

# THE ST. ELIZABETH NEWS

## A loving Community of Orthodox Christians

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



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



**1st Sunday of Great Lent**  
**Epistle:** [Hebrews 11:24-30-12:1-2](#)  
**Gospel:** [John 1:43-51](#)



### Christ is Among us!

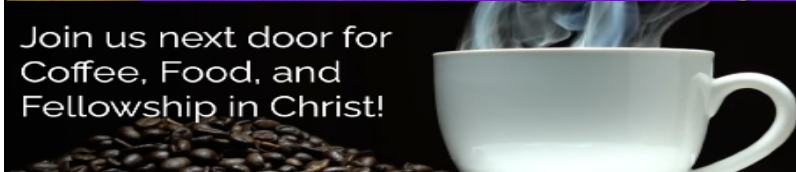
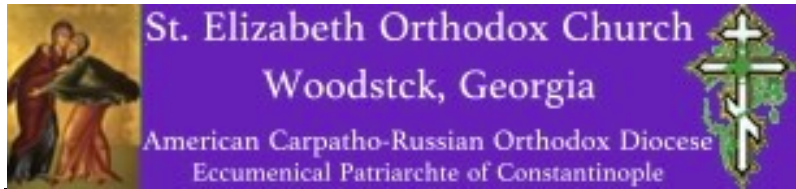
Christ is among us! He is and always shall be! Welcome to St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church and thank you for celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us!! What a joy it is to be together in God's House. If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before, you are about to participate in the Divine Liturgy. The 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 1 - Page 81

Tropar & Kondak For the Sunday of Orthodoxy- Page 179



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

## Sunday of Orthodoxy



### **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

*using the Blue Pew Book*

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 Second Antiphon.....7  
 Hymn of the Incarnation.....10  
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*Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end if the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).*

**Sunday 03/24 10 am-** Divine Liturgy followed by Special Meeting on Building Projects

**Great Vespers at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta -5 pm-** Great Vespers: for the Annunciation & The Sunday of Orthodoxy

**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 from Seminarian Alex Hursteller

**Wednesday 4/10 5:15-6:15-** Presanctified Liturgy

**6:15-7:15-** Adult Catechism Class

**Friday 4/12 5:30 pm-** Presanctified Liturgy

**Saturday 4/13 9 am-** Divine Liturgy

**4pm-** Great Vespers

**Sunday 4/14 10 am-** Divine Liturgy



## The Prayer of Saint Ephraim: Laying Aside our Earthly Cares in Great Lent

As we travel on the journey of Great Lent, we are reminded of the power and significance of prayer in guiding our hearts and minds towards God. Among the many treasures of our liturgical tradition is the timeless prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian, a prayer that encapsulates the spirit of repentance, humility, and spiritual transformation.

Saint Ephraim was born in the fourth century in Nisibis, in present-day Turkey and is revered as one of the greatest hymnographers and theologians of the early Church. His profound spiritual insights and poetic compositions continue to inspire and guide believers across centuries.

The prayer attributed to Saint Ephraim, which we recite during Great Lent, is a powerful plea for divine grace and guidance. It serves as a spiritual roadmap, urging us to relinquish the vices and earthly concerns that hinder our relationship with God. In place of those sins, Saint Ephraim's prayers encourages us to call upon God to embrace virtues that align us with His Holy will.

The history of this prayer is deeply rooted in the monastic tradition of the Church. It is said that Saint Ephraim himself would recite this prayer daily as part of his ascetic discipline, seeking purification of heart and mind. Over time, it became incorporated into the Lenten services of the Church, serving as a focal point for repentance and spiritual growth.

What makes this prayer particularly relevant during Great Lent? In the fasting season, we are called to intensify our efforts in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, as we journey towards the celebration of Pascha, the Resurrection of Christ. The prayer of Saint Ephraim becomes a beacon of light amidst the spiritual struggles we face. It reminds us to humble ourselves before God, acknowledging our weaknesses and seeking His mercy and guidance.

