

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 31

30 March / 12 April 2020

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM: PALM SUNDAY

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

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

From the evening of Palm Sunday to the evening of Great & Holy Wednesday, the evening Matins services and the morning services of the Hours and Vespers will be served by Fr David in the Chapel in the Rectory, so there will be no services in the church in Rocky Hill.

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

Thursday, 16 April (3 April, n.s.)

8:50 AM Hours & Typika
9:30 AM Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

Thursday, 16 April (3 April, n.s.)

6:00 PM Matins of the Twelve Gospels

Friday, 17 April (4 April, n.s.)

9:00 AM Royal Hours
11:00 AM Decoration of the Tomb
12:00 PM Great Vespers

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

Friday, 17 April (4 April, n.s.)

6:00 PM Matins of the Lamentations

Saturday, 18 April (5 April, n.s.)

8:50 AM Hours & Typika
9:30 AM Vesperal Liturgy of St Basil

HOLY PASCHA

Saturday, 18 April (5 April, n.s.)

11:15 PM Midnight Office & Procession

Sunday, 19 April (6 April, n.s.)

12:01 AM Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy

The services of Agape Vespers and Bright Monday Matins will be served by Fr David in the Chapel in the Rectory.

BRIGHT MONDAY

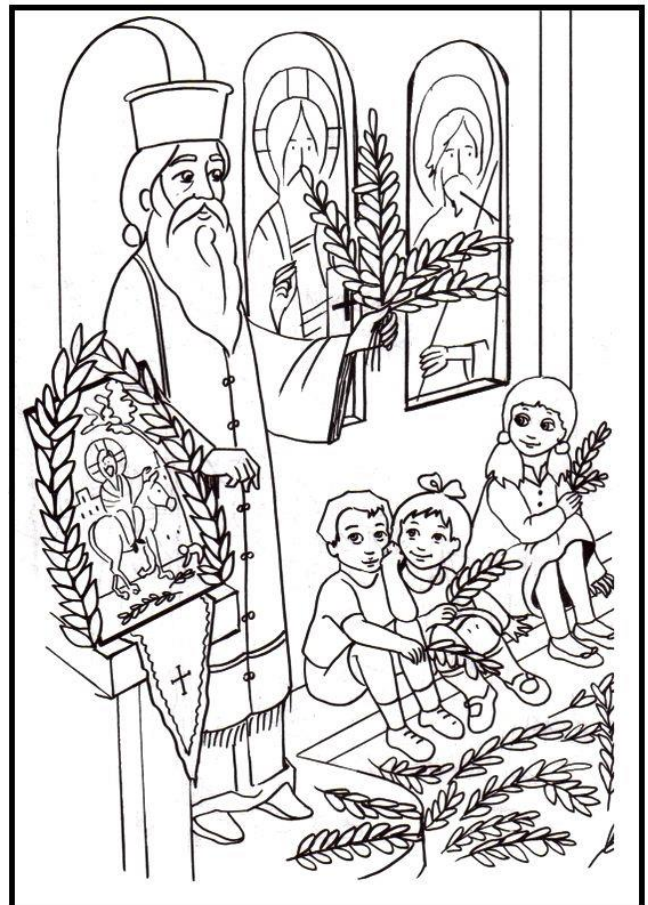
Monday, 20 April (7 April, n.s.)

9:15 AM Paschal Hours
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy

ALL THE ABOVE SERVICES WILL BE SERVED privately, i.e. without parishioners. Parishioners are asked to remain home and pray there while the services go on in church or the rectory.

FASTING DAYS Week of 12 April

| Day of Week | Type of Fast |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Palm Sunday</i> | Fish, Wine & Oil permitted |
| <i>Great & Holy Monday</i> | Regular Fast Day (No Oil) |
| <i>Great & Holy Tuesday</i> | Regular Fast Day (No Oil) |
| <i>Great & Holy Wednesday</i> | Regular Fast Day (No Oil) |
| <i>Great & Holy Thursday</i> | Wine & Oil permitted |
| <i>Great & Holy Friday</i> | Total Fast |
| <i>Great & Holy Saturday</i> | Wine (but no oil) permitted |



SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 12 April

| GREAT AND HOLY WEEK | |
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| Palm Sunday | Genesis 49:1-2, 8-12 • Zephaniah 3:14-19 • Zachariah 9:9-15 |
| | <i>Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §83 (21:1-11, 15-17) |
| | Phil. §247 (4:4-9) John §41 (12:1-18) |
| Great Monday | <i>Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §84-§88 (21:18-43) |
| | <i>Third Hour:</i> Matt. §1-§66 (1:1-16:12) |
| | <i>Sixth Hour:</i> Ezekiel 1:1-20 • Matt. §67-§116 (16:13-28:20) |
| | <i>Ninth Hour:</i> Mark §1-§39 (1:1-9:16) |
| | <i>Vespers:</i> Exodus 1:1-20 • Job 1:1-12 |
| | <i>Presanctified Liturgy:</i> Matt. §98-§101 (24:3-35) |
| Great Tuesday | <i>Matins Gospel:</i> Matt. §90-§96 (22:15-23:39) |
| | <i>Third Hour:</i> Mark §40-§71 (9:17-16:20) |
| | <i>Sixth Hour:</i> Ezekiel 1:21-2:1 • Luke §1-§38 (1:1-8:39) |
| | <i>Ninth Hour:</i> Luke §39-§82 (8:40-16:18) |
| | <i>Vespers:</i> Exodus 2:5-10 • Job 1:13-22 |
| | <i>Presanctified Liturgy:</i> Matt. §102-§107 (24:36-26:2) |
| Great Wednesday | <i>Matins Gospel:</i> John §41a-§43 (12:17-50) |
| | <i>Third Hour:</i> Luke §83-§114 (16:19-24:53) |
| | <i>Sixth Hour:</i> Ezekiel 2:3-3:3 • John §1-§26 (1:1-7:36) |
| | <i>Ninth Hour:</i> John §27-§46 (7:37-13:32) |
| | <i>Vespers:</i> Exodus 2:11-22 • Job 2:1-10 |
| <i>Presanctified Liturgy:</i> Matt. §108 (26:6-16) | |
| Great Thursday | <i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §108a-§109 (22:1-39) |
| | <i>First Hour:</i> Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15 |
| | <i>Vespers:</i> Ex. 19:10-19 • Job 38:1-23; 42:1-5 • Isaiah 50:4-11 |
| | <i>Divine Liturgy of St Basil:</i> 1 Cor. §149 (11:23-32) • <i>Composite Gospel:</i> Matt. §107 (26:1-20); John 13:3-17; Matt. 26:21-39; Luke 22:43-45; Matt. 26:40-27:2 |
| Great Friday | <i>Matins:</i> The Twelve Passion Gospels: (1) John §46-§58 (13:31b-18:1) • (2) John §58 (18:1-28) • (3) Matt. §109 (26:57-75) • (4) John §59-§60 (18:28-19:16) • (5) Matt. §111-§112 (27:3-32) • (6) Mark §67-§68 (15:16-32a) • (7) Matt. §113 (27:33-54) • (8) Luke §111 (23:32-49) • (9) John §61 (19:25-37) • (10) Mark §69 (15:43-47) • (11) John §62 (19:38-42) • (12) Matt. §114 (27:62-66) |
| | <i>First Hour:</i> Zachariah 11:10-13 • Gal. §215a (6:14-18) • Matt. §110-§113 (27:1-56) |
| | <i>Third Hour:</i> Isaiah 50:4-11 • Rom. §88a (5:6-11) • Mark §67-§68 (15:16-41) |
| | <i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 52:13-54:1 • Heb. §306 (2:11-18) • Luke §111 (23:32-49) |
| | <i>Ninth Hour:</i> Jeremiah 11:18-12:5, 9-11, 14-15 • Heb. §324 (10:19-31) • John §59-§61 (18:28-19:37) |
| | <i>Vespers:</i> Exodus 33:11-23 • Job 42:12-17 • Isaiah 52:13-54:1 • <i>Epistle:</i> 1 Cor. §125 (1:18-2:2) • <i>Composite Gospel:</i> Matt. §110 (27:1-38); Luke 23:39-43; Matt. 27:39-54; John 19:31-37; Matt. 27:55-61 |
| | <i>Great</i> |
| | <i>Matins:</i> Ezekiel 37:1-14 • |

