

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



Reverend Father Matthew Dutko Pastor/Administrator

Father Deacon Steven Hanes

Phone: 404-268-6359 Email: fatherdutko@gmail.com

www.stelizabethga.org





Christ is among us! He is and always shall be! Welcome to St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church! Thank you for being here to worship our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ! If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before, you are about to participate in the Divine Liturgy. The Divine Liturgy is celebrated every Sunday of the year. Liturgy means the work of the people. That means that we all have special and holy work to do this morning, and that all of your prayers are necessary! We hope you will stay after the Liturgy and join us in fellowship next door. Please feel free to ask Fr. Matthew any questions you might have! May the joy, hope, and salvation found in Christ's Resurrection be with you always and may God grant you many happy and blessed years!

Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

5th Sunday of Lent

Epistle: *Hebrews 9:11-14*

Gospel: *Mark 10:32-45*

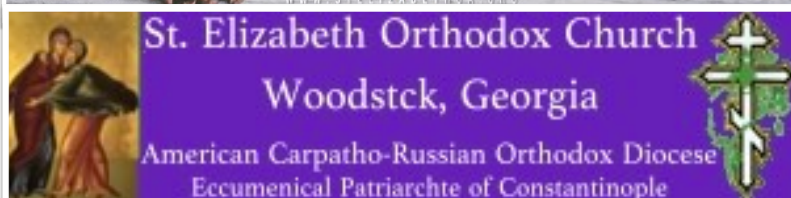



Glory be to Jesus Christ!

This Week's Music...

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For the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt- Page 185



The Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt

Monthly Schedule

Wednesday 04/05 5 pm- Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete
6 pm- Adult Class on the Book of Acts taught by Dr. Timothy Furnish
Friday 04/07 4-6 pm- Food Sales
6 pm- Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday 04/08 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Lazarus Saturday *Holy Week Begins*
11-3:30- Food Sales
4 pm- Great Vespers
Sunday 04/09 10 am- Divine Liturgy: The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem *Parish Family Group Picture After Liturgy*
1 pm- Bridegroom Matins
Monday 04/10 9 am- Presanctified Liturgy
6 pm- Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday 04/11 9 am- Presanctified Liturgy
6 pm- Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday 04/12 9 am- Presanctified Liturgy
6:30 pm- The Sacrament of Holy Unction
Thursday 04/13 9 am- Vespereal Divine Liturgy: The Institution of the Eucharist
6:30 pm- Matins of Holy Friday: The Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels
Friday 04/14 8:30 am- The Royal Hours of Good Friday
7 pm- Vespers: The Burial Service of Good Friday
Saturday 04/15 9 am- Vespereal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday: *The Harrowing of Hades*
7 pm- Resurrection Matins
Sunday 04/16 10 am- Paschal Divine Liturgy: The Great Day of our Lord's Resurrection
11:30 am- Easter Basket Blessing
11:45 am- Parish Family & Friends Easter Picnic
12:30 am- Kids Egg Hunt
2 pm- Paschal Vespers
Bright Monday 04/17 9 am- Divine Liturgy followed by *Procession around the Church*
Bright Tuesday 04/18 9 am- Divine Liturgy

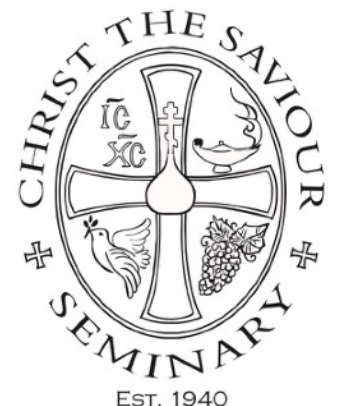


Prayer For Vocations

Master of all, You promised us, "I will be with you always, even until the very end of the world," and You have taught, "I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Mindful of this pledge, we beseech Your great goodness to inspire men to the Holy Priesthood, the service of Your Holy Orthodox Church, so that she may properly be able to fulfill Your will for Your people in this age. There are children to baptize, the sick to heal, and the dying to care for. There is the Bread of Life to distribute, and the Word of God to teach. There are sins to forgive, and charity to be done in Your Name. Send Your Church in this hour and in every age "vessels of clay" to be instruments of Your presence. Hear us, O Lord, and have mercy.

