

THE ST. ELIZABETH NEWS



Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



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
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www.stelizabethga.org



Sunday of the Paralytic
4th Paschal Sunday



Epistle: Acts 9:32-42 **Gospel:** John 5:1-15

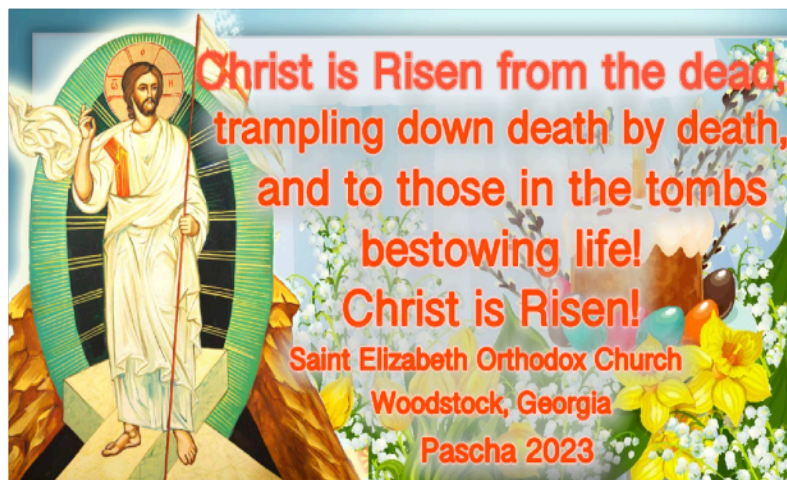
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

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!



This Week's Music...

Paschal Antiphons, & Birthgiver Hymns **pages 193-195**, Tropar and Kondak Of the Paralytic, Prokimen, Alleluia on Page **202**





Monthly Schedule

Wednesday 05/10 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Mid Pentecost

10 am- Sisterhood of the Saints

Thursday 05/11 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Feast of Saints Cyril & Methodius

Saturday 05/13 4 pm Great Vespers

Sunday 05/14 10 am- Divine Liturgy: Mother's Day

Saturday 05/20 10 am- Divine Liturgy of the Departed

2 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 05/21 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 05/24 9 am- Divine Liturgy: The Leave of Pascha

10 am- Sisterhood of the Saints
6 pm- Great Vespers for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Thursday 05/25 9 am- Divine Liturgy: for the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord

Sunday 05/28 10 am- Deacon's Service

Saturday 06/03 4 pm- Great Vespers on the Eve of Pentecost

Sunday 06/04 10 am- Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Pentecost

Monday 06/05 9 am- Divine Liturgy followed by Gospel Procession around the Church on the Feast of Day of the Holy Spirit

Saturday 06/10 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 06/11 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Mid -Pentecost & the Sunday of the Paralytic

Today we celebrate the 4th Sunday of Pascha, that means that on Wednesday we will be half way to Pentecost. Time truly seems to stand still in the Church as the walls echo the joyous sound of "Christ is Risen from the dead". When we close our eyes and our minds in prayer it feels just like we are proclaiming it for the very first time before the closed doors of the Church on Holy Saturday. The joy comes not only from the beautiful hymns of the season, but from the reality that Christ is Risen, and offers Resurrection to all the fallen, to all of us. He who was born of the Father before all ages, became incarnate, suffered & died for us, and rose from the dead; this same God offers healing and resurrection to all of us, the lost & fallen, just as He offered it to Adam & Eve, to the paralytic, and to the repentant thief even from His cross.

What does this really mean though? What does it mean for Christ to offer resurrection to us? There are two important parts to this. The first is that Christ is making an offer to us, He is asking us a question. The second is what will our response be? Christ is calling us...will we answer Him, or will we ignore Him? Today the Church is reminding us to take advantage of the saving work of our Lord; to take advantage of the Resurrection. In today's Gospel Christ heals the paralytic at the pool by the Sheep's Gate. Before Christ heals the man, he asks this simple question... "Do you want to be made well?" This is the question that each of us must answer every day, every moment of our lives. Do we want to be made well? Do we want to take advantage of the great gift of salvation that is offered to us? If we do, then we like the paralytic must answer our Lord and rise up when He calls out to us. He is offering us healing of body and soul; resurrection from the dead and eternal life in His Kingdom. But will we answer the call, or will we ignore Him; will we stay sick, or will we be made well? It is no mistake that this miracle takes place at the *Sheep's Gate*. Remember the parable of the Last Judgment, where the Lord separates the sheep (those who are saved) from the goats? The sheep are the ones who have been healed; they have heard the call of Christ, put off their old selves and put on the new. The sheep have taken up their pallets and walked and so they receive the gift of paradise which has been freely offered to them. Hearing the call of Christ and answering it, just like the paralytic, is the way of the sheep; it is the way to the gate that leads to resurrection in Christ... it is the gate that leads to Paradise.

