



# THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS



## St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

2263 E. Cherokee Dr. Woodstock, GA  
A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

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Sunday March 6th 2016

Sunday of the Last Judgment

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

### Glory be to Jesus Christ!!!

**Tropar and Kondak Tone 7–** Blue Book pg.99 Red Book pg. 114

**Kondak of the Last Judgment** Blue Book pg.177 Red Book pg. 199

### Weekly Schedule:

**Thursday 3/10 9AM–** Divine Liturgy

**Saturday 3/12 4:30PM–** Great Vespers of Forgiveness Sunday

**Sunday 3/13 10AM–** Divine Liturgy



This past Saturday morning the Church celebrated the first of the five *All Souls Saturday Divine Liturgies*. Did you ever wonder why these liturgies happen every year at this time? Just before, during, and just after Great Lent?

Why is the first of the *All Soul Liturgies* on the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgment? The Sunday of meat-fare? The Sunday that is just seven days before the beginning of Lent?

Christianity is the religion of love. God is love. Christ is love and he showed us this on the Cross. Lent challenges to remember God's love continually, in every thought, and

in every moment of our life.

Christ is the Head of the Church and Christ is God. God is love and therefore so is His Church. The Orthodox Church is the Church of love. By Christ's command we are to love one another as He loves us, this is how the world will know that we are His disciples. What better way is there to show that love than to pray for those whom we love who have fallen asleep in the Lord?

As we prepare for Lent we are reminded that to love Christ is to love one another in the same way that He loves us. We are reminded to pray for, seek after, and embrace love. We are reminded to retreat from sin, which is really nothing more than the very absence of love itself, the absence and rejection of God himself.

The Church gives us this message as we pray for the dead and as we are reminded of the fearful judgment seat of Christ. The Church gives us this powerful message as we prepare to journey to the Cross and to the Resurrection of Lord– the greatest act of love the world will ever know.

**Icon of the Last Judgment Explained—From <http://lent.goarch.org/judgement/learn/>**

The icon of the Sunday of the Last Judgment incorporates all of the elements of the parable from Matthew 25:31-46. Christ sits on the throne and before him the Last Judgment takes place. He is extending his hands in blessing upon the Theotokos on his right, and John the Baptist on his left. Seated on smaller thrones are the Apostles, represented by Peter and Paul, a depiction of the words of Christ in Matthew 19:28. (1.)



1. Christ is seated on the throne between the Theotokos (left) and Saint John the Baptist (right). Seated on smaller thrones are the Apostles, represented here by Saint Peter (left) and Saint Paul (right).

Proceeding from the throne are the scrolls pronouncing the judgment upon the sheep and the goats. (2.) The faithful are received with the words that are written on the scroll to the right of Christ the

Judge, “Come, you blessed of My Father, and inherit the kingdom” (v. 34). The scroll on the left condemns the unfaithful with the words, “Depart from me you cursed, into the everlasting fire” (v. 41).



4. To the left and right of the Archangel Michael are angels with trumpets announcing to the world the return of Jesus Christ, the start of the Last Judgements, and signaling the resurrection of the dead

To the left of the Archangel are both the living and the dead who are approaching the throne and Christ the judge. Whereas Adam and Eve are representative of all of humanity, this part of the icon shows that both the living and the dead will stand before Christ. (5.)



5. Pictured to the bottom-left of the Archangel Michael are the living and dead coming before the throne of Christ the judge —6. To the bottom-right of the Archangel Michael is the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil, his demons, and those who are not worthy of inheriting the Kingdom of God.

At the bottom right of the icon is the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and the demons, and also for those who are not found worthy to inherit the Kingdom of God. (6.) The icon offers a clear image of the theme of judgment with Christ on His throne, the Archangel with the scales and books, and the anticipation of the sentence of everlasting punishment for the unrighteous and the reward of eternal life for the righteous.

**Prayer List**

Evelyn Melnikoff, Fr. John and Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Johanna, James, Herbert and Mary Schleinig , Patricia James, Anna, Basil, David, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, Athanasia, Ethel, Kathy, Lester, Sally, Jack, Angela , Tyler, Maria, Bezerra Family, Jeff, Lesley, Page Family, Stephen (Blessed Repose), The Blonar Family, Anna (Blessed Repose), Louise, Emma Rae , The Floyd Family, Phillip (Blessed Repose), Zachary, George, Fred and Helen Mileshko, Robin, Michael, Dean, Margaret, Jenny (Blessed Repose) and Keith Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!