

# THE ST. ELIZABETH NEWS

## A loving Community of Orthodox Christians

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Mission Church  
 2265 E. Cherokee Drive Woodstock, GA 30188  
*A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese  
 Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*  
 Ruling Hierarch: His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa



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[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)



**32nd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Epistle:** Ephesians 6:10-17  
**Gospel:** Luke 18:35-43



## Christ is Among us!

Christ is among us! He is and always shall be! Welcome to St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church and thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us!! What a joy it is to be together in God's House. If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before, you are about to participate in the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy is the work of the people and that means that all of your prayers are necessary and you have a job to do this morning! We hope you will stay and join us for coffee hour in the atrium. Please feel free to ask Fr. Matthew any questions you might have! May God's blessing be with all of you!



### This Week's Music...

**Tropar Tone 7 - Page 99**

**Tropar & Kondak for Theophny- Page 146**

Look on page two of the bulletin for more details on how to follow the order of the Divine Liturgy with the Blue Pew Book.



Join us next door for  
Coffee, Food, and  
Fellowship in Christ!

The Leave of Theophany



- Tuesday 1/16 9am-** Divine Liturgy
- Friday 1/19 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Saturday 1/20 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 1/21 10 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday 1/23 9am-** Divine Liturgy
- Thursday 1/25 9 am-** Divine Liturgy: Followed by Coffee and Catechism Class
- Saturday 1/27 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 1/28 10 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday 1/30 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Thursday 2/01 5:30 pm-** Great Vespers: The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
- Friday 02/02 9 am-** Divine Liturgy: The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
- Saturday 02/03 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 02/04 10 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday 02/06 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday 02/07 5:30 pm-** Moleben followed by Question & Answer Session
- Friday 02/09 9am-** Divine Liturgy: Followed by Coffee and Catechism Class
- Saturday 02/10 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 02/11 10 am-** Divine Liturgy

**Important Note:** If you filled out a Stewardship Commitment Card for 2024 online, there has been some kind of mix up and I am not receiving the forms in my email. I'm sorry about the inconvenience, a new form will be put on the website next week, or you

## *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

*using the Blue Pew Book*

“Blessed Is the Kingdom” .....;2

The Great Litany of Peace .....2

First Antiphon.....145

Second Antiphon.....145

Hymn of the Incarnation.....10

Third Antiphon ..... 146

Hymn at The Little Entrance .....148

Resurrection Tropar and Kondak.....99

Tropar and Kondak.....146

The Trisagion (#2).....19

Prokimenon (Tone 7) .....149

Epistle .....Ephesians 6:10-17

Alleluia (#2) .....23

Verses .....149

Glory to You, O Lord.....24

The Gospel .....Luke 18:35-43

The Sermon.....Fr. Jim Dutko

The Triple Litany.....25

Cherubic Hymn.....134

The Great Entrance.....134

The Creed .....37

The Anaphora ..... 39

Holy, Holy, Holy (#1).....41

The Hymn of Praise ..... 45

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God.....147

The Litany of Supplication..... 50

The Lord’s Prayer (#1).....53

The Communion Prayer ..... 58

Communion Hymns.....148

In the Fear of God Come Forward.....63

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We have seen the True Light (#1).....64

Thanksgiving Hymn (#1) .....65

Thanksgiving Litany .....67

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Blessed be the Name of the Lord (#4). .....70

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*Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end if the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).*



## Stewardship of Time, Talents, and Treasures in the New Year

As we find ourselves in the beginning of this new year, it's a good time for us to reflect on what it means to be a steward of God's House. To serve the Church is a great gift, but the gift only comes to us when we hear God's voice calling to us and respond with joy. When we respond like the prophet Isaiah saying, "Hear I am Lord, send me!" (Isaiah 6:8) This is not really a choice, but rather it is a responsibility. God is calling us to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him. He is calling us to be His hands and His feet in the world.

Stewardship is much more than a financial commitment; it is a calling to care for one another, to care for God's House, and to care for the world. It is a commitment to love our God and all of His creation with all of our heart, soul, and mind.