Christ, the Good Shepherd, is always calling His sheep (that's you and me!) to Himself and to His Kingdom. If we want to be healed like the paralytic, then we too must hear our Lord's command and follow His instructions. That means we need to be Christians! We need to forgive others as our Lord forgives, to love our neighbor as God loves us, to repent from our sins, and participate in the life of the Church. It means that we are to become holy as God is Holy. It means the we are to become the very people Whom God created us to be. We are all sick and in need of healing; will we be like the sheep or the goats? Will we be healed like the paralytic or will we choose to ignore Christ and stay lying beside the pool? Will we take advantage of the offer given to us?

As we approach Mid-Pentecost this Wednesday we are reminded to hold closely in our hearts, souls, and minds, the joys of the Resurrection and the joys offered to us in the gift of the Holy Spirit Who is sent to us lovingly by Christ our God. We make these choices every moment of every day. Let us all pray for another that we choose healing, life, and resurrection; that we choose to answer Christ who is calling us to His Kingdom.

Iconography & the Feast of Mid-Pentecost

Iconography plays a central role in worship and devotion in the Orthodox Church. Simply walking through the doors of any Orthodox Church, one quickly notices and is drawn to the beauty of the icon. Icons are not merely decorative objects or works of art, but rather they are sacred images that serve as windows into the heavens. Every icon tells a story; they have a specific purpose and meaning, intended to convey spiritual truths and help the faithful to connect with God and the saints.

As we approach the feast of Mid-Pentecost this week, the halfway point between Christ's resurrection and the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Church presents us with a very interesting icon. In the icon of Mid-Pentecost, Christ is depicted in the center of the icon as a young boy. A very good question that we should all ask is simply, why?

To answer this question, we need to understand the symbolism and purpose of Orthodox iconography more broadly. Icons are not intended to be realistic depictions of historical events or figures, but rather representations of spiritual realities. In other words, they are not meant to be viewed as mere works of art or historical images, but rather as powerful tools for worship and spiritual growth.

One of the key features of Orthodox iconography is its use of symbolism. Every element of an icon, from the colors to the gestures of the figures, is laden with meaning. For example, the use of gold in icons symbolizes the radiance of the divine, while blue represents the heavens and red can represent the blood of Christ, or of a martyr or even humanity itself.

In the case of the Mid-Pentecost icon, the young boy Christ symbolizes the wisdom and knowledge of God. The story behind the icon comes from the Gospel of John, where Jesus teaches in the temple during the Feast of Tabernacles. The Jews are amazed at his teaching and ask how he could know so much without having studied. Jesus responds, "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me" (John 7:16).