Prayer For The Priesthood & For our Diocesan Seminarians

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Metropolitan Gregory, and our spiritual fathers who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Remember also, O Lord, our Priests & Seminarians. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God who loves us, and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



Saint Mary of Egypt and Why Her Story Matters

The life of St. Mary of Egypt is a story of true repentance, conversion, and transformation in Christ. Born in Egypt in the 5th century, St. Mary lived a life of sin as a prostitute. She traveled to Jerusalem to indulge in her sinful lifestyle, but one day, while attempting to enter the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, she was prevented from entering by an invisible force. After being prevented from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, St. Mary of Egypt had a profound spiritual awakening. She realized that her life of sin had separated her from God and that her only hope for salvation was to repent and turn her life around. Filled with sorrow and remorse for her past sins, she resolved to dedicate the rest of her life to penance and spiritual discipline.

Feeling a strong calling to withdraw from the world and live a life of solitude and prayer, St. Mary left Jerusalem and made her way to the desert. There, she lived in isolation, subsisting on wild plants and herbs and wearing only rags for clothing. She spent her days in prayer and fasting, engaging in rigorous ascetic practices such as standing in prayer for hours on end, even when her body was in pain.

Despite the harsh conditions of her life as a hermit, St. Mary found great peace and joy in her relationship with God. Over time, she became known as a holy woman, and her reputation spread throughout the region. Many people sought her out for spiritual counsel and guidance, and she became a beloved figure in the early Christian Church.

St. Mary's example of radical repentance and self-denial continues to inspire Christians to this day. Her life reminds us that no matter how far we may have strayed from God, it is always possible to turn our lives around and to seek forgiveness and transformation through repentance and prayer.

St. Mary's is celebrated as an example of the transformative power of repentance and the potential for all people to become saints. Her story also illustrates the importance of humility, as she rejected her former way of life and lived in poverty and self-denial in the desert.

Just like St. Mary of Egypt, we are all tempted by the passions in this life. Whether it be envy, jealousy, lust, anger, greed, pride, or any sin; each of us are tempted by the devil and his lies every day. The Church reminds us, that just like St. Mary of Egypt we all have within us the potential to be a saint! We all have the ability to do exactly what she did. We all have the ability, the gift, and the obligation to ask our Lord for forgiveness. We all have the opportunity to repent, with our whole heart and with our whole soul just like St. Mary and just like the good thief on the cross. Not only can we change, but it is when we change that we truly become Christians.