Our duty as stewards extends to the very core of our being. God calls each of us to be active participants in the life of His Holy Orthodox Church. It is an invitation to put God first in our lives, to love His Church passionately, and to offer our time, talents, and treasures in service to His divine purpose. All of us have something more to offer for the fulfillment of God's calling in our lives

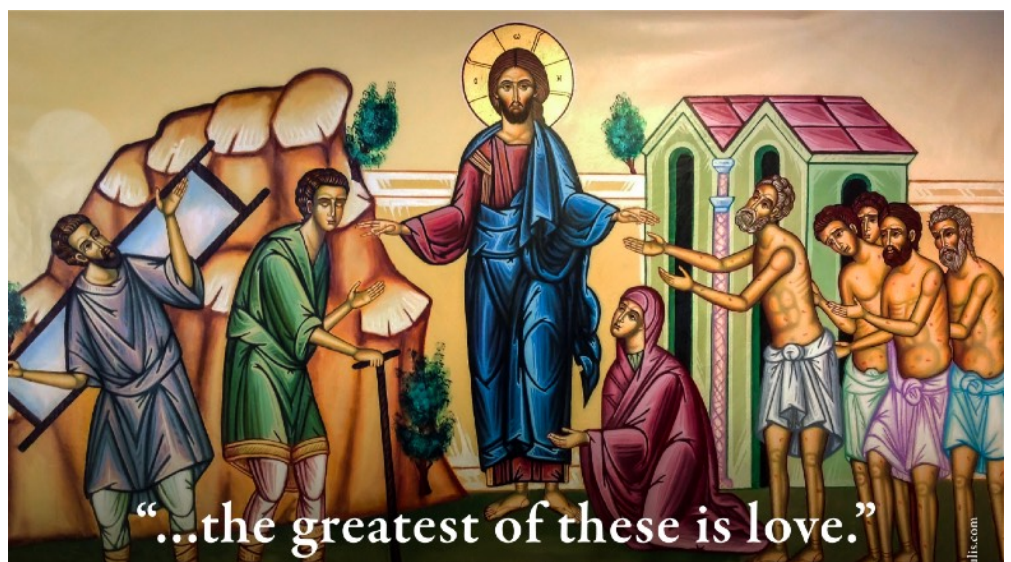
The Church is more than just a physical structure; it is a living and breathing body of believers, each contributing their unique, one of a kind human gifts. All of our gifts together collectively form the vibrant tapestry of Saint Elizabeth's. God is not only asking for our financial commitment, but He yearns for us, for our hearts, for our souls. The Church needs us to be fully present, engaged, and dedicated to the greater cause: that all things should be done for the glory of God.

This year you fill out your stewardship cards, you are encouraged to make pledge to dedicate your energy to serve the Church with renewed vigor and commitment. If everyone was able to offer just a few more hours of time each month, imagine what could be possible. The more devoted each one of us becomes, the more abundantly God will bless us as a community. Our collective dedication creates an atmosphere where the Holy Spirit thrives, and the ministries of the Church flourish.

In the coming months, let us actively seek ways to contribute to the ministries of the Church, whether through volunteer work, sharing our talents, or making a financial commitment. Let our actions speak louder than words and may our commitment to stewardship be a testament to our love for God and His Church. Together, we can continue to foster a community that radiates the love of Christ and fulfills the divine purpose set before us.

May this year be marked by a deepening of our stewardship, a commitment to put God first, and a flourishing of the ministries of Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church. Through our collective efforts, may we recognize the divine presence among us and become a beacon of God's love and grace to the world.

Don't forget to fill out a Stewardship Commitment Card for 2024!







## Blessing the World through the Services of the Church

In the heart of our Orthodox Faith, we find the sacred beauty of God in the rituals and services the Church. These Holy Services not only connect us to the divine but also extend the blessings of God's grace to the world around us. The Divine Liturgy, along with other services, serves as a beacon, radiating God's love and salvation to encompass not just our immediate community but the entirety of creation.

At the very center of our faith is the Divine Liturgy, which should be for us a profound and transformative experience that brings us into communion with God. As we gather to worship, we participate in a sacred journey that transcends time and space, uniting us with the heavenly realms. The prayers and hymns create a sacred atmosphere where the divine and the earthly converge. The Church is the place where the heavens meet earth.

But our connection with the divine does not end within the walls of our Church. Instead, it extends outward, embracing the world with the love and compassion of Christ. In our prayers, we intercede for the salvation of all people, for the world, and for the whole of God's creation. Through the Divine Liturgy and other services, our parish becomes a vessel of God's grace, radiating His love to those around us.

The Church, as the body of Christ, is called to be a source of blessing to the world. Our prayers extend beyond personal petitions, encompassing the needs of our society, the welfare of the vulnerable, and the healing of the Earth. The Divine Liturgy is a transformative force that empowers us to live out our faith beyond the church walls, engaging in acts of kindness, justice, compassion, love, and mercy.