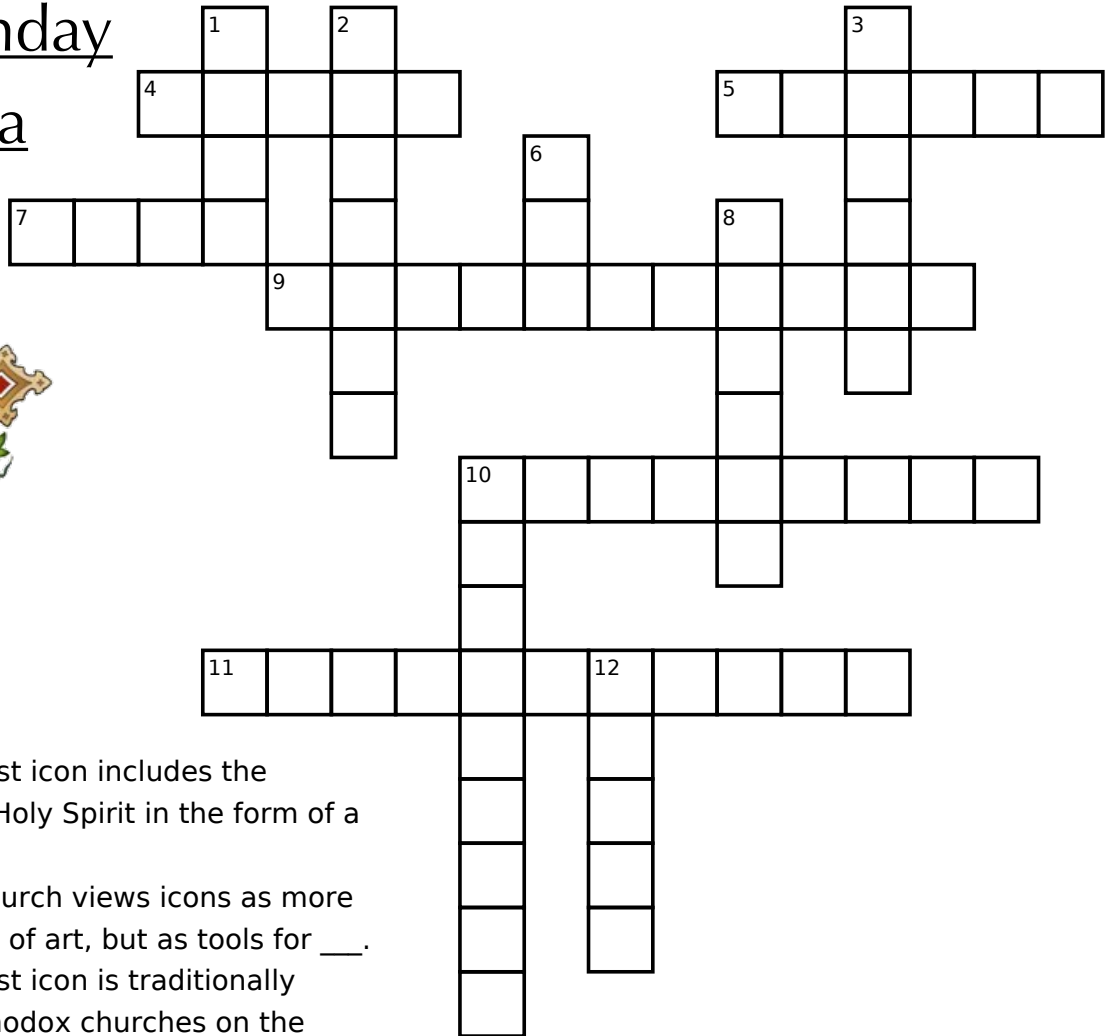
In Orthodox theology, Christ is the Logos, or Word of God, who reveals the wisdom and knowledge of God to humanity. By depicting Christ as a young boy, the icon conveys the idea that Christ's wisdom is not limited by age or any other human limitation. Rather, as the incarnate Logos, He possesses divine wisdom from the very beginning of his life on earth.

The Mid-Pentecost icon also includes other important elements of Orthodox iconography, such as the use of gold and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove. These elements serve to further emphasize the spiritual significance of the image and the importance of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost in the Orthodox liturgical calendar.

The icon of Mid-Pentecost is a powerful symbol of the wisdom and knowledge of God, as revealed through Christ. By depicting Christ as a young boy, the icon emphasizes the divine nature of Christ's knowledge and wisdom, and the central role that he plays in the spiritual life of Orthodox Christians. Like all icons in the Orthodox Church, it is not simply a work of art, but rather a sacred window into the spiritual realm, intended to aid in worship and spiritual growth.



The 4th Sunday of Pascha



Down:

- 1. The Mid-Pentecost icon includes the presence of the Holy Spirit in the form of a ____.
- 2. The Orthodox Church views icons as more than mere works of art, but as tools for ____.
- 3. The Mid-Pentecost icon is traditionally displayed in Orthodox churches on the Wednesday of the fourth week of the ____.
- 6. The paralytic in the Gospel reading is said to have been lying on a ____ when Jesus approached him.
- 8. The depiction of Christ as a young boy in the Mid-Pentecost icon symbolizes his divine ____.
- 10. In the Orthodox Church, icons are not intended to be realistic depictions of historical events or figures, but rather representations of ____ realities.
- 12. According to the Gospel reading, an ____ would come and stir up the water at the pool of Bethesda, and the first person to enter the water would be healed.

Across:

- 4. According to Orthodox theology, Christ is the ____ or Word of God.
- 5. In the Gospel reading, Jesus asks the paralytic if he wants to be ____.
- 7. The pool of Bethesda is said to have had ____ porches.
- 9. According to the Gospel reading, the paralytic at the pool of Bethesda had been ill for ____ years.
- 10. Orthodox iconography uses ____ to convey a deeper spiritual reality.
- 11. In the Gospel of John, Jesus teaches in the temple during the Feast of ____.



Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Our Lord is asking all of us the same question he asked the man who was paralyzed for 38 years...

"Do you want to be made well?"

