

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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 Father Deacon Steven Hanes
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www.stelizabethga.org

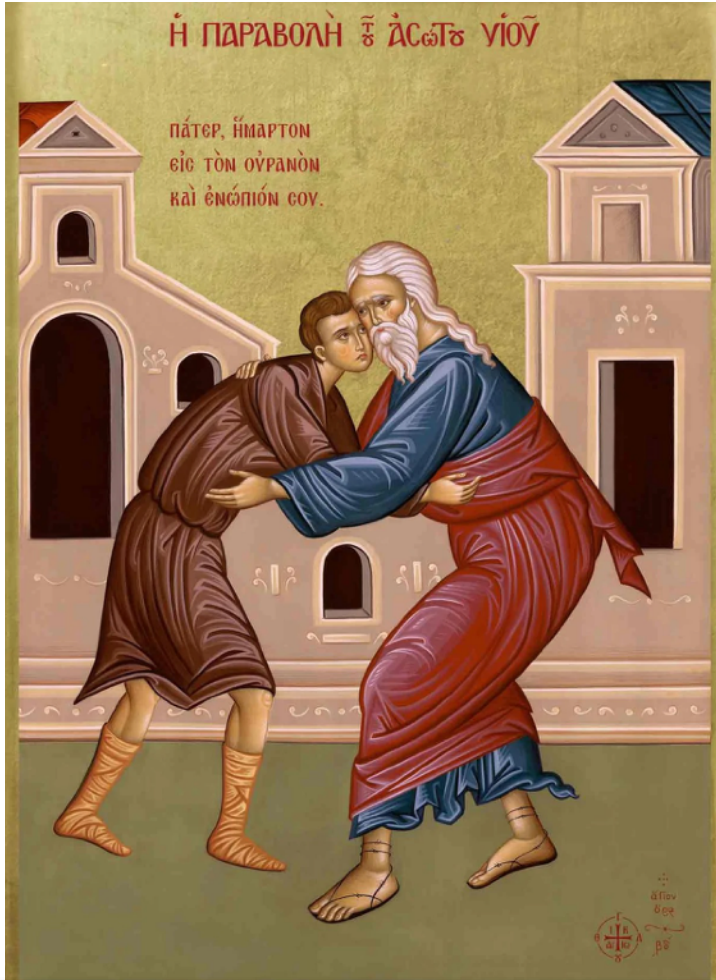


39th Sunday after Pentecost
Epistle: [1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#)
Gospel: [Luke 15:11-32](#)



Christ is Among us!

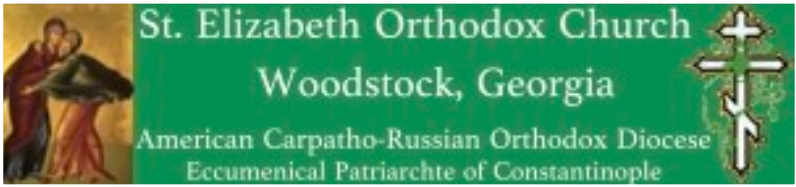
Christ is among us! He is and always shall be! Welcome to St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church and thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us!! What a joy it is to be together in God's House. If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before, you are about to participate in the Divine Liturgy. The 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 of the Prodigal Son Tone 3 - Page 175



Sunday of the Prodigal Son



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).

Today- After the Divine Liturgy: Winter Parish Meeting

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

Wednesday 03/06 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Catechism Class

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***

Wednesday 03/13 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Catechism Class

Thursday 03/14 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Conversation on the Church Fathers

Saturday 03/16 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 03/17 10 am- Divine Liturgy: Forgiveness Sunday

12:45 pm- Forgiveness Vespers- Great Lent Begins

Monday 03/18 5:30 pm- Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Tuesday 03/19 5:30 pm- Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete

Wednesday 03/20 9 am- Presanctified Liturgy
5:30 pm- Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete followed by Catechism Class

Friday 03/22 5:30 pm- Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday 03/23 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 03/24 10 am- Divine Liturgy

A Reflection on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

In the parable of the Prodigal Son we see two sons. One who is always by his father's side, seemingly doing the right thing and the other who asks for his inheritance early and sets off to live in far off place. The Prodigal son chooses to be separated from the love of his family and his home; he sets off to see what the world has waiting for him.

How often do we ask for our inheritance early? How often do we crave happiness, riches, and all the good things that we can imagine. We want what we think our neighbor has; what the world tells us is good. We are just like the Prodigal Son; we want to receive our inheritance early. We want Paradise now, on our time and not in God's.

