

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

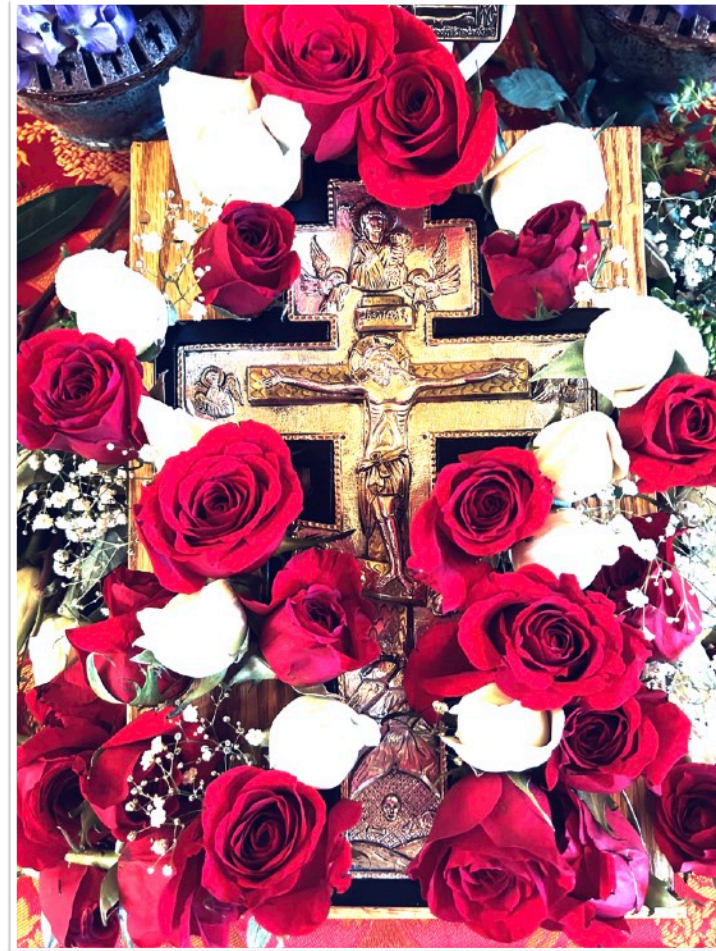


Sunday of The Holy Cross
 3rd Sunday of Lent
Epistle: *Hebrews 4:14-5:6*
Gospel: *Mark 8:34-9:1*



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 3 - Page 87

Tropar & Kondak For the 3rd Sunday of Lent- Page 182

In Place of the Trisagion Hymn (Page 8 in the Deacons Service Book) - **Sing** "Your Cross we Adore" #2 on page 22 in the Hardbound Liturgy Book



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

Your Cross We Adore!

**ANYONE CAN
WEAR A
CROSS...**



BUT CAN YOU CARRY ONE?



Today 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

Wednesday 4/17 5:15-6:15- Presanctified Liturgy

6:15-7:15- Adult Catechism Class

Friday 4/19 5:30 pm- Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday 4/20 4pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 4/21 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 4/24 5:15-6:15- Presanctified Liturgy

6:15-7:15- Adult Catechism Class

Friday 4/26 5:30 pm- Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday 4/27 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Lazarus Saturday

4pm- Great Vespers for Palm Sunday

Sunday 4/28 10 am- Divine Liturgy: The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

1 pm- Bridegroom Matins

Holy Monday 4/29 9 am - Presanctified Liturgy

5:15 pm- Bridegroom Matins

Holy Tuesday 4/30 9 am- Presanctified Liturgy

5:30 pm- Bridegroom Matins

3rd Sunday of Lent: The Sunday of the Holy Cross

“Seeing the Precious Cross of Christ placed before us this day, let us venerate it and rejoice in faith; with love let us greet the Lord who by his own free choice was crucified upon it, asking Him to grant us all uncondemned to adore His Holy Passion and to attain the Resurrection” - *From a Matins Hymn on Veneration of the Cross Sunday*



The Third Sunday of the Great Fast is that of the Veneration of the Cross. The cross stands in the midst of the church in the middle of the lenten season not merely to remind men of Christ's redemption and to keep before them the goal of their efforts, but also to be venerated as that reality by which man must live to be saved. “He who does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” (Mt 10.38). For in the Cross of Christ Crucified lies both “the power of God and the wisdom of God” for those being saved (1 Cor 1.24).