Become a Member of Saint Elizabeth's!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

www.stelizabethga.org

Come and Attend Saturday Afternoon Great Vespers at Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church!

If you're looking for some peace in the business of life, in between grocery shopping and youth sports, look no further than Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church's Saturday afternoon Great Vespers service. With a rich history and a focus on spiritual renewal, Great Vespers is an experience of the peace offered to us by God and is not to be missed.

Vespers has been a part of the Orthodox Church's liturgical tradition for centuries, and it has played an important role in the lives of believers throughout history. The early Christians were used to saying prayers in the evening and this tradition developed into a service held in monasteries. Vespers was later incorporated into the regular worship of the Church. Today, vespers remains a staple of Orthodox worship, and it is celebrated every Saturday evening as a way of transitioning from the end of the week to the beginning of a new one. It represents the setting of the sun from Saturday and the rising of the sun on Sunday, the day of the Resurrection.

Great Vespers is more than just a service – it's a way of preparing ourselves for the holy Eucharist. In fact, there have been times throughout history when vespers was considered mandatory for those who would receive communion. In some Orthodox traditions, this is still the practice today. While this is not the case in our tradition, it speaks to the importance that the Church has always placed on this service as a means of spiritual preparation.

The hymns and prayers of vespers are incredibly rich and varied, with different hymns being used each day. Through these hymns, we learn about the saints and their lives, as well as the theology of the Church. The beauty and depth of these hymns have the power to reach to the very depth of our souls and transform our hearts and minds, as we are reminded of the goodness, peace, and love of God.

But vespers is not just about the individual – it's about coming together as a community to pray and worship together. At Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church, we are excited to be hosting community dinners after vespers in the summer, as a way of encouraging folks to attend and get to know one another better. We believe that this fellowship is an important part of our spiritual journey, as we support and uplift one another in our faith.

So, lay aside your earthly cares this summer, and join with your parish family in prayer and fellowship at Great Vespers. You may just see how much you love the peace God offers to us on Saturday afternoon as we prepare to receive Him on Sunday morning. We look forward to seeing you there! Please let me know if you are interested in hosting a dinner. Just pick a Saturday and let me know :)

Come to Camp Nazareth!

Join Us at Camp Nazareth!

This summer, Tripp Prince and Michael Mason will be leading a group of youth to participate in our diocesan summer camp, Camp Nazareth, in Mercer, Pennsylvania. Camp Nazareth assigns camping weeks based on your regional deanery, so this year's session runs from **Sunday, July 30th-Saturday, August 5th**. While we know this may conflict with some school schedules, if at all possible, we would love for you to consider this incredible opportunity! As a small mission parish, the youth of St. Elizabeth's in years past have been deeply blessed by the opportunity to participate in the youth ministry of our diocese on a larger scale. It is a chance for them to make lifelong Orthodox friendships, deepen their faith, and have one of the most fun weeks of their year!

In order to make appropriate travel arrangements, we need a final head count with confirmed camp registration no later than **Sunday, May 21st**. This allows us to rent an appropriately sized vehicle for the trip.

Fr. Matthew is willing to help figure out travel arrangements for children who will already be in school and would be unable to travel with Tripp and Michael.

The Details:



- July 30th-August 5th
- Kids ages 8-18
- Cost: \$335 plus cost of transportation
- Note: scholarships and financial aid are available through the camp and Saint Elizabeth's. Cost will never keep a child from participating!
- Deadline: **May 21st**
- For more information, please contact Tripp Prince at tripp.prince@gmail.com.

• Weekly Announcements:

• Parish Family Sunday Fellowship Fun in Coffee Hour Today!

• Your Are Invited to an Armed Forces Day Party at the Sparks Family Home in Dawsonville on May 20th from 2-7pm- 908

Little Mountain Road Dawsonville, GA 30534 - Please RSVP Text or Call at 678-315-3856. GPS and directions can be tricky, please grab a sheet with directions in the atrium near the silverware!

• Parish Meeting / Group Conversation on Stewardship after the Liturgy on Pentecost (6/4)

• Little Saints Sunday School- Today after the Liturgy!

• Wednesday Evening Adult Class on the Book of Acts Time

Change- Some new dates and times for the Wednesday evening class will be posted soon!