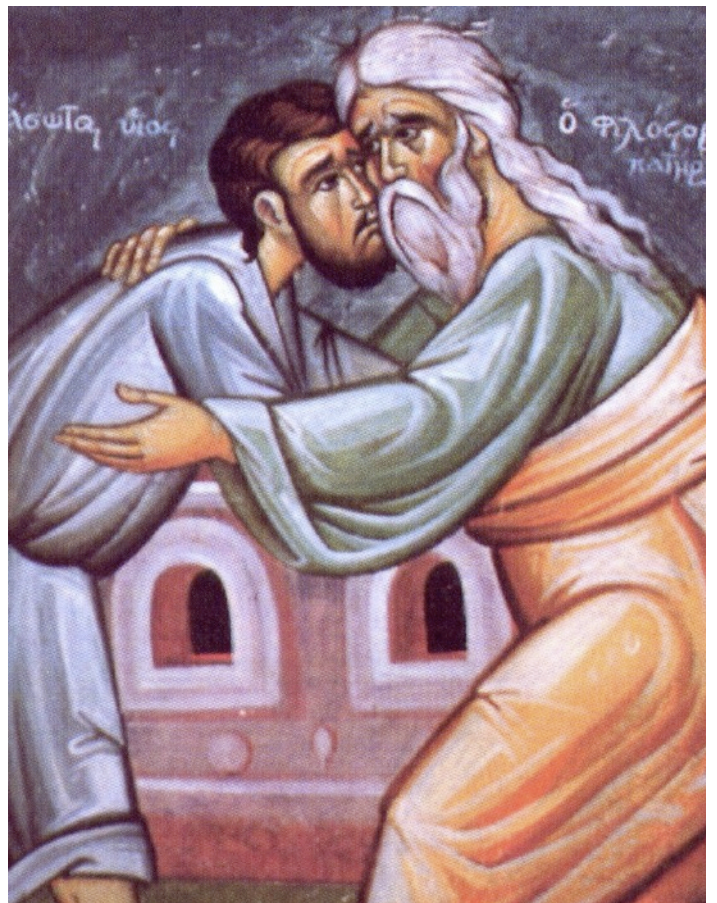
Just like the Prodigal Son, we squander the good things that God gives us by turning away from him in sin. We separate ourselves from our God and from one another. We choose the immediate "pleasures" of sin over the eternal peace and life offered to us by God. The Prodigal Son separated himself from the love of his father, and his brother, and left everything he ever knew behind. He chose to do it, thinking it was his right. Thinking that it was only fair. We choose that same path of prodigal living when we choose sin and when we choose to be unforgiving, as the other brother in the parable was. When we choose sin, we waste the riches and talents that our Lord blesses us with and end up with the pigs, just like the Prodigal Son.

When the Prodigal Son realizes how good he had it in his father's house, when he recognizes that even the servants at his father's home are fed and cared for. When the Prodigal Son hits rock bottom and realizes how alone he is, in that moment he is truly sorry. The prodigal Son decides to ask for forgiveness; he decides that in humility he will fall down at his father's feet and beg to let him come home.

Then all of a sudden, the parable takes us to the father running out to meet the son, as he is still far off in the distance. Would we act in the same way? Would we run out to greet the prodigal? Would we give him our best clothes, put a ring on his finger, kill the fatted calf and celebrate? Or would we be like the older brother? To angry, envious, and prideful to receive our brother in repentance?

This parable shows the way of repentance and forgiveness to all of us. Like the Prodigal Son, when we separate ourselves from our God and our loved ones through sin – we must pick ourselves up out of the pig pen and return home in humility.

When we are hurt by our brothers and sisters we are to be like the father who runs out to receive the prodigal with mercy and forgiveness.....As we forgive others, so too does our Heavenly Father forgive us....



Sunday of the Prodigal Son Word Scramble

1. myecr

The father in the parable of the Prodigal Son shows this to his son. God shows it to us when we cry out to Him.

2. efeivrssong

The father loves his son and show shows this to him. God shows it to us as well when we ask him to, when we repent, and when we offer it to others.

3. cetennearp

The son shows this when he gets up, returns home, and says "Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son."

4. irroneesrutc

When the fatted calf is slaughtered it shows how much God loves us and represents Christ's death on the Cross and _____ for our salvation.

5. evol

God is _____ and we see it in his mercy and forgiveness.

6. igsp

The prodigal son ran off and lived a sinful life, leading to him living in filth with _____. We too are covered in the same filth when we put on sin instead of Christ.

7. eDvnii rLtgiyu

The father gives his son a ring when he returns representing the union of their family, just like a wedding ring. Christ is the Husband and the Church is his bride. We experience union with Christ in the _____.

8. soimnocpsa

"And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had _____, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."