-Fr Thomas Hopko

ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



March 31, 2024

Dear Parish Family Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church,

As we journey through the Lenten season, reflecting on the eternal significance of the cross and the empty tomb of our Lord, we are called to remember God's blessings freely bestowed upon us as a growing Orthodox Christian family. All that we have is not our own, but is lent to us for a time by our Creator. It is with a heart filled with gratitude and hope that I write to you today, seeking your generous consideration for a special contribution to our building fund. Last week we approved the spending of \$30,000 to renovate our Church Hall, but in the life of the Church there is always more that God is calling us to do for His glory.

Saint Elizabeth's Orthodox Church in Woodstock, Georgia, stands as a testament to the faith and generosity of those who have come before us. The ongoing renovation of our Church Hall is a tangible expression of our commitment to continue the mission entrusted to us—to share the Gospel of Christ and the Orthodox Faith with the world around us.

The transformation of our Church Hall into a larger and more comfortable space for fellowship and community gatherings is more than just a physical renovation; it is an investment in the spiritual growth and unity of our parish family. This space will not only provide comfort but also serve as a hub for nurturing relationships and deepening our understanding of the Orthodox faith as we break bread together, share in the ministries of Christ's Church, and collectively carry our own crosses.

The fact that we have been able to undertake this project with a cost of \$30,000 is only possible because God is with us, and He has blessed our community with so many talented and generous parishioners. Just like we are thankful for the efforts of all the founders, builders, and benefactors of Saint Elizabeth's, we are blessed that in this moment we have talented individuals who are willing to use their skills to glorify God by selflessly contributing their construction expertise, efforts, and resources for the continued development of Saint Elizabeth's.

It is also important to acknowledge the work of past and present parishioners whose stewardship and generosity have built the foundation upon which we stand today. Your ongoing support is essential as we continue to grow as an Orthodox Christian family and embark on various capital building projects and kitchen upgrades essential for the growth and vitality of our community.

Continued on the Next Page...

ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

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



As I was packing up my office to move down the hall, I rediscovered some items from our Church's early days. Next to my filing cabinet was poster board of special pledges made by parishioners towards the building fund, which was established to erect a permanent Church building. The generosity of our founders is a testament to their faith in Christ and commitment to build an Orthodox Christian Church in the Woodstock area.

Today, as we continue to carry our cross and build up God's House, I humbly ask you this Lent to prayerfully consider making a special contribution towards the renovation of our Church Hall, building fund, the burning of our mortgage, or any other project that resonates with your heart. The Church remembers forever the founders, builders, and benefactors of the Church in the Great Entrance during the Divine Liturgy. Contributing to this campaign makes you a builder and a benefactor of God's House here at Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church. That means that the Church will remember you and pray for you forever in her holy prayers.

Donor	Pledge	Donor	Pledge
1	10,000.	23	100.
2	2,000.	24	50.
3	25,000.	25	500.
4	25,000.	26	10.
5	1,000.		
6	905.		
7	500.		
8	10,000.		
9	5,000.		
10	10,000.		
11	1,000.		
12	1,000.		
13	500.		
14	2,500.		
15	500.		
16	5,000.		
17	10.		
18	120.		
19	500.		
* 20	1,000.		
21	500.		
22	200.		