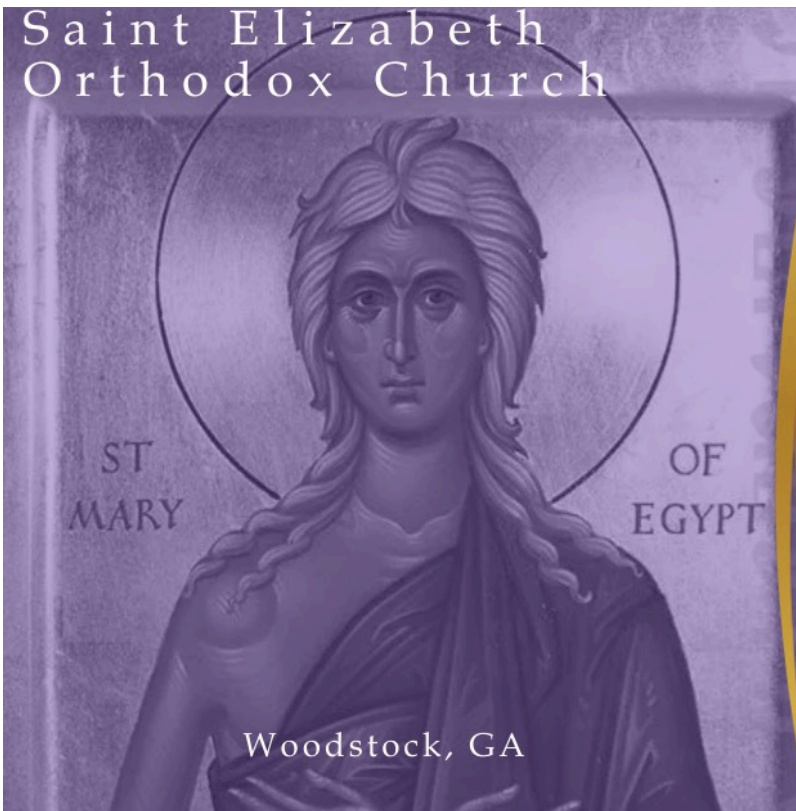
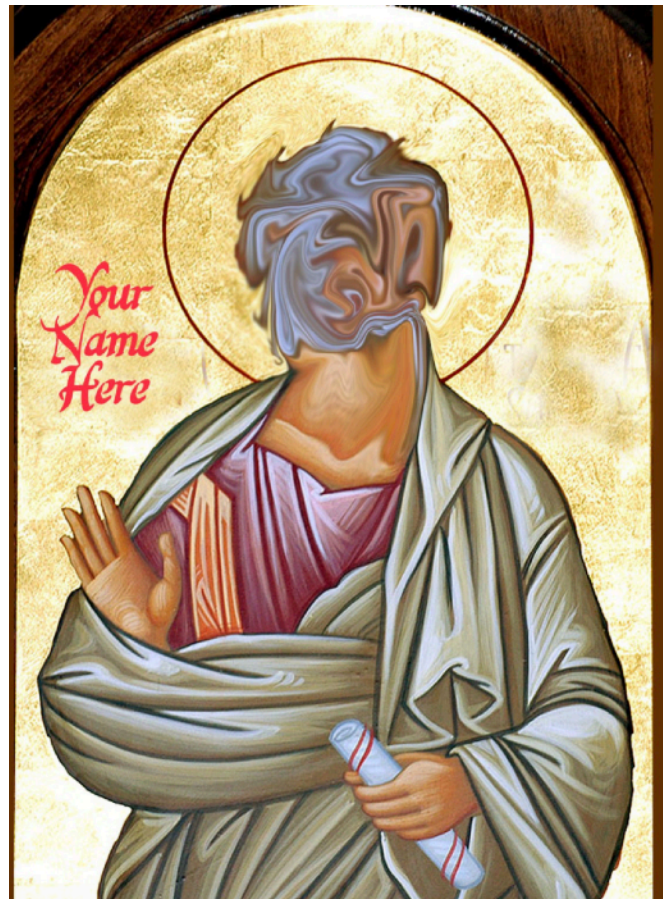
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Saint Mary of Egypt and Why Her Story Matters Continued

Repentance is not just about confessing sins, it's about turning away from them and striving for holiness. As we approach Holy Week, we are reminded of the importance of repentance and self-examination. St. Mary of Egypt's life shows us that we can all change and become more Christ-like. By examining our own lives and confessing our sins, we move towards union with God.

St. Mary of Egypt's life teaches us that through the grace of God and the power of repentance, transformation to holiness and sainthood is possible for all of us. As we prepare for Holy Week, let us take inspiration from her example and renew our commitment to becoming holy like Christ is holy. May we all strive to become saints, following in the footsteps of St. Mary of Egypt and all the holy men and women who have gone before us.



