

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Two weeks ago we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord. Easter is the greatest day of the Church year; it is the day of special joy for all faithful. And in addition to this celebration two of our parishes had one more reason to give thanks to the Lord that day. Altogether five people were confirmed in Novokuznetsk and Tomsk.

Confirmation on the Easter Day fits very well to the ancient church tradition. On this day catechumens were baptized and joined the community of the faithful.

Pastor Alexei Streltsov confirmed three ladies in the Lutheran parish of St. James in Novokuznetsk. (On the picture they sit in the center.) Each one of them had her own way to the Church. Vera Butkeeva was attending worship services for a long time. She was instructed in the Lutheran faith, but at first she was hesitant to leave the Baptist congregation, where she spent many years. Svetlana Gandrabura was a member of another Baptist congregation. She came to our parish because of her friend Elvira, one of our parishioners. Ludmila Zavorina started to come to our church last year. Deacon Dmitri Dotsenko [see: Newsletter #165] spent a good deal of time instructing them, so that these women could be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.



Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin confirmed two boys in the Lutheran parish of Saint Mary in Tomsk. Matvey Burlakov (7 years old) is Pastor Daniel Burlakov's son. Daniel Avdeev (8 years old) is the son of Alexander and Elena. They have been members of our parish in Tomsk for many years. Pastor Burlakov said: "These two boys kept asking for the Holy Communion for long time, and it was not easy to explain why they could not partake in it. They have been instructed, but, of course, they do not know all the details of Christian doctrine. Still, they are definitely Christians, so they need to be strengthened in their faith through the Sacrament. Fuller knowledge and understanding will surely come later. I think that confirmation of fairly young children is important for their parents, as it helps them to realize better their responsibility for kids before God."

Please, pray for these new communicants that they grow in faith and love; for all our parishioners that they bear a good witness of our Lord; for our Bishop, pastors, and deacons that they teach the Gospel rightly and administer the Sacraments according to our Lord's institution.

"Faith and hope"  
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