

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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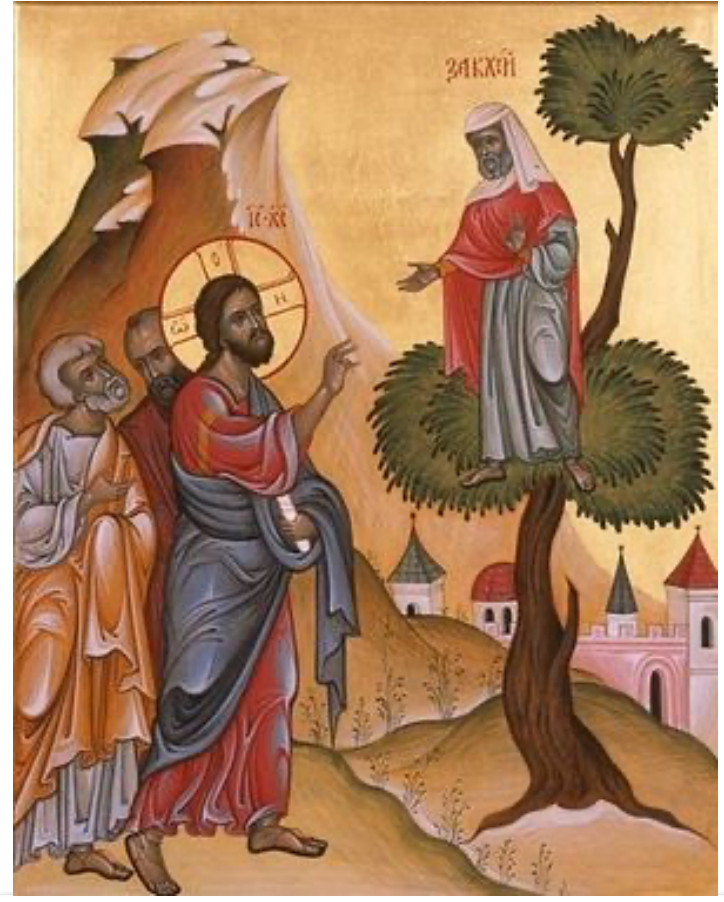


37th Sunday after Pentecost
Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10



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 & Kondak Tone 4 - Page 90

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!

Zacchaeus Sunday



Tuesday 02/13 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Pirohi Making at 10 am**

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- Pirohi Making

Saturday 02/24 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 02/25 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 02/27 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Food Prep at 10 am**

Wednesday 02/28 5:30 pm- Lesser Blessing of Water followed by Question & Answer Session

Friday 03/01 9am- Divine Liturgy: Followed by Coffee and Catechism Class

Saturday 03/02 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 03/03 10 am- Divine Liturgy: Winter Parish Meeting After Liturgy

Tuesday 03/05 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Food Prep at 10 am**

Wednesday 03/06 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Question & Answer Session

Saturday 03/09 9am- Divine Liturgy: All Souls
4pm Great Vespers

Sunday 03/10 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 03/12 9 am- Divine Liturgy **Followed by Food Prep at 10 am**

Thursday 03/14 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Followed by Coffee and Catechism Clas