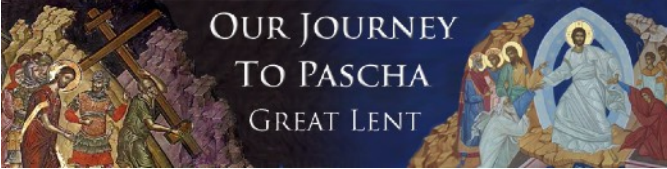
Each line of the prayer addresses a fundamental aspect of the spiritual life. We implore the Lord to free us from the grip of laziness, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter – all of which distract us from our pursuit of holiness. In their place, we ask for the virtues of purity, humility, patience, and love, virtues that adorn the soul and draw us closer to God.

Moreover, the prayer calls us to introspection and self-awareness. We are called to examine our own sins before presuming to judge others, recognizing our shared humanity and need for God's mercy. In this way, the prayer fosters a spirit of compassion and reconciliation within the community of believers.

As we continue our Lenten journey, the Church instructs us to commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the prayer of Saint Ephraim. In this season of repentance, we should say this prayer with sincerity fervor, and faith. Allow the words of this ancient prayer to penetrate your hearts and by the Grace of God, transform your life. Lent is the time to be renewed in spirit, and made ready to embrace the joy of Christ's resurrection with our hearts purified and minds illumined by the grace of God. The prayer of Saint Ephraim is a powerful guide and tool for us to use as we travel to the Cross and the Empty Tomb.



# Sunday of Orthodoxy and Lent Crossword



10

9

7

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Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

## Across

- 3. Icons are venerated, not \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. In 843 AD in a great procession, the icons were \_\_\_\_\_ to their proper place in the Church.
- 6. Throughout Lent we draw closer and closer to the \_\_\_\_\_ and ultimately the empty Tomb.
- 7. Someone who rejects and destroys Icons is an.....
- 9. God forgives us as we forgive \_\_\_\_\_.
- 10. The \_\_\_\_\_ Ecumenical Council dealt primarily with the controversy over the use of icons.

## Down

- 1. During Lent we should pray, fast, & give \_\_\_\_\_ often.
- 2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Liturgy is given to us on certain weeknights during Lent to give us strength on our Lenten Journey.
- 4. St. John of \_\_\_\_\_ famously wrote many writings in defense of the Holy Icons.
- 8. Repentance is more than being sorry, it means that we \_\_\_\_\_.





Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

# SPRINGTIME

Lenten &

Easter

# FOOD SALE

Pickup's on select Fridays & Saturdays

In March, & April



Fresh & Frozen Pierogi  
Nutrolls  
Poppy & Apricot  
Halupki-Cabbage Rolls  
Pascha Bread

Order Today!

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# ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Fr. Matthew Dutko  
Pastor/Administrator  
[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)



Dear Parish Family of St. Elizabeth's,

As we approach the close of our Easter food sales, I would like to take a moment to extend my deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work over the past few months. Your commitment to our community and tireless efforts have truly made a difference. Your service to Christ and His Church helps us grow our ministries and share the richness of Orthodoxy with our local community.

Our Easter food sales have been a great success, thanks to the efforts of all involved. Your support has not only helped us raise funds for our church but has also brought our community closer together in fellowship and service.

As we prepare to fulfill the remaining orders this Friday and Saturday, I am reaching out to you once again, seeking your assistance. We are in need of volunteers to help with the packaging and delivery of orders this weekend. Your contribution, whether big or small, will make a significant impact and ensure the smooth operation of this final phase.

Additionally, I understand that not everyone may be able to volunteer their time physically. However, if you would still like to contribute, I kindly ask for your consideration in making a special donation to offset the rising costs of ingredients and supplies. The current economic climate has presented challenges, and any extra support will help us meet our fundraising goal faster, enabling us to continue our special projects and improvements to our beautiful church facility.

Your generosity and support are invaluable, and we are incredibly grateful for your ongoing commitment and support of St. Elizabeth's. Together, by God's blessing, we can accomplish great things and strengthen our community for generations to come.

