

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 14

2 / 15 December 2019

## TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*) Commemoration of the Holy Prophet Habbakuk (Abbachum)

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

#### 26TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 1*)

**Prophet Habbakuk (Abbachum)**

*Saturday, 14 December (2 December, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 15 December (3 December, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Trapeza (coffee hour)

#### **ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER**

*Wednesday, 18 December (5 December, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Thursday, 19 December (6 December, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

#### 27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 2*)

**Conception of the Theotokos by St Anna**

*Saturday, 21 December (8 December, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 22 December (9 December, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Trapeza (coffee hour)

<i>Friday</i>	20 December (7 Dec, o.s.)	St Ambrose of Milan Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Saturday</i>	21 December (8 Dec, o.s.)	St Patapius of Thebes Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	22 December (9 Dec, o.s.)	Conception of the Theotokos Fast: wine & oil permitted

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### Week of 15 December

Su	26th Sunday after Pentecost	
	4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)	
	Eph. §229 (5:8b-19)	Luke §91 (18:18-27)
27TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
<i>M</i>	1 Tim. §285a (5:1-10)	Luke §102 (20:27-44)
<i>Tu</i>	1 Tim. §286 (5:11-21)	Luke §106 (21:12-19)
<i>W</i>	1 Tim. §287 (5:22-6:11a)	Luke §104 (21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24)
<i>Th</i>	<b>ST NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER</b>	
	Vespers Paramia: (1) Proverbs 10:7, 6; 3:13-16; 8:6, 32, 34, 4, 12, 14 17, 5-9; 1:23 • (2) Proverbs 10:31-11:12 • (3) Wisdom 4: 7-15	
	Matins Gospel: John §36 (10:9-16)	
	Heb. §335 (13:17-21)	Luke §24 (6:17-23a)
<i>Th</i>	1 Tim. §289 (6:17-21)	Luke §107 (21:28-33)
<i>F</i>	2 Tim. §290 (1:1-2, 8-18)	Luke §108 (21:37-22:8)
<i>Sa</i>	Gal. §213 (5:22-6:2)	Luke §81 (16:10-15)
Su	27th Sunday after Pentecost	
	5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Eph. §233 (6:10-17)	Luke §85 (17:12-19)

### FASTING DAYS Week of 15 December

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	15 December (2 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Habakkuk Fast: fish, wine & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	16 December (3 Dec, o.s.)	Prophet Zephaniah Xerophagy ( <i>No oil</i> )
<i>Tuesday</i>	17 December (4 Dec, o.s.)	GM Barbara; St John Damascene Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Wednesday</i>	18 December (5 Dec, o.s.)	St Sabbas the Sanctified Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Thursday</i>	19 December (6 Dec, o.s.)	ST NICHOLAS OF MYRA Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted

### THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A special collection for St Herman's Youth Conference will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of December. Your donations help the St Herman's Executive Committee keep the fees for the attendees very low. This is important so that as many Youth as possible can attend the Youth Conference at the end of this month. Please give generously.

The Parish gives gift bags in the name of St Nicholas to the children who attend services for the Feast of St Nicholas (December 18th & 19th.). If you would like to participate in this worthy effort, we ask you to give a small monetary donation so that Lenten sweets and small gifts can be purchased to be put in these bags. Please mark your donation 'St Nicholas Bags.'

Our former parishioner, Archimandrite Joasaph McLellan, the Head of the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission

in the Holy Land, fell asleep in the Lord on the Feast of St Sava the Sanctified, 18 December 2009. Another former parishioner, Serge Kropov, who served our Country in the United States Marines, was killed in Afghanistan two days later on 20 December 2009. We also remember Thomas Hancorn who departed this life on 22 December 2013. We will have a Litya for the Departed to pray for the repose the three of these men just prior to the Vigil Service for St Nicholas at about 5:45 pm on 18 December.

**Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra in Lycia** is among the most beloved of Saints by Orthodox Christians, regardless of their nationality. St Nicholas is always one of the most popular Patron Saints for both Orthodox churches and boys. St Nicholas has two feast days: his main feast day on 6 / 19 December, universally observed by Orthodox Christians, and the Translation of the Relics of St Nicholas from Myra to Bari on 9 / 22 May, particularly beloved by Russian Orthodox Christians. (There is also a Feast of the Nativity of St Nicholas on 29 July / 11 August, but this is little known.) St Nicholas is known for his love and care for the poor. He defended the oppressed and those wrongly accused before the rich and powerful. St Nicholas was a champion of the Orthodox Faith against the heresy of Arius at and after the First Ecumenical Council. Because of his love for children, St Nicholas is considered the Patron Saint of the young. Because of his manifest intercessors for those in danger at sea, he is the Patron Saint of sailors and fishermen. He is venerated as the Patron Saint of many lands, including Greece, Russia, Italy, Germany Austria, Switzerland, and Belgium, and hundreds of cities and towns the world over.

**We will have a full schedule of services** for St Nicholas' Day. The Vigil Service will be served on the eve of the Feast (18 December) at 6 o'clock and the Divine Liturgy on the morning of the Feast (19 December) at 9:30. Please bring your children to the services for the Feast of St Nicholas. As we know, St Nicholas had a great fondness for children, and he is often thought of as the 'Patron Saint' of little ones.

**Father will provide written excuses to students** who are absent or late for school due to attendance at services for St Nicholas' Day. Please notify him in advance so that he can have it ready for your child.

**The Parish needs donations for flowers** for the Feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Please mark flower donations clearly. You may include a Commemoration List with your donation and the names will be commemorated at the Proskomedie on the Holy Days.



## Why Celebrate Saint Nicholas' Day? 6 / 19 December

1. To learn about the true 'Santa Claus' and 'Father Christmas': St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia, a man of faith who lived his life in devotion to Christ
2. To focus on giving more than receiving: St Nicholas cared for the needy
3. To emphasize small treats and family fun: St Nicholas loved children
4. To provide a bit of special festivity early in the waiting weeks of the Nativity Fast St Nicholas points to our Lord Jesus Christ, the heart of Christmas
5. To offer a spiritual dimension to gift giving
6. To tell the story of an Orthodox Christian Saint, whose model life inspires compassion and charity
7. To honor St Nicholas honors the Christ Child who selflessly gave the greatest gift of all — Himself

Based upon an article posted on the following website:

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/how-to-celebrate>

## Celebrate Saint Nicholas' Day at Home

A simple St Nicholas' Day home celebration adds a bit of welcome festivity in the early days of the Nativity Fast. It provides an opportunity to tell the story of St Nicholas, a man of faith whose goodness and generosity grew out of his love for God. It enriches our understanding of 'Santa Claus' by showing the real historical person and an Orthodox Christian Saint who inspired the familiar legend and traditions.

It is fitting to give an icon of St Nicholas a prominent place in the icon corner or on the dining or other table. A special oil lamp or candle could be lit before the icon for the duration of the feast. The icon and the home can be decorated with evergreens and holly.

The parents can tell a story of St Nicholas' generous example of giving in secret to those in need. Then they can encourage children to do a kindness, a 'St Nicholas deed', for someone else.

Have children place shoes outside bedroom doors or on the hearth. See that a lenten candy treat (a candy cane represents Archbishop Nicholas' staff or crozier) and simple gift appears by morning on 6 / 19 December.

Have a party with lenten treats. Simple gifts may be exchanged wrapped in creative or interesting ways and accompanied by poems or riddles in homemade cards.

Based upon an article posted on the following website:

<https://www.stnicholascenter.org/how-to-celebrate/celebrate-at-home>