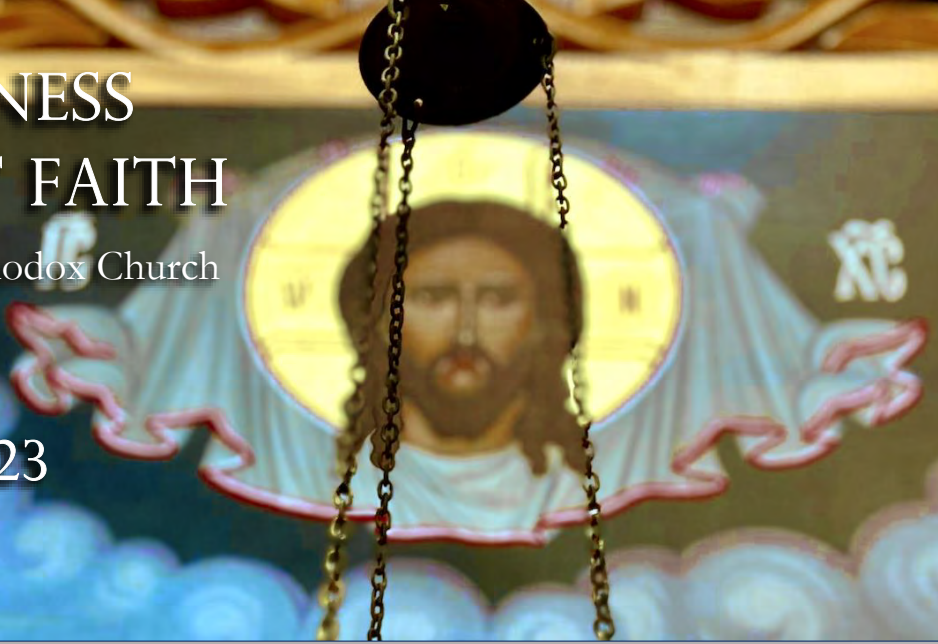


THE NEW WITNESS TO THE ANCIENT FAITH

A Newsletter of St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church



SEPTEMBER 2023



Glory to Jesus Christ!

This month we celebrate the Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary on September 8th. We celebrate the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross on September 14th.

*O Lord, save Your people, / and
bless Your inheritance. / Grant
victories to the Orthodox Christians /
over their adversaries. / And by virtue
of Your Cross, / preserve Your
habitation.*

*As You were voluntarily raised
upon the cross for our sake, / grant
mercy to those who are called by Your
Name, O Christ God; / make all
Orthodox Christians glad by Your
power, / granting them victories over
their adversaries, / by bestowing on
them the Invincible trophy, Your
weapon of Peace.**

*Troparion and Kontakion of the Elevation of the Cross

Parish Life & Announcements

Visit by Bishop Alexei of Sitka & Alaska

On Monday, September 11th at 6:30 p.m., our parish will host His Grace Bishop Alexei of Sitka and Alaska during his visit to Puget Sound. The purpose of Bishop Alexei's visit is to educate the faithful about the plight of clergy in his diocese, beginning with a brief moleben service with an Akathist, and then continuing with an audio-visual presentation in our parish hall. Time will be reserved for questions afterward.

Bishop Alexei will be asking us to pray for our sister parishes in Alaska and for donations toward the improvement of their material conditions. All members of our parish who are able should attend this important event.

Church School Registration and Volunteers Needed

We plan to begin a new year of St. Elizabeth's Church School in October, and are looking for teachers and substitutes to support the upcoming school year. We need six volunteers to be teachers, and at least three for substitutes. In the past we have

had teachers with children under five and can help find babysitters during class. So don't count yourself out if you have a really young child.

To parents of children ages 5 to 18—St. Elizabeth's Church School is pleased to partner with you in the faith education of your children. You can now register your children for the upcoming school year at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/29n7zpar>.

Please contact Roxanne with any questions at rox@tara-lu.com. You can also email her for an individual invite to the registration form above. Please pray for our Church School whether you have children or don't, whether you might volunteer or not!

New Western Wall Iconography

Early in September we are scheduled to see the fulfillment of plans to have an icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos with related icons on our temple's western wall. It will match the iconography on our eastern wall and will also be painted by Brian Whirlidge. Scaffolding will be in place for the duration of the installation, so please be aware that entry into the temple will be restricted at the center doors.

Start of Monday-Night Catechesis

As we enter the liturgical new year, we again prepare for a new cycle of Orthodox catechesis. Father John will begin teaching our parish's catechetical course on Monday, September 4th at 6:30 p.m. That class will consist of a walk through our temple and a description of its liturgical architecture and iconography, culminating with the opening of the Royal Gates and an account of the interior of the sanctuary. Subsequent classes

will meet weekly thereafter on Mondays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the office building. All of our catechumens will be attending these classes. In addition, inquirers and parishioners are encouraged to join them in learning about the Orthodox faith.

