

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XVIII

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Healing of the Blind Man (*Tone 5*) Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian

SERVICES THIS WEEK

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA (*Tone 5*)

Holy Apostle John the Theologian

Saturday, 20 May (7 May, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 21 May (8 May, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Adult Study

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Wednesday, 24 May (11 May, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Thursday, 25 May (12 May, o.s.)

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

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA (*Tone 6*)

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Saturday, 27 May (14 May, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 28 May (15 May, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Adult Study

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Week of 14 May

Birthdays – 15th: Katharine Bibas, Olga Chemodakov; 19th: Innokenty (Ken) Yanovsky.

Baptism Anniversaries – 20th: Tikhon Reitano (2077).

Wedding Anniversaries – 14th: Justin & Anna Neidig (2017); 15th: James & Olga Welsh.

Week of 21 May

Namedays – 21st (Apostle John the Theologian): John Morrow, John (Jack) Welsh; 23rd (Blessed Thais of Egypt): Taisia Seneko.

Birthdays – 24th: Gabriel Chemodakov.

Wedding Anniversaries – 26th: Frank & Nina Fitzgerald (1996).

THE REST OF MAY

Namedays – 28th (St Colman of Oughaval): Colman (Hugh) O’Beirne.

Birthdays – 28th: Johan Mladineo; 31st: Valentina Babitsch.

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day	Date	Commemoration & Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	24 May (11 May, o.s.)	Saints Cyril & Methodius Fast: wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	26 May (13 May, o.s.)	Virgin Martyr Glyceria Fast: wine, & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

SIXTH WEEK OF PASCHA		
<i>Su</i>	Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man	
	<i>8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §64 (20:11-18)	
	Acts §38 (16:16-34)	John §34 (9:1-38)
<i>M</i>	<i>Acts §39 (17:1-15)</i>	
	John §40 (11:47-57)	
<i>Tu</i>	<i>Acts §40a (17:19-28a)</i>	
	John §42 (12:19-36a)	
<i>W</i>	Apodosis of Pascha	
	Acts §41 (18:22-28)	John §43 (12:36-47)
<i>Th</i>	Ascension of the Lord	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Isaiah 2:2-3 • (2) Isaiah 62:10-63:3, 7-9 • (3) Zachariah 14:1, 4, 8-11	
	<i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
	Acts §1 (1:1-12)	Luke §114 (24:36-53)
<i>F</i>	Acts §42 (19:1-8)	
	John §47 (14:1-11a)	
<i>Sa</i>	Acts §43 (20:7-12)	
	John §48 (14:10b-21)	
SEVENTH WEEK OF PASCHA		
<i>Su</i>	7th Sunday of Pascha: Fathers of the 1st Council	
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21	
	<i>10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §66 (21:1-14)	
	Acts §44 (20:16-18a, 28-36)	John §56 (17:1-13)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tikhon, the son of Natalia and Joseph Reitano, and brother of Sasha, was baptized at St Elizabeth's on Saturday, 20 May 2017. Seraphima and Timothy Morrow stood as Godparents to baby Tikhon. Many Years to the newly-illuminated Tikhon, his Sponsors, and his family!

The Apodosis (Leave-taking) of Pascha, the thirtieth day of Pascha and the day before Ascension Thursday, is this Wednesday. On this day the whole service of Pascha is sung again. This reaffirms that Holy Pascha is not just a single day, but a period of time or season in our Church life. In some traditions, this is a fast-free day, with all foods being permitted, though the Leave-taking of Pascha always falls on a Wednesday. In Russian practice, however, this day is not fast-free, but fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted.

Although there will be no services for the Apodosis of Pascha at St Elizabeth's, there will be services at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Lakewood. Vespers and Matins for the Feast will be served on Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock; and Liturgy for the Feast will be on Wednesday morning at 9:30. What a beautiful way to say farewell to the Feast of Feasts!

The Paschal Office, a short service of prayer that replaces the daily services of the Hours, Compline, and the Midnight Office during Bright Week and on the Leave-taking of Pascha. The faithful also say the Paschal Office as a replacement for their morning and evening prayers on these days. In Russian practice, the Paschal Office is always sung, never simply read, thereby underscoring our overflowing joy in Christ's Resurrection. The Office consists of the paschal troparion, the hymn *'Having beheld the resurrection of Christ...'*, the Hypakoë and kontakion of the Feast, and a few other paschal hymns. The Paschal Office is a beautiful distillation of the joyful prayer of the Feast. You may find the text of the Paschal Office in *The Jordanville Prayer Book*.

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, the fortieth day after Pascha, is this Thursday, the Thursday of the Sixth Week of Pascha. On this day we remember our Saviour's Ascension into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. In ascending into the heavens, the Son of God remained united to His human nature. The Incarnation was not simply a temporary condition in order to achieve our salvation, but God remained united to our human nature even in ascending to Heaven and will remain so forever. What joy should be ours in celebrating this Holy Day! The Ascension is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church and all Orthodox Christians should be in church of the Feast.

The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated for nine days, from this Thursday through the Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the Feast on the following Friday. The Troparion and Kontakion of the Ascension are chanted or read at all the services of the Church during this period. The texts of these hymns are found in *The Jordanville Prayer Book*. To celebrate the Feast at home, the Troparion of the Feast (*'Thou hast ascended in glory...'*) can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the Kontakion of the Feast (*'When Thou didst fulfill Thy dispensation...'*) can be sung instead of the usual thanksgiving troparion after each meal. It would also be most appropriate to sing the troparion and kontakion of the Feast at the end of our morning and evening prayers at home.

During the ten days from Ascension Day through the Saturday before Pentecost, the introductory prayers *Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!* and *O heavenly King...* are neither said in the liturgical services nor in prayers at home. Although during the forty days of Pascha, these prayers are replaced by the triple repetition of the paschal troparion, during the post-festal period of the Ascension, "*Glory to Thee...*" and "*O heavenly King...*" are not replaced by any other prayer or troparion. The omission of the beautiful prayer to the Holy Spirit should awaken within us a longing for and expectation of the coming of the Comforter at the Feast of Pentecost when we resume saying this prayer.

Our Parish needs donations for greens and flowers to adorn the church for the Great Feast of Pentecost. If you would like to make a donation for this, please put it in the church collection basket and mark it 'Flowers'. You may include a Commemoration List with your donation.

