

The Classification of Feasts

Principles of Services Composition

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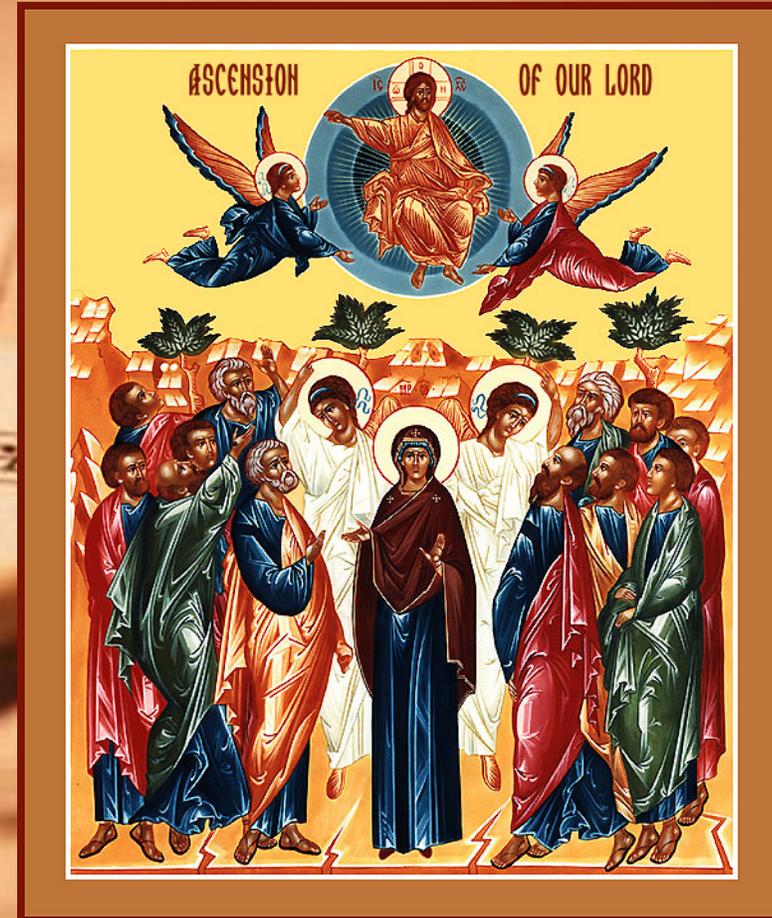
More information is available at <http://www.newbyz.org>

First Class Feasts

- Elevation of the Holy Cross, September 14
- Nativity of Christ (Christmas), December 25
- Theophany (sometimes called Epiphany), January 6
- Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Pascha
- Ascension, forty days after Pascha
- Pentecost, fifty days after Pascha
- Transfiguration, August 6

Class 1: Distinctive Characteristics

- Most of these feasts have both a forefeast and a leavetaking (exceptions: Palm Sunday has neither);
- Ascension and Pentecost have a leavetaking but no forefeast).
- An All-Night Vigil is appointed for the eve of the feast.



Second Class Feasts

- Nativity of the Theotokos, September 8
- Presentation of the Theotokos, November 21
- Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos, August 15
- Presentation of Christ (Meeting of the Lord or Candlemass), February 2
- Annunciation, March 25

Class 2: Distinctive Characteristics

- These are considered Feasts of the Theotokos, but they also share certain characteristics proper to First Class Feasts.
- These feasts have both a forefeast and a leavetaking.
- An All-Night Vigil is appointed for the eve of the feast.



Third Class Feasts and their Characteristics

- **Third Class Feasts—Vigil and Polyeleos Commemorations (which include a complete akolouthia – set of services)**
- * These feasts generally do not have a forefeast or a leavetaking (exceptions: the commemorations of St. Demetrios (October 26), the Nativity of the Forerunner (June 24), Ss. Peter and Paul (June 29), and the Beheading of the Forerunner (August 29) each has a leavetaking).
- * An All-Night Vigil may be appointed if there is a text for Little Vespers in the Menaion, in which case the commemoration is designated Vigil. Otherwise, an All-Night Vigil is not appointed and the commemoration is designated Polyeleos.