The endeavor to renovate our Church Hall stands as one of our most important current building projects, yet there is still much work to be done. Some of those specific projects include the parking lot, driveway, kitchen equipment—encompassing the stove hood, new mixer, and large freezer—outdoor storage sheds, an outdoor pavilion, additional Church Dome/Dome on the Bell Tower, and expanded outdoor lighting. Each of these initiatives are important parts of our ongoing mission and the ministry of Saint Elizabeth's. Yet with the expense of our Church Hall renovation, and without your additional financial support, these important projects will need to be placed on hold for a time.

As we move heavenward towards Christ, every contribution, every gift, regardless of its size, moves us closer to our shared objective of serving Christ, sharing the Orthodox Faith with our greater community, and nurturing our parish family here at Saint Elizabeth's.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). May our contributions be a reflection of our love for God, the Orthodox Faith, and Saint Elizabeth's.

Thank you for your continued support, generosity, and dedication to the health and growth of the parish family of Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church.

With heartfelt gratitude and love in Christ,

Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

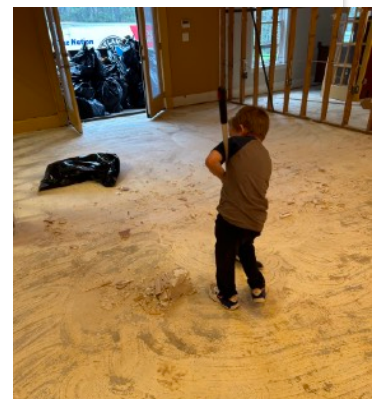
"The cross is the door to mysteries, the sum of all blessings, the sign of God's mercy and the proof of forgiveness. By it we are freed from Satan's grip and reconciled to God; it is the source of grace and the gift of salvation."
-Saint John Chrysostom

"The cross of Christ is the sign of God's love for us. It is the means by which He has reconciled us to Himself and granted us eternal life."
-Saint Gregory Palamas

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!
www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Lent is Halfway Over this Week!**- The Cross is presented to us on this third Sunday of Lent to encourage us on our Lenten Journey. If we have fallen short in our efforts to draw nearer to Christ, we still have time ahead of us. Don't be discouraged, take up your cross and follow after Christ! *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 - No Toddler Class This Morning**
- **Help Your Parish Continue to Grow by Making a Special Lenten Contribution to the Building Fund!**
- **Church Hall Renovation-** The Work is Underway!
- **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 of the Holy, Precious, and Life Giving Cross

The third Sunday of Lent marks a significant milestone on our Lenten journey. It's a day dedicated to the veneration of the precious and life-giving Cross of our Lord, reminding us of the sacrifice that Christ made for us and encouraging us to continue on the path of repentance towards the resurrection. The cross is our strength.

As we reach the midway point of Lent, it can be a time when we begin to struggle, especially if we've increased prayer, fasting, attending Church services, made a good confession, or utilized any of the other tools provided by the Church. If Lent feels challenging, the Cross becomes a symbol to redouble our efforts and persevere on the path of repentance towards Christ and the life-giving Cross.