If you are available to volunteer or would like to make a donation, please do not hesitate to reach out to Fr. Matthew with any questions or concerns. The next page of the bulletin has a list of items that your donation can cover the cost of.

Thank you once again for your dedication, hard work, generosity, and your prayers. May this Lenten season bring you and your loved one's abundant blessings and joy as we prepare for the great day of the Resurrection of our Lord.

With love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Matthew Dutko". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Fr. Matthew Dutko



**LENTEN FOOD SALES**  
**WANT TO HELP, BUT DONT HAVE THE TIME?**

make a special donation!

Potatoes - \$150	Poppy- \$75
Butter - \$250	Raisins- \$75
Milk- \$75	Onions- \$100
Eggs- \$175	Olive Oil- \$100
Sugar- \$150	Flour- \$200
Cheese- \$250	Propane- \$200
Nuts- \$200	Containers- \$200
Apricot- \$75	Beef- \$400
Cabbage- \$150	Rice- \$150
Tomato Sauce- \$175	

**BECOME A FOOD SALE SPONSOR!**

BECOMING A FOOD & SUPPLY SPONSOR WILL HELP TO OFFSET COSTS AND HELP OUR PARISH FAMILY TO REACH OUR YEARLY FUNDRAISING GOAL FASTER!



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE LOVE, GENERIOUSITY, AND SUPPORT! YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FOOD SALES HELPS TO ALLOW OUR PARISH TO THRIVE!

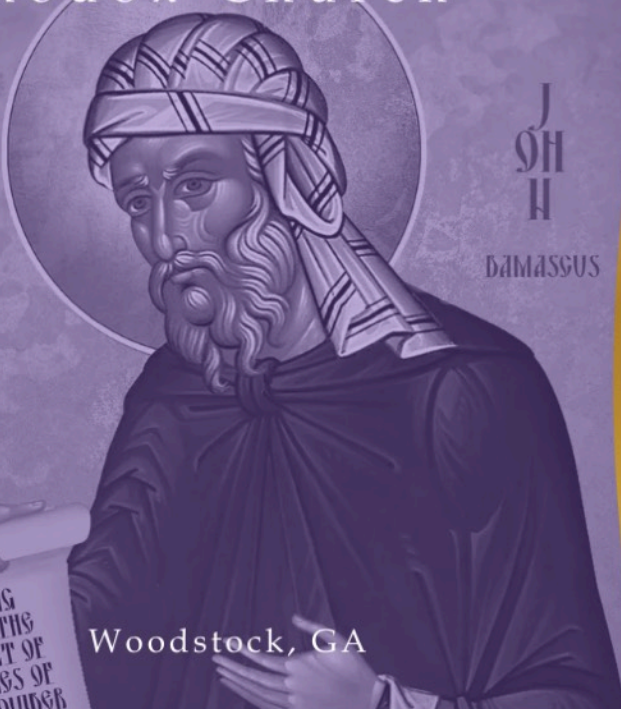
THIS FUNDRAISER HELPS TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND MINISTRIES OF OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY! MAKE A DONATION AND BE A PART OF THE TEAM!



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Saint Elizabeth  
Orthodox Church



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Woodstock, GA

"Through the icons of Christ and the saints, we are brought to a knowledge of the truth...I do not worship matter, I worship the God of matter, who became matter for my sake and deigned to inhabit matter, who worked out my salvation through matter. I will not cease from honoring that matter which works for my salvation. I venerate it, though not as God."

-Saint John of Damascus

Become a Member of  
Saint Elizabeth's!  
[www.stelizabethga.org](http://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!*
- **Coffee Hour During Lent**- Make sure to prepare lenten, fasting appropriate dishes that are meat and dairy free. Every Sunday is potluck, so bring a dish, and don't forget to make an offering in the coffee hour area to cover coffee hour supplies!
- **Sunday School Today** - *Icon making project continued*
- **Pick Ups for Food Sales This Weekend!**- 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!
- **Food Prep Monday and Tuesday this week!**
- **Want to help with food sale fundraiser but don't have the extra time? Consider making a special donation to offset the cost of ingredients and supplies!**
- **Sunday of Orthodoxy & Annunciation Vespers:-**
- **Special Renovation Meeting Today 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.
- **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.



