

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

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7th Sunday of Pascha

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13



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! 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!

Christ is Among us!

This Week's Music...

This weeks antiphons for the Feast of the Ascension are on pg. **208 in the Pew Book**. This weeks Tropar and Kodak can be found on **pg. 211**



Sunday of the Holy Father of the First Ecumenical Council

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church
Woodstock, Georgia

American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople



The Ascension of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ



Monthly Schedule

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 followed by Parish Meeting

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: followed by Potluck Cookout

Sunday 06/11 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Monday 06/12- *Apostles Fast Begins*

Sunday 06/18 10 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 06/21 5 pm- Moleben to the Mother of God followed by Adult Class (*Catechism*) on the Book of Revelation

Friday 06/23 - Sisterhood of the Saints Dinner at the home of Sara Gasperson. Please RSVP.

Saturday 06/24 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Birth of St. John the Baptist

4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 06/25 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 06/28- 5 pm- Vespers followed by Adult Class (*Catechism*)

Thursday 06/29 9 am- Divine Liturgy: The Feast of Sts. Peter & Paul - *The Apostles Fast Ends.*

Saturday 07/01 4 pm- Great Vespers

Announcements:

- Sunday School Today!
- Out of Town for ACRY Bowling Tournament- Fr. Matthew will be away from the parish for about a week to attend the National ACRY event at our parish in Pheonixville, PA. Please let me know if you have an emergency, otherwise I will see you all on **Sunday June 4th for the Feast of Pentecost and our Summer Parish Meeting with a special focus on stewardship.**
- Thank you all for coming to Church today and celebrating the Deacons Service! It brings me great joy to know how well taken care of you all are when I need to be away from the parish! Many thanks to Deacon Steven and to all of you for singing so beautifully!
- **Adult Catechism Classes on Wednesday Evenings to Begin Again on 06/21-** This Summer Catechism Class will have a special focus on the Book of Revelations
- **Sisterhood of Saints Dinner Friday June 23rd at the Gasperson Home-** Last week I posted in error that this was a parish picnic. This dinner is just for the women of the parish. Please rsvp by emailing Rachel Prince at, rachelbprince@gmail.com.
- **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.



“Do not forsake us”: Ascension to Pentecost

This past Thursday we celebrated our Lord’s Ascension. Imagine for a moment that you are one of Christ’s apostles. You followed Him from Galilee as he taught and preached. You witnessed Him heal the sick, cure the blind, and raise the dead. You were with Him at the Last supper, at the Garden of Gethsemane, and as He was betrayed and placed upon His Cross. You wept because you thought the one whom you loved was gone forever, but three days later, your sorrow turned to joy, because Christ had risen from the dead.



If you were one of Christ’s apostles imagine the feeling in your heart when just 40 days after he had risen from the dead, you realized that He was leaving you again. The range of emotions that Christ’s apostles, and His mother experienced must have been overwhelming. And yet, when it was all over, after Christ ascended to Heaven, the apostles were not filled with sorrow, but with “great joy”(Luke 24:52).

They were filled with joy even though their Lord ascended because they knew that His teachings were true. They remembered what He told them...“lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” and “I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.”

The apostles knew what we must know and experience in our hearts, minds, and souls; that Christ is truly among us, here in our midst, just as He was with His disciples. The apostles also knew what Christ promised them, they knew that Christ would not leave them (and all of us) as orphans, that He had to enter paradise as fully God and fully Man, so that He could send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, into the world.

That promise, as all promises from God was kept in the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. This same grace that illumined the faithful then, illumines us in our own Baptism and Chrismation. That same Holy Spirit is present when we receive Confession and Communion. The Comforter is with us should we be Married or Ordained. In all of the Sacraments of the Church, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter is there, just as Christ promised us that He would be.

Christ did not forsake us and leave us as orphans when He ascended into Heaven, he didn’t even truly leave us. He sent us the Holy Spirit and He established His Church for us.

Christ is among us, right here, right now. Just as the apostles knew this to be true, so too must we realize and experience this reality. For us the challenge is to truly know Christ, to *put Him on* and to receive His blessing. We are called to His eternal light, to become *like Him*. To love one another as He loves us, to forgive as He forgives; to know that Christ is the source of our life; not alone, forsaken as orphans, but as part of His most precious body.



