

# 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



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**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

**5th Paschal Sunday**



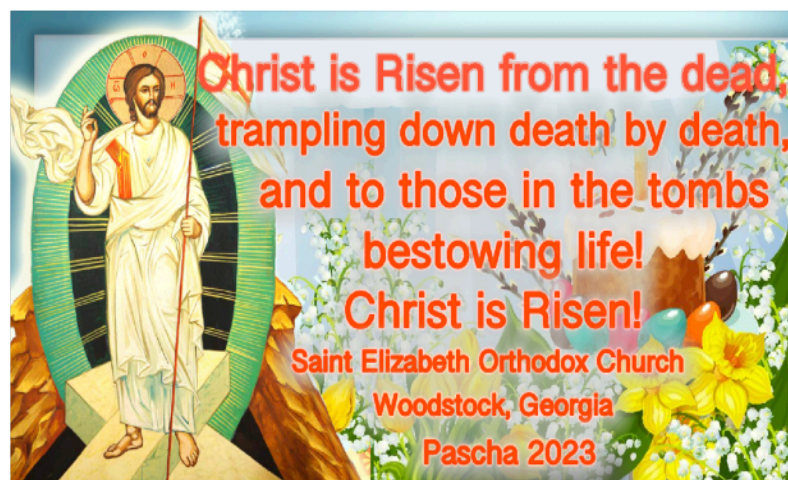
Epistle: [Acts 11:19-30](#) Gospel: [John 4:5-42](#)

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 Samaritan Woman, Prokimen, Alleluia on Page **205**



*The Saint Elizabeth Orthodox  
Church Family Wishes you a*

*Happy  
Mother's Day*



*Today we remember in prayer  
all mothers living and  
departed, spiritual and  
physical. May the Most Holy  
Mother of God be your guide  
and protect you!*

## Happy Mother's Day!

Every year on the second Sunday of May, we celebrate Mother's Day. This special day is dedicated to remembering, celebrating, and expressing our appreciation, affection, and love for the mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts, and other important women in our lives. These women help to nurture, shape, and guide our lives from the very beginning, and they teach us about sacrificial love.

Mothers provide the foundation for their families and serve as teachers of faith and morals to their children. They inspire and encourage us by showing us love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These spiritual gifts are what mothers selflessly give to their loved ones.

As we honor and celebrate the incredible love and sacrifices of mothers everywhere on Mother's Day, we should also look to our holy Mother, the Birthgiver of God, as the ultimate example of selflessness and devotion. Mary's unwavering obedience and faithful submission to God's will are an inspiration to us all. The Theotokos reminds us to trust in God in the good times and in the hard in the times alike. Mary shows us how to offer all of ourselves in service and obedience to God's will by her holy example.

Mary is a powerful intercessor and advocate for all those who turn to her in prayer. She understands our pain and suffering and is always ready to offer us comfort, consolation, and compassion. Mary's deep love for all humanity and her willingness to share in our joys and sorrows make her a true mother to us all.

By turning to Mary in our times of need, we can draw strength from her unwavering faith and hope and find comfort in the knowledge that we are not alone. Her maternal love and care for us are a great source of grace and blessing, helping us to navigate life's challenges with courage and resilience, just as she courageously stood by the foot of Christ's cross. So, as we honor our earthly mothers today, we also celebrate Mary, the Queen of Heaven, our beloved mother, on this day and every day by following her example of obedience, faithfulness, humility, and love.

On Mother's Day, we often give lovely gifts of flowers, meals, and presents. While these gifts are wonderful, they only scratch the surface of the deep gratitude and love we owe to our mothers. The best way to show our appreciation is to emulate their love, compassion, and joy every day that we are blessed with their presence in our lives. With this in mind, consider how much time your mother spent (or spends) caring for you. Today, give your mother the gift of time. Spend the day showing her the sacrificial love that she has so freely given to you.

