

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XXI

Number 37

11 / 24 May 2020

SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES THISWEEK

6TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Blind Man

Ss Methodius & Cyril, Enlighteners of the Slavs

Saturday, 23 May (10 May, n.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 24 May (11 May, n.s.)

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

ASCENSION OF THE LORD

Wednesday, 27 May (14 May, n.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Thursday, 28 May (15 May, n.s.)

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

7TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: The Holy Fathers

Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Saturday, 30 May (17 May, n.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 31 May (18 May, n.s.)

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

At the direction of His Eminence, Metropolitan Hilarion, 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 take turns attending the services offered in church. Those unable to go to church are asked to pray at home.

FASTING DAYS Week of 24 May

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
Wednesday	27 May (14 May, o.s.)	Apodosis of Pascha Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
Friday	29 May (16 May, o.s.)	Venerable Theodore the Sanctified Fast: wine & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Week of 24 May

SIXTH WEEK OF PASCHA	
Su	Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Blind Man <i>8th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §64 (20:11-18) Acts §38 (16:16-34) John §34 (9:1-38)
M	Acts §39 (17:1-15) John §40 (11:47-57)
Tu	Acts §40a (17:19-28a) John §42 (12:19-36a)
W	Apodosis of Pascha Acts §41 (18:22-28) John §43 (12:36-47)
Th	Ascension of the Lord <i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Isaiah 2:2-3 • (2) Isaiah 62:10-63:3, 7-9 • (3) Zachariah 14:1, 4, 8-11 <i>3rd Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §71 (16:9-20) Acts §1 (1:1-12) Luke §114 (24:36-53)
F	Acts §42 (19:1-8) John §47 (14:1-11a)
Sa	Acts §43 (20:7-12) John §48 (14:10b-21)
SEVENTH WEEK OF PASCHA	
Su	7th Sunday of Pascha: Fathers of the 1st Council <i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (1) Genesis 14:14-20 • (2) Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17 • (3) Deuteronomy 10:14-21 <i>10th Resurrectional Matins Gospel:</i> John §66 (21:1-14) Acts §44 (20:16-18a, 28-36) John §56 (17:1-13)

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Apodosis (Leave-taking) of Pascha, the thirty-ninth day of Pascha and the day before Ascension Thursday, is this Wednesday. On this day the whole service of Pascha is sung again. This reaffirms that Holy Pascha is not just a single day, but a period of time or season in our Church life. In some traditions, this is a fast-free day, with all foods being permitted, though the Leave-taking of Pascha always falls on a Wednesday. In Russian practice, however, this day is not fast-free, but fish, wine, and olive oil are permitted.

Although there will be no services for the Apodosis of Pascha at St Elizabeth's, there will be services at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Lakewood. Vespers and Matins for the Feast will be served on Tuesday evening at 6:30; and Liturgy for the Feast will be on Wednesday morning at 9:30. What a beautiful way to say farewell to the Feast of Feasts!

The Paschal Office, a short service of prayer that replaces the daily services of the Hours, Compline, and the Midnight Office during Bright Week and on the Leave-taking of Pascha. The faithful also say the Paschal Office as a replacement for their morning and evening prayers on these days. In Russian practice, the Paschal Office is always sung, never simply read, thereby underscoring our overflowing joy in Christ's Resurrection. The Office consists of the paschal troparion, the hymn *'Having beheld the resurrection of Christ...'*, the Hypakoë and kontakion of the Feast, and a few other paschal hymns. The Paschal Office is a beautiful distillation of the joyful prayer of the Feast. You may find the text of the Paschal Office in *The Jordanville Prayer Book*.

The Feast of the Ascension of the Lord, the fortieth day after Pascha, is this Thursday, the Thursday of the Sixth Week of Pascha. On this day we remember our Saviour's Ascension into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father. In ascending into the heavens, the Son of God remained united to His human nature. The Incarnation was not simply a temporary condition in order to achieve our salvation, but God remained united to our human nature even in ascending to Heaven and will remain so forever. What joy should be ours in celebrating this Holy Day! The Ascension is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church and all Orthodox Christians should be in church of the Feast.

During the ten days from Ascension Day through the Saturday before Pentecost, the introductory prayers *Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!* and *O heavenly King...* are neither said in the liturgical services nor in prayers at home. Although during the forty days of Pascha, these prayers are replaced by the triple repetition of the paschal troparion, during the post-festal period of the Ascension, "*Glory to Thee...*" and "*O heavenly King...*" are not replaced by any other prayer or troparion. The omission of the beautiful prayer to the Holy Spirit should awaken within us a longing for and expectation of the coming of the Comforter at the Feast of Pentecost when we resume saying this prayer.

Our Parish needs donations for greens and flowers to adorn the church for the Great Feast of Pentecost. If you would like to make a donation for this, please put it in the church collection basket and mark it 'Flowers'. You may include a Commemoration List with your donation.

THE CORONA VIRUS: COVID-19

Staying Home During Church Services

Parishioners who have been in close proximity to someone who has tested positive for the COVID-19 virus are asked to observe a period of 14-day self-isolation and stay home from church.

Parishioners who are ill, especially those with sore throats, coughing, sneezing, or fevers, are asked to stay home from church services to take care of themselves and to protect others at church from getting ill.

Parishioners at high risk for contracting the Corona Virus may decide to not attend church services, but pray at home.

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. We urge you to consult the list of live-stream services available from parishes and monasteries in our Diocese:

https://eadiocese.org/news_200404_1

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 the Sunday Services through Ascension Day on his Blog that you can download, print out, and use. You can find them at:

<https://fatherjohn.blogspot.com/2020/04/reader-services-through-ascension.html>

For Those Attending Church Services

Parishioners who attend church services are urged to wear a mask, if possible. This may not offer much protection for the wearer, but it protects those around us if we are asymptomatic carriers. Wearing a mask is particularly important when going to Confession in church. The priest will also wear a mask when hearing Confessions in Church.

Parishioners are asked to wash their hands with soap and water frequently, use hand sanitizer when hand washing is not possible, and if there is a need to cough or sneeze to do so in a tissue or the crook of their elbow.

For the time being, it is best not to kiss the icons, holy relics, blessing cross, Gospel, or the priest's hand as we usually do, but show then reverence in some other way like bowing and touching, or nearly touching, their forehead to them.

It is also best for now not to give the normal three-fold kiss or shake hands in greeting. We need to be sensitive to the current situation. Kind and caring words are warmly felt given the situation and the fact that many people are worried.

What the Parish is Doing

All clergy and altar servers will wash their hands with soap and water before serving or use hand sanitizer when indicated while serving in the altar.

Prospora will be handled by the priest only, who performs the Proskomedie with hands washed beforehand with soap and water. Peoples' prospora will be placed in zip-lock plastic bags by the priest or deacon, not the servers.

Holy Communion will be distributed in the normal way, because our Orthodox Faith teaches us that the Body and Blood of Christ is for the healing of soul and body and cannot communicate disease.

Communion cloths will be cleansed in boiling water in the Holy Chalice or changed frequently.

No altar boys will handle antidoron or zapivka. Adults will be in charge of the blessed bread and wine distributed to the people.

Wine and hot water will be poured into small paper cups by the designated adult server. Antidoron will be transferred from its bowl to small paper cups with disinfected metal tongs by the designated adult server and not with bare hands. Neither parishioners themselves or altar boys will handle the wine or hot water pitchers or antidoron. Used paper cups will be discarded by each parishioner after consuming the contents.

All metal containers, trays, and utensils used in a service will be washed with soap and water, or scalded with boiling water, after each service.

The kissing-icons without cases have been replaced by icons covered with glass. The glass that covers the icons and relics will be wiped with disinfectant wipes before each service, as will the blessing cross after each Liturgy.

Door knobs and table surfaces will also be wiped with disinfectant wipes before each service.

Coffee Hour (Trapeza) is suspended until further notice. Socializing in the open air outside church before going home is still possible.