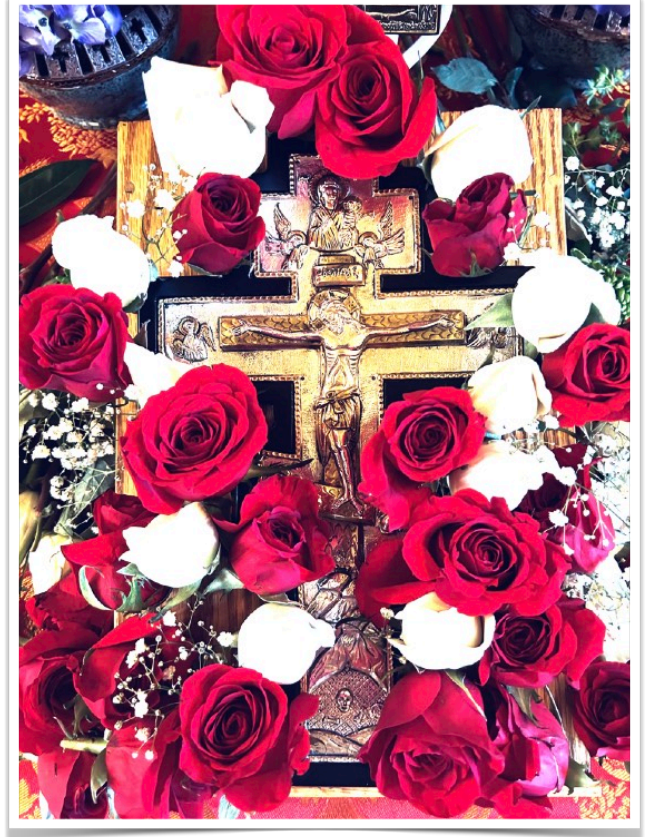
If Lent feels easy or if we haven't made much progress on our Lenten journey, the Cross still provides a powerful message. The Cross a signpost that points towards the foot of the Cross, where we have the opportunity to lay aside our sins, choose to repent, take up our Cross, and follow after Christ. The Cross is heavy but yet reminds us of the hope and joy that we have in Christ and serves as a compass, guiding us towards eternal life.

In a world full of distractions and sinful habits that only lead us further into the darkness, the Cross serves as a beacon of light, illuminating the way towards salvation. As St. Cyril of Jerusalem wrote, "The Cross is a sign of victory and a trophy of salvation. It is the means by which the devil was defeated and death was destroyed." The Cross is a sign of guidance for the lost, a reminder that we need to keep our eyes fixed on Christ and His sacrifice, rather than being led astray by the temptations of the world. As we journey through Lent, make sure to keep your eyes fixed on the prize of the Cross and the "trophy of salvation".

The Cross was not always seen as a symbol of hope and victory. In fact, it was originally a means of the most horrific and humiliating execution. The Cross symbolized all the horrors of death. Christ transformed the Cross into a symbol of life and hope by His life-giving death. Christ's victory over sin and death on the Cross gave new meaning to this once-symbol of shame and humiliation. Now, the Cross is a tangible symbol of the love that God has for us and the hope that we have in Christ. "O Lord...protect your people by Your Cross!"

The Cross is a reminder that no matter how lost we may feel, there is always hope in Christ and that through His sacrifice on the Cross, we can be redeemed and find our way back to the light. The Cross is a signpost on the road to paradise. It points us in the direction of eternal life, guiding us towards the Kingdom of God. It reminds us that the path to salvation is not always easy, but it is worth it. The Cross encourages us to persevere in our spiritual journey, even when the road ahead is difficult.

Continued on the Next Page...



Sunday of the Holy, Precious, and Life Giving Cross Continued

So, how can we apply these reminders to our daily lives during Lent?

1. Focus on the hope of the resurrection: During Lent, we are called to repent and to turn away from our sins. However, we should also focus on the hope of the resurrection, and the joy that we will experience when we are united with Christ. Try reading the Bible every day and reflecting on the promises of eternal life.
2. Pray for guidance and let God be your strength: The Cross serves as a compass, pointing us in the direction of eternal life. We can pray for guidance and strength as we journey through Lent, asking God to help us stay on the right path and to avoid temptation. Christ is strong on the Cross. He pours out everything for us and our salvation. Ask Him for strength to bear the burdens of life and to come into communion with Him as we struggle to carry our own crosses.
3. Seek the support of others: We do not have to journey through Lent alone. We can seek the support of our priest and our Church Family. We can encourage one another in our spiritual journey and offer support and guidance when needed. Think about Simon of Cyrene who helps Christ carry His Cross to Golgotha. Seek for help and be a helper!
4. Practice self-reflection: Lent is a time for self-reflection and introspection. We can use this time to examine our lives and to identify areas where we need to grow and change. If we are always talking, we can't listen for the voice of God calling to us. Be quiet, be still, and look upon the Cross.