9. dofun

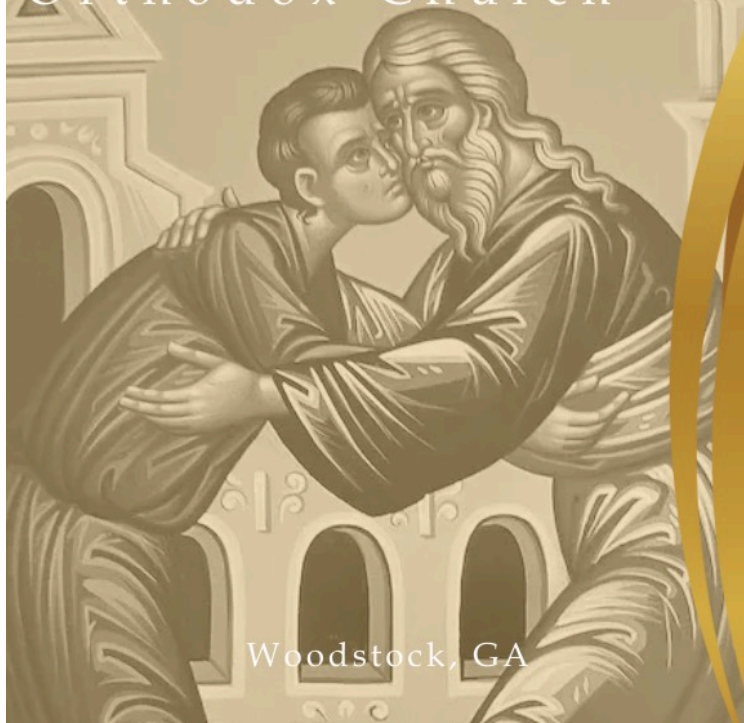
"It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.' "

10. tmsalbaip

"the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him...'" The best robe is interpreted as the _____ garment. After the prodigal son repents he is baptized into life again in his father's house. When we receive our own _____ garment, we are received as citizens of the Kingdom of God.



Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



O Jesus, now receive my repentance, for I have sinned as the Prodigal Son; I have spent my life in carelessness, thus provoking the anger of my God. I have foolishly wasted the divine treasure of the heritage you once gave me. By my senseless life I have separated myself from you. Accept me, O Father, in your goodness, as I now return to you. Receive me now, Lord, as you once received the Prodigal. Open to me your fatherly arms, and in thanksgiving I will sing of your glory and goodness.

-From Matins on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son

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 is for children 6 and under and 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 Today:** Get a bite to eat and we will begin shortly after the Divine Liturgy in the Atrium (Coffee Hour Area)
- **Easter Ham Donation Due Today:** Please get your donation to Janet Jones today to provide a ham for a family in need at Easter. Donations will be collected in the beginning of March.
- 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!



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 Blannar 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+, Jeanne+, 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+, Sadding+, 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!

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 25th	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> 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! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> 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	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> 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 <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> 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	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> 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 <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> 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!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> 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!

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church Annual Winter Parish Meeting March 03, 2024



Agenda for the Annual Winter Parish Meeting of Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church March 03, 2024

1. Opening Prayer

- Invocation for guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit over the proceedings of the meeting.

2. Call to Order

- The meeting will be called to order by the President of the Parish Council.

3. Additional New Business

- Any additional items for discussion or business that have not been previously listed on the agenda.

4. Priest Report

- The parish priest will provide a report on the spiritual state of the parish, recent activities, and upcoming events.

5. President Report

- The president of the Parish Council will deliver a report on the overall functioning of the parish, including achievements, challenges, and goals.

6. Treasurer Report

- The treasurer will present a financial report detailing the current financial status of the parish, including income, expenses, and budgetary updates.

7. Budget Approval

- Discussion and approval of the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

8. Building Projects and Ideas Report by Mike Filkins

- Mike Filkins will present a report on current building projects, renovations, and potential ideas for enhancing the parish facilities.

9. Election of Officers

- Election of one new officer to the Parish Council.
- Nominee: Nick Hanzivasilis

10. Closing Prayer

- A prayer of thanksgiving for the opportunity to gather and make decisions for the well-being of the parish.

11. Adjournment

- The meeting will be adjourned, marking the conclusion of the Annual Winter Parish Meeting.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church 2024 Priest Report

Dear beloved members of the Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church community,

As we gather for our Annual Winter Parish Meeting, it's an opportunity for us all reflect upon the past year with thanksgiving and look ahead prayerfully with hope in Christ and anticipation for the blessings to come. It fills my heart with joy to think about all the wonderful things that have graced our community since we last met and all that we can accomplish together by the Grace of God when we trust Him, serve Him, and love Him with all of our hearts, all of our souls, and all of our minds.

This year we have grown in membership, ministries, financial commitment, volunteer service, physical and safety upgrades to the property, and we have even seen one of our own join the ranks of our Diocesan Seminary. Although, with anything in life, there is always room for improvement, but these are all areas that we should be proud of and see as signs of the spiritual health of our community and God's Blessings. All of this would not be possible without your commitment to serve and glorify Christ and His Holy Church here at Saint Elizabeth's. Thank you and God bless you all.

In the midst of all this, as we gather together for this meeting, it is important for us to remember the founders, builders, and benefactors of Saint Elizabeth's, the ones whom we pray for and ask God to remember in His Kingdom at every Divine Liturgy during the Great Entrance. Someday all of us will be on that list, and the work we do now must always be for God's Glory, and with that reality in mind. Our time is short and precious and God is calling us to use it wisely

Since we last met, we laid to rest one of our beloved founders, Evelyn Melnikoff+, may God grant her rest in His Kingdom and may her memory be eternal. May her life in Christ, her kindness, genteelness, and legacy of faith continue to inspire us all as we carry on the cross that she with Christ's strength helped carry for us all. Our hearts also go out to all the members of our community who lost a loved in the previous year. May God bless you with His peace and comfort and grant rest to all of our departed loved ones.