Today is a day for us to always remember how precious our mothers are. It is a day to honor and cherish them for their steadfast, life-giving, and nurturing presence in our lives. Mother's Day is also a day for us to draw inspiration from the selflessness and sacrifice of the Theotokos, who embodies the ultimate example of motherhood. May the blessings of the Risen Lord be with us all through the prayers of the Ever-Virgin Mary and Mother of God, along with the prayers of all of our mothers who lift us up before our Lord in heaven.





## Monthly Schedule

**Wednesday 05/17 12 pm-**

Class on the Book of Acts

**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

**12 pm-** Class on the Book of Acts

**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

**Wednesday 05/31 12 pm-**

Class on the Book of Acts

**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

As we celebrate the fifth Sunday of our Lord's Resurrection, the Sunday of the Samaritan Woman, we reflect on the special type of healing, return, and rebirth that is offered to us by living a life in Christ.

Water is essential for life, from the tiniest minnows to the largest sea creatures, all plant life, birds of the air, animals, and people alike need water to survive. The Samaritan Woman traveled to Jacob's Well to retrieve water, which was vital to life during the time of Christ. Without a faucet to turn on, it was necessary to travel to the community well to fetch water.

The well was a place of community, where everyone in the town would be seen. To avoid the crowds and the judgmental eyes of the gossiping townsfolk, the Samaritan Woman traveled to Jacob's Well in the middle of the day when the sun shone its brightest. In the heat of the day, she thought she wouldn't be seen by anyone. But God sees all. The Samaritan Woman was trying to hide her sins, but Christ saw them and offered her healing, restoration, and life in Him.

Christ sees all and knows our needs even before we do, and He awaits us to come to Him at the well in each moment of every day. He knew the Samaritan Woman was in need of healing, and He knows our sins too. Christ knows our need for healing, and He offers us the same life-giving, healing water that He offered to the Samaritan Woman.

Water is essential to life, and just as we need water to survive, we need the water that Christ offers to have a life filled with hope, peace, joy, and love that only comes from God. Christ offers us a new life, where we die to the sinful passions and pleasures of this life and rise in glory with Him. He offers Himself to us today, giving us peace and freedom from sin, just as He offered Himself to the Samaritan Woman.

According to Orthodox tradition, after her encounter with Christ, the Samaritan Woman underwent a transformation and became a devoted follower of Christ. She was believed to have been baptized by the apostles and given the name Photini, which means "enlightened one" or "one who has been illuminated."

Photini went on to become a missionary and evangelist, spreading the good news of Christ's teachings and resurrection to many people. She is said to have converted many in her homeland and is credited with evangelizing parts of the Middle East. Tradition also holds that Photini had a meeting with Emperor Nero in Rome, where she fearlessly shared her faith and converted many, even among the emperor's household, before her martyrdom. Her story is a reminder that even the most unlikely people can be transformed by the love and grace of God and that all are called to share the good news of Christ's salvation with others.

Saint Photini received Christ and the life-giving waters of Baptism that spring forth eternal life. She followed after our Lord's words and His example and gave to God the one thing He truly desires from each of us: all of ourselves, our hearts, souls, and minds. Water gives life, but in Christ, there is the water that brings us to the fullness of a life lived in His holy name. Water is essential for life, and so is Christ!



# The Samaritan Woman

- 1. HOITPIN \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. EHT TNHNL EEGDI ONE \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. JSCBOA WELL \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. FTFHI \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. MIDDEL \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. NGNMIRO \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. NSSI \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. NRVEE \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. LIWL \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. This is the name of The Samaritan Woman following her conversion to Christianity.
- 2. Her name means this in english.
- 3. This is the name of the well where Christ met the Samaritan Woman
- 4. We remember the Samaritan Woman on the \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday of Pascha.
- 5. The Samaritan Woman went to the well in \_\_\_\_\_ of the Day.
- 6. Most people went to gather water early in the \_\_\_\_\_, before it got too hot out.
- 7. Christ told the Samaritan Woman all of her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8. Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will \_\_\_\_\_ thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."
- 9. Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the \_\_\_\_\_ of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.