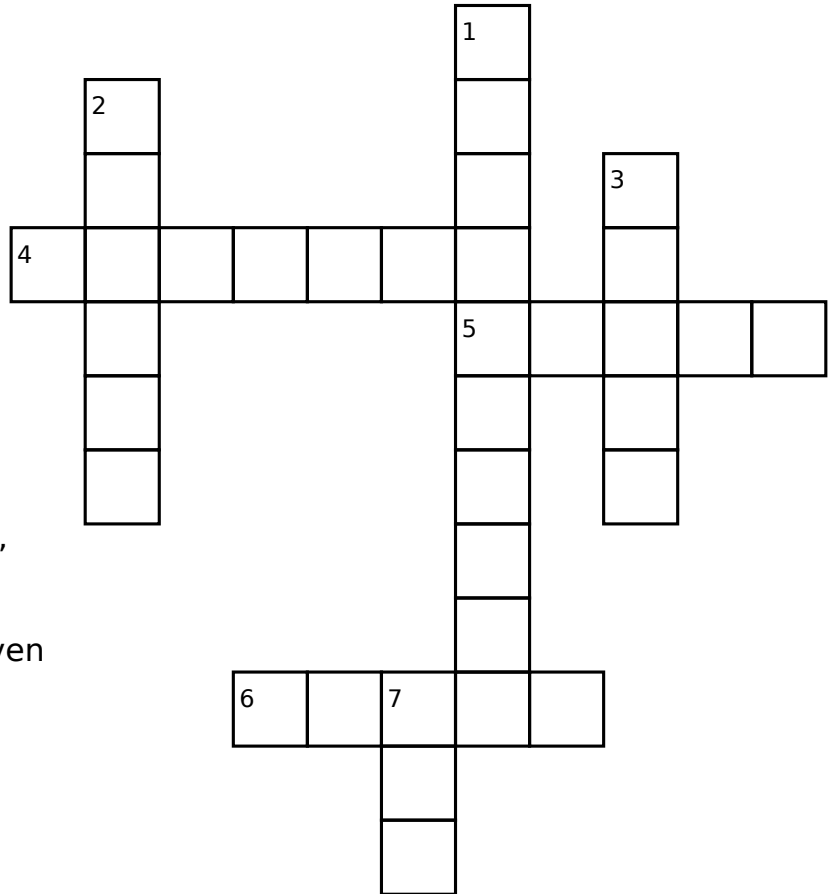
The Ascension

Down:

- 1. After Christ ascends on the mount of olives he can now send us the _____.
- 2. Christ _____ himself to our nature in order to raise us up to God.
- 3. "He was lifted up before their eyes in a _____ which took Him from their sight" (Acts 1:9)
- 7. the angels in heaven didn't recognize Christ coming through the gates of heaven in _____ garments, like one who treads in the winepress." (Is. 63:2)---because Christ suffered the Cross for us so that we too could ascend to the very heights of heaven just as He did on Ascension.

Across:

- 4. Christ has prepared "the way for the people", He has built "up the _____" (Is. 62:10). The road to salvation is now prepared for mankind because now heaven can receive us.
- 5. In Christ's Ascension, in His rising to the Heavens, He _____ the potential for all mankind.
- 6. the number of days between Christ's Resurrection and His Ascension.



A Memorial Day Message From the Past...

Memorial Day is a time set aside in paying tribute to all those who gave up their lives so that this, our beloved country might continue to be the home of the free and the land of the brave. It is fitting for us to dedicate this day in prayer for the repose of the souls of all who have made the supreme sacrifice...all those who gave up their lives, in order that *we the people*, can continue to live and enjoy the rights and privileges of a democracy, regardless of race or creed. All those who laid down their lives for this freedom, reached the highest pinnacle of charity. Of them, Christ our Lord said: "Greater love than this no one has, that one lay down his life for his friends."

The heroic dead have preformed their duty, giving their last full measure of devotion, they gave up their most precious possession...life itself. Their bravery in making this sacrifice for the cause of human freedom will remain forever in the gallery of our treasured memories.

In many cemeteries in this country and across the seas our heroes sleep. While our country shows that all her sentimental, tender love for her heroes is not dead, but living, and adds another milestone to her perpetual tribute of respect for men who died because they loved her.

It is our sacred duty to keep forever fresh the memory of their heroic deeds. Never so long as we live as a free people, shall Americans fail to kinder the ardor of their names and to rejoice in their valor. Their blood is the red in the flag of our republic...Their deeds shine like stars above our shrines. Their sacrifice was glorious, tender, and blessed. Their gallantry will live forever, for it sustained our American traditions and added unselfishly to the majesty of our beloved United States. **Fr. Stephen Dutko+, May 28th 1968**



When this message was originally delivered in 1968, it would have been heard by the mothers, fathers, siblings, and friends of so many who lost loved ones in the many brutal wars fought in the 20th century. The loss and the pain was and is real to everyone who has ever lost a loved one to war. Today let us be reminded to pause for a moment from the mattress sales, cookouts, and precious time with family and friends, and remember and give thanks to those who died to provide us with the freedoms that we all too often take for granted. A blessed Memorial Day to all of our veterans and to those currently serving in the armed forces. May God grant eternal rest to all of our heroes who have fallen asleep in the Lord protecting our freedoms. Eternal Memory!

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, 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 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, Yvone, George, Amberly, & baby Stella, Jessie

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 Milesenko+, 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!