

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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34th Sunday after Pentecost
Epistle: [Colossians 3:4-11](#)
Gospel: [Matthew 22:35-46](#)



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...

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Kondak Tone 6 - O unashamed intercessor of Christians,
 * ever loyal advocate before the Creator, * do not disregard the prayerful voice of sinners * but in your goodness* hasten to assist us who trustfully cry out to you: ** Intercede always, O Mother of God, in behalf of those who honor you!



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

Saint Ephraim the Syrian



Tuesday 1/30 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Pirohi Making at 10 am**

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 **Followed by Coffee and Catechism Class**

Saturday 02/03 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 02/04 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 02/06 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Pirohi Making at 10 am**

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

Tuesday 02/13 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed**

Thursday 02/15 9am- Divine Liturgy: Followed by Coffee and Catechism Class

Saturday 02/17 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 02/18 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 02/20 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Pirohi Making at 10 am**

Wednesday 02/21 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Question & Answer Session

Thursday 02/22 9am- Divine Liturgy: Followed by Coffee and Catechism Class

Saturday 02/24 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 02/25 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

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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 of the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).

Roots of Orthodoxy in Syria and the Lives of Saints Ephraim the Syrian and Isaac the Syrian

As we gather in worship on this blessed day (1/28), we commemorate two revered saints in the Orthodox Christian tradition—Saint Ephraim the Syrian and Saint Isaac the Syrian. Their lives and teachings are intricately woven into the rich tapestry of Orthodoxy. They come from Syria, a land with a spiritual heritage that dates back to biblical times. To understand the roots of their faith in Christ, let us journey back to Nineveh and the prophet Jonah, laying the foundation for the profound influence of Syrian Christianity.

Long before the birth of Christ, the city of Nineveh stood as a powerful Assyrian capital. It was here that the reluctant prophet Jonah received his divine calling to proclaim repentance to the Assyrians. The people of Nineveh heeded Jonah's warning, repenting and turning to the Lord. This event prepared the soil of the souls of the Syrian people for the seeds of Christianity in the region.

Syria became a cradle of Christianity with its ancient cities witnessing the early spread of the Christian faith. As the Gospel took root, the Syrian Church emerged as a vibrant Christian community, preserving and spreading the teachings of Christ. Amidst this spiritual blossoming, two remarkable saints, Ephraim the Syrian and Isaac the Syrian, played pivotal roles in shaping Orthodox tradition.

Saint Ephraim, born in Nisibis around 306 AD, was a prolific hymnographer, theologian, and defender of the Orthodox faith. His hymns and writings continue to inspire and edify the Church. Saint Ephraim's enduring legacy lies not only in his theological insights but also in his unwavering commitment to Christ during times of persecution. His poetic expressions of faith have enriched the liturgical life of the Church, making him a beacon of Orthodox spirituality. During lent we are taught to say his prayer everyday, "O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me Your servant the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes Lord and King grant me to see my own sins and not to judge mt brother. For blessed are You forever and ever. Amen!"

Saint Isaac, born in Qatar in the 7th century, embraced a life of asceticism and solitude. He, along with his brother, withdrew to the renowned monastery in Nineveh, dedicating themselves to a life of prayer and contemplation on the mysteries of Christ. It was in this monastic setting that Saint Isaac's spiritual insights deepened, and his teachings on divine love and compassion took root.

Eventually, Saint Isaac's humility and wisdom led him to be appointed as the bishop of Nineveh, where he continued to guide the faithful with his profound spirituality. His mystical writings, often emphasizing the transformative power of prayer and contemplation on the Mysteries, continue to resonate with believers, providing a timeless roadmap for those on the path to spiritual growth and a life in Christ.

On this day, we honor and commemorate the lives of Saint Ephraim the Syrian and Saint Isaac the Syrian, whose contributions and holy lives have enriched our Orthodox tradition. As we partake in the divine services and reflect on their teachings, let us draw inspiration from their devotion, seeking to emulate their steadfast faith and love for Christ.