Sunday Catechesis

As our parish's main catechetical course begins, we will also resume Sunday catechesis. It will be taught by a rotation of catechists under the direction of Father John. It will take place during the second half of the Divine Liturgy following the dismissal of the catechumens and will end in time to have all participants return to complete the Liturgy with the congregation. Visitors and inquirers should be encouraged to attend these classes, though parishioners themselves should remain in the temple to participate in the Liturgy.

Help Needed with Charity Ministry

If anyone is interested in co-leading the charity ministry alongside Jamie Telegin, please see Fr. John or Jamie. Another one or two people to share ideas with and help organize would be incredibly helpful to increase our parish's charitable efforts.

Suquamish Community Kitchen

This month we will be serving another meal at the Suquamish Community Kitchen on September 13th. If you would like to join us or make a dessert for the event, please let Jamie Telegin know. After September 13th, our next date for serving at the Suquamish Community Kitchen will be November 8th.

Visit from Archbishop Benjamin and Tonsuring of Reader Fyodor

We had a very good turnout for our visit from Archbishop Benjamin and tonsuring of our very own Reader Fyodor—108 visitors and parishioners in attendance. Below are some photos from this special visit.



Photo Credit: Roxanne Bennett

Game Night Returns

Game night is returning with a new place and time—first Friday of every month (beginning Friday, September 1st) at the club house where Nancy and Walter live. The night will begin at 6:30 and run till about 10:15 p.m. The address is 771 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.

Security Camera System

We are near to completing our parish's new security camera system. We have had some issues in the past with theft and our hope is that this system will provide greater security and safety for our parish. Having invested substantial resources in our recent building remodel and iconography, this seemed to Father John and the parish council to be an appropriate time to introduce such a system, which some other Orthodox parishes in our diocese have also employed.

Cameras have been installed outside and within the main building, and soon will be installed in the office building. 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.

Men's Fellowship

The men's fellowship group will be beginning a new book at its meeting on Saturday, September 2nd at 9:00 a.m.—*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](#)).

From the Ancient Faith website:

What does it mean to "think Orthodox"? What are the unspoken and unexplored premises and presumptions underlying what Christians believe? Orthodox Christianity is based on preserving the mind of the early Church, its phronema. Dr. Jeannie Constantinou brings her more than forty years' experience as a professor, Bible teacher, and speaker to bear in explaining what the Orthodox phronema is, how it can be acquired, and how that phronema is expressed in true Orthodox theology - as practiced by those who are properly qualified by both training and a deep relationship with Christ.

The men's fellowship group meets every other Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m.—this month on September 2nd, 16th, and 30th. Come think Orthodox with us!

Women's Fellowship

The Women's fellowship group will begin 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](#)):

From the SVS Press website:

Come along with me and see what I saw, hear what I heard, drink from the spiritual fountain of life-giving water that was given to me. For four years I studied at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki but during that time I learned more from my encounters with nuns than I could have from countless degrees. I met holy people, heard incredible stories, helped with interesting work, and made a few quirky mistakes as a foreigner along the way. But I gained invaluable experience as an Orthodox Christian. Longing to learn true theology I went and sat at the feet of the greatest scholars, a monastery full of nuns.

Biographies of contemporary Elders abound. Books about experiences to the Holy Mountain and other male monasteries are in plenty. How often do we get to glimpse the spiritual life of women? This book is a treasury of spiritual advice, examples of true friendship, loving reprimands, and countless lessons from spiritual women. To Sr. Theologia's question I answer: Let me tell you what I've learned...

The Women's fellowship group meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m.—this month on September 5th. Please join us! You can email Terri with any questions at adkinsterri7@gmail.com.

A Note From the Eldreds

On August 18th, Ty, Adrienne, and Ben Eldred welcomed Andrew James into the world! He is a healthy baby, 8.5 lbs and 21 inches long. Thank you all for your prayers! Glory to God for all things!

—The Eldred Family



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.

Livestreaming Services

We are working to establish a new internet system at the church that will enable us to provide quality live streaming of services. We hope this will be in place soon. As we move in this direction, it is important to remember two things about watching services online. First, our streaming services are offered as a ministry for parishioners who, due to health limitations such as being sick during a given service, cannot attend. For healthy parishioners, our streaming services are not an alternative to being present with the assembly of the Body of Christ and participating in the sacraments. Second, this 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](#)).

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 those in the first row along the fence line. There is an overflow section of parking on the other side of the church building when needed.

Bookstore News

The Bookstore is scheduled to be restocked in the next couple of weeks with icons and books. Currently we have copies of the new books being read in the women's and men's fellowship groups—*The Scent of Holiness* by Constantina Palmer, and *Thinking Orthodox* by Dr. Jeannie Constantinou.

