

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 30

23 March / 5 April 2020

FIFTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (*Tone 1*)

Commemoration of our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THIS WEEK

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

Commemoration of St Mary of Egypt

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

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

ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS

Monday, 6 April (24 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Tuesday, 7 April (25 March, o.s.)

8:30 AM Hours & Typika
9:30 PM Vesperal Liturgy

6th Friday of the Great Fast

Friday, 10 April (28 March, o.s.)

9:00 AM Ninth Hour & Typika
9:30 PM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

LAZARUS SATURDAY

Friday, 10 April (28 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Matins, First Hour;
Confessions

Saturday, 11 April (29 March, o.s.)

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

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, 11 April (29 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 12 April (30 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. without parishioners at the rectory or in church. Parishioners are asked to remain

home and pray there while the services go on in church or the rectory.

FASTING DAYS THIS WEEK

We are in the midst of the Great Lent. Therefore all the days of this week are fast days. On Monday and Wednesday, wine & oil may be used because of the forefeast and apodosis of the Annunciation, respectively. On Tuesday, the Feast of the Annunciation, fish, wine, and oil are permitted. Thursday and Friday normal fast days, with no fish, wine, or oil permitted. On Lazarus Saturday, caviar, wine, and oil are allowed. And on Palm Sunday, we may eat fish, wine, and oil.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 29 March

5th Sunday of Great Lent: St Mary of Egypt		
5 th Sunday	9 th Matins Gospel: John §65 (20:19-31)	
	Heb. §314 (6:13-20)	Mark §40 (9:17-31)
St Mary	Gal. §208 (3:23-29)	Luke §33 (7:36-50)
SIXTH WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST		
6 th Monday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 48:17-49:4	
	Vespers: Genesis 27:1-41 • Proverbs 19:16-25	
6 th Tuesday of Great Lent	ANNUNCIATION TO THE 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)	
	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 58:1-11	
	Vesperal Liturgy: (1) Genesis 31:3-16 • (2) Proverbs 21:3-21 • (3) Exodus 3:1-8 • (4) Proverbs 8:22-30	
	Heb. §306 (2:11-18) Luke §3 (1:24-38)	
6 th Wednesday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 58:1-11	
	Vespers: Gen 43:26-31; 45:1-16 • Proverbs 21:23-22:4	
6 th Thursday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 65:8-16	
	Vespers: Genesis 46:1-7 • Proverbs 23:15-24:5	
6 th Friday of Great Lent	Sixth Hour: Isaiah 66:10-24	
	Vespers: Genesis 49:33-50:26 • Proverbs 31:8-32	
GREAT AND HOLY WEEK		
Lazarus Saturday	Heb. §333a (12:28-13:8)	John §39 (11:1-45)
Palm Sunday	Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 • Zephaniah 3:14-19 • Zachariah 9:9-15	

Matins Gospel: Matt. §83 (21:1-11, 15-17)	
Phil. §247 (4:4-9)	John §41 (12:1-18)

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. At the direction of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion and His Grace, Bishop Nicholas, we are to observe the 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. Parishioners are asked to remain home and pray there while the services go on in church or at the rectory

Parishioners who would like to go to Confession may do so over the telephone, and so should contact Father David by email or text in order to set up at a mutually acceptable time. At the appointed time, dress as though going to church, stand or kneel in an icon corner that provides the necessary privacy, and call Father on the telephone. He will listen to the Confession, give counsel, and absolve you.

Parishioners desiring to receive Holy Communion should contact Father David who will arrange a time and place to make this possible.

Parishioners who are ill should contact Fr David. A Moleben for the Sick can be served in the rectory. The Mystery of Confession can be received over the telephone, as described above. The reception of Unction and Holy Communion can be arranged in a manner in keeping with the safety restrictions of the civil and medical authorities.

We are unable to 'live stream' the services at St Elizabeth's during the state of emergency because there is no internet service in our church building. But there are some very good Orthodox Service 'live streams' that follow the Church (Julian) Calendar that we urge you to use:

- **Holy Cross Monastery in West Virginia** is livestreaming all its daily English-language liturgical services throughout the Covid-19 epidemic. The monastery services webpage is: <https://www.holycross.org/blogs/news/monastery-livestreaming-all-services-throughout-coronavirus-epidemic> .
- **St John the Baptist Cathedral in Washington, D.C.**, also streams its full liturgical schedule of bilingual services (in Slavonic and English. St John's YouTube webpage can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnDC> .

- **St John the Baptist Cathedral in Mayfield, Pennsylvania**, also livestreams their services, which are primarily in English, with some parts in Slavonic. St John's livestreams via the Vimeo platform: <https://livestream.com/stjohnsmayfield> .

A word about financial support of your Parish: 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 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 certainly 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.

The Presanctified Liturgy will be served this week on Friday morning, preceded by the Lenten Service of the Ninth Hour and the Typika. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Friday of this week is also the Vespers for the Saturday of Lazarus.

Great Lent ends on Friday? Yes, it does! Great Lent is a period of 40 days from Pure Monday through the Friday before Lazarus Saturday. The Great and Holy Week begins with Lazarus Saturday and ends on Holy Saturday. Holy Week is a separate Fast. This is good news. Those of us who have been lax in our observance of the Great Fast, have a new opportunity to begin again!

This coming Saturday is Lazarus Saturday This Feast commemorates Christ's raising his friend Lazarus from the dead as a confirmation of the general resurrection on the Last Day. This feast is a joyful foretaste of Pascha. Matins for Lazarus Saturday will be served on Friday evening and the Divine Liturgy of the Feast will be served on Saturday morning.

LOOKING AHEAD

The Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows will place at the Vigil Service next Saturday evening, the eve of Palm Sunday, after the reading of the Matins Gospel.

We hope to make blessed palms and pussy willows available at the back of the church building to be picked up by those who would like them, during the day on Palm Sunday.