



## St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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### Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St John the Baptist September 5, 2021

#### **Troparion – Tone 2**

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!”

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

Robed in the vestments of the priesthood, according to the Law of God thou didst offer whole-burnt offerings in a sacred manner, wise Zachariah. Thou didst become a luminary and a seer of the mysteries, bearing within thyself the signs of grace, all-wise one. Slain by the sword in the temple of God, O prophet of Christ, intercede together with the Forerrunner// that our souls may be saved!

#### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

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.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 3**

Today the prophet Zachariah, priest of the Most High and parent of the Forerrunner, has prepared a banquet to his memory to nourish the faithful, mixing the drink of righteousness.// Therefore we praise him as a divine initiate of the grace of God.

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 2**

The Lord is my strength and my song; / He has become my salvation.

*V. The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.*

#### **Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of St John the Baptist**

The Holy Prophet Zachariah and the Righteous Elizabeth were the parents of the holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John. They were descended from the lineage of Aaron: Saint Zachariah, son of Barach, was a priest in the Jerusalem Temple, and Saint Elizabeth was the sister of Saint Anna, the mother of the Most Holy Theotokos. The righteous spouses, “walking in all the commandments of the Lord” (Luke 1:6), suffered barrenness, which in those times was considered a punishment from God.

Once, during his turn of priestly service in the Temple, Saint Zachariah was told by an angel that his aged wife would bear him a son, who “will be great in the sight of the Lord” (Luke 1:15) and “will go before Him in the spirit and power of Elias” (Luke 1:17).

Zachariah doubted that this prediction would come true, and for his weakness of faith he was punished by becoming mute. When Elizabeth gave birth to a son, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit she announced that his name was John, although no one in their family had this name. They asked Zachariah and he also wrote the name John down on a tablet. Immediately the gift of speech returned to him, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, he began to prophesy about his son as the Forerunner of the Lord.

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them. Herod knew about John's unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel. On the Greek calendar, Saints Zachariah and Elizabeth are also commemorated on June 24, the Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist.

### **Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12**

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Whoever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

### **Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35**

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

### **Service Schedule for the week of September 5**

**Today** – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Tuesday September 7 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

**Wednesday September 8 – NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

**Saturday September 11** – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday September 12** – 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy

### **Weekly Giving**

August 29 – 54 adults, 18 youth, \$2,465

### **Parish Announcements**

Welcome to all new parishioners and visitors! Please join us after Divine Liturgy for Coffee Hour next door in Daria Hall.

Guy Radcliffe's daughter, Rachel, will be baptized and Chrismated into the Orthodox Faith this morning at 8:30 AM before Divine Liturgy. Please feel free to attend the baptism. We welcome Rachel into the Orthodox faith!

Today is the last Sunday to make a donation to support St. Andrews Summer Camp in Jewell, NY. The collection basket is on the table behind the last pew. Thank you for supporting the camp, which provides a wonderful camping experience for Orthodox children!

Today is also the last day to enroll your child/ren in church Sunday School. *Children must be 7 years or older to attend.* The sign-up sheet is in the back of the church. Next Sunday, September 12, Father Volodymyr will conduct prayers for the safe return of our children to school. No start date has been scheduled for Sunday School yet.

#### **COFFEE HOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2021**

Sept. 5 Francine Brady & Herman Meyer  
Sept. 12 Melody Stavisky  
Sept. 19 ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR  
Sept. 26 Father & Matushka  
Oct. 3 Olga & James Bates  
Oct. 10 Bill & Margie DiCicco  
Oct. 17 Alex Godun  
Oct. 24 Chris Kasmer  
Oct. 31 Paula Koerte  
Nov. 7 Alex & Brittani Brasowski  
Nov. 14 TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR  
Nov. 21 **FAST DAY** Germain & Tahara Ortiz  
Nov. 28 **FAST DAY** Darice Keyes  
Dec. 5 **FAST DAY** Lynne Sheedy  
Dec. 12 **FAST DAY** Blake & Jessica Kilgore  
Dec. 19 **FAST DAY** Sophie Dumas  
Dec. 26 Phyllis Eck

**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC:** As you know, the annual church picnic will be held on Sunday September 19 at the church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church for items we will need. The church will provide the meats. Thank you and we look forward to seeing everyone at the picnic!

**MOSAIC ICON:** We are getting closer to our fundraising goal! Donation envelopes for the mosaic icon are available at the candle desk. Please write "Mosaic Icon" in the memo portion of your check and turn in your donation envelope at the candle desk, or you may send a check directly to Father Volodymyr at the rectory. If you have any questions please see Father Volodymyr or a member of the Parish Council. Thank you for your continued involvement in the beautification of our church!

Please see a member of the FOCA Club if you are interested in purchasing a mural block (Daria Hall); funds will be used for Daria Hall improvements. Donors will have a brass nameplate added to the commemoration boards on the sides of the mural – either "Donated By" or "In Memory Of", with the names inscribed as designated by the donor.