

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XX

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18/ 31 March 2019

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT: THE SUNDAY OF THE CROSS (*Tone 3*)



SERVICES THIS WEEK

3RD SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (*Tone 3*)

Veneration of the Precious Cross

Saturday, 23 March (10 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 24 March (11 March, o.s.)

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

Forefeast of the Annunciation

Friday, 5 April (16 March, o.s.)

8:15 AM Lenten Hours & Typika
9:30 AM Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

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

ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS

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

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

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

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

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 31 March

| 3rd Sunday of the Great Fast: Veneration of the Cross | | |
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| 3 rd Sunday | 11th Matins Gospel: John §67 (21:15-25) | |
| | Heb. §311 (4:14-5:6) | Mark §37 (8:34b-9:1) |
| FOURTH WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST | | |
| 4 th Monday of Great Lent | Sixth Hour: Isaiah 14:24-32 | |
| | Vespers: Genesis 8:21-9:7 • Proverbs 11:19-12:6 | |
| 4 th Tuesday of Great Lent | Sixth Hour: Isaiah 25:1-9 | |
| | Vespers: Genesis 9:8-17 • Proverbs 12:8-22 | |
| 4 th Wednesday of Great Lent | Sixth Hour: Isaiah 26:21-27:9 | |
| | Vespers: Genesis 9:18-10:1 • Proverbs 12:23-13:9 | |
| 4 th Thursday of Great Lent | Sixth Hour: Isaiah 28:14-22 | |
| | Vespers: Genesis 10:32-11:9 • Proverb 13:20-14:6 | |
| 4 th Friday of Great Lent | Sixth Hour: Isaiah 29:13-23 | |
| | Vespers: Genesis 12:1-7 • Proverbs 14:15-26 | |
| 4th Saturday of the Great Fast: Soul Saturday | | |
| 4 th Saturday | Heb. §313 (6:9-12) | Mark §31 (7:31-37) |
| 4th Sunday of Great Lent | | |
| ANNUNCIATION TO THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS | | |
| 4 th Sunday | Vespers Paramia: (1) Genesis 28:10-17 • (2) Ezekiel 43:27-44:4a • (3) Proverbs 9:1-11 • (4) Exodus 3:1-8 • (5) Proverbs 8:22-30 | |
| | Matins Gospel: Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56) | |
| | Heb. §314 (6:13-20) | Mark §40 (9:17-31) |
| Annunciation | Heb. §306 (2:11-18) | Luke §3 (1:24-38) |

FASTING DAYS Week of 31 March

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, as on all weekends of Great Lent, wine and oil is also allowed. Next Sunday, being the Feast of the Annunciation, the fast is relaxed, fish, wine, and oil being permitted.



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

Today, the Third Sunday of Great Lent, is the Feast of the Veneration of the Precious Cross. Although prostrations, and kneeling in general, are forbidden by the holy canons of the Church on Sundays, we do make prostrations before the Holy Cross adorned with flowers in the midst of the temple on all the Feasts of the Cross, even when they fall on Sunday.

There will be a blessing of Crosses at St Elizabeth's at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, 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.

Many thanks to those who made donations for flowers to adorn the Holy Cross and the church today! And Many Thanks to the servant of God who arranged the flowers!

There will be a book sale at coffee hour today. You can use this opportunity to pick up some spiritual reading for yourself for the remainder of Great Lent or choose a book for your loved ones as Pascha gifts. See Elizabeth Lieuwen for more information or to purchase a book.

Fr David will be away at the Pastoral Retreat of the Eastern American Diocese at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral in Lakewood, NJ, from Monday through Wednesday. Attendance at this Conference is mandated by the Metropolitan and has proven to be very spiritually profitable to our clergy. Should you need a priest in an emergency, Fr David's mobile telephone number is: (908) 208-2367.

There will be no Wednesday Presanctified Liturgy at St Elizabeth's this week. Father David will be away at the Lenten Clergy Retreat for the Eastern American Diocese at the Diocesan Center in Howell. Our parishioners are welcome to attend the Liturgy of the Presanctified served at 9:30 on Wednesday morning at St Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

The Presanctified Liturgy will be served this week on Friday morning at 9:30AM. The Lenten Services of

the Third, Sixth, and Ninth Hours with the Typika, which precede the Liturgy, will begin at 8:15AM.

It is our parish's practice that those who receive the Mystery of Confession before the Liturgy of one weekend are generally permitted to receive Holy Communion at the Liturgies of the following two weeks. Regular communicants will only have to go to Confession every other weekend. Should a grave sin be committed, Confession would, of course, be necessary before communing. A Spiritual Father may give a stricter or more relaxed rule for Confession. Always follow your Spiritual Father's guidance.

There is no Soul Saturdays next weekend. The usual third Soul Saturday is preempted by the Forefeast of the Annunciation. The next Soul Saturday will be the Saturday before Pentecost.

Many thanks to the servants of God who provided koliva for the Saturday of St Theodore and the two mid-lenten Soul; Saturdays! These offerings enhance our celebration of these holy days.

The Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos (25 March / 7 April) is one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church. It commemorates the Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to the All-Holy One the good news that God had chosen her to become the Mother of God. It is also the day on which we commemorate our Saviour's holy conception. All the faithful should attend as many of the services for the Feast as they are able.

Because the Feast of the Annunciation falls on Sunday this year, the schedule of services differs from when the Feast falls on a weekday of Great Lent. The Vigil of the Feast is a usual Vigil, i.e. with Great Vespers rather than Great Compline; and the Liturgy of the Feast is usual Liturgy of St Basil the Great, rather than the Vespertine liturgy of St John Chrysostom. This year the Festal elements of the service are mixed with Resurrection service, the commemoration of St John of the Ladder being set aside. The services are as follows:

The Vigil Service (Great Vespers, Matins, and First Hour) on Saturday evening, 6 April, at 6 o'clock;

The Liturgy of Basil the Great on Sunday morning, 7 April, at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10.

On the Feast of the Annunciation, (25 March / 7 April), the fast is relaxed, and fish, wine, and oil may be eaten. This one of two days (the other being Palm Sunday) when fish is eaten during the Great Fast.

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 give it to either Father David

or to our Church Warden, John Morrow. You may include a Commemoration List with your donation.