The Church is the Body of Christ, but it is also our local community, our spiritual home, a sacred space where God has called each of us to serve Him and deepen our connection with His Divine Presence. As we continue our journey together, we are invited to embrace this calling with open hearts and minds. Look for ways to serve the Lord and carry your cross, just like Evelyn and all the founders who have paved the way for us to have the beautiful Christ centered community that we call home. Where we fall short of perfection as individuals and as a community, when we miss the mark of our goals, God is calling each of us to Him, to use the gifts that He has blessed us with to meet those goals and be filled by His Grace.

The liturgical life of our community has seen so many wonderful blessings this year. We have seen more dedicated participation in Saturday Vespers, weekday Liturgies, and Orthodox Adult Education classes. Our regular Sunday attendance is at the highest consistent levels that I have experienced. We have also seen dedicated men and young boys serving beautifully around the Altar of our Lord. The altar servers have received new candles to carry, had their robes fixed up, and most importantly, they have found guidance and leadership among the men of the parish who have assisted them and taught them about the great honor it is to serve. We also saw beautiful growth in our bell ringing which includes the installation of a sound system for us to appreciate the spiritual beauty of the bells more easily while inside the Church.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church 2024 Priest Report

If you or your children have an interest in serving at the Altar or ringing the bells, please do not hesitate to come forward. All Priests are Altar Servers first and God may be calling you or your child to serve Him in this special way.

Outside the Altar, the liturgical singing has also been such a blessing. To hear your voices united in prayer and faith has been so very encouraging for the soul. When I was young, I remember hearing someone say that singing to God is like praying twice because we are using our best gifts to honor Him and cry out to Him. I love the music of our Church, and there is no place that I would rather here it sung than by the faithful members of our community here at Saint Elizabeth's. The spiritual music of the Orthodox Faith guides us, teaches us, and touches the depth of our souls, but it needs your voice, your prayer. God loves to hear all of us united together in Faith and song, proclaiming His glory with one heart, one mind, and one voice. At Saint Elizabeth's everyone is encouraged to sing, please consider joining a practice or singing with the leaders in the front of the Church.

This year, something that we should all be thankful for and proud of, is the financial stewardship of our community. We fully met last years proposed budget without the need to use income from our annual food sales. This has left us with physical upgrades to the property, like the newly renovated space in the Narthex, purposely designed for welcoming new inquirers. Stewardship is about much more than money and we are also grateful for all of the giving of time and talents, including the beautiful garden space created in the front of the Church. Thank you all for all you do, the big gifts and the small ones, the hours given and the simple acts of service – all placed arising to God's Altar as a prayer, like incense.

For most of the history of Saint Elizabeth, the priest salary has been paid directly to our priest by the Diocese, rather than by the parish as is the norm. As a direct correlation to your generous giving, we will be hoping to take on a larger portion of Father Matthew's salary in the year ahead. This is our responsibility, and your efforts and cheerful giving are moving us closer to our goal to become fully financially self-reliant. In the year ahead, members of our community will be taking special time at the end of Sunday Liturgy to discuss the joys and responsibility of stewarding to Christ's Church with their time, talents, and treasures. You will also now have the option to choose to give a recurring donation online.

I am also thrilled to share the great success of our food sales and annual festival, a testament to the dedication and hard work of all who volunteered their time and talent in the kitchen. The sales also spurred the opportunity for us to complete maintenance work on the fire system in the parish as well as the installation of beautiful outdoor lighting. However, these sales are much more than a simple fundraiser, they build community and fellowship among our members and invite the outside world to come and see the beautiful gift of Christ our God, the Orthodox Faith, and the Saint Elizabeth's family that we all share in.

Your increased support in making and selling food has truly been a blessing, yet there remains an opportunity for more hands to join in this noble, community building, and economically profitable endeavor for our community and for the upbuilding of God's Kingdom. We need your help in cooking, cleaning, marketing, and organizing events to further expand our reach and impact for God's glory.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church 2024 Priest Report

I am also excited to report the success of our Sunday school program, made possible by the dedication of all our wonderful volunteers. Just recently, by offering age-appropriate classes, we are more purposefully nurturing the spiritual growth of our children and fostering a love for our Orthodox Faith that by God's Grace will endure for generations to come.

Along with the new Sunday School program, our parish was able to run a successful summer day camp where the kids learned to make prosphora (the bread used for Holy Communion). The parish was also able to help financially support sending a number of our young people to our Diocesan summer camp, Camp Nazareth. The new sound system in the Narthex and on the front porch was also installed partially with our young families in mind; in this way, families can excuse themselves from the Nave of the Church, while not missing out on what is happening during the Divine Services.

These children are equal members of God's Church with all of us. They are our future Priests, Sunday school teachers, singers, ministry leaders, parish council members, and stewards to serve the Lord in whichever way He calls them. Going forward we plan to continue to enhance the opportunities for them to grow in Christ and thrive here at Saint Elizabeth's. Plans are in the works to create new and more organized spaces for them to learn and develop their faith, along with opportunities to incorporate the children more intimately into the liturgical life of the Church. We currently have a plan to create a *Montessori* style miniature church as learning area for our youngest members.

