

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

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FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (Tone 1)

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 5)

Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy

Saturday, 19 March (6 March o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 20 March (7 March o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:30 PM Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday of the Second Week of the Fast

Wednesday, 23 March (10 March o.s.)

4:45 PM Lenten Hours & Typika
6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Friday of the Second Week of the Fast

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

8:15 AM Lenten Hours & Typika
9:30 AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
6:00 PM Compline & Akathist to Theotokos
7:00 PM Soul Saturday Pannykhida

2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 5)

St Gregory Palamas

Saturday, 26 March (13 March o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 27 March (14 March o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

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 and Sunday, as on all weekends of Great Lent, wine and oil are also allowed.

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 13th (St John Cassian): Cassian O'Beirne;

Birthdays – 13th: Sarah Brangwynne.

Wedding Anniversaries – 16th: Father David & Matushka Faith Straut (1979).

THIS WEEK

Namedays – 23rd (Martyr Vasilissa): Vasilissa Seneko.

Birthdays – 21st: Zydrune Ann Mladineo.

Baptism Anniversaries – 20th: Matushka Faith Straut (1983).

THE REST OF MARCH

Namedays – 30th (St Patrick of Ireland): William Patrick Brien.

Birthdays – 31st: Deacon Steven Barker.

Fallen Asleep in the Lord – 28th: Madeleine & Margaret Hotz.

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

1st Sunday of the Great Fast: Sunday of Orthodoxy		
1st Sunday	10th Matins Gospel: John §66 (21:1-14)	
	Heb. §329a (11:24-26, 32-12:2a)	John §5 (1:43-51)
SECOND WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST		
2 nd Monday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 4:2-6; 5:1-7	
	Vespers: Genesis 3:21-4:7 • Proverbs 3:34-4:22	
2 nd Tuesday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:7-16	
	Vespers: Genesis 4:8-15 • Proverbs 5:1-15	
2 nd Wednesday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:16-25	
	Vespers: Genesis 4:16-26 • Proverbs 5:15-6:3	
2 nd Thursday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 6:1-12	
	Vespers: Genesis 5:1-24 • Proverbs 6:3-20	
2 nd Friday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 7:1-14	
	Vespers: Genesis 5:32-6:8 • Proverbs 6:20-7:1	
2nd Saturday of the Great Fast: Soul Saturday		
2 nd Saturday	Heb. §309 (3:12-16)	Mark §6 (1:35-44)
Soul Saturday	1 Cor. §163 (15:47-57) John §16 (5:24-30)	
2nd Sunday of the Great Fast: St Gregory Palamas		
2nd Sunday	11th Matins Gospel: John §67 (21:15-25)	
	Heb. §304 (1:10-2:3)	Mark §7 (2:1-12)
St Gregory	Heb. §318 (7:26-8:2)	John §36 (10:9-16)

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 will have a meal today right after the Liturgy and before the Annual Meeting begins. All are invited to come to the meal and parishioners to remain after the meal for the Annual Meeting.

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held today (the third Sunday of March.) Year-in-review reports for the past year are to be presented by the Rector, Church Warden, Treasurer, Auditing Committee, and Building Committee. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard, and Parish Council members for the coming year elected. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.

Many Thanks to the Darenkov family who provided *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for the Supplicatory Service to St Theodore the Tyro this past Friday morning.

A Moleben for the Conversion of Those in Error will be served immediately after the Liturgy today. At the conclusion of the Moleben there will also be a Blessing of Icons of our parishioners. The Moleben and the Blessing of Icons are a fitting prayerful expression of our holy Faith on this Sunday of Orthodoxy.

There are many weekday services at St Elizabeth's during Great Lent. This means there are plenty of opportunities to increase our prayer while we are fasting. So please plan ahead and come to church more often this Lent!

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 Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours and the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 4:45PM.

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 be served this week on Friday morning at 9:30AM. The Lenten Services of the Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours with the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 8:15AM.

The Service of the Akathist to the Theotokos is served at St Elizabeth's on the first five Friday evenings of Great Lent at 6 o'clock. This is the Service of Small Compline with a canon and the Akathist chanted to the Most-Holy Mother of God. We will be serving the second of these beautiful services this Friday evening. Come sing the praises of the Panagia at this beautiful service!

There are three Soul Saturdays during Great Lent. The first of these is next Saturday. A General Pannykhida will be served on Friday evening at 7 o'clock. The names of the Departed in all the Commemoration Books kept at the church will be commemorated at these services. If you need to update your books, please do so as soon as possible.

If anyone is able to provide a donation of *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) on any of the next three Friday evenings for the mid-lenten Soul Saturdays, please let Father know.

We need donations for flowers to adorn the Cross and church on the Third Sunday of Great Lent. If you would like to make a donation for this, please place it in the collection basket, marked 'flowers.' You may include a Commemoration List with your donation.

Because of the great number of communicants at our parish, especially during the Great Fast, the number of parishioners needing to go to Confession at St Elizabeth's Church is usually quite high. Because we have only one priest, who must serve in the altar as well as hear all the Confessions, this presents practical difficulties in applying the usual rule of the Russian Church insisting on Confession before every Communion. The only workable solution seems to be applying the exceptional practice of Holy Week to the rest of the year. For those who desire it, or for those whom a Spiritual Father recommends or requires it, Confession before every Communion will certainly be provided. But for those who are able to lead a disciplined spiritual life, abstaining from serious sin, and fulfilling the other preparations for Holy Communion, a more relaxed rule is in order. Confession before the Liturgy of one weekend will suffice for all the Liturgies for the next two weeks, so that regular communicants will only have to go to Confession every other weekend. There may also be some cases when a Spiritual Father has allowed, in certain individual cases, for an even more relaxed rule on Confession before Holy Communion, so it is important for us to abstain from judging others regarding the frequency of their Confessions before Holy Communion.