

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

WEEKLY BULLETIN

Volume XV

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28 April / 11 May 2014

FOURTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Healing of the Paralytic

THIS WEEK AT ST ELIZABETH'S

4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Paralytic

Saturday, 10 May (27 April o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 11 May (28 April o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Trapeza (coffee hour)
12:00 PM Teenagers' 'Lunch with Father'

FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST

Tuesday, 13 May (30 April o.s.)

6:00 PM Vespers; Matins & First Hour
Confessions

Wednesday, 14 May (1 May o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Lesser Blessing of Water

5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Paralytic

Saturday, 17 May (4 May o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 18 May (5 May o.s.)

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK

FOURTH WEEK OF PASCHA	
Su	Fourth Sunday of Pascha: The Paralytic
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §112 (24:1-12)
	Acts §23 (9:32-42) John §14 (5:1-15)
M	Acts §24 (10:1-16) John §24 (6:56-69)
Tu	Acts §25 (10:21-33) John §25 (7:1-13)
W	Feast of Mid-Pentecost
	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Micah 4:2-3, 5; 5:2-5, 8 • (2) Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-13 • (3) Proverbs 9:1-11
	Acts §34 (14:6b-18) John §26 (7:14-30)
Th	Acts §26 (10:34-43) John §29 (8:12-20)
F	Acts §27 (10:44-11:10) John §30 (8:21-30)
Sa	Acts §29 (12:1-11) John §31 (8:31-42a)
FIFTH WEEK OF PASCHA	
Su	Fifth Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman
	<i>7th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §63 (20:1-10)
	Acts §28 (11:19-26, 29-30) John §12 (4:5-42)

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	14 May (1 May, o.s.)	Feast of Mid-Pentecost Fast: fish, wine & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	16 May (3 May, o.s.)	St Theodosius of the Kiev Caves Fast: fish, wine & oil permitted

NAMEDAYS, BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

LAST WEEK

Namedays – 6th (Great-Martyr George): William George Brien, Noah George Hotz; George Seneko.

Wedding Anniversaries – 8th: Reader Gregory & Claudia Maxey (1988), Sbdcn Stephanos & Juliana Bibas (2005).

THIS WEEK

Birthdays – 12th: Olga Welsh.

Wedding Anniversaries – 15th: James & Olga Welsh.

THE REST OF MAY

Namedays – 21st (Apostle John the Theologian): John Morrow, Jack (John) Welsh; 23rd (Blessed Thais of Egypt): Taisia Seneko; 28th (St Colman of Oughaval): Colman (Hugh) O'Beirne; 29th (St Brendan the Voyager): Brendan (Christopher) Brav.

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

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

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The second Sunday of May is designated Mothers' Day in the United States. We join our society in honoring the Mothers, Grandmothers, and Godmothers among us!

The May Parish Council Meeting will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month rather than today, the 2nd Sunday, in order not to conflict with Mother's Day. All

parish council members asked to make a note of this and are asked to try to attend, despite the change of Sundays.

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 May. What we collect will be sent to the Synod of Bishops for the R.E.M. in June. This collection (taken in most parishes on Palm Sunday) 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.

The fast days this week are Wednesday and Friday. On Wednesday, the Feast of Mid-Pentecost, the fast is mitigated, with fish, wine and oil being permitted. On Friday, the feast of the great Russian monastic St Theodosius of the Kiev Caves, fish, wine and oil are also allowed.

Wednesday is the Feast of Mid-Pentecost. It is twenty-five days after the Sunday of Pascha, the midpoint of the fifty days between Pascha and the Sunday of Pentecost. The services of Vespers and Matins for the Feast will be served in our church on Tuesday evening at 6 o'clock. On Wednesday morning, the Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30, followed immediately by the Lesser Blessing of Water.

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost is celebrated for eight days, from this Wednesday through the Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the Feast on the following Wednesday. The troparion and kontakion of Mid-Pentecost are chanted or read at all the services of the Church during this period. The texts of these hymns can be found in *The Jordanville Prayer Book*. It is most appropriate that we add the troparion and kontakion of the Feast to our morning and evening prayers at home also.

Orthopraxis **During the Paschal Season**

The Paschal time of 50 Days (*Pentecost*) is a period of festive joy. Throughout the entire period of 50 days, from the Sunday of Pascha until the Day of Pentecost, this joy is expressed liturgically in the following manner:

- The Prayer 'O Heavenly King...' is omitted during the entire period of 50 days.
- We do not kneel or make prostrations during the entire period of 50 days.

Pascha is not celebrated for merely one day, or even a week like other Great Feasts of the Church, but it is a 40 day Feast. Throughout the entire period of 40 days, from the Sunday of Pascha until the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, we celebrate the Feast in the following manner:

- We use the greeting 'Christ is risen!' and the response 'Truly He is risen' throughout the entire 40 days of Pascha.
- The Paschal Troparion, 'Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life' is sung or said three times at the beginning of all Services and personal prayers for the entire 40 days of Pascha.

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

Mid-Pentecost celebrates the midpoint between the Feasts of Pascha and Pentecost, falling on the 25th day of Pascha.

Mid-Pentecost is a one-week feast which begins on the Fourth Wednesday of Pascha, and continues until the following Wednesday. Throughout these eight days (including the day of the feast) hymns of Mid-Pentecost are joined to those of the Paschal season.

The theme of the feast is Christ as Teacher, based upon the words from the Gospel of the day (St John 7:14-30): "Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught... Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

The icon of the feast depicts the young Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem speaking with the Elders (St Luke 2:46-47), the first biblical example of Jesus as teacher (Rabbi). In traditional Orthodox icons of this subject, the figure of Jesus is depicted larger than those of the Elders, showing his superior spiritual status.

The Troparion of the Feast hints at the encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan Woman, which will be celebrated on the following Sunday:

In the midst of the Feast, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of piety; for Thou, O Saviour, didst cry out to all: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Well-spring of life, Christ, our God, Glory be to Thee.

The scripture verse from St John 7:37, quoted by the Troparion, will be read on the day of Pentecost.