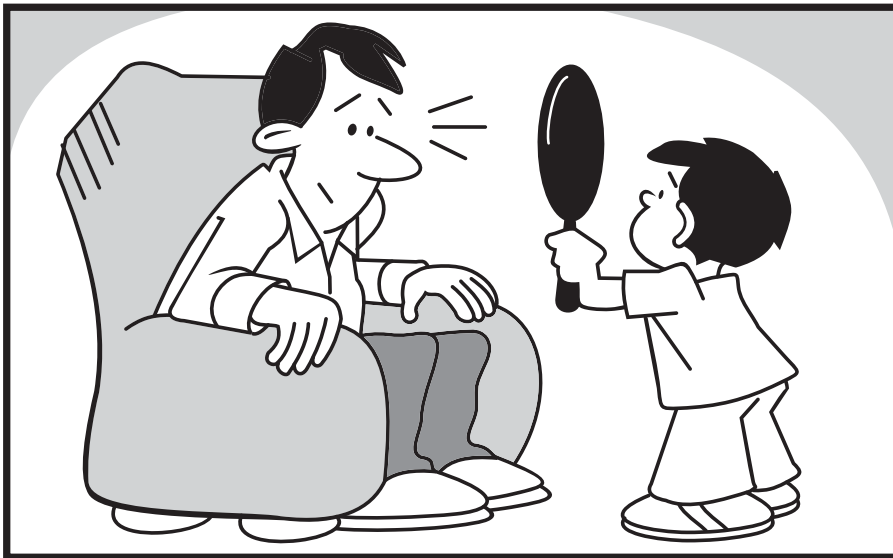
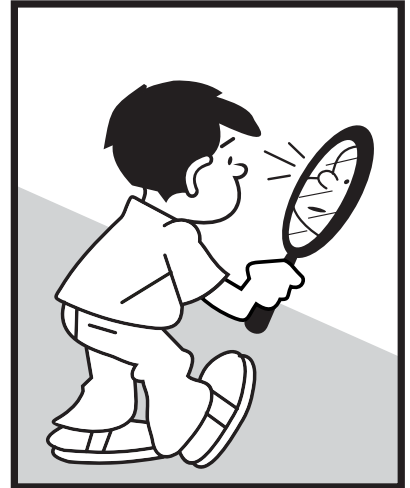
"Shine your compassion upon us, Saint Mary, as the desert sun shone upon your quest for purity and eternity. We also yearn for holiness, but without help we perish in our impure desires and worldly notions. For this reason, we humbly seek your blessings and pursue a life of prayer and worship: Rejoice, seeker of God's glorious restoration. Rejoice, for you worshipped on a steadfast rock of faith. Rejoice, knower of Christ's innocent sacrifice. Rejoice, for you prayed in a vast land of forgiveness. Rejoice, Saint Mary of Egypt, desert mother and fearless conqueror."

-From the Akathist Hymn of Saint Mary of Egypt

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Saint Elizabeth's!
www.stelizabethga.org

PARISH LIFE (REFLECTIONS)

BY FR. MATT and JOHNNY

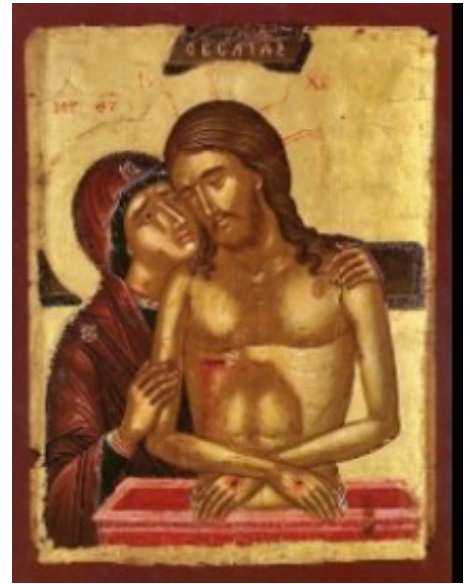


Announcements:

- **Sunday School Today!** - Dismissal Before Announcements (*After Panachida*)
- **Last Week for Food Sales:** Thank you all for your generous efforts for the Church during our Lenten Food Sales! It's not too late to tell your friends and place an order! It would be great to get some volunteers on Saturday to help with the final sale and do a good cleaning before Pascha!
- **Potential Food Prep:** I think we should be good as we conclude our food sales next weekend, but we need to do one more inventory check to make sure. If we are short any items we will need to do a food prep on Tuesday morning. I will share an update on this via email sometime soon.
- **Make a Special Donation for Flowers to decorate the Church for Holy Week and Pascha-** The Church is always so beautiful this time of year. Please consider helping to beautify the Church by making a special donation for flowers to decorate the Church. Donations can be made in memory or for the health of a loved one. If you make a special donation, please email me names and intentions to be posted in a special prayer list in the Easter Bulletin.
- **Help Needed to Prepare Flowers for Palm Sunday and Pascha-** Please consider spending some time here throughout the day on Thursday to help Deacon Steven's wife Michelle prepare flowers. Michelle always puts so much love into the Church decorations and she recently hurt her back and is asking for help. She will be doing this work starting on Thursday morning around 10 am and it's usually an all day affair. If you are able please come offer a hand.
- **Make Sure to do the Crossword Puzzle as a way to examine how your Lenten Season is going.**
- **Sisterhood of Saints-** A new opportunity for fellowship in Christ is now going to be offered to the women of the parish on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10-11:30am sometimes at the church and other times in the homes of different parishioners. The purpose of this group is for women in the parish to gather together in prayer and learn more about the Orthodox Faith. At each meeting the group will focus on the life of a female saint and discuss educational opportunities for the *Little Saints*, youth Sunday School ministry. If you would like to know more please let Rachel Prince know that you are interested by emailing her at, rachelbprince@gmail.com.
- **Little Saints-** Orthodox Youth Education Ministry- Thanks all the volunteers and to Rachel Prince for coordinating a weekly Sunday School program for our youngsters! Please see or email Rachel Prince if you would like to volunteer. Lesson Plans for volunteers will be posted weekly on our website here.
- **Coffee Hour: Every Sunday will be potluck Sunday!**
- **New Saint Elizabeth Monthly Magazine- Deadline to Submit an Article is this week!** - Thank you to all the folks who already turned in articles! This is very exciting and I'm looking forward to publishing the finished product in conjunction with the Paschal Bulletin! consider writing an article for the first issue! The deadline to submit an article has been pushed back to April 6th.



Am I Having A Good Lent?



A crossword puzzle grid with the following clues:

- 1. Down: 11 letters
- 2. Across: 6 letters
- 3. Across: 11 letters
- 4. Down: 3 letters
- 5. Across: 8 letters
- 6. Down: 8 letters
- 7. Across: 10 letters
- 8. Down: 8 letters
- 9. Across: 8 letters

