Zacharias placed the Virgin, not in the temple area reserved for women, but rather in the area reserved for virgins. On this occasion two very special persons appeared in the Temple: the Elder Simeon and Anna, the daughter of Phanuel. The righteous Simeon took the Messiah in his arms and said: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation (Luke 2:29-30). Simeon also spoke the following words about the Christ-child: Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel (Luke 2:34). Then Anna, who from her youth had served God in the Temple by fasting and prayer, recognized the Messiah and glorified God. She then proclaimed to the inhabitants of Jerusalem the coming of the long-awaited One. But the Pharisees who were present in the Temple, having seen and heard all, became angry with Zacharias because he had placed the Virgin Mary in the area reserved for virgins, and they reported this to King Herod. Convinced that this was the new king spoken of by the Magi from the East, Herod immediately sent his soldiers to kill Jesus. In the meantime, the holy family had already left the city and set out for Egypt under the guidance of an angel of God. The Feast of the Meeting of our Lord in the Temple was celebrated from earliest times, but the solemn celebration of this day was established in the year 544 A.D., during the reign of Emperor Justinian.

—*Prologue of Ohrid*



## **New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia (Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> O.C.)**

On the Sunday closest to January 25, the Church commemorates the Synaxis of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russia, remembering all those Orthodox Christians who suffered for Christ at the hands of the godless Soviets during the years of persecution. These include the royal Passion Bearers Tsar Nicholas II and his family, and the Grand Duchess Elizabeth. Countless thousands of martyrs, both clergy and laity also suffered, some of whose names are known, as well as millions of simple believers whose names have been lost to history.

It is estimated that the number of the New Martyrs of Russia, who were glorified by the Russian Orthodox Church at the Jubilee Council of 2000, far exceeds that of all the martyrs who died for Christ during the first three centuries of Christianity. The Russian Church lost millions of its sons and daughters, not only at the hands of external enemies, but also those of their own country. Among those who were murdered and tortured in the years of persecution were countless Orthodox: laity, monks, priests, and bishops, whose only “crime” was their unshakable faith in God.

In the long history of the world, never have so many new heavenly intercessors been glorified by the Church in such a way (more than one thousand New Martyrs were numbered among the saints). Among those who suffered for their faith were some who labored in America before the Russian Revolution: St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (April 7); St. Alexander Hotovitzky (Dec. 4); St. John Kochurov (Oct. 31).

—OCA Website

### **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.