In caring for the world, we embody the teachings of Christ, who calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. As we partake in the Sacraments and engage in communal worship, we are reminded of our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation

The beauty of our Orthodox tradition lies in its ability to seamlessly integrate the spiritual and the practical. Through our prayers, acts of kindness, and commitment to participating in God's holiness, we become living vessels of

God's grace, blessing the world around us. As we partake in the Divine Liturgy, let us carry its transformative power into our daily lives, becoming beacons of light and agents of God's love in a world that so greatly needs it.

May the blessings of the Divine Liturgy empower us to be living icons of Christ, radiating His love to the world around us.



Saint Elizabeth  
Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

"If our thoughts are kind, peaceful, and quiet, turned only to the good, then we also influence ourselves and radiate peace all around us - in our family, the whole country, everywhere. This is true not only here on earth, but in the cosmos as well. When we labor in the fields of the Lord, we create harmony. Divine harmony, peace, and quiet spread everywhere."

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitnovica

Become a Member of  
Saint Elizabeth's!

[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)

### Announcements:

- **Thanks be to God!**- After a week in the ICU on a ventilator, and another week in the hospital - Yvette Sajem came home on Friday! Glory to God for all things and thank you all for all of the love, prayers, and support for the Sajem's during this difficult time.
- **Meal-train for the Sajem's**- Sign up to provide a meal for Yvette and Johnny as Yvette recovers at home!- <https://bit.ly/sajem> - **Follow this link or use this QR code to sign up!**
- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Annual Winter Parish Meeting Date?:** We are looking to set the date for our Winter Meeting for Sunday 2/25. Please let me know of any seasons not to set this as the official date.
- **Will you serve the Church in a Greater Way?-** Are you interested in serving on the Parish Council or being an active leader in the different ministries of the Church? Please prayerfully consider how you can help in the ministry of Saint Elizabeth's!
- **Important Stewardship Note:** If you have been waiting to fill out a Stewardship Commitment Card for 2024 online because the year is listed as last year, please go ahead and use last years form. I am having trouble accessing the website to update the form, but they are still being sent to my email. Alternatively, you can fill out a paper version and put it into the offering box.
- Do you have questions about something we do or believe in the Orthodox Church? You are probably not the only one wondering! Let Fr. Matthew know and an article will be placed in the bulletin.





## A historic meeting that continues to bear fruit

Sixty years ago, on 6 January 1964, Pope Saint Paul vi and the late Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople held a historic meeting on the Mount of Olives, hosted by our great predecessor, Patriarch Benedictos. It was the first visit of a pope to the Holy Land since the schism. This meeting was to open a new path, both for our respective Churches, as well as for the Holy Land.

Ten years ago, their successors, Pope Francis and Patriarch Bartholomew, met in Jerusalem to commemorate this meeting, and we were pleased to host them.

The meeting of Pope Paul vi and Patriarch Athenagoras was to lead immediately to a new chapter. When Patriarch Athenagoras was asked why he was meeting the Pope, he remarked, "I came here to say 'Good Morning' to my beloved brother, the Pope. You must remember that it has been five hundred and twenty-five years since we have spoken to one another!" These two leaders opened up a new future for the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church, for centuries divided. Age-old anathemas were lifted, and there was a fresh commitment to dialogue, mutual respect, and deeper understanding between the Churches.

It was not a universally popular move for some in our respective Churches. There was still fear and prejudice on both sides in some quarters. It is hard to lay aside such long histories of suspicion, hurt, and conflicting narratives. But Patriarch and Pope knew that a different future would only be possible if a new spirit of dialogue and a willingness for reconciliation were established. In their meeting they gave to the Orthodox Church and the Roman Catholic Church a fresh vision that inspired the eagerness of many to face and to overcome division. As Pope Paul said in his speech on 5 January 1964, their meeting was "founded in the hope of new and fruitful encounters." This meeting was significant in encouraging even broader ecumenical dialogue.

Sixty years later, in the Holy Land, at a time of conflict and difficulty for all our peoples, and especially for Christians, that epoch-making meeting between Pope Paul vi and Patriarch Athenagoras continues to bear significant fruit in our Orthodox and Roman Catholic communities. The regular gatherings of the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches of the Holy Land in our day are the direct consequence of the meeting of the Pope and the Patriarch. The cooperation in the renovation and preservation of the Holy Places, especially the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Basilica of the Nativity, has been made possible because of the spirit of that meeting long ago that is alive and well between the leaders of the Churches. And in the face of the current mammoth challenges in our region, we have been able to join our efforts in a common mission to bring before the world the plight of all our peoples, and, of course, of the Christian community, and to call for a commitment by all parties involved to a process of dialogue for a peaceful, just, and enduring solution to the future of the land that is holy for the entire world.