## Restoring the "Image" on the Sunday of Orthodoxy

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve sinned and damaged their relationship with God, distorting the image of God within them. Since then, humanity has inherited the fallen state of the world and are in need of restoration. But how can we restore the image of God within us and become like Christ?

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is a powerful reminder of our call to restore the image of Christ within us. The word *icon* means image and as we remember the restoration of iconography in the Church, we should be inspired to restore the image of Christ within souls. The restoration of icons in the Church is a symbol of the restoration that must happen within us, as we seek to become more like Christ and restore His image within us.

Through the veneration of icons, we are given a "window to heaven" and connected with holiness that the images represent. In this way, Iconography aids us in rediscovering the beauty of the divine image within ourselves. As we gaze upon the icons of Christ, His Mother, and all the saints, we are reminded of their holy lives and their love for God. As we see the beauty of Christ and His Saints, we are reminded that the holiness of the saints is the calling for all of us. We can learn from their examples and be inspired to seek their virtues in our own lives.

The icons show us what we are meant to look like, free from sin, and allow us to envision the restoration of our true selves in Christ. As we venerate the icons, we are not merely admiring the physical material of the icon. We are acknowledging the spiritual reality that the icon represents. The reality that God descended the Heavens and became man to save us. Through the beauty of iconography, we are drawn closer to God and inspired to become more like Christ.

Saint John of Damascus wrote, "Through the icons of Christ and the saints, we are brought to a knowledge of the truth." This knowledge of the truth is not just an intellectual understanding, but a transformation of our hearts and souls. Through the beauty of iconography, we can experience the truth of God and be transformed by it.




But the transformation of our souls requires more than just the veneration of icons. We must live our lives in accordance with God's will and strive to overcome the passions and sins that damage our relationship with Him. As Saint Basil the Great wrote, "Man is a being who has fallen from the heavenly realm and so he cannot be healed simply by material means. He must be restored to health by means of the Spirit."

As we continue our journey through the Lenten season, use the beauty of Iconography to inspire you in your spiritual journey and be reminded of the divine image within you. Strive to live lives of holiness and repentance, constantly seeking the restoration of your soul and the renewal of your relationship with God. May the beauty of iconography inspire and guide us on this journey restoration, repentance, and transformation in Christ our God.



# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

*Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)*

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 25th</b>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> 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 <b>MARCH 3rd</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> 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 <b>MARCH 10th</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> 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 <b>MARCH 17th</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <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 <b>MARCH 24th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> 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 <b>MARCH 31st</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> 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 <b>APRIL 7th</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <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 <b>APRIL 14th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> 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 <b>APRIL 21st</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> 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! <b>APRIL 28th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> 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 <b>MAY 3rd</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <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! <b>MAY 5th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> 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 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+, Saddy+, 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!

# Sunday of Orthodoxy March 24, 2024

*Annunciation Cathedral*

*2500 Clairmont Road, N.E, Atlanta, GA*

*Great Vespers for the  
Feast of the Annunciation at 5:00 pm  
Reception to Follow*



## Guest Speaker His Grace Bishop Neophytos *Called to Serve*

### *New Bishop, New Diocese, New Challenges*

His Grace Neophytos, the first Kenyan Bishop, serves the Diocese of Eldoret and Northern Kenya spanning over 50,250 squaremiles and is comprised of 60 parishes that are served by 53 priests, many traveling far from their village via motorcycle to minister to those in need.

His Grace is committed to establishing the bedrock of faith while simultaneously constructing the foundations of churches and schools, brick by brick; but such a task cannot be accomplished in isolation, it takes a village.

Simple tasks we take for granted such as running water, a safe kitchen to prepare food, and indoor dining facilities for school children are but dreams to his people. “Let us join hands to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and provide water for the thirsty” states His Grace.