St. Ignatius of Antioch, a 1st century bishop who wrote these words on his way to martyrdom said, "The Cross is the way that leads to the kingdom." These words ring just as true today as they ever have! The Cross continues to guide us towards the ultimate destination of our spiritual journey - the kingdom of God. It is a reminder that the path to salvation is not an easy one, but it is a path that we must follow if we are to be united with Christ.

The Cross is like a signpost, guiding us through Lent and through life, pointing us towards the Resurrection. As St. John









The St. Elizabeth News



Christ is Among us!

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

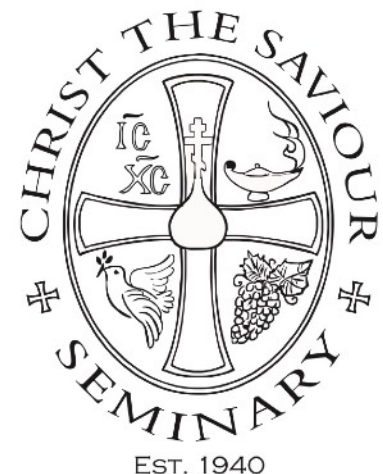
SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
3rd Sunday of Lent APRIL 7th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent APRIL 14th	 ST JOHN of the 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	 GREAT AND HOLY WEEK 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!	 BRIGHT WEEK 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!

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, all our Seminarians and their families. 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.



Parish Family Prayer List

For the Health of: The Melnikoff Family, Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Kara, Joanna, James, Athanasia, Ethel, Tyler, Maria, Page Family, Dean, Margaret, Metropolitan Gregory and his family, David, Joseph, Maria Starcova, David & Paulette Novak, Suzette, Bob, David, Marilyn & family, Mark, Fr. Dcn. Stephen, Michelle, James, Rachel, Kate, Fr. Blaschak & Family, Larry, Alexandra, Tammy, Trahan & Skiba Family, The Hood Family, the Mileszko Family, the Blonar Family, Burt, Sandy, Stephanie, Mary, Tommy, Stephen, Emilia, Simon, Alisha, & Aaron Zak, the Puziculiks Family, Fr. Andy, Davina, & Alexandra, Stan, Fr. Dcn. Charlie & Family, Justin, Charlie, Herbert Schleining, Spencer, Julie, Anna, Galina & Family, Irinia & Family, Fr. Jim & Pani Kathy Dutko, Rick, Katlain, Elenor, Teddy, Mark, Robert & Cindy, Melissa, Ben, Anthony, Rachel, Christine, Cora, Rick, Michelle, Tim, Robert, The Kelemecz Family, Leonard, Leo, & the Olaru Family, Joanna Price, Kim, Isaiah, the Wells Family, Dave, Ashley & family, Mary, Tim, Andrew, Robert, Derrick, Michael, Eli, Ean, Ellie, Amber, Christopher, Deborah, Nick & Rosemary, Mike, Elaiane, Roy, Lin, Dave, Sarah, George, & Edward, Stephen, Caleb, Amelia, Simon, David, the Gdovin Family, the Rodgers Family, the Kundrat Family, Yvone, George, Amberly, & baby Stella, Jessie, Dexter, Julia, Dan, Cora, Gabriel, Ethan, Tripp, Rachel, Lilly, Emmie, Charlie, Michelle, Serge, Mark, Johnny, Yvette Christine, Johanna, Nicole, Caroline, Alexander, Kelly, Henery, & Benjamin