The history of Orthodoxy in Syria is a testament to the enduring power of faith in the face of challenges. From the repentance of Nineveh to the lives of Saints Ephraim and Isaac, the Syrian Church has played a pivotal role in preserving and transmitting the Christian heritage. May the examples set by these saints inspire us to deepen our commitment to Christ and continue the journey of faith with steadfastness, hope, and love.



LENTEN SEASON OF GIVING

EASTER MEAL FOOD DRIVE

Helping people of Cherokee



Enjoy God's
Love at
Easter

Please let us know if you would like to donate \$30 to provide a ham and other

staples for families to enjoy an Easter meal. The goal is to provide 30 hams this year.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050844A4AC29A4FD0-47044291-donate>



Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

Wisdom from the Desert

"Do not do evil to your neighbor, do not upset him, do not slander him, do not belittle him, do not reproach him. Thus you will begin to do good to your brother little by little, by comforting him with words, being compassionate to him, or by giving him what he needs. Climbing from one step to another, you will reach the top of the ladder with God's help. By helping your neighbor, little by little, you will reach the point where you will desire his benefit as your own and his success as your own. That is what it means to love your neighbor as yourself".

-Holy Father Dorotheus

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Meal-train for the Hursteller's-** Sign up to provide a meal for the Hursteller's as Kelly recovers from gallbladder surgery at home!- <https://bit.ly/hurtseller> - **Follow this link or use this QR code to sign up!**
- **Easter Ham Donation:** Please see Janet Jones or click the link if you are interested in helping provide a ham for a family in need at Easter. Donations will be collected in the beginning of March. [Click here to sign up!](#)
- **No Sunday School Today**
- **Sunday School Teacher's Appreciation and Planning Meeting Next Sunday During Coffee Hour!-** If you have taught or would like to teach Sunday School, we want to thank you and invite you to a special planning meeting next Sunday (1/28) during Coffee Hour.
- **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. If there are no issues with the date brought up in the week ahead, this will be the officially scheduled 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!
- 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.
- **Important Note:** Please take the time to fill out a Stewardship Commitment / Membership Card for the 2024 Calendar Year - Every Orthodox Christian Needs a Parish Home, and Saint Elizabeth's is Yours!



Stewardship: The Transformative Impact of Time and Talents in Parish Life

As we continue our exploration of stewardship, think about the profound impact that dedicating your time and talents can have on our community. In particular, let's think about the vital role that just a few hours of your time can play in lightening the workload and paving the way for the various ministries and goals of our community to take form and flourish.

Our parish is like a tapestry woven with the threads of diverse talents, passions, and commitments. Each one of you possesses unique gifts that, when shared, contribute to the vibrancy and richness of our shared spiritual journey in Christ. One of the most tangible ways to make a transformative impact is by offering a few hours of your time to support the many activities that shape the life of our community.

Consider the immense workload that goes into organizing and executing our food sales, which, as you know, play a significant role in sustaining parish and sharing our Orthodox Faith with the local community. A few extra hands in the kitchen, assistance with event logistics, cleaning up around the Church, or help in promoting events can make an enormous difference. Your willingness to contribute just a fraction of your time can alleviate the burden on fellow parishioners and create an environment where by the Grace of God, our shared goal and responsibility of nurturing and caring for our Church can be achieved.

Your involvement in and commitment to parish activities extends far beyond food sales. Every ministry, event, Divine Service of the Church, and initiative requires the collective efforts of our community to come to fruition. Just a few hours of your time can be the catalyst that propels these endeavors forward, allowing us to reach new heights in our spiritual, educational, and outreach pursuits.

By actively participating and investing your time, you not only support the specific event at hand but also empower the different ministries of our parish to thrive. When you work toward some singular effort, it opens up time and opportunity to focus on a totally different ministry. Whether it be religious education, community outreach, or fellowship events, your dedication contributes to the overall vitality and growth of Saint Elizabeth's.

