

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

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24 February / 8 March 2020

FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY (Tone 5)
First and Second Findings of the Precious Head of the Forerunner

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

1ST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 5)

Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy

Saturday, 7 March (24 February, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 8 March (25 February, o.s.)

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

2nd Friday of the Great Fast

Friday, 13 March (29 February, o.s.)

5:30 PM Ninth Hour & Typika
6:00 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

2nd Saturday of the Great Fast: Soul Saturday

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

5:15 PM General Pannikhida

2ND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (Tone 6)

St Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 15 March (2 March, 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 8 March

1st Sunday of the Great Fast: Sunday of Orthodoxy		
1st Sunday	5th Matins Gospel: Luke §113 (24:12-35)	
	Heb. §329a (11:24-26, 32-12:2a)	John §5 (1:43-51)
SECOND WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST		
2nd Monday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 4:2-6; 5:1-7 Vespers: Genesis 3:21-4:7 • Proverbs 3:34-4:22	
2nd Tuesday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:7-16 Vespers: Genesis 4:8-15 • Proverbs 5:1-15	
2nd Wednesday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 5:16-25 Vespers: Genesis 4:16-26 • Proverbs 5:15-6:3	
2nd Thursday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 6:1-12 Vespers: Genesis 5:1-24 • Proverbs 6:3-20	
2nd Friday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 7:1-14 Vespers: Genesis 5:32-6:8 • Proverbs 6:20-7:1	
2nd Saturday of the Great Fast: Soul Saturday		
2nd Saturday	Heb. §309 (3:12-16)	Mark §6 (1:35-44)
Soul Saturday	1 Cor. §163 (15:47-57)	John §16 (5:24-30)
2nd Sunday of the Great Fast: St Gregory Palamas		
2nd Sunday	6th Matins Gospel: Luke §114 (24:36-53)	
	Heb. §304 (1:10-2:3)	Mark §7 (2:1-12)
St Gregory	Heb. §318 (7:26-8:2)	John §36 (10:9-16)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome back to Daylight Savings Time! Those of you who remembered to set your clocks ahead and arrived on time get a star in your crown!

The Blessing of Icons is done today at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on this First Sunday of Great Lent: the Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. Because this day is a celebration of the victory of the Orthodox Faith over the heresy of Iconoclasm, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of icons. Icons have been brought over the last 40 days by our parishioners and placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be completed with the prayers of blessing said today at the Prayer Behind the Ambon.

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.

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 Great Lent. What we collect will be sent to the Synod of Bishops for the R.E.M. at Palm Sunday. This Palm Sunday collection 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.

Many Thanks to Katya Darenkov who provided *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for the Supplicatory Service to St Theodore the Tyro this past Friday morning.

The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be served this Friday 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 Service of the Ninth Hour and the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 5:30 p.m.

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 least 6 hours before the reception of Holy Communion. If conditions exist which make an observance of the Eucharistic Fast from Midnight for an evening Liturgy impossible, such *economia* is appropriate.

There are three Soul Saturdays during Great Lent. The first of these is next Saturday. A General Pannykhida will be served on Saturday afternoon at 5:15. 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 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

There will be a blessing of Crosses at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on the Third Sunday of Great Lent: the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross. Because this day is dedicated to our veneration of the Holy Cross, it is a very appropriate day for the sanctification of Crosses, both those worn around the neck and those hung on walls. If you have crosses at home that have not yet been blessed, please bring them to church as soon as possible so that they can be placed in the altar to begin the process of sanctification that will be complete after the prayers of blessing on the Third Sunday of the Fast.