

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



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Pentecost Sunday
The Descent of the Holy Spirit
Epistle: Acts 2:1-11
Gospel: John 7:37-52, 8:12



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!

Christ is Among us!

This Week's Music...

All the special hymns for Pentecost, before and throughout the liturgy, can be found on **pg. 213**



The Church's Birthday!

As we enter into the life-giving season of Pentecost, we are reminded of the great significance this celebration holds for the Orthodox Church. Pentecost is essential to the life of the Church and is often referred to as the "birthday of the Church".

Pentecost marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Disciples, empowering them to proclaim the Good News and establishing the foundation of our faith. That same Holy Spirit is poured out upon all of us who follow Christ and empowers us to proclaim that same Good News and establish the faith in our hearts and in the hearts of our neighbors.

Pentecost comes from the Greek word meaning "the fiftieth day," and it always occurs fifty days after Pascha. It commemorates the historical event described in the Acts of the Apostles when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, gathered together in Jerusalem. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and other believers enabled them to speak in different languages, breaking down the barriers of communication and uniting people from diverse backgrounds in the message of Christ and salvation.

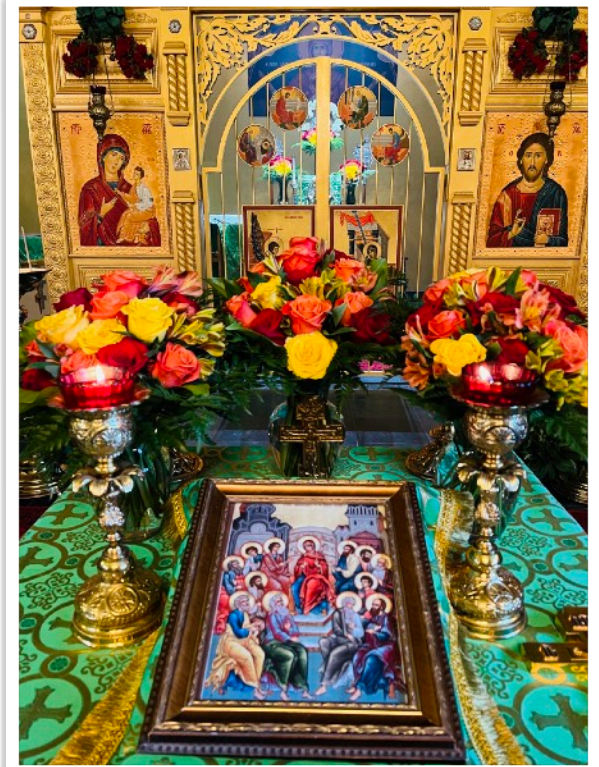
The descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost represents the birth of the Church. It was on this day that the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, transforming them from timid followers of Christ who hid in the upper room into courageous witnesses of Christ's resurrection who were willing to give their lives for Christ and His Church. This event marked the beginning of the Apostolic Ministry, the establishment of the earliest Christian communities, and the spread of Christianity throughout the world.

The coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost bestowed upon the Disciples divine gifts and charisms necessary for their mission. Through the Holy Spirit's indwelling, they were able to heal the sick, perform miracles, and boldly proclaim the Gospel. The gifts of that very same Holy Spirit continues to empower the faithful of the Church today.

Pentecost emphasizes the unifying nature of the Orthodox Church. The languages spoken by the disciples during the descent of the Holy Spirit symbolize the universality of the Church's mission. The Orthodox Church, as the Body of Christ, transcends cultural and linguistic boundaries, embracing people from all nations and backgrounds. Pentecost reminds us of the unity we share as members of the Church and calls us to embrace and celebrate our diversity while remaining rooted in the common faith.

Pentecost is not just a historical event to be commemorated but also a time of personal and communal renewal. Just as the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples, it continues to work within each of us, renewing our hearts, and transforming us into living witnesses of Christ's love. This celebration of Pentecost serves as a reminder of our ongoing need for the Holy Spirit's guidance and presence in our lives.

Pentecost stands as a momentous, essential, and life-giving occasion in the life of the Orthodox Church. This is why many people refer to Pentecost as the Church's Birthday: This celebration calls us to embrace our role as witnesses of Christ's love, reminding us of the empowerment, unity, and spiritual transformation made possible through the Holy Spirit. This joyous occasion in the life of the Church again invites us to become disciples, to receive the Holy Spirit, to become the people whom God has created us to be.





Monthly Schedule

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



The St. Elizabeth News

Pentecost as the Fulfillment of the Jewish Feast of Weeks

The Orthodox Church is the fulfillment of the Law and the practices of worship in the Old Testament. With this in mind we can draw much understanding by viewing Pentecost as the fulfillment of the Jewish feast of Weeks. Understanding the connections between the feasts provides shows the continuity and fulfillment of God's plan of salvation.

The Feast of Weeks is an important Jewish festival that occurs fifty days after Passover. It commemorates the giving of the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. During this time, Jews offer sacrifices and gather to read the Book of Ruth, which emphasizes the themes of redemption and the coming of the Messiah.

Following Jesus' ascension into Heaven, the Apostles and other Disciples were gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks. Suddenly, a sound like a rushing wind filled the place, and tongues of fire rested upon each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit, as Christ promised. This was the first celebration of Pentecost in