Saturday 03/16 4 pm- Great Vespers

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

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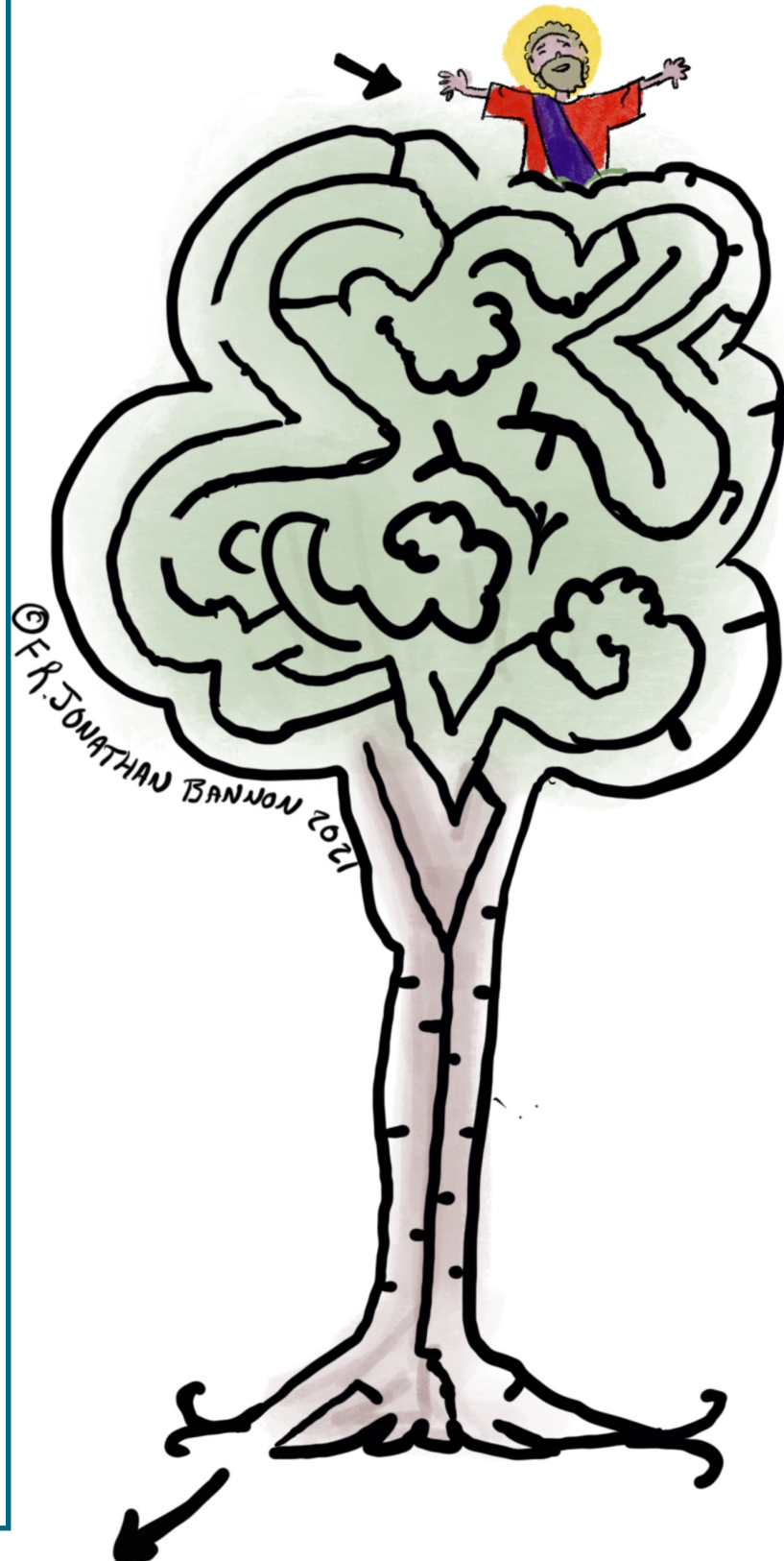
Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).

Long before the actual beginning of Lent, the church announces its approach and invites us to enter into the period of pre-lenten preparation. It is a characteristic feature of the Orthodox Liturgical tradition that every major feast or season is announced and “prepared” in advance. Why? Because of the deep psychological insight by the Church into human nature. Knowing our lack of concentration and the frightening “wordiness” of our life, the Church knows our inability to change rapidly, to go abruptly from one spiritual or mental state into another. Thus, long before the actual effort of Lent is about to begin, the Church calls our attention to its seriousness and invites us to meditate on its significance. Before we can practice Lent, we are given its meaning. This preparation includes 5 consecutive Sundays preceding Lent, each of them- through its particular Gospel lesson - dedicated to some fundamental aspect of repentance.

Sunday of Zacchaeus - The very first announcement of Lent is made the Sunday that the Gospel lesson about Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) is read.

Source : Fr Alexander Schmemman

Help Zacchaeus Get down From the Tree!



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/8050844A4AC29A4FDO-47044291-donate>



The Sunday of Zacchaeus is a reminder to us that the coldness of winter is nearing an end and that the season of repentance in Great Lent is nearly upon us. But why do we remember this event now? What is so special about Zacchaeus?

Zacchaeus was an infamous swindler, the chief tax collector, and hated among his own people, but just like each of us, Zacchaeus had the potential to be *much* more than this. Zacchaeus climbed from the pits of sin to the heights of holiness offered to those who forsake the ways of world and follow after Christ. In doing so, Zacchaeus points the way to Christ for all of us.

