

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

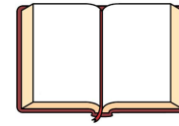
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FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (Tone 5)

SERVICES THIS WEEK



1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 5)

Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

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

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

Second Wednesday of Great Lent

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

Friday, 2 March (17 February, o.s.)

Second Friday of Great Lent

8:15 AM Lenten Hours & Typika
9:30 AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts;
Canon to Great-martyr Theodore

Saturday, 3 March (18 February, o.s.)

Second Saturday of Great Lent: Soul Saturday

5:15 PM General Pannikhida

2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 6)

St Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

Saturday, 3 March (18 February, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 4 March (19 February, o.s.)

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

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.

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 25 February

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

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today is the last Sunday of our special collection for the Holy Trinity Seminary in Jordanville, New York, will be taken at St Elizabeth's during the Sundays of February. Our donations will help educate the future clergy of our Church. If you have given to this worthy cause, may God bless you. If not, please consider Please giving today.

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.

There are three Soul Saturdays during Great Lent. The first of these is next Saturday. A General Pannykhida will be served on Saturday evening at 5 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.

Only the names of Orthodox Christians are permitted to be commemorated at Memorial Services and at the Proskomedia. If you have included Non-Orthodox in your Commemoration Book or Commemoration Lists, please clearly indicate which persons named, if any, are Non-Orthodox.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

St Elizabeth's Annual Meeting will be held on the fourth Sunday of March. The Rector, Church Warden, and Treasurer will present year-in-review reports for the past year. Planning for the current year will also take place. Parishioner concerns will be heard. All voting members of the Parish are asked to attend.

Those attending the Annual Meeting are asked to bring a dish of food for the meal that will precede the Meeting. Please let Matushka Faith know what you plan to bring.

We have a few individuals and families who regularly attend services at St Elizabeth's, and even confess and commune, but have not yet sought to become formal members of the Parish. If you are one of these and would like to be a formal member of the Parish, please speak to Fr David about this.