## Prayer of Children for their Parents

O All-Good Lord and God, Who has granted me the blessing of my mother & father, that through them I may be a sharer in many good things; O You who wills that I should be thankful to my parents for the life You have given me by them; for all the care my mother and father have had and still have for me, I pray to You in humility for their health and salvation, O God, Who art All-Compassionate & All-Righteous, Who blesses children for their parents salvation, but also by Your right hand punishes them for their sins. Receive my humble prayer of thanksgiving for all the blessings which You have richly poured out unceasingly on my parents. Send them Your blessings in the future and forgive them all their sins. Teach me to honor my mother & father in Your strength, and to be grateful to them for the life which You have given me through them. Help me to follow Your holy commandments, so that I may be submissive and obedient to my parents, so that I may do nothing which embitters and saddens them. Reward them, O Most Good One, with Your goodness, for the love and unsleeping care which they always have for me. Protect them from all misfortunes and sorrows. Grant them a long, blessed, quiet and peaceful life & repose in Your most Holy Name. Make them partakers in the blessedness of Your Saints, multiply the fruits of their labors, may Your goodness overflow upon them, that they may increase in both virtues and material abundance and that we may bless You all the days of our lives. Amen!



## Parent's Prayer for Their Children, Relatives & Friends

O God, our heavenly Father, who loves mankind and are a most merciful and compassionate God, have mercy upon Your servants (Name those whom you wish to remember) for whom I humbly pray to You to care for and protect. O God, be their guide and guardian in all their endeavors, lead them in the path of Your truth, and draw them nearer to You, so that they may lead a godly and righteous life in Your love as they do Your will in all things. Give them Your grace, and mercy so that they may be patient, hard working, tireless, devout and charitable. Defend them against the assaults of the enemy, and grant them wisdom and strength to resist all temptation and corruption, and direct them in the way of Salvation, through the goodness of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the prayers of His Holy Mother and the blessed saints. Amen.

Saint Elizabeth  
Orthodox Church

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

"Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst... the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

Become a Member of  
Saint Elizabeth's!

[www.stelizabethga.org](http://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 [tripp.prince@gmail.com](mailto:tripp.prince@gmail.com).