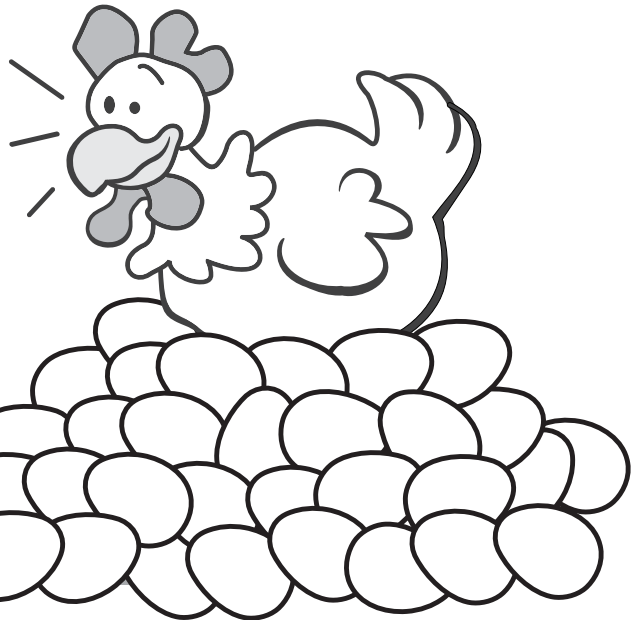
• Sisterhood of the Saints- Meeting this Wednesday after Liturgy! - A new opportunity for fellowship in Christ is now going to be offered to the women of the parish on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 10-11:30am sometimes at the church and other times in the homes of different parishioners. 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.

• Summer Day Camps for Kids! - I am looking for volunteers to help for food, programs, and lessons. The idea would be to host a day camp for the kids with a parent/guardian present at the event. They could be hosted any day of the week during the summer. If you want to pick a day and help plan an event let me know. Or if you have a better idea of how to organize this, please let me know. I would like to do this two or three times in the summer from about 9am- 1pm or in the evening from 6-9 with a campfire.

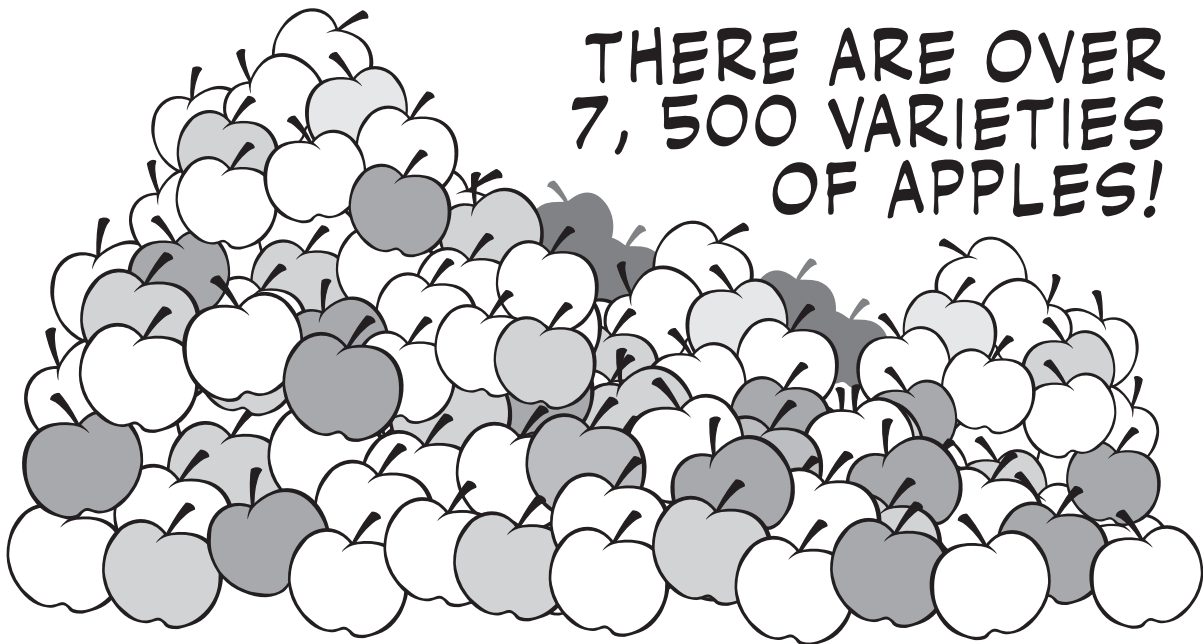


DID YOU KNOW...

THE AVERAGE
CHICKEN
LAYS ABOUT
250 EGGS
IN A YEAR!



THERE ARE OVER
7, 500 VARIETIES
OF APPLES!



O, Lord our God, how manifold are
Your works in all the earth.
In wisdom You have made them all!

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 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 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 Oлару 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+, 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+, 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 Joseph+ & 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!