Woodstock, GA

March 17, 2024

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

 Image: Constantinople Rule Received States of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

 Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

 Ruling Hierarch: His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

 Image: Constantinople Rule Received States of Constantinople

 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

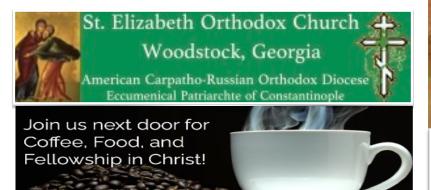
 morning! We hope you will stay and join us for coffee

 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 8 - Page 102 Kondak For Forgiveness Sunday- Page 178



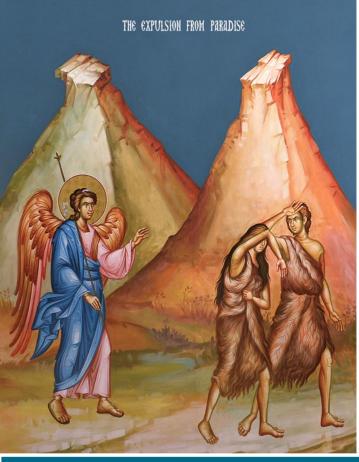




41st Sunday after Pentecost Epistle: <u>Romans 13:11-14:4</u> Gospel: <u>Matthew 6:14-21</u>



Christ is Among us!



Forgiveness Sunday

The St. Elizabeth News

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church



Today 12:45 pm- Forgiveness Vespers- Great Lent Begins

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

Tuesday 03/19 9am- Food Prep- Nut Rolls 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 followed by Special Meeting on Building Projects 1pm- Great Vespers: for the Annunciation Monday 3/25 9 am- Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation 10 am- Halupki Cabbage Steaming Tuesday 3/26 9 am- Halupki Rolling Wednesday 3/27 5:15-6:15- Presanctified Liturgy 6:15-7:15- Adult Catechism Class Friday 03/29 9 am- Presanctified Liturgy **3-7 pm-** Food Sale Pick Ups Saturday 03/30 8:30 am- Divine Liturgy 11:30 am - 3:30 pm -Food Sale Pick Ups Sunday 3/31 10 am- Divine Liturgy **Tuesday 4/02 9 am-** Presanctified Liturgy Wednesday 4/03- No Adult Catechism Class Sunday 4/07 10 am- Deacons Service - Homily

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

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Sunday 4/07 10 am- Deacons Service - Homily themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the endif the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).

Woodstock, GA



Office of the Metropolitan 312 Garfield Street Johnstown, PA 15906

GREAT LENT 2024

Protocol No. 3/2024

My beloved Faithful Clergy and Laity (Young and Old) of our God-Protected Diocese:

As we begin Holy and Great Lent this year on March 18th, I want to share with you a few thoughts so that we may journey through this reflective period and arrive at the Great Feast of Feasts, PASCHA to receive the Resurrected Christ.

We are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we at the same time reconcile with one another. In this holiest period of the ecclesiastical year, we should honestly examine our relationships with our families, our Church families, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and the society in general.

After all, a fast without mutual love and forgiveness is "the fast of demons". Part of our salvation in our daily lives is the practicing of forgiveness and love. Forgiveness is truly a glimpse of the Heavenly Kingdom in our sinful and fallen world. Only with God's grace and a repentant heart can we truly return to unity, love, and harmony.

Great Lent involves hard work: on ourselves, our thoughts and feelings, our relationships with those around us. Our Lenten discipline of fasting, prayer, and charity is given to us not as a burden or hardship, but rather as an opportunity for restoring our relationship with God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, The Holy Spirit, the Theotokos, our Guardian Angel, our Patron Saint, our neighbors and even ourselves. The Church invites us to transform our lives and to receive abundantly both peace and joy. Great Lent is an opportunity to renew our souls, minds, and bodies by entering more fully into a Christlike life.

Therefore as we begin our Lenten journey together, I am asking for your forgiveness for any offenses I may have caused you. Let us pray for each other so that on that day of PASCHA, the Feast of Feasts, we may sing with loud voices the beautiful Hymn of the Resurrection.

I pray that this Great Lenten Season is a spiritually uplifting experience for all of us.