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| Saturday | 1 Cor. §133 (5:6b-8), Gal. §206 (3:13-14) • Matt. §114 (27:62-66) |
| | <i>Vespers:</i> (1) Genesis 1:1-13 • (2) Isaiah 60:1-16 • (3) Exodus 12:1-11 • (4) Jonah 1:1-4:11 (entire book) • (5) Joshua 5:10-15 • (6) Exodus 13:20-15:19 • (7) Zephaniah 3:8-15 • (8) 1 [3] Kings 17:8-24 • (9) Isaiah 61:10b-62:5 • (10) Genesis 22:1-18 • (11) Isaiah 61:1-10a • (12) 2 [4] Kings 4:8-37 • (13) Isaiah 63:11-64:5 • (14) Jeremiah 31:31-34 • (15) Daniel 3:1-88 (<i>LXX</i>) |
| | <i>Liturgy of St Basil:</i> Rom. §91 (6:3-11) • Matt. §115-§116 (28:1-20) |
| | Before the Matins of Pascha, the Acts of the Apostles is read by the people in the church. |
| BRIGHT WEEK | |
| Su | PASCHA, the Bright Resurrection of Christ |
| | Acts §1 (1:1-8) John §1 (1:1-17) |
| | <i>Agape Vespers Gospel:</i> John §65 (20:19-25) |
| M | Bright Monday |
| | Acts §2 (1:12-17, 21-26) John §2 (1:18-28) |

COVID-19 and PARISH LIFE

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> .

For those who would like to do Reader's Services at home rather than watch the services on livestream, Archpriest John Whiteford has prepared Reader's Services for all of Great & Holy Week on his Blog that you can download, print out, and use. You can find them at: <https://fatherjohn.blogspot.com/2020/04/holy-week-at-home-part-1.html> and <https://fatherjohn.blogspot.com/2020/04/holy-week-at-home-part-2.html>

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.

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Great Lent ended last Friday? Yes, it did! 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!

The Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows took place at the Vigil Service last evening. Those few who at Vigil received blessed palms and pussy willows. We have

plenty of blessed palms and pussy willows are available for those who desire them. They will be placed in a box in the pavilion at the back of the church for those desire them. We ask that you bring clean gloves with you to select your palms and pussy willows.

The fast is mitigated on Palm Sunday. On this Great Feast of the Lord, Fish, wine, and oil are permitted to be eaten.

It is our established practice that those who receive the Mystery of Confession during Holy Week (from the Eve of Lazarus Saturday onwards) are *not* required to go to Confession again in order to receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies of Holy Week, Pascha, and Bright Week. Should a grave sin be committed, however, Confession would of course be necessary before communing.

Those desiring to make their Confessions during Holy Week should go as early in the Week as possible. There will be times during or after the Holy Week services for Confession. Please note that after the beginning of the Paschal Vigil there will be no more Confessions.

Kulich is a kind of Paschal (Easter) bread, traditional in the Orthodox Christian faith and eaten in Russia, Belarus, Bulgaria, and Serbia, and by Orthodox Americans whose parishes are influenced by these Old World cultures. The recipe for kulich is similar to that of Italian panettone. Kulich is baked in tall, cylindrical tins (like coffee or fruit juice cans), and when cooled is decorated with white icing (which is slightly drizzled down the sides), colorful flowers, and XB (from the traditional Paschal greeting of *Христос воскрес*, 'Christ is Risen' in Slavonic-derived languages) is decorated on the side. Traditionally after the Paschal service, the kulich, which has been put into a basket and decorated with colorful flowers, with a slim lighted beeswax taper inserted into the top, is blessed by the priest. Some Orthodox make a distinction between blessed kulich, which is eaten plain before breakfast each day, and kulich that is not blessed, which is eaten with cheese paskha for dessert. Kulich is normally only eaten in the Fifty Days of the Paschal season, i.e. between the Sundays of Pascha and Pentecost.

The Blessing of Kulich, Eggs, and Paschal Foods at St Elizabeth's takes place after the Midnight Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Pascha, at about 3:00 a.m.

Sadly, there is a shortage of eggs everywhere and so many of our families who usually supply us with red eggs are self-isolating that it looks like it will not be possible for the parish to distribute red eggs at Pascha. Of course Fr David is happy to bless eggs that you have prepared for your own families.

Both the Paschal Trapeza and the Egg Hunt for the parish children have had to be cancelled this year due to the epidemic.