Last year we continued our efforts of sharing the Orthodox Faith with the world around us by Baptizing and Chrismating new members. Our parish continues to offer classes and opportunities for Orthodox Christian adult education. Over the year we tried different times and styles to maximize the availability for everyone who is interested. Just last week we began a new series of Orthodox Catechism with about ten people interested in potentially being Chrismated and becoming a member of the Orthodox Church. If you are participating in Catechism classes and would like more private time with Father Matthew, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Furthermore, this year we offered two special publications written by you. The publication of our parishioners' reflections and articles has been a powerful means of sharing our faith with others. Through these written testimonies, we extend an invitation to all who seek to deepen their spiritual journey and discover the beauty of Orthodoxy.

There are so many exciting opportunities for growth, health, and the continued reception of God's Blessings before us. The launch of our new church management system ("Church Center") holds great promise for enhancing our communication, making scheduling easier, and supporting the effectiveness of our ministries. It is a tool that will strengthen our bonds as a community, empowering us to accomplish our shared mission. This tool will become the main home for our church calendar, schedule changes, our church directory, urgent announcements, prayer requests, volunteer scheduling, financial giving records, meeting minutes, by-laws, financial statements, and much more.

Going forward, the online membership form from "Church Center" will serve as the only stewardship / membership card. This means that in order to be a voting member of the parish in good standing for next year's meeting, you will need to fill out this form beforehand.

Our by-laws require that only parish members in good standing, who have filled out the stewardship card, made a financial commitment, and have received the Sacraments of Confession and Communion minimally once within the past year, may vote in our business meetings.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church 2024 Priest Report

Any information that you submit on the form will be kept private & is only for internal parish use. You can choose what personal information you want to disclose in the public-facing Church Directory; that information will only be accessible by other Church members who have been invited to participate in the directory. For our homebound members (or members that are not tech-savvy), we will do everything we can to assist you in filling out the form. This will include time on Sundays after liturgy or house visits to have someone help you complete the process.

The "Church Center" system gives us a church directory that you can personally keep up-to-date with your latest information. You will have contact details for your fellow parishioners at your fingertips, at all times. You can access all the functions of our new system [in a web browser here](#). If you prefer to have all our latest parish news in your pocket, please download the "Church Center" app now (Get the [iPhone app here](#); [Android app here](#).)

As we embark on the year ahead, we remain committed to the ongoing improvement of our facilities. Projects such as enhancing the coffee hour area, Sunday School rooms, parts of the driveway, and outdoor storage sheds await our attention, and with your continued support, we will see these visions come to fruition. Last year we discussed lots of building projects at our annual meeting and it was a joy to see many significant projects accomplished. Please feel free to suggest any work that you see needs attention. As an example, one of our members recently came into the possession of some landscape pavers and plans to use them for the beautification of our parish grounds. There is always much work to be done, but with your support, God's blessing, and taking things one step at a time, we will continue to see our parish grow and thrive in the years ahead.

In the coming months, we eagerly anticipate the National ACRY Bowling Tournament, where we will have the privilege of welcoming our esteemed bishop, His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory, Diocesan Priests, and fellow parishioners from across the diocese. It is an opportunity for us to come together in fellowship and celebration of our shared faith. Don't let the bowling part scare you off, this will be a wonderful time of fellowship and most of the activities will take place on our parish grounds. My hope is that every one of you will be able to participate in this special weekend and Divine Liturgy during the Paschal season. The Church will be full, you will be spiritually uplifted, and proud to call Saint Elizabeth's your spiritual home.

Additionally, I am grateful for the support of our current and previous serving board members. In the year ahead I would like to encourage everyone to participate in council meetings that happen in person at the Church. The more participation we have in these areas the more united we will be moving forward. I would like to extend special thanks to David Novak for his years of dedicated service to our Church and Parish Council. The Parish Council has named David, in thanksgiving for his years of love and service to the Church, the title of Parish Council Member Emeritus. May God bless David, Paulette, and the Novak Family with many happy and blessed years and salvation in His Kingdom.

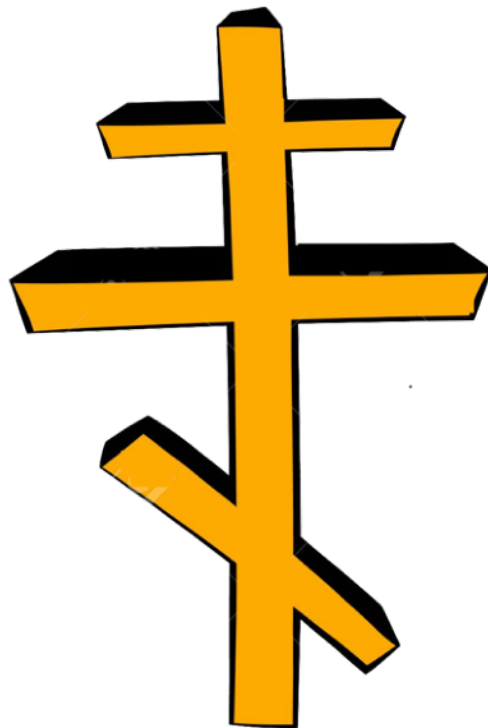
Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church 2024 Priest Report