“Today Salvation has come to your house”: these are the words Christ offers to Zacchaeus, and the words that we all hope to hear. If we follow in the footsteps of Zacchaeus, in the footsteps of repentance, then we too can hear Christ say to us on Judgment Day, “Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joys of Paradise.”

So what exactly is it that Zacchaeus did to find Christ that each of us can emulate? Even though Zacchaeus was a great sinner, he still had a burning desire to know Christ. It was far more than just the desire to see some famous person walking through the streets of his town. It was a desire to experience the existing God, and to be forever changed by that experience.

Before Zacchaeus could be forever changed by Christ, he first had to have the desire to see Christ and then act upon it. All of us would say that we want to see Christ, but are we willing to be like Zacchaeus and act upon it? Zacchaeus first had to knock for the door to be opened; Zacchaeus first had to climb up that famous sycamore tree. If we want to see Christ and become like him, then we must be willing to do the work of climbing the sycamore tree; of picking up our cross and following after Christ just like Zacchaeus.

St. Cyril of Alexandria said that just before Zacchaeus climbed the sycamore tree, “the seed of Salvation sprouted within him.” For each of us, the seed of Salvation is always ready and waiting to sprout, ready to forever change us into the people whom God created us to be. That seed of salvation is waiting for us to water it and give it the proper light; waiting to open the door to Christ who eagerly awaits for us to draw near to Him and to receive Him.

Far too often we become comfortable, complacent, and set in our ways. However, we must all ask ourselves this question, “Am I the person who Christ created me to be?”. If we are not yet that person, then like Zacchaeus, we need to seek out Christ with all our heart and climb the sycamore tree through repentance, prayer, and fasting so that we can see Christ calling out to us.

We are all in a process of being transformed into the image and likeness of Christ, we are all still climbing the sycamore tree. If we desire to know Christ as Zacchaeus did, that means we desire to be transformed, that means we desire to change, that means we desire to be like Christ.

Zacchaeus Sunday means that Great Lent is right around the corner; are you getting ready?



Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



Woodstock, GA

"Let Zacchaeus grasp the sycamore tree, and let the humble person climb the cross... The Lord Jesus is always ready to make his home with each one of us. Do you make room for him in your heart and in every area of your life?"

"Lord Jesus, come and stay with me. Fill my life with your peace, my home with your presence, and my heart with your praise. Help me to show kindness, mercy, and goodness to all, even to those who cause me ill-will or harm."

-Saint Augustine of Hippo

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org








Announcements:

- **New Sunday School Format-** Going forward we will be having a new format for Sunday School Students in our community! *The youngest group consisting of toddlers, pre-school, and kindergarten aged students will meet in the room formally known as the Library.* This will be the new area for our youngest students to eat and learn about their faith with their families during coffee hour. *The next age group, 1st grade - 5th grade will be meeting in the Sunday School Room. The Middle School and High School Students (6-12) will be meeting temporarily in the room formally known as the kids play room.* A new dedicated space for those students and instructors is currently being prepared. If you would like to help out with Sunday School, please see Rachel Prince!
- **Annual Winter Parish Meeting Date Set for Sunday 03/03/2024:** After a few conflicts were raised, the Parish Council has officially set the Winter Parish Meeting Date for Sunday March 3rd after the Divine Liturgy.WQ
- **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!
- **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!](#). T
- 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!



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th	 Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th	 SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY MAY 3rd	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!	 HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

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 Mileszko 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+, Saddy+, Fr. William George+, Violet+, Fr. Kozar+, Benjamin+, John Haddad+, Fred & Helen Mileszko+, 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!



★ NATIONAL ACRY ★
**CHURCH FAMILY
WEEKEND**

**ANNUAL
BOWLING
TOURNAMENT**

**A WEEKEND
WITH OUR
BISHOP AND
OUR
DIOCESAN
FAMILY!**



**HOSTED BY SAINT
ELIZABETH'S MAY 24-27
2024**

FAITH

FELLOWSHIP

FUN

ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

Stewardship Offering / Membership Form



Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Become a
Steward

I chose you and appointed you that you
should go and bear fruit.

John 15:16

All parishoners and regular
attendeeds are asked to fill out
our new online membership
form here!