

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT

Commemoration of our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt (Tone 1)

SERVICES THIS WEEK

5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 1)

Commemoration of St Mary of Egypt

Saturday, 24 March (11 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 25 March (12 March, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)

12:30 PM Annual Parish Meeting

Sixth Wednesday of Great Lent

Wednesday, 28 March (15 March, o.s.)

5:30 PM Ninth Hour & Typika

6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Sixth Friday of Great Lent

Friday, 30 March (17 March, o.s.)

8:15 AM Lenten Hours & Typika

9:30 AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Friday, 30 March (17 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Matins & First Hour;
Confessions

Saturday, 31 March (18 March, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

PALM SUNDAY

Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Saturday, 31 March (18 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 1 April (19 March, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)

6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Week of 24 March

We are in the midst of the Great Lent. Therefore all the days of this week are fast days. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday are normal fast days, with no fish, wine, or oil permitted. Next Saturday is Lazarus Saturday and caviar is permitted, in addition to wine and oil. Next Sunday is Palm Sunday, and fish, wine, and oil are allowed.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 24 March

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt		
<i>5th Sunday</i>	<i>9th Matins Gospel:</i> John §65 (20:19-31)	
	Heb. §321a (9:11-14)	Mark §47 (10:32b-45)
<i>St Mary</i>	Gal. §208 (3:23-29)	Luke §33 (7:36-50)
SIXTH WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST		
<i>5th Monday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 48:17-49:4	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 27:1-41 • Proverbs 19:16-25	
<i>5th Tuesday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 49:6-10	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 31:3-16 • Proverbs 21:3-21	
<i>5th Wednesday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 58:1-11	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16 • Proverbs 21:23-22:4	
<i>5th Thursday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 65:8-16	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 46:1-7 • Proverbs 23:15-24:5	
<i>5th Friday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 66:10-24	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 49:33-50:26 • Proverbs 31:8-32	
GREAT AND HOLY WEEK		
<i>Lazarus Saturday</i>	Heb. §333a (12:28-13:8)	John §39 (11:1-45)
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 • Zephaniah 3:14-19 • Zachariah 9:9-15	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §83 (21:1-11, 15-17)	
	Phil. §247 (4:4-9)	John §41 (12:1-18)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The annual special collection for the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission in the Holy Land will be taken at the Sunday Liturgies at St Elizabeth's during the month of March. What we collect will be sent to the Synod of Bishops for the R.E.M. at Palm Sunday. This Palm Sunday collection is a major source of funding for our mission in the Holy Land, and some of us have had occasion to receive their hospitality. Please give generously.



We have undertaken to help Bishop Nicholas of Manhattan by buying four sets of his gently used, beautiful priestly vestments in purple, black, white, and green. This will not only help Vladika, but will provide us with vestments when a second priest serves at St Elizabeth's. These vestments are smaller than Fr David's large vestments, and are useful to have for visiting priests. Each vestment set cost \$300. All four sets cost us \$1200.

Church cleaners are needed. Over the last few years, Elena Kasimova, often assisted by her husband Aleksey Vishnyakov, quietly worked to keep our little church clean. Now that they are back in Russia, we will need others to volunteer regularly to clean the church. Please speak to Father David, if you can help with church cleaning.

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting is being postponed to the fourth Sunday of April. In the transition we had in Treasurers this past year, there was a great need for reorganization of financial records. Not all documentation was available in time for our Auditor and so Fr David decided to put off the Annual Meeting until after Pascha.

Fr David asks that our Parish Council members gather around the table at coffee hour for an update on building plans.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be served this Wednesday evening at 6:00 PM. We hope that this evening Presanctified Liturgy will make it possible for those whose schedules do not permit them to be present at weekday morning services to be able to attend this most beautiful service. The Lenten Services of the Ninth Hour and the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 5:30 PM.

Although the Eucharistic Fast for an evening Presanctified Liturgy ideally begins at Midnight the evening before the Liturgy, just like a Liturgy served in the morning, with no food or drink being taken from that time until the time one communes, many Orthodox Bishops (including some in our own Russian Orthodox Church) have recognized that this places a burden too heavy to bear on most of the Faithful today and nearly ensures that almost no one will be able to receive Holy Communion at an evening Presanctified Liturgy. Therefore Episcopal permission has been given for the Eucharistic Fast to begin at 10 o'clock in the morning after eating breakfast, or even at noon after an early lunch. If conditions exist which make an observance of the Eucharistic Fast from Midnight for an evening Liturgy impossible, such *economia* is appropriate.

The Presanctified Liturgy will also be served this week on Friday morning at 9:30AM. The Lenten Services of the Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours and the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 8:15AM. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Friday of this week is also the Vespers for the Saturday of Lazarus.

Great Lent ends on Friday? Yes, it does! Great Lent is a period of 40 days from Pure Monday through the Friday before Lazarus Saturday. The Great and Holy Week begins with Lazarus Saturday and ends on Holy Saturday. Holy Week is a separate Fast. This is good news. Those of us who have been lax in our observance of the Great Fast, have a new opportunity to begin again!

This coming Saturday is Lazarus. Saturday This Feast commemorates Christ's raising his friend Lazarus from the dead as a confirmation of the general resurrection on the Last

Day. This feast is a joyful foretaste of Pascha. Matins for Lazarus Saturday will be served at 6 o'clock on Friday evening and the Divine Liturgy of the Feast will be served at 9:30 on Saturday morning.

If you have not given a donation for flowers to adorn the church on Holy Friday and Pascha, please do so today. We would like to have our church decorated in a fitting manner for this most sacred time of the church year.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows will place at the Vigil Service next Saturday evening, the eve of Palm Sunday, after the reading of the Matins Gospel. It is important for the faithful to be at this Vigil Service so that they can receive their blessed palms and pussy willows at the proper time.

It is our established practice that those who receive the Mystery of Confession during Holy Week (from the Eve of Lazarus Saturday onwards) are *not* required to go to Confession again in order to receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies of Holy Week, Pascha, and Bright Week. Should a grave sin be committed, however, Confession would of course be necessary before communing.

Those desiring to make their Confessions during Holy Week should go as early in the Week as possible. There will be times during or after the Holy Week services for Confession. Please note that after the beginning of the Paschal Vigil there will be no more Confessions.

Orthodox Christians should attend as many Holy Week services as possible. The Services from Holy Thursday morning through Holy Saturday morning are certainly the most essential. Because of the solemnity of these Holy Days, Orthodox Christians should take these days off from work or school. If it is impossible to take two weekdays off, then at least Holy Friday should be taken off.

NEEDS FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA:

- **People willing to help clean the church** after the services of Holy Week.
- **Twelve dozen red eggs** for the Paschal Liturgy. Please let Father know how many dozen red eggs you plan to provide and bring the eggs with you to the Midnight Paschal Liturgy.
- **Paschal Foods for our Agape Meal** after the Holy Liturgy on the night of Pascha. Each family in the Parish is asked to bring a dish to share at this Festal Meal.
- **People willing to remain to the end** of the Paschal Meal to help clean up.
- **Six Families or Individuals willing to fill** 24 plastic eggs each with chocolates and other soft candy for the Egg Hunt, which will be held after Agape Vespers on Pascha. Please see Matushka Faith for your two dozen plastic eggs and plan to bring the filled eggs to church no later than Holy Saturday morning.

The Paschal Meal following the Midnight Paschal Liturgy will be held this year downstairs in the church basement. Each family in the Parish is asked to bring a dish to share at this Festal Meal. We ask that *everyone* take any food or dish they have brought with them when they leave the meal. This will greatly assist those who remain to clean up.