

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 29

16 / 29 March 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (*Tone 8*)

Commemoration of our Venerable Father John of the Ladder

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

4TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (*Tone 8*)

Commemoration of St John Climacus

Saturday, 28 March (15 March, o.s.)

4:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 29 March (16 March, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

5th Wednesday of the Great Fast:

Great Canon of St Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, 1 April (19 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Service of the Great Canon

5th Saturday of the Great Fast:

Saturday of the Akathist to the Theotokos

Friday, 3 April (21 March, o.s.)

9:00 AM Ninth Hour & Typika
9:30 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
6:00 PM Service of the Akathist Hymn

5TH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (*Tone 1*)

Commemoration of St Mary of Egypt

Saturday, 4 April (22 March, o.s.)

4:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 5 April (23 March, o.s.)

9:10 AM Third and Sixth Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

ALL THE ABOVE SERVICES WILL BE SERVED privately, i.e. with a priest, deacon (if available), server, and a small choir of a few singers. At the direction of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion and His Grace, Bishop Nicholas, we are to observe the reasonable restrictions of the civil authority which require us to have a gathering of no more than ten (10) persons who are able to space themselves six (6) feet apart. This will be our routine for the time being. We hope and pray that it does not last until Great & Holy Week and Pascha, but it may.

Parishioners are asked to remain home and pray there while the services go on in church.

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

We are in the midst of the Great Lent. Therefore all the days of this week are fast days. Monday and Tuesday are normal fast days, with no fish, wine, or oil permitted. On the rest of the days of the week the fast is mitigated, with wine and oil being permitted: on Wednesday and Thursday because of the Vigil of the Great Canon, and on Friday because of the Vigil of the Akathist Hymn. Next Saturday and Sunday, as on all weekends of Great Lent, wine and oil are also allowed.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 29 March

4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus		
<i>4th Sunday</i>	<i>8th Matins Gospel: John §64 (20:11-18)</i>	
	Heb. §314 (6:13-20)	Mark §40 (9:17-31)
<i>St John</i>	<i>St John</i>	<i>St John</i>
FIFTH WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST		
<i>5th Monday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour: Isaiah 37:33-38:6</i>	
	<i>Vespers: Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4</i>	
<i>5th Tuesday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour: Isaiah 40:18-31</i>	
	<i>Vespers: Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19</i>	
<i>5th Wednesday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour: Isaiah 41:4-14</i>	
	<i>Vespers: Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9</i>	
<i>5th Thursday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour: Isaiah 42:5-16</i>	
	<i>Vespers: Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverb 16:17-17:17</i>	
<i>5th Friday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour: Isaiah 45:11-17</i>	
	<i>Vespers: Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5</i>	
5th Saturday of the Great Fast: Saturday of the Akathist		
<i>5th Saturday</i>	Heb. §322 (9:24-28)	Mark §35 (8:27-31)
<i>Akathist</i>	Heb. §320 (9:1-7)	Luke §54 (10:38-42; 11:27-28)
5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt		
<i>5th Sunday</i>	<i>9th Matins Gospel: John §65 (20:19-31)</i>	
	Heb. §321a (9:11-14)	Mark §47 (10:32b-45)
<i>St Mary</i>	Gal. §208 (3:23-29)	Luke §33 (7:36-50)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

We ask our parishioners not to come to the private church services that are being served at St Elizabeth's Church for the time being. (See the note under the 'SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK' above.)

Parishioners who would like to receive the Mysteries of Confession and Holy Communion should contact Father David who will be happy to come to their home to administer the Sacraments.

Parishioners who are ill should contact Father David. A Moleben for the Sick can be served either in your home or in the Rectory. The Mysteries of Confession, Holy Communion, and Unction can be given you in your home, or in the hospital (if permitted by the civil and hospital authorities.)

We have looked into the matter of 'livestreaming' the services at St Elizabeth's during the state of emergency. At the moment it does not seem possible because there is no internet service in our church building via either cable service or the telephone company. If the Parish decides that this is important, we will need to commit to the cost of its installation and monthly payments. It will also take some time to arrange installation. In the meantime, there are some very good Orthodox Service 'livestreams' that follow the Church (Julian) Calendar that we urge you to use.