Let us recognize that the commitment of just a few hours of your time is a gift that ripples through our community, fostering an atmosphere of unity, shared responsibility, and achievement. As we embark on this collective journey of stewardship, let our hearts be open to the transformative power of time and talents. God is calling us to do this work and to do it together, that is why we are here. That is why we are members of an Orthodox Christian parish community.

In the days ahead think about how you can best serve the Church and become the person that God is calling you to be. Think about what Christ does with just a few loaves of bread and some fish - He feeds thousands. Now think about what He can do when you and I all collectively work together for His glory.



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 _____

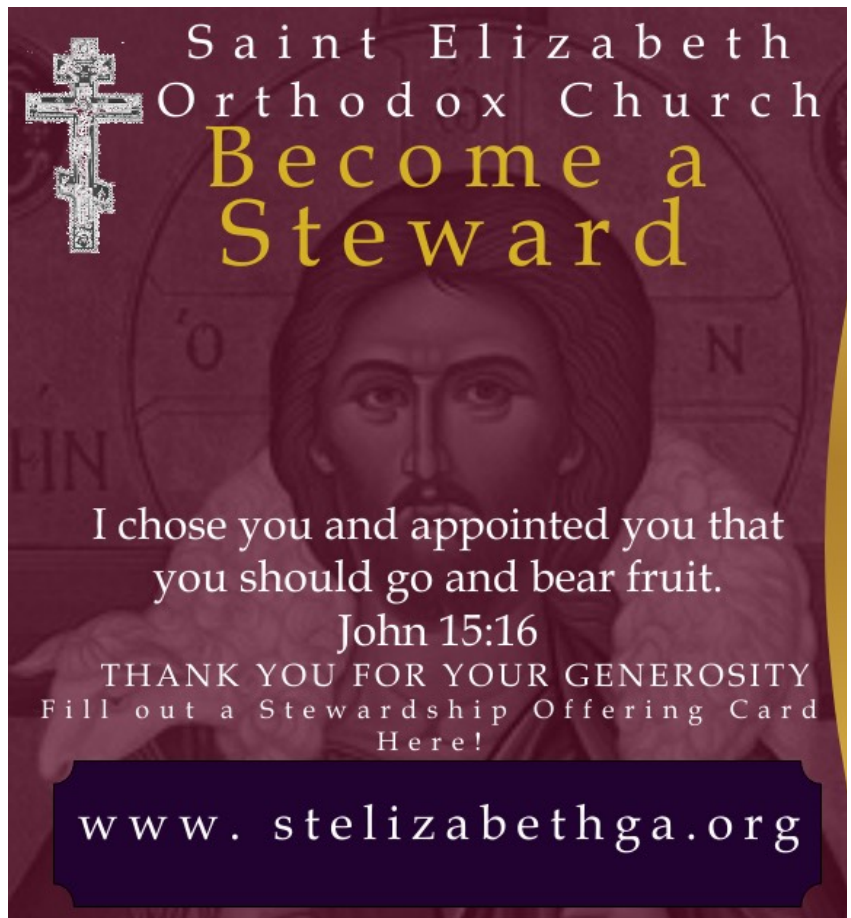
In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we are offering to God, through St. Elizabeth's, the following amount:

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

Donations can also be made online at www.stelizabethga.org

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:

Signature:



The graphic features a dark red background with a faint image of Jesus Christ. On the left is a white Orthodox cross. The text is arranged as follows: 'Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church' in white serif font at the top; 'Become a Steward' in large yellow serif font in the center; a quote 'I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.' in white serif font below that; 'John 15:16' in white serif font; 'THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY' in white all-caps serif font; 'Fill out a Stewardship Offering Card Here!' in white serif font; and a dark purple banner at the bottom with the website 'www.stelizabethga.org' in white serif font.