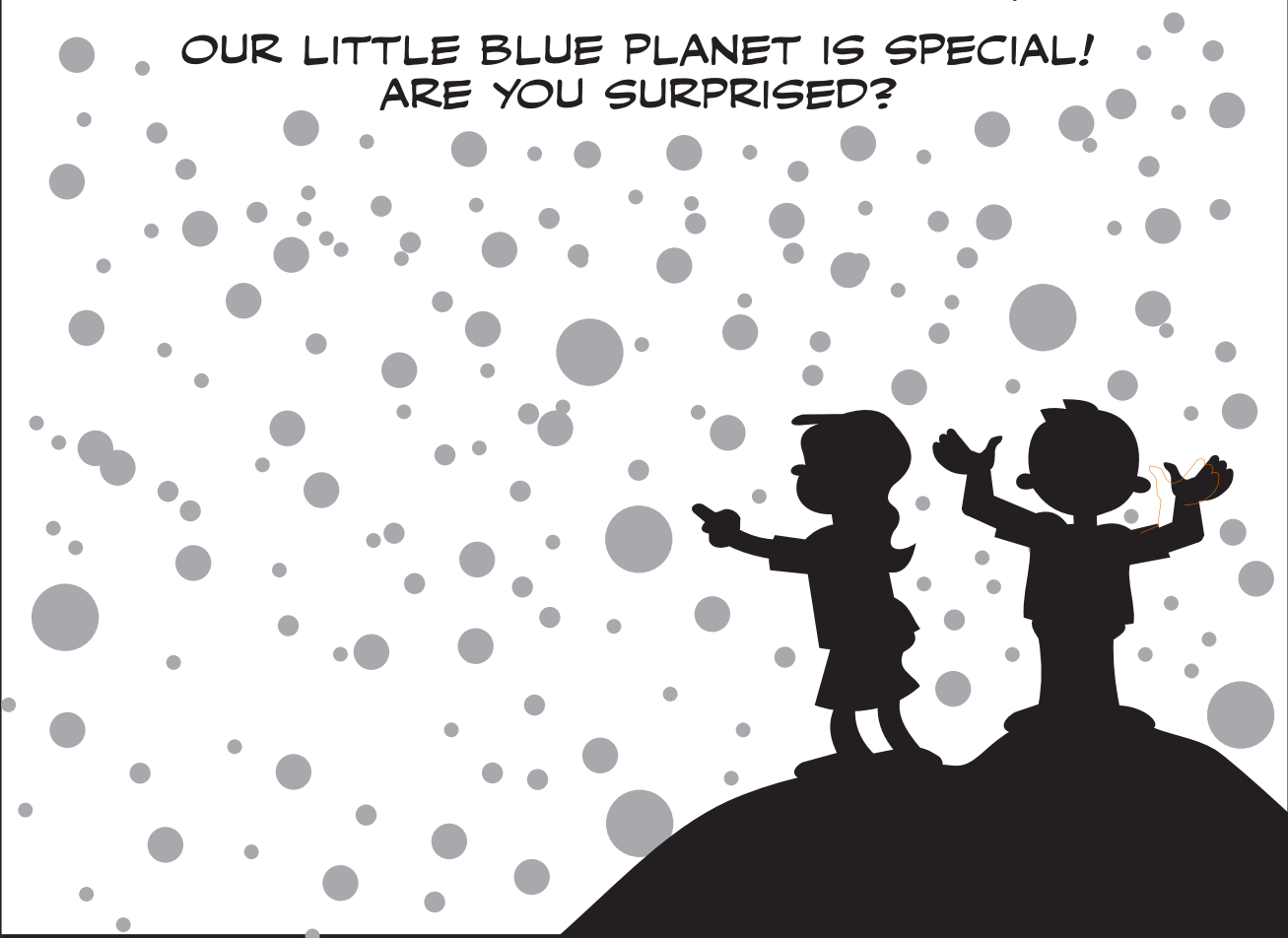
- **Weekly Announcements:**
- **Little Saints Sunday School-** Today after the Liturgy!
- Any parent who thinks that they might be interested in sending their boys to the Annual Altar Boys Retreat from June 25-28th at Christ the Saviour Seminary in Johnstown, PA, please let me know asap!
- **Your Are 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)**
- **Wednesday Evening Adult Class on the Book of Acts Time Change-** The Wednesday evening class on the book of Acts has been changed to a Wednesday lunchtime class - May 17, 24, and 31 at 12 pm.
- **Sisterhood of the Saints- Meeting on Wednesday 5/24 after Liturgy -** The purpose of this group is for women in the parish to gather together in prayer and learn more about the Orthodox Faith. It's also an opportunity to share stories and bond as women of faith in a challenging world. 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](mailto:rachelbprince@gmail.com).
- **Parish Picnic Friday June 23rd at the Gasperson Home-** Save the date, wait for more info, and join with your parish family in fellowship at the Gasperson's home in Cumming on June 23rd. If you are interested in hosting an event like this in the future please let me know! Thank you to David, Sarah, George, Edward, and baby Margaret for hosting us!
- **The Next Parish Family Sunday will be held on Sunday June 25th!**
- **Little Saints Day Camps! Saturday July 15th 1-7 pm with a community dinner after vespers at 5-pm-** I am looking for volunteers to help for food, programs, and lessons for two other dates over the summer months. 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.



# DID YOU KNOW...

NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE, BUT SOME ASTRONOMERS SAY THERE ARE AT LEAST 20 SEPTILLION PLANETS IN THE UNIVERSE. THAT'S 20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 PLANETS!

AND THE ONLY PLANET WE KNOW HAS LIFE, IS OURS!  
OUR LITTLE BLUE PLANET IS SPECIAL!  
ARE YOU SURPRISED?



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, Yvone, George, Amber

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

Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Christ is Among us!