Holy Cross Monastery in West Virginia is livestreaming all its liturgical services throughout the Coronavirus epidemic. This has the great advantage that all the daily services (not just the ones usually done in parish churches) are available for daily viewing and participation. Holy Cross Monastery services are a good choice for those who understand only English, as their services are entirely in English. This is the Monastery's services webpage:

<https://www.holycross.org/blogs/news/monastery-livestreaming-all-services-throughout-coronavirus-epidemic>

It will give you links to view the services as they occur via either Facebook or YouTube.

St John the Baptist Cathedral in Washington, D.C., also streams its services. They have a full liturgical schedule, though not daily services. Services are generally bilingual, i.e. in Slavonic and English, so this is a good choice for Russian speakers who will benefit from Slavonic services but who also like to hear a good deal of English in church. St John livestreams their services via YouTube. This is St John's YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnDC>

Scroll down to 'Upcoming Live Streams' to click a service you may have missed or participate in a service going on in real time. You can also 'set reminders' for future services.

St John the Baptist Cathedral in Mayfield, Pennsylvania, also livestreams their services. St John's services are like St Elizabeth's as regards liturgical language: English services with some parts in Slavonic. However, unlike St Elizabeth's which mainly serves according to the émigré Russian traditions, St John's still retains a great many old Metropolia customs inherited from its long history. Just be aware of this. St John's livestreams via the Vimeo platform:

<https://livestream.com/stjohnsmayfield>

On this webpage you may watch a service you may have missed or participate in a service going on in real time.

St Elizabeth's keeps going by relying on the stewardship of her parishioners. Many people remember the parish's financial needs when they go to church. But what of a time like this, when the vast majority of our parishioners are not able to come physically to church? Please remember to continue your tithes and offerings by mail, if you are able. Of course, there will be some parishioners who are out of work and not getting paid and so are not able to contribute at this time. That is completely understandable. But those parishioners who are working, or working from home, and so still have an income, are urged to continue to support their parish by mail. *St Elizabeth's mailing address is not our physical location in Rocky Hill.* Please send all mail to the Rectory, using the following address: St Elizabeth's Orthodox Church, 88 Eastern Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey 08876.

Should any parishioner need financial assistance during this difficult time, please contact Father David. Your parish will try to help you as best she can.

Many thanks to the servant of God who provided *kolyva* (sweetened boiled wheat) for the last of the three mid-lenten Soul Saturdays.

The Service of the Great Canon will be served this Wednesday, the fifth Wednesday evening of Great Lent, at 6 o'clock. This is the same Great Canon that was sung during the first week of the Fast, except that the entire Canon is chanted on this night, rather than a quarter of it, as on each of the first four weekday evenings of Lent. St Andrew of Crete, an Archbishop and hymnographer who died in the 8th Century, composed this Great Canon of Repentance. It is a masterpiece of Orthodox hymnography, recounting incidents and personalities throughout the whole of Biblical history, weaving the theme of repentance throughout. Another feature of this service is the reading of the memorable Life of St Mary of Egypt written by St Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem. Participating in this moving service will strengthen us to complete the Fast with compunction. Those of us who cannot participate in the service in person or via the internet can read the Great Canon itself, and perhaps also the Life of St Mary of Egypt, at home.

The Presanctified Liturgy will be served this week on Friday *morning* at 9:30. The Lenten Service of the Ninth Hour and the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The Fifth Saturday of Great Lent is the Saturday of the Akathist to the Theotokos. The Service of the Akathist Hymn will be served at St Elizabeth's on Friday evening at 6 o'clock. In this service, we chant the Akathist Canon with the Akathist Hymn to the Most-Holy Mother of God. Those of us who cannot participate in the service in person or via the internet can read (or sing) the Akathist to the Mother of God Friday evening by ourselves or as a family.

We need donations for flowers to adorn the church on Holy Friday and Pascha. If you would like to make a donation for this, please mail this to the Rectory address: 88

Eastern Avenue, Somerville, New Jersey 08876. You may include a Commemoration List with your donation.