While so much good progress has been made in the relations between the Churches, and especially between the Christian communities in the Holy Land, recognizing that we are doing our part, we have to continue, bearing in mind the prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ to his disciples, that they may all be one (Jn 17:21). The Churches are committed to the true ecumenical journey, the ultimate goal of which is sharing in the common Chalice. We must never forget that Divine providence has placed us here to be a witness of the message of the hope of the Gospel. When the day dawns when we may share in this full sacramental unity, the purpose of the dialogue begun by Pope Saint Paul vi and Patriarch Athenagoras will have been fulfilled.

In the Holy Land we give thanks to Almighty God for the remarkable leadership that was shown by these two servants in overcoming prejudice, fear, and the shackles of history, and we pray earnestly that in the fullness of God's providence the spirit of their initiative will inspire the leaders of our region to establish a lasting peace in the Holy Land.

May their memories be eternal.

\* Patriarch of Jerusalem

By H.B. Theophilos iii\*



# ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

## Stewardship Offering / Membership Card 2024

Everyone in our community is asked to fill out a Stewardship Offering / Membership Card. All Orthodox Christians need to be the member of a parish.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdates: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we are offering to God, through St. Elizabeth's, the following amount:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ one-time

Donations can also be made online at [www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)

Please use this space to write how you/ members of your family would like to offer your time and talent to serve Christ and His Church:

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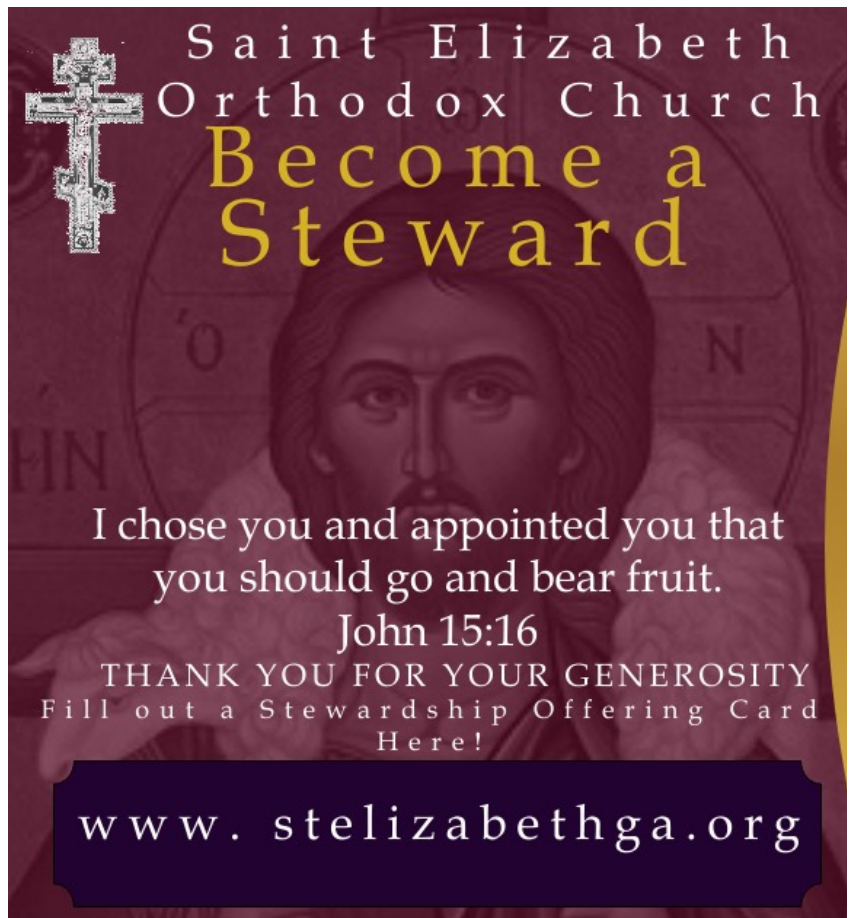
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Signature:

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Saint Elizabeth  
Orthodox Church  
**Become a  
Steward**

I chose you and appointed you that  
you should go and bear fruit.  
John 15:16  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY  
Fill out a Stewardship Offering Card  
Here!

[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)

Please Turn in Your Stewardship Offering Card in a Envelope  
Directly to Fr. Matthew, Email the information to  
[fatherdutko@gmail.com](mailto:fatherdutko@gmail.com), or you may Mail it to Rectory at 2263  
East Cherokee Drive

Thank You So Much For Your Offering to Saint Elizabeth!