For the Departed: Evelyn & Boris Melnikoff+, Patricia+, James+, Stephen+, Anna+, Charles+, Robert+, Loraine+. Helen+, Lewis+, Jean+, Vera+, George+, George+, Ernie+, Eddie+, Maria+, Carl+, Mark+, Barry+, Josph+, Phillip+, Jenny+, Peter+, Bryan+, Rebecca+, Fr. Paul+, Maria+, Fr. Hazuda+, George Smisko+, Helen Spanovich+, Bob+, Alma+, Bo+, Saddy+, Fr. William George+, Violet+, Fr. Kozar+, Benjamin+, John Haddad+, Fred & Helen Mileszko+, Anna+, Natalie+, Lilly+, Christine+, Anna+, Tamara+, Anastasia+, Yvonne+, John+, Betty+, Ada+, Peter+ & Wanda+, George+, Jerry+, Barb+ & Harry+, Beth+, Louise+, Nikolay+, David+, Fr. Michael+, Natalie+, Helen+, Ted+, Tom+, Mike+, Madeline+, Tim+, Fr. John Baranek, Reader Stephen+, Dean+, Fr. Larry+, Kris+, Wathen+, Pani Elenor+, Fr. Michael+, Sally+, David+, Gene+, Kenny+, Ava+, Fr. Tony Josph+ & Pani Patsy+, Anatoly+, Fr. Scott+, Steve+, Claudia+, Dave+, Fr. John Duranko, Michael+, Sarah Elizabeth+ Ester+, Julie+, +Michael, +Joe, Mary+

Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers & Mothers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!

Holy Saint Elizabeth Pray for us!



Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Eternal Memory!



Christ is Among us!

Preparing for Chrismation/Conversion in the Orthodox Church

Chrismation is the name given in Eastern Orthodox Churches to the sacrament known as confirmation in the Roman Catholic Church. It is so called because of the holy oil, or chrism, which has been consecrated by the Patriarch of Constantinople and with which the recipient of the sacrament is anointed, as the priest speaks the words, "the seal of the gift of the Holy Spirit."

As with Baptism, the catechumen must select a godparent to sponsor them.

The sponsor must be an Orthodox Christian in good standing with the Church sacramentally. Most importantly, the sponsor should be a faithful Christian and good example of Orthodox Christian behavior. The relationship that is created through sponsorship is a lifelong relationship and one that should benefit the new Orthodox Christian.

It is traditional, although it is not absolutely necessary, that the sponsor purchase an cross necklace to be blessed by the priest and worn around the neck after the sacrament. Together with the catechumen, the sponsor will recite the Nicene Creed during the ceremony, a sign of his/her own belief in the faith of the Church. The recipient of the Mystery should wear white or bright clothing if possible.



The Sacrament of Chrismation

All Orthodox Christians are required to receive the sacrament of Chrismation. "Cradle" Orthodox Christians receive the sacrament immediately after they are baptized, usually as infants. For those coming into the Orthodox Church later in life, a person originally baptized according the Trinitarian formula (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) would receive the sacrament of Chrismation alone and would not need to be rebaptized.

The sacrament, as it applies to adult converts, consists of a number of prayers and hymns, all of which are also used during the Baptism Service. The conferring of the grace of God through the sacrament takes place as the priest anoints the forehead, chin, ears, and hands of the newly baptized with chrism. In Holy Chrismation the whole person is consecrated to God and made to be a dwelling place, or home for the Holy Spirit.

The catechumen (the person who has studied the faith) is expected to recite the Nicene Creed as an indication of their acceptance of the Orthodox faith and doctrines. Through Chrismation a person is given the "power from on high" (Acts 12), the gift of the Spirit of God, in order to live the new life received in baptism. He is anointed, just as Christ the Messiah is the Anointed One of God. He becomes, as the Fathers of the Church dared to put it, a "christ" together with Jesus. Thus, through Chrismation we become an anointed child of God and follower of Jesus Christ. We could also say that we become a person upon whom the Holy Spirit dwells, a person in whom the Holy Spirit lives and acts as long as we want Him and cooperate with His powerful and holy inspiration.

After receiving Chrismation, the recipient is eligible to receive the Eucharist (Holy Communion). The Eucharist binds us more perfectly to the Church, and enriches us with a special strength of the Holy Spirit.

Revised for Parish Use from www.spyridoncathedral.org

ST. ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

Stewardship Offering / Membership Form



Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Become a
Steward

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

John 15:16

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