

THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF SAINT ELIZABETH THE NEW-MARTYR

Volume XX

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

SERVICES THIS WEEK

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)

Thursday of the Great Canon

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

6:00 PM Service of the Great Canon

Fifth Friday of Great Lent

Friday, 12 April (30 March, o.s.)

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

Saturday of the Akathist

Friday, 12 April (30 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Matins;
Confessions

Saturday, 13 April (31 March, o.s.)

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

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

ANNUNCIATION TO THE THEOTOKOS

Saturday, 13 April (31 March, o.s.)

6:00 PM Vigil Service;
Confessions

Sunday, 14 April (1 April, o.s.)

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

FASTING DAYS Week of 7 April

Day of Week	Date	Commemoration and Type of Fast
<i>Sunday</i>	7 April (25 Mar, o.s.)	ANNUNCIATION Fast: fish, wine, & oil permitted
<i>Monday</i>	8 April (26 Mar, o.s.)	Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Tuesday</i>	9 April (27 Mar, o.s.)	Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica Xerophagy (<i>No oil</i>)
<i>Wednesday</i>	10 April (28 Mar, o.s.)	St Hilarion the New Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Thursday</i>	11 April (29 Mar, o.s.)	MM Mark, Cyril, & Companions Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Friday</i>	12 April (30 Mar, o.s.)	Venerable John Climacus of Sinai Fast: wine permitted
<i>Saturday</i>	13 April (31 Mar, o.s.)	HM Hypatius, Bp of Gangra Fast: wine & oil permitted
<i>Sunday</i>	14 April (1 April, o.s.)	Venerable Mary of Egypt Fast: wine & oil permitted

SCRIPTURE READINGS Week of 7 April

4th Sunday of Great Lent		
ANNUNCIATION TO THE ALL-HOLY THEOTOKOS		
<i>4th Sunday</i>	<i>Vespers Paramia:</i> (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	
	<i>Matins Gospel:</i> Luke §4 (1:39-49, 56)	
	Heb. §314 (6:13-20)	Mark §40 (9:17-31)
<i>Annunciation</i>	Heb. §306 (2:11-18)	Luke §3 (1:24-38)
FIFTH WEEK OF THE GREAT FAST		
<i>5th Monday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 37:33-38:6	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 13:12-18 • Proverbs 14:27-15:4	
<i>5th Tuesday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 40:18-31	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 15:1-15 • Proverbs 15:7-19	
<i>5th Wednesday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 41:4-14	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 17:1-9 • Proverbs 15:20-16:9	
<i>5th Thursday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 42:5-16	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 18:20-33 • Proverb 16:17-17:17	
<i>5th Friday of Great Lent</i>	<i>Sixth Hour:</i> Isaiah 45:11-17	
	<i>Vespers:</i> Genesis 22:1-18 • Proverbs 17:17-18:5	
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>2nd Matins Gospel:</i> Mark §70 (16:1-8)	
	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

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.

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 Vesperal 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.

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.

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.

The Fifth Saturday of Great Lent is the Saturday of the Akathist to the Theotokos. Matins will be served at St Elizabeth's on Friday evening at 6 o'clock. During Matins the canon to the Theotokos and the entire Akathist Hymn to the Most-Holy Mother of God will be sung. On Saturday morning the Divine Liturgy will also be served at 9:30, preceded by the Hours at 9:10. Come sing the praises of the All Pure Mother of God at these beautiful services!

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.

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.