Lastly, I am grateful for the support of our current and previous serving board members. In the year ahead I would like to encourage everyone to participate in council meetings that happen in person at the Church. The more participation we have in these areas the more united we will be moving forward. I would like to extend special thanks to David Novak for his years of dedicated service to our Church and Parish Council. The Parish Council has named David, in thanksgiving for his years of love and service to the Church, the title of Parish Council Member Emeritus. May God bless David, Paulette, and the Novak Family with many happy and blessed years and salvation in His Kingdom.

There is surely much that is missing from this report, but I believe it shows a good snap shot of who we have been and who we can be by trusting God, walking in His ways, and serving His Church as he calls us to. As we continue to grow and evolve as a community, let us remember that our ultimate goal is to share our love for Christ and the Orthodox Faith within our homes, our Church, and the world around us. With faith and trust in God, we can embrace this mission with enthusiasm, dedication, and trust in Christ. Together, with God's Grace, there is no limit to what we can achieve. Thank you again for all of your kindness, our community is one that beams with Christ's love, it's special in our world today, and people who walk through our doors experience God's love when they meet all of you, here with the saints in God's House, at Saint Elizabeth's.

May the coming year be filled with abundant blessings, renewed faith, and steadfast unity in Christ our God.

With love and gratitude In Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Matthew Dill". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church
Woodstock, GA

Parish Council President's Annual Report

March 3, 2024

It has been an honor to serve as the Parish Council President for another year. In this report I'm going to present an overview of some important developments and opportunities for every member of Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church.

PARISH GROWTH. Over the past few years we have experienced *significant growth* with more people attending worship services and participating in the life of the parish. To accommodate the growth we purchased more chairs which were placed in the church. Many Sunday morning we are nearly filled to capacity.

VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION. We have experienced *more participation* from many individuals and families who come to the church throughout the week to volunteer helping with various tasks and projects. As an example, one of the most recently completed and visible projects is the re-arrangement of the narthex entry and the installation of cabinets. Other visible examples are the addition of a sound system, bell tower, and bell ringing. Many other examples may be less visible but are important contributions such as food preparation for our festival and drive-thru food sales, cleaning, site cleaning and landscaping, repairs and maintenance, organizing efforts for us to contribute toward helping those in need, serving during worship services, planning, organizing, and teaching Sunday School classes, website development and social media posts. This is not a complete list but is a broad overview of the types of activities that take place throughout the year by parish members volunteering time to the church.

OUTREACH. One of the most important reasons we exist is to *make Christ known to our community*. As we continue to grow in numbers, may we each consider how we may volunteer our time, talents and treasure to our parish. Let's keep in mind that we will always want to remain a loving community of Orthodox Christians for anyone who comes to the church. I'm going to predict that over the next 12 months we will see many new people entering the church to see what we are all about. They are going to continue to be from many different religious backgrounds. Please be ready always to welcome everyone and to answer questions to everyone who asks about our parish. Each of us has something of value to share about our personal journey being an Orthodox Christian and we never know how much positive impact we can make in the lives of all who come and see what is going on here.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. We can look forward to *changes and developments* in the near future, some of which will occur this year. An important change should be a proactive and organized approach to allow members to take leadership roles heading up projects and volunteer opportunities. Our new church app will be a game changer for much of this activity including better communication, access to important documents (such as the church bylaws and minutes of meetings), announcing activities, and scheduling times to participate in activities. You should see some improvements in the parking lot, driveway, and yard around the church building soon.

TALK TO YOUR PARISH COUNCIL. This is the name of one of the groups in our new church app. This feature should enable everyone to have easy access to communicating anything to the entire parish council. The group also contains a list of the parish council members which will be updated whenever a change takes place.

Here is the current list of parish council members.

Fr. Matt Dutko, Parish Priest
John Marion, Parish President
Cora James, Treasurer
Rachel Delcher, Secretary
David Novak, elected term ends 2024
Charlie Bezerra, elected term ends 2025
Julia Pineda, elected term ends 2026

Please take the time to talk to any of the members of the parish council about anything related to the church. Anything. As our church grows, your participation and communication with the parish council is extremely important. Any question, concern, or suggestion is welcome.

SATURDAY EVENING PARISH COUNCIL. Another way to interact with the parish council is to attend Saturday Vespers worship service. Why? I'll be at the church on most Saturdays along with other members of the council. After Vespers we will be in the church or the coffee hour room to talk about what is going on at the church. On some Saturday evenings we may have a formal parish council meeting that you are welcome to attend. If no meeting is taking place, we will have a group discussion with whoever shows up. Sometimes we will also have food available. Check the new app for details about the after-Vespers parish council activities each Saturday. Vespers usually starts at 4:00 and ends around 4:45 so we will usually start around 5:00-5:15.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report! I'm always available to talk to anyone whenever I'm here. Also feel free to call or text me at 703-371-9548.