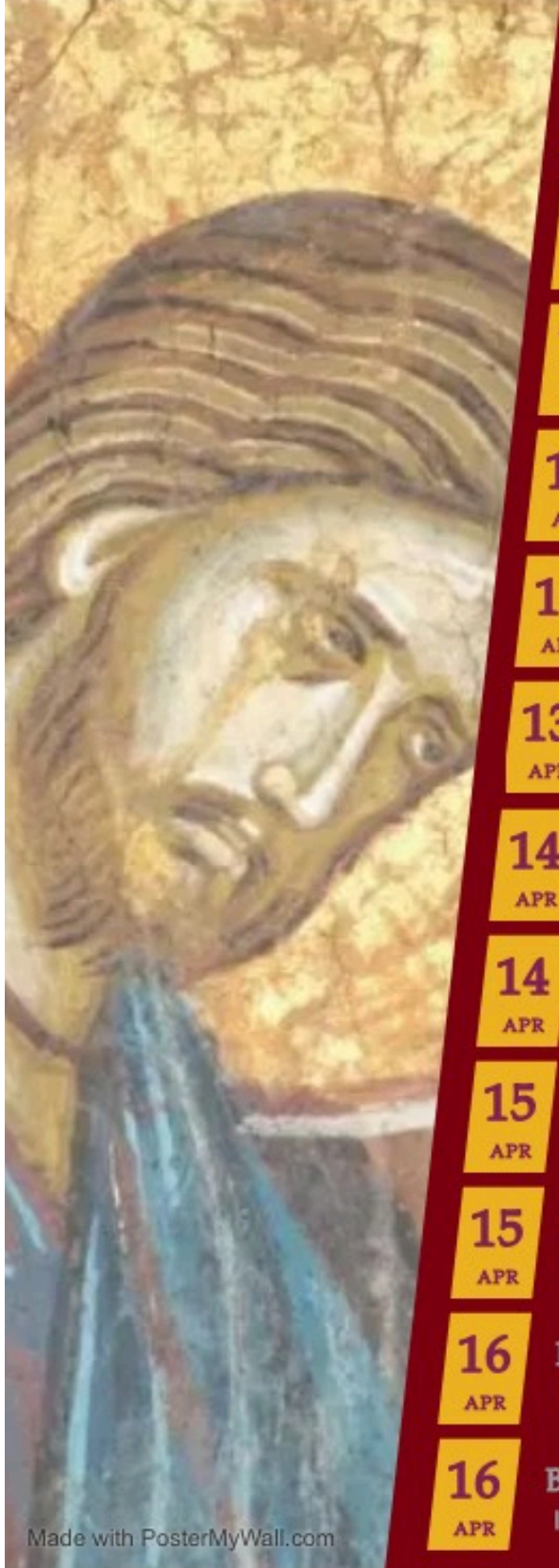
ACROSS

- 2. Have I been abstaining from certain foods as a reminder that God is the very source of my life?
- 3. We do this in our homes this time of year, but have I done this for my soul?
- 5. Have I utilized this great Sacrament that reunites me to the church when I stray away like the Prodigal Son?
- 7. Have I made an increased effort to attend these not only on Sundays, but all throughout the week?
- 9. God has blessed me with so much, have I been _____?

DOWN

- 1. Have I attended this evening service during the week where Holy Communion is offered?
- 4. Have I made sure to do this each morning and evening and throughout every day?
- 5. Have I shared the blessing given to me by God with my brothers and sisters who are in need? If I have then I've been this!
- 6. Have I _____ my brothers and sisters who may have sinned against me; just like my Father in Heaven does for me?
- 8. Have I been one of these for Christ and His Church by giving back to God what He has so richly blessed me with?

Holy Week Schedule 2022



09

APR

BRIDEGROOM MATINS

| 1:00 PM

10

APR

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

| 9:00 AM

10

APR

BRIDEGROOM MATINS

| 06:00 PM

11

APR

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

| 9:00 AM

11

APR

BRIDEGROOM MATINS

| 06:00 PM

12

APR

PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY

| 9:00 AM

12

APR

SACRAMENT OF HOLY UNCTION

| 06:00 PM

13

APR

VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY

| 09:00 AM

13

APR

MATINS OF HOLY FRIDAY

| 06:30 PM

14

APR

ROYAL HOURS

| 08:30 AM

14

APR

BURIAL SERVICE OF HOLY FRIDAY

| 7:00 PM

15

APR

VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY

| 09:00 AM

15

APR

RESURRECTION MATINS

| 7:00 PM

16

APR

PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY

| 10:00 AM

16

APR

BASKET BLESSING, EGG HUNT, & PICNIC

| 11:30 AM

Parish Family Prayer List

For the Health of: Evelyn & the Melnikoff Family, Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Kara, Joanna, James, Anna, Basil, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, Athanasia, Ethel, Tyler, Maria, Page Family, Dean, Margaret, Metropolitan Gregory and his family, Rick, James, 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 and Mary 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, Tripp, Rachel & Family, 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, Ethan, Rosemary, Mike, Elaiane, Roy, Lin, Dave, Sarah, George, & Edward, Stephen, Caleb, Amelia, Simon, David, the Gdovin Family, the Rodgers Family, Mike & the Kundrat Family

For the Departed: Patricia+, James+, Stephen+, Anna+, Charles+, Robert+, Loraine+. Helen+, Lewis+, Jeanne+, 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+, Saddle+, 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+, Boris Melnikoff+, 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+

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!



Eternal Memory!

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church
Become a Steward

I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit.
 John 15:16
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
 Fill out a Stewardship Offering Card Here!

www.stelizabethga.org

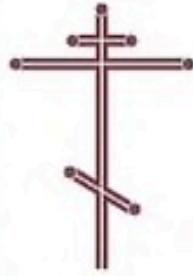
Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Christ is Among us!

Eternal

Boris

Born: April 2nd 1935



Memory

Melnikoff

Reposed: April 3rd 2020



For those who never met him, Boris Melnikoff was one of the founders and builders of Saint Elizabeth's. Pictured above you can see Boris holding the cross that we see on the facade of the Church building during the days of construction. As we worship in the Church that he helped to build, his fingerprints are everywhere. Today would have been Boris' birthday, and tomorrow will be the third anniversary of his repose. This morning after the Liturgy we will offer a Panachida that will be announced by the tolling of the Church Bells donated in his memory.

May God grant rest to the soul of His departed servant Boris in the place where there is no pain sorrow or suffering, but life everlasting!

Grant peace O Lord to your servant Evelyn and all of Boris' family that they may grieve as those who have hope in Your most Holy Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen!