

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

Number 01

4 / 17 September 2017

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 6*)

Hieromartyr Babylas, Bp of Antioch; Holy Prophet & God-seer Moses

SERVICES THIS WEEK

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 6*)

Hieromartyr Babylas and the Prophet Moses

Saturday, 16 September (3 September, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 17 September (4 September, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;

Trapeza (coffee hour)

12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

Wednesday, 20 September (7 September, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Thursday, 21 September (8 September, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

16TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (*Tone 7*)

Afterfeast of Nativity; St Theodora of Alexandria

Saturday, 23 September (10 September, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 24 September (11 September, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;

Annual Parish picnic

FASTING DAYS Week of 17 September

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	20 September (7 Sept, o.s.)	Forefeast of Nativity; M. Sozon Normal Fast Day (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Friday</i>	22 September (9 Sept, o.s.)	Ss Joachim & Anna Fast: Wine & Oil permitted



SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 17 September

<i>Su</i>	15th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>4th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §112 (24:1-12)</i>	
	2 Cor. §176 (4:6-15)	Matt. §92 (22:35-46)
	16TH WEEK after PENTECOST	
<i>M</i>	Gal. §211 (4:28-5:10)	Mark §27 (6:54-7:8a)
<i>Tu</i>	Gal. §212 (5:11-21)	Mark §28 (7:5-16)
<i>W</i>	Gal. §214 (6:2-10)	Mark §29 (7:14-24a)
<i>Th</i>	NATIVITY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS	
	<i>Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 28:10-17 •</i>	
	<i>(2) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a • (3) Proverbs 9:1-11</i>	
	<i>Matins Gospel: Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)</i>	
	Phil. §240 (2:5-11)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
<i>Th</i>	Eph. §216 (1:1-9)	Mark §30 (7:24-30)
<i>F</i>	Eph. §217 (1:7-17)	Mark §32 (8:1-10)
<i>Sa</i>	1 Cor. §146 (10:23-28)	Matt. §101 (24:34-44)
<i>Su</i>	16th Sunday after Pentecost	
	<i>5th Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)</i>	
	2 Cor. §181 (6:1-10)	Matt. §105 (25:14-30)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy New Year? Some may not many know that the Church Year began on 1 September, old style (14 September, new style). The ancient Christian computation of years also differs from the standard Western reckoning. The years are counted from Adam, and so we begin the Church year 7526 on 1 / 14 September 2017. This computation was the official calendar of the Christian Eastern Roman (Byzantine) Empire. It was also used in Russia until Tsar Peter the Great changed the New Year to 1 January and began counting years A.D. like the rest of Europe. It's not too late your New Year resolutions!

St Elizabeth's Annual Picnic will be held on the 4th Sunday of September instead of our usual Sunday coffee hour. Please plan to attend. It will be a great opportunity for Parish fellowship. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and buns will be provided by the parish. We need salads, baked beans, chips, drinks, and other accompaniments brought by parishioners. Please let Matushka know if you

plan to attend and what you plan to bring. The Parish also needs to borrow an additional gas grill with fuel. Please speak to Father if you can bring one. The grills can be brought to church on Saturday evening or on Sunday morning.

Two of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church fall in the month of September. These are the Feasts of the Nativity of the Theotokos (8 / 21 September) and the Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross (14 / 27 September). All faithful Orthodox Christians should be in church to celebrate these important Feasts.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God (8 / 21 September) begins the cycle of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It comes one week after the Ecclesiastical New Year (1 / 14 September). Thus Our Lady's Birth begins the cycle of these Great Feasts and another of her Feasts, her glorious Dormition, brings the cycle to a close, just two weeks before the end of the Liturgical Year. Thus we begin and end the year with the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lady teaches us that our salvation in Christ begins with the conception and Birth of His All-Pure Mother. Without her existence and her acceptance to voluntarily become the Ever-Virgin Mother of our Saviour, His incarnation would not have taken place. So the miraculous birth of the Theotokos of her aged parents, Joachim and Anna, is a source of rejoicing for all Christians.

The Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated for five days, from the Feast Day itself through the *Apodosis* (Leave-taking) of the Feast on 25 September (n.s). The festal period of this Feast is shorter than the usual eight days, because of the close proximity of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. The troparion and kontakion of the Nativity are chanted or read at all the services of the Church on each of the five days. The texts for these hymns may be found in the *Jordanville Prayer Book*. To celebrate the Feast at home, the troparion of the Feast ('*Thy nativity, O Theotokos Virgin ...*') can be sung instead of the 'Our Father' before meals, while the kontakion of the Feast ('*Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness...*') 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.

Father can provide written excuses for absence or lateness for students attending Liturgy for a Great Feast. Just let him know you need it in advance.

Concerning Confession and Holy Communion: Those who have been to any time during the two weeks prior to Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God, may receive Holy Communion on the Feast, provided that no serious sin has been committed which would require another Confession and that the other usual preparations for Holy Communion are observed (i.e. attendance of the Vigil Service the evening before Holy Communion, reading the Pre-Communion Prayers, and the forgiveness of others). Likewise, those who have been to Confession for the Feast of Our Lady's Nativity may receive Holy Communion at the Liturgy the following two Sundays and on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, under the same conditions.

Donations are sought for flowers to adorn the Holy Cross on the Feast of the Exaltation (14 / 27 September). If you would like to make a donation toward flowers for that day, please place it in the collection basket marked 'flowers.' You may certainly include a commemoration list so that your loved ones may be remembered at the Liturgy on that day.