Please Turn in Your Stewardship Offering Card in a Envelope
Directly to Fr. Matthew, Email the information to
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!

Parish Family Prayer List

For the Health of: The Melnikoff Family, Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Kara, Joanna, James, Athanasia, Ethel, Tyler, Maria, Page Family, Dean, Margaret, Metropolitan Gregory and his family, David, Joseph, Maria Starcova, David & Paulette Novak, Suzette, Bob, David, Marilyn & family, Mark, Fr. Dcn. Stephen, Michelle, James, Rachel, Kate, Fr. Blaschak & Family, Larry, Alexandra, Tammy, Trahan & Skiba Family, The Hood Family, the Milesenko Family, the Blonar Family, Burt, Sandy, Stephanie, Mary, Tommy, Stephen, Emilia, Simon, Alisha, & Aaron Zak, the Puziculiks Family, Fr. Andy, Davina, & Alexandra, Stan, Fr. Dcn. Charlie & Family, Justin, Charlie, Herbert Schleining, Spencer, Julie, Anna, Galina & Family, Irinia & Family, Fr. Jim & Pani Kathy Dutko, Rick, Katlain, Elenor, Teddy, Mark, Robert & Cindy, Melissa, Ben, Anthony, Rachel, Christine, Cora, Rick, Michelle, Tim, Robert, The Kelemecz Family, Leonard, Leo, & the Olaru Family, Joanna Price, Kim, Isaiah, the Wells Family, Dave, Ashley & family, Mary, Tim, Andrew, Robert, Derrick, Michael, Eli, Ean, Ellie, Amber, Christopher, Deborah, Nick & Rosemary, Mike, Elaiane, Roy, Lin, Dave, Sarah, George, & Edward, Stephen, Caleb, Amelia, Simon, David, the Gdovin Family, the Rodgers Family, the Kundrat Family, Yvone, George, Amberly, & baby Stella, Jessie, Dexter, Julia, Dan, Cora, Gabriel, Ethan, Tripp, Rachel, Lilly, Emmie, Charlie, Michelle, Serge, Mark, Johnny, Yvette Christine, Johanna, Nicole, Caroline, Alexander, Kelly, Henery, & Benjamin

For the Departed: Evelyn & Boris Melnikoff+, Patricia+, James+, Stephen+, Anna+, Charles+, Robert+, Loraine+. Helen+, Lewis+, Jean+, Vera+, George+, George+, Ernie+, Eddie+, Maria+, Carl+, Mark+, Barry+, Josph+, Phillip+, Jenny+, Peter+, Bryan+, Rebecca+, Fr. Paul+, Maria+, Fr. Hazuda+, George Smisko+, Helen Spanovich+, Bob+, Alma+, Bo+, Saddie+, Fr. William George+, Violet+, Fr. Kozar+, Benjamin+, John Haddad+, Fred & Helen Milesenko+, Anna+, Natalie+, Lilly+, Christine+, Anna+, Tamara+, Anastasia+, Yvonne+, John+, Betty+, Ada+, Peter+ & Wanda+, George+, Jerry+, Barb+ & Harry+, Beth+, Louise+, Nikolay+, David+, Fr. Michael+, Natalie+, Helen+, Ted+, Tom+, Mike+, Madeline+, Tim+, Fr. John Baranek, Reader Stephen+, Dean+, Fr. Larry+, Kris+, Wathen+, Pani Elenor+, Fr. Michael+, Sally+, David+, Gene+, Kenny+, Ava+, Fr. Tony Josph+ & Pani Patsy+, Anatoly+, Fr. Scott+, Steve+, Claudia+, Dave+, Fr. John Duranko, Michael+, Sarah Elizabeth+ Ester+, Julie+, +Michael, +Joe, Mary+

Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers & Mothers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!

Holy Saint Elizabeth Pray for us!



Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Eternal Memory!



Christ is Among us!