With thanksgiving in Christ,
John Marion
Parish Council President



O - OPERATING
 F - FESTIVAL
 B - BUILDING FUND

3/2/24

FINAL BUDGET FOR 2023

ACCOUNTS		Beg bal	Projected	Actual	Expenses	Balance	
Beginning balance		25,691.17					
Pledges	O		72,000.00	76,998.54			
Guests			7,500.00	6,816.44			
flowers			500.00	130.00			
dues				225.00			
Subtotal Operating account		25,691.17	80,000.00	84,169.98	79,012.56	30,848.59	
Festival/food sales		16,196.46	20,000.00	33,743.11	12,433.97	37,505.60	
Building Fund		34,864.18	-	12,350.00	11,373.09	35,841.09	
TOTALS						104,195.28	
OPERATIONS		Beg Bal	Projected	Actual	Balance		
Student ministry	O	647.40	1,100.00	1,238.20	509.20		
ACROD dues/\$75 each	O		3,040.00		3,040.00		
Patriarchal Pence	O				-		
Discretionary	O		850.00	940.00	(90.00)		
Lawn	O		-		-		
Pest control	O		2,000.00	1,861.00	139.00		
Mortgage	O		40,768.00	40,768.00	-		
Utilities 2265/church/trash	O		7,300.00	7,282.89	17.11		
Utilities 2263/rectory/cable/phone	O		9,000.00	8,522.34	477.66		
Janitorial supplies	O		1,000.00	504.59	495.41		
Office supplies	O		3,800.00	3,590.76	209.24		
Church supplies	O		1,500.00	1,037.85	462.15		
Property insurance	O		1,200.00	1,203.08	-		
Supplemental salary	O		5,244.00	5,244.00	-		
Priest pension/life/etc	O		700.00	702.00	(2.00)		
Travel	O		1,700.00	1,652.31	47.69		
Miscellaneous	O			144.45	(144.45)		
Coffee hour	O		141.08	230.80	(89.72)		
Flowers	O		850.00	836.81	13.19		
Father's social security	O		2,800.00	2,800.00	-		
Beg balance	O	25,043.77					
Actual income	O	84,169.98					
					5,084.48		
TOTALS		109,861.15	82,993.08	78,559.08	31,302.07		
FESTIVAL/FOOD SALES		Income	Income	Expenses	Balance		
Beg balance		16,196.46					
Transfer to building	F						
Festival/food sales	F		33,743.11	12,433.97	21,309.14		
Festival expense fund	F						
TOTALS		16,196.46	33,743.11	12,433.97	37,505.60		
BUILDING FUND		Beg bal	Actual income	Expense	Balance		
Beginning balance		34,864.18					
Bell Tower	RESTRICTED	B	1,575.00	249.00	1,326.00		
Iconography		B	1,745.11		1,745.11		
Parking lot/lighting		B	400.00	600.00	4,661.78	(3,661.78)	
Memorial fund		B	5,022.94	250.00	1,194.71	4,078.23	
Mortgage/or other		B				-	
Maintenance/improvements		B	23,867.79	11,500.00	4,459.57	30,908.22	
Unrestricted/bldg		B	2,253.34		808.03	1,445.31	
TOTALS		34,864.18	12,350.00	11,373.09	35,841.09		

St Elizabeth Orthodox Church
 Summary of Financial Reports
 January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

Summary of Financial Position
 (balance sheet)
 Snapshot as of 12/31/23

	BREAKDOWN	TOTALS
Building Fund unrestricted	\$ 3,000.00	
Mortgage extra payments	a	
Memorial Fund	a \$ 4,078.23	
Iconography Fund	a \$ 1,745.11	
General maintenance fund	a \$ 2,000.00	
Improvements/Projects	a \$ 25,017.75	
		\$ 35,841.09
Operating Fund unrestricted	\$ 30,848.59	\$ 30,848.59
Other		
Festival	\$ 37,505.60	\$ 37,505.60
Total Cash	\$ 104,195.28	\$ 104,195.28
Assets Building Land /insured value	* \$ 1,840,380.00	
Assets Furniture & Fixtures/insured value	* \$ 227,440.00	
Total Assets	\$ 2,172,015.28	\$ 2,172,015.28
Total ALL	\$ 2,276,210.56	\$ 2,276,210.56
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Loans 1st Summit	\$ 352,447.00	
Amount Owed		\$ 352,447.00
Net Worth		\$ 1,923,763.56

* Actual Cash Value
 Market Value not reflected

a These funds are legally restricted to be used for the named project

Summary of Operating Income & Expense
 For the period 1/1/2023 -- 12/31/2023
 Summary of 2023 budget

