

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

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THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 4)
Holy Martyr Mamas; St John the Faster, Patriarch of Constantinople

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 4)

Holy Martyr Mamas; St John the Faster

Saturday, 14 September (1 September, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 15 September (2 September, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Coffee Hour

12:30 PM Parish Council Meeting

NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Tone 5)

Afterfeast of the Nativity; Ss Joachim & Anna

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 22 September (9 September, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours

9:30 AM Divine Liturgy;
Coffee Hour

12:30 PM 'Lunch with Father' for older Children

FASTING DAYS Week of 15 September

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Wednesday	18 September (5 Sept, o.s.)	Ss Zacharias & Elisabeth
		Fast: Wine & Oil permitted
Friday	20 September (7 Sept, o.s.)	Forefeast of Nativity; M. Sozon
		Xerophagy (No oil)

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 15 September

Su	13th Sunday after Pentecost	
	2nd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §70 (16:1-8)	
	1 Cor. §166 (16:13-24)	Mt §87 (21:33-42)
14TH WEEK after PENTECOST		
M	2 Cor. §195 (12:10-19)	Mark §16 (4:10-23)
Tu	2 Cor. §196 (12:20-13:2)	Mark §17 (4:24-34)
W	2 Cor. §197 (13:3-14)	Mark §18 (4:35-41)
Th	Gal. §198 (1:1-10, 20-2:5)	Mark §19 (5:1-20)
F	Gal. §201 (2:6-10)	Mark §20 (5:22-24, 35-6:1)
Sa	1 Cor. §130 (4:1-5)	Mt §93 (23:1-12)
Sa	NATIVITY OF THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS	
	Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 28:10-17 •	
	(2) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a • (3) Proverbs 9:1-11	
	Matins Gospel: Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)	
	Phil. §240 (2:5-11)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
Su	Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross	
	14th Sunday after Pentecost	
	3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel: Mark §71 (16:9-20)	
	Gal. §215 (6:11-18)	John §9 (3:13-17)
	2 Cor. §170 (1:21-2:4)	Mt §89 (22:1-14)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Metropolitan Hilarion has directed a special collection to be taken on the second Sunday of September to benefit the Synodal Music Commission, which oversees the Synodal Church Singer's School and the organization of the Church Singer's Conferences. The 28th Russian Orthodox Church Musician's Conference, entitled 'Continuity & Growth: Ensuring the Future of Liturgical Chant in our Parishes.', will take place at Church of the Epiphany in Boston, Massachusetts, from 2 - 6 October of this year. At St Elizabeth's we will be collecting for this good work in our Church during the Sundays of September.

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 7528 on 1 / 14 September 2019. 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!

A Moleben for the beginning of the Church Year will be served after the Divine Liturgy this morning. Let all of us who are able remain in church to praise God for this New Year and beseech His blessing upon it.

The September Parish Council Meeting will be held today during coffee hour. All parish council members asked to attend, despite the change of Sundays.

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.

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.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week there will be a 'Lunch with Father' for the Middle School aged children of the parish. The topic will be the confusing messages our society is advocating about personal identity, marriage, and relationships that are opposed to our Orthodox Christian Faith. Parents are welcome to listen in, but not participate actively.

The Exaltation of the Holy and Life-giving Cross (14 / 27 September) is one of the most important of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. Its preeminence is demonstrated by the fact that a special Epistle and Gospel are appointed for the Saturday and Sunday both before and after the Feast, like the Great Feasts of Christmas and Theophany. This Feast Day commemorates the finding of the True Cross by St Helena, the mother of St Constantine the Great, and various miracles associated with the True Cross throughout history. At the end of the Vigil service on the Eve of the Feast, the Holy Cross, adorned on a tray with flowers or basil, is brought out of the Altar in procession to the center of the church where it is venerated by the faithful.

St Elizabeth's Annual Picnic will be held on the last 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, side dishes, desserts, chips, drinks, and other accompaniments brought by parishioners. Please let Matushka know if you plan to attend and what you plan to bring.

Good news! We have again been invited to hold our Parish Picnic at the home of the Yanovsky family at 10 Steele Drive, West Windsor, New Jersey. Many thanks to Inna & Ken!