

# THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XIX

Number 35

30 April / 13 May 2018

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Healing of the Blind Man Commemoration of the Holy Apostle James, Son of Zebedee

### SERVICES THIS WEEK

**6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: Blind Man** (*Tone 5*)  
Apostle James, Brother of Ap. John the Theologian  
*Saturday, 12 May (29 April, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 13 May (30 April, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Coffee Hour

### ASCENSION OF THE LORD

*Wednesday, 16 May (3 May, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Thursday, 17 May (4 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, 19 May (6 May, o.s.)*

6:00 PM Vigil Service;  
Confessions

*Sunday, 20 May (7 May, o.s.)*

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;  
Coffee Hour  
12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

### FASTING DAYS Week of 13 May

Day	Date	Commemoration & Type of Fast
<i>Wednesday</i>	16 May (3 May, o.s.)	Apodosis of Pascha
		Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	18 May (5 May, o.s.)	Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica
		Fast: wine, & oil permitted

### SCRIPTURE READINGS THIS WEEK Week of 13 May

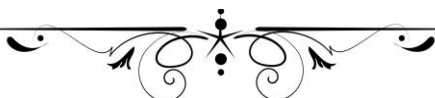
SIXTH WEEK OF PASCHA		
<i>Su</i>	Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man	
	<i>8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §64 (20:11-18)	
	Acts §38 (16:16-34)	John §34 (9:1-38)
<i>M</i>	Acts §39 (17:1-15)	
<i>Tu</i>	Acts §40a (17:19-28a)	
<i>W</i>	Apodosis of Pascha	
	Acts §41 (18:22-28)	John §43 (12:36-47)
<i>Th</i>	<b>Ascension of the Lord</b>	
	<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)	
<i>Sa</i>	Acts §43 (20:7-12)	
	John §47 (14:1-11a)	John §48 (14:10b-21)
SEVENTH WEEK OF PASCHA		
<i>Su</i>	<b>7th Sunday of Pascha: Fathers of the 1st Council</b>	
	<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

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 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 6:30; 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 Hypakoi 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.

**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.

### On This Mother's Day

To those who gave birth this year to their first child - we celebrate with you.

To those who lost a child this year - we mourn with you.

To those who are in the trenches with little ones every day - we appreciate you.

To those who stepparent - we walk with you on these complex paths.

To those who lived through driving tests, medical tests, and the overall testing of motherhood - we are better for having you in our midst.

To those who are foster mothers, mentor mothers, and Godmothers - we need you.

To those who experienced loss through miscarriage, failed adoptions, or running away - we mourn with you.

To those who walk the hard path of infertility, fraught with pokes, prods, tears, and disappointment - we walk with you. (Forgive us when we say foolish things. We don't mean to make this harder than it is.)

To those who have warm and close relationships with your children - we celebrate with you.

To those who have disappointment, heartache, and distance with your children - we sit with you.

To those who lost their mothers this year - we mourn with you.

To those who experienced abuse at the hands of their own mothers - we grieve with you.

To those who are single and long to be married and mothering your own children - we mourn that life has not turned out the way you longed for it to be.

To those who envisioned lavishing love on grandchildren - yet that dream is not to be, we grieve with you.

To those who will have emptier nests in the upcoming year - we grieve and rejoice with you.

To those who placed children up for adoption - we commend you for your selflessness and remember how you hold that child in your heart.

And to those who are pregnant with new life, both expected and surprising - we anticipate with you.

This Mother's Day, we walk with you. Mothering is not for the faint of heart and we have real warriors in our midst. We remember you.