Operating	Operating	Festival	Building
INCOME	\$ 84,169.98	\$ 33,743.11	\$ 12,350.00
Building			
Festival			
INCOME	\$ 84,169.98	\$ 33,743.11	\$ 12,350.00
EXPENSES			
Priest Expenses	\$ 8,746.00		
Church expenses	\$ 29,498.56		
Mortgage	\$ 40,768.00		
Diocese assessment			
Other			
Total expenses	\$ 79,012.56	\$ 12,433.97	\$ 11,373.09
Net income	\$ 5,157.42	\$ 21,309.14	\$ 976.91
Father's salary by ACROD	\$ 40,000.00		
Father's SS by ACROD	\$ 2,800.00		
Father's SS by St. Eliz	\$ 2,800.00		
Health insurance/St. Eliz	\$ 5,244.00		
Total	\$ 50,844.00		

Total compensation for priest:		St. Elizabeth	Diocese
Salary	\$ 40,000.00		\$ 40,000.00
Social security/health ins	\$ 10,844.00	\$ 10,844.00	
Utilities, etc.	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	
Housing allowance	\$ 10,800.00	\$ 10,800.00	
Total	\$ 73,644.00	\$ 33,644.00	\$ 40,000.00

Date prepared 3/2/24

pd 2022

27,443.47

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2024

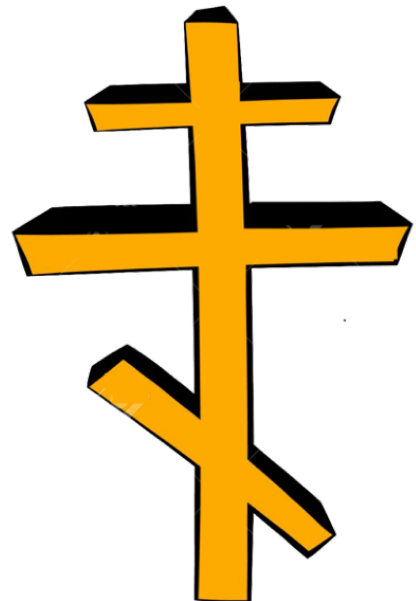
OPERATING ACCOUNT			Beg bal	Projected	Actual	Balance
Beginning balance						
Pledges		O	30,848.59	85,000.00		
Guests				5,452.00		
From beg balance			(10,000.00)	10,000.00		
flowers				500.00		
ACROD DUES						
Subtotal operating		O	20,848.59	100,952.00	-	
Balance		O	20,848.59			
Festival/food sales PROFIT (2023)		F	37,505.60	20,000.00		
To building fund/2023			(20,000.00)			
Balance		F	17,505.60	20,000.00		
Building Fund		B	35,841.09			
From festival			20,000.00			
Balance Building Fund		B	55,841.09			
TOTALS			94,195.28	120,952.00	-	
OPERATIONS			Monies	Projected	Actual	Balance
Student ministry		O		1,000.00		1,000.00
ACROD DUES		O		3,240.00		3,240.00
Patriarchal Pence		O		500.00		500.00
Discretionary		O		1,000.00		1,000.00
Pest control		O		1,000.00		1,000.00
Mortgage		O		30,768.00		30,768.00
Utilities 2265/church		O		7,500.00		7,500.00
Utilities 2263/rectory		O		9,000.00		9,000.00
Janitorial supplies		O		1,000.00		1,000.00
Office supplies		O		3,800.00		3,800.00
Property insurance		O		9,100.00		9,100.00
Supplemental salary		O		5,244.00		5,244.00
Father's social security		O		5,600.00		5,600.00
Priest pension/life/etc		O		700.00		700.00
Travel diocese		O		1,500.00		1,500.00
Travel allowance/car		O		5,000.00		5,000.00
Travel allowance/gas/repairs		O		2,000.00		2,000.00
Flowers		O		600.00		600.00
Church webpage		O		1,000.00		1,000.00
Cleaning service		O		4,800.00		4,800.00
2 months Father's salary		O		6,600.00		6,600.00
Beg balance		O	20,848.59			
Projected income		O	90,952.00			
TOTALS			111,800.59	100,952.00	-	100,952.00

FESTIVAL/FOOD SALES			Income	Proj Exp	Expenses	Balance
Beg balance			37,505.60			
Projected income			20,000.00			
Transfer to building	F				20,000.00	
Festival sales	F			12,000.00		
Squarespace	F			1,500.00		
Festival expense fund	F					
TOTALS			57,505.60	13,500.00	20,000.00	24,005.60
BUILDING FUND			Beg bal	Actual income	Expense	Balance
Beginning balance			35,841.09			
from Festival			20,000.00			
TOTALS			55,841.09			
Iconography	B		1,745.11			1,745.11

Parking lot/lighting	B	-			-
Memorial fund	B	4,078.23			4,078.23
Mortgage/or other	B				-
General maintenance fund	B	3,800.00			3,800.00
Improvements/Projects	B	41,891.75			41,891.75
Unrestricted/bldg	B	4,326.00			4,326.00
TOTALS		55,841.09	-	-	55,841.09

NEW

Projected income	\$ 90,952.00
Actual needed with partial priest salary	\$ 100,952.00
Actual need with full priest salary	\$ 134,352.00



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
attendees are asked to fill out
our new online membership
form here!