Charity Sunday

September 3rd— After Liturgy we will be collecting for the Alaska Clergy Stipend Endowment of the Diocese of Sitka & Alaska. Donations to the Alaska Clergy Stipend Endowment are seriously needed to remedy impoverished living conditions of clergy in the Diocese of Sitka and Alaska—the root of Orthodoxy in America.

Recurring Dates

Wednesday 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

As discussed above, in September Father John will be teaching catechesis every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. We will also be holding Sunday catechesis during the second half of the Divine Liturgy—except for the fourth Sunday of each month, when there will be no Sunday catechesis.

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, September 9th and Saturday, September 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

If you have questions about choir or if you are interested in joining us, please email the 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.

Prayer List

Departed

Chariessa Stichick (9/15)
Mark Thoman (9/15)

Living

Michael
Cheryl Magdalena
Allison Brigit
Jordyn CSB
Gary Olav
Walter
John
Camilla
Rd. Cornelius
Jeff Seraphim
Carrie CSB
Cosette
Noelle
Jayden
Julius
Priscilla

ND: Newly Departed
CSB: Child She Bears

Miscellaneous

Newsletter Submissions

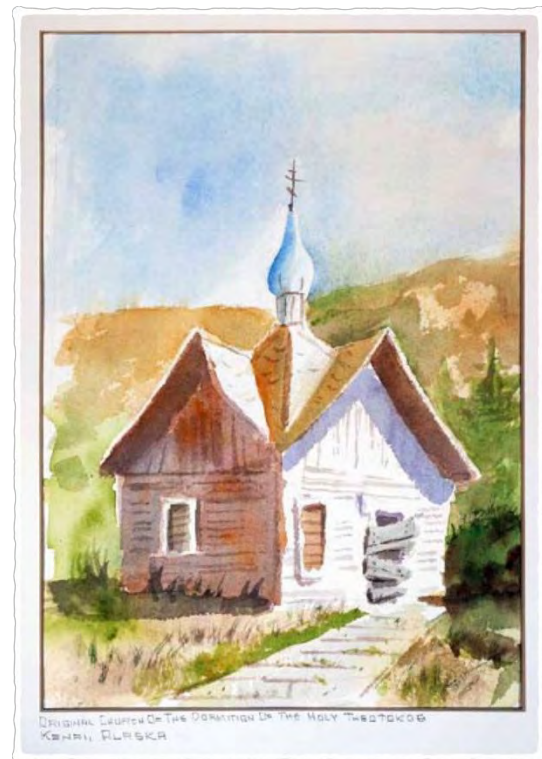
If you would like to submit any materials, announcements, classifieds, or requests for this monthly newsletter, please contact Bryan Telegin at bulletin@stelizabethorthodox.org.

Contact Us

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Original Church of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos, Kenai, Alaska—by Sam McLain
Alaska State Archives

September 2023

Daily Readings

9/1	2 Cor 11:5-21	Mk 4:1-9
9/2	1 Cor 2:6-9	Mt 22:15-22
9/3	1 Cor 16:13-24	Mt 21:33-42
9/4	2 Cor 12:10-19	Mk 4:10-23
9/5	2 Cor 12:20-13:2	Mk 4:24-34
9/6	2 Cor 13:3-14	Mk 4:35-41
9/7	Gal 1:1-10, 20-2:5	Mk 5:1-20
9/8	Gal 2:6-10	Mk 5:22-24, 35-6:1
9/9	1 Cor 4:1-5	Mt 23:1-12
9/10	2 Cor 1:21-2:4	Mt 22:1-14
9/11	Gal 2:11-16	Mk 5:24-34
9/12	Gal 2:21-3:7	Mk 6:1-7
9/13	Gal 3:15-22	Mk 6:7-13
9/14	Gal 3:23-4:5	Mk 6:30-45
9/15	Gal 4:8-21	Mk 6:45-53
9/16	1 Cor 4:17-5:5	Mt 24:1-13
9/17	2 Cor 4:6-15	Mt 22:35-46
9/18	Gal 4:28-5:10	Lk 3:19-22
9/19	Gal 5:11-21	Lk 3:23-4:1
9/20	Gal 6:2-10	Lk 4:1-15
9/21	Eph 1:1-9	Lk 4:16-22
9/22	Eph 1:7-17	Lk 4:22-30
9/23	1 Cor 10:23-28	Lk 4:31-36
9/24	2 Cor 6:1-10	Lk 5:1-11
9/25	Eph 1:22-2:3	Lk 4:37-44
9/26	Eph 2:19-3:7	Lk 5:12-16
9/27	Eph 3:8-21	Lk 5:33-39
9/28	Eph 4:14-19	Lk 6:12-19
9/29	Eph 4:17-25	Lk 6:17-23
9/30	1 Cor 14:20-25	Lk 5:17-26

Sundays in red.

<https://www.oca.org/readings/monthly/2023/08>