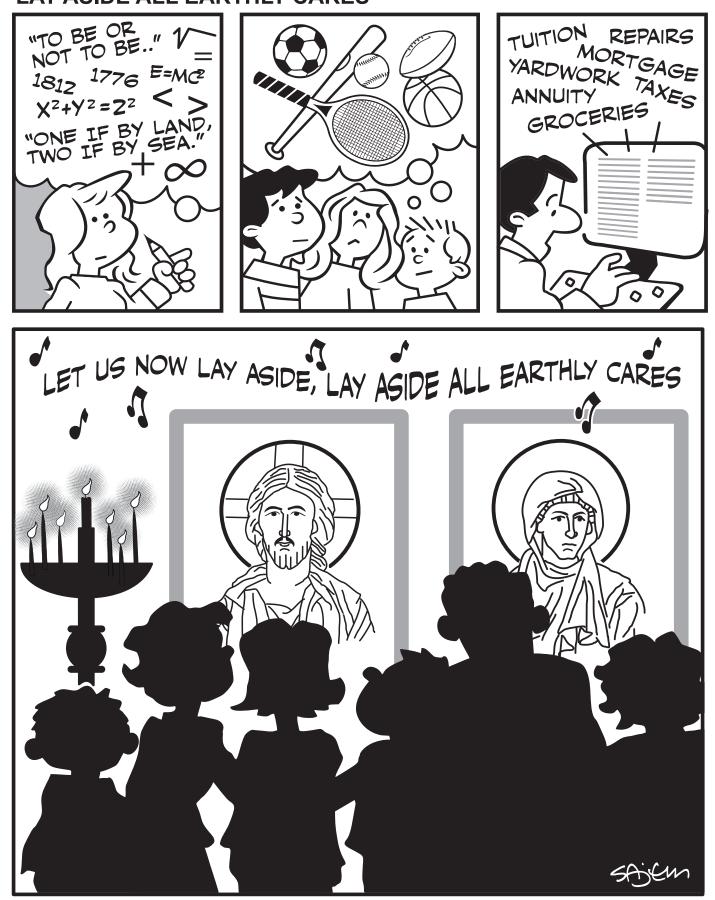
Working in His Vineyard with much agape,

etropolitari

+Metropolitan Gregory of Nyssa

The American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE Woodstock, GA

LAY ASIDE ALL EARTHLY CARES



The St. Elizabeth News

2265 East Cherokee Drive Woodstock, GA 30188 Phone: 404-268-6359 Email: <u>fatherdutko@gmail.com</u> Fr. Matthew Dutko Pastor/Administrator www.stelizabethga.org



March 17, 2024 Forgiveness Sunday

Dear Parish Family of Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church,

Dear Beloved Parish Family,

As we begin the journey of Great Lent, I am filled with joy and hope knowing that we walk this path to Golgotha and the Empty Tomb together with Christ as a community of faith. This season offers us a sacred opportunity for spiritual renewal and growth in our relationship with Christ. Let us seize this moment with fervor and dedication, and joyfully take up our cross, for in Great Lent lies the potential for our very salvation.

During this holy season, strive to increase your prayer life, both individually and as families. Set aside extra time each day for prayer and spiritual reading, seeking communion with our Lord in solitude and in the company of loved ones. Let our hearts be open and receptive to the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we pour out our prayers and good intentions before God.

Fasting is not merely abstaining from certain foods, but a spiritual discipline that strengthens our will and purifies our souls. Give your best effort and embrace fasting with joy, allow it to deepen your reliance on our Heavenly Father. Just as we need bread to survive, we cannot survive without Christ, the Bread of Life. Fasting reminds us of this and teaches us that with effort and the Grace of God, we can conquer the false promise of sin.

Today as we begin great Lent, remember the importance of forgiveness. Just as we humbly ask for God's forgiveness, so too must we extend forgiveness to our fellow brothers and sisters. Let love and reconciliation permeate our interactions, showing us the mercy and compassion of our Lord.

As we journey through Lent, dedicate yourselves more fully to the life of the Church. Attend the divine services as frequently as possible, cherishing each opportunity to partake in the Sacraments and receive the Grace of God. Lent is a time to care for our church, both physically and spiritually, as a tangible expression of our love and devotion to Christ.

As family in Christ, approach this Lenten season with eager anticipation, hope, joy, and unwavering commitment. Spring is the season of new life, and so too Lent can be a time of spiritual renewal and transformation for each of us if we take it seriously. Don't delay your repentance or wait until Good Friday to seek the healing grace of Confession. The acceptable time to grow in our faith is now, in this moment.

Remember, that life is a precious gift bestowed upon us by our gracious God. Don't squander it in pursuit of earthly cares, but instead, choose Christ as the center of your life. May this Lenten journey be one of profound spiritual awakening and renewal, leading us ever closer to the embrace of our loving and merciful Savior.

With love and blessings this Lent and Always,

Fr. Matthew The St. Elizabeth News

Woodstock, GA

March 17, 2024



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The St. Elizabeth News

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What is Forgiveness Sunday?

Forgiveness Sunday comes to us each year on the last Sunday before Great Lent begins. This opportunity is oncer again laid before us to begin Lent the right way. With the Grace of forgiveness. Today we are reminded of God's infinite mercy and encouraged to begin our Lenten journey by receiving and offering forgiveness to each other, just as God mercifully gives it to us. Forgiveness Sunday is a reminder that we cannot grow in the spiritual life, we cannot make movement towards Christ, holiness, and salvation without forgiveness and humility. Christ is our Chief Cornerstone. He shows us by His own example what humility and forgiveness look like from the very heights of the cross. Without forgiveness and humility, we cannot be become like Him.



This is a special day in the Orthodox Church. It marks the beginning of the season of Great Lent. Lent is a time set aside for Orthodox Christian to prepare for Holy Week and our Lord's Resurrection by growing closer to God, changing, and growing in God's likeness by His Grace. During this time we use the tools of fasting, prayer, repentance, and an increased commitment to the life of the Church to assist us as we move closer and closer to the Cross.

Forgiveness Sunday is an ancient tradition of the Christian Church. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus teaches his disciples to forgive others: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matt. 6:14). The lessons of the early Church and the wisdom of the Church Fathers provides us with many powerful examples of the importance of forgiveness and its eternal consequences.

On Forgiveness Sunday the Church celebrates a ceremony of mutual forgiveness, where the clergy and the faithful ask each other for forgiveness. This public act of forgiveness has the potential to be such a powerful moment of mercy, humility, and reconciliation for the community. It is a reminder that we are all sinners, and that we all need forgiveness. In the words of St. John Chrysostom, "If we forgive our neighbors, we will be forgiven by God; if we refuse to forgive, we will be condemned by God." This reminder is so important for us to hear as we prepare to begin the season of Great Lent, hopefully with a clean slate.

The Church Fathers wrote extensively about forgiveness and repentance, and their teachings continue to inspire and guide us today. St. Basil the Great emphasized the importance of forgiveness in his homily on Forgiveness Sunday: "Let us forgive one another's sins, for this is the reason we are here. Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Let us be patient with one another, for we are all struggling towards the same goal."

St. Cyril of Alexandria wrote about the need for humility in forgiveness: "True humility is the foundation of forgiveness. Only the humble are capable of forgiving others, for they recognize their own faults and weaknesses." St. Isaac the Syrian, another prominent Church Father, wrote in one of his homilies that: "Forgiveness is the renewal of love. Forgiveness is the beauty of holiness. Forgiveness is the life of the soul. Forgiveness is the medicine that heals the wounds of sin."

As we enter the season of Great Lent, let us reflect on these teachings and renew our commitment to forgiveness and repentance. Let us seek forgiveness from those whom we have wronged and forgive those who have wronged us. Let us be patient with one another, for we are all struggling towards the same goal; salvation and life in Christ. In this season of Lent, as in all of life, we are called to be patient and merciful with others just as God is patient and merciful with us.

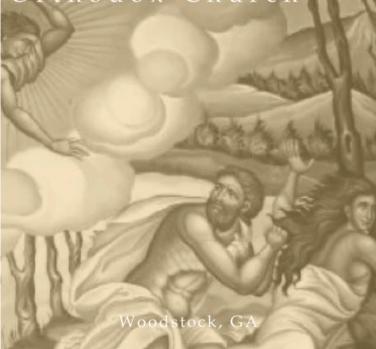
Forgiveness is not so much a duty, but a gift. Through forgiveness, we are liberated from the burden of our sins; we are healed and allowed to start anew. It is a gift that we can freely offer to others, just as we freely receive it from God.

In the words of St. John Climacus, "Forgiveness is the remission of sins. For it is by this that what has been lost, and was found, is saved from being lost again." So let us embrace forgiveness and humility on this Forgiveness Sunday and throughout the season of Great Lent. Let us strive to grow closer to God and to one another, and let us remember that through forgiveness, we can be healed and made whole. We can become the holy people whom God Himself created us to be.

word scramble with clues		
	Forgiveness Sunday Word Scramble	
	Look carefully at the jumbled words and at the clues. Try to unscrambling as many words as you can.	
	Good luck!	
1.	Oegrfiv God does this for us as we do it for others	
2.	crmlfieu	
	When we forgive others we are being this. God is the One.	
3.	xpulnesio	
	On this day we are remembering Adam's and Eve's from Paradise.	
4.	speevsr	
_	After this service, Lent officially begins.	
5.	rniesn We say this when asking mutual forgivenessForgive me a	
6.	ibiutend	
0.	Asking for forgiveness teaches us this	
7.	acnel	
	The first week of lent is known as week,	
8.	rateg	
	Lent is also known as the Fast	
9.	ndrewA	
	The Canon of this Saint from Crete is offered on the first day of Lent.	
10.	Oemr Pray, Fast, Give: During Lent we are called to do this	
11		
	ayrepsr During Lent remember to make an extra effort to turn your worries into these	
12.	trachf	
	Having a hard time with Lent? Remember to ask!	

Woodstock, GA

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



In my wretchedness I have cast off the be woven by God, disobeying Thy divine command, O Lord, at the counsel of the enemy; and I am clothed now in fig leaves and in garments of skin. I am condemned to eat the bread of toil in the sweat of my brow, and the earth has been cursed so that it bears thorns and thistles for me. But, Lord, who in the last times was made flesh of a Virgin, call me back again and bring me into Paradise...Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life, For my spirit rises early to pray towards thy holy temple. Bearing the temple of my body all defiled; But in Thy compassion, purify me by the loving kindness of Your mercy. -From the Vespers of Forgivness Sunday Become a Member of Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- Lent is Here!- This time of year is meant to prepare us for Great Lent, which is meant to prepare us for Holy Week, which is meant to prepare us for the Great Day of our Lord's Resurrection! It's time for us all to reflect and take our faith more seriously. *Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand*!
- Sunday School Today Icon project- Making Icons to have blessed on the Sunday of Orthodoxy (3/24)
- Pick Ups for Food Sales 03/29 3-7 pm, and Saturday 03/30 11:30-3:30- Join with your parish family for this important effort for our community!
- **Special Renovation Meeting next Sunday 3/24:** This is a special meeting for the whole parish to discuss and approve a comprehensive plan for our growth and development of the physical Church property.
- 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.
- Saint Elizabeth Magazine to be published in the Paschal Bulletin with articles written by you! All parishioners are encouraged to participate in this fruitful ministry. Write an article on anything related to the Orthodox Church and submit to Fr. Matthew for review and publication. Your article could be about theology, Church History, personal experience, parenting, spirituality, or really anything that would be appropriate in an Orthodox Magazine. Please consider writing an article during lent for everyone to enjoy on Pascha! The deadline to submit an article is Palm Sunday, April 28th.
- Important Note: Please take the time to full 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

Fast - Free Week **FEBRUARY 25th** Normal Fast Week MARCH 3rd Meatfare MARCH 10th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY Cheesefare MARCH 17th FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY 1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 24th

2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 31st

3rd Sunday of Lent **APRIL 7th**

4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th

5th Sunday of Lent APRIL 21st

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 28th GREAT WEEK BEGINS

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

MAY 3rd

FEAST OF FEASTS! MAY 5th NO FASTING!

THEMES / GOSPEL READING

TRIODION WEEKS Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

The Prodigal Son Returns! 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Epistle: Luke 15:11-32 Gospel:

The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Romans 13:11-14:4 Epistle: Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Epistle: Gospel: John 1:43-51

ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Gospel:

Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Mark 2:1-12

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS HALF WAY TO PASCHA! Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Epistle: Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Mark 9:17-31 Gospel:

ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Philippians 4:4-9 Epistle: Gospel: John 12:1-18

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

BRIGHT WEEK HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.

Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.

Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.

Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.

> Bring an icon to church for a procession.

Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.

Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!

Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!

> Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.

> > Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!

Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.

Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

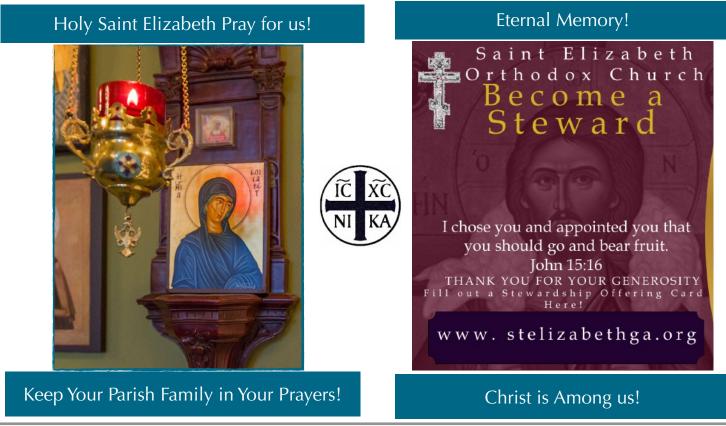
The St. Elizabeth News

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 Mileshko Family, the Blanar 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, Gerorge, & 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+, Jeane+, Vera+, George+, George+, Ernie+, Eddie+, Maria+, Carl+, Mark+, Barry+, Jospeh+, 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 Mileshko+, 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 Jospeh+ & 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!



The St. Elizabeth News

Woodstock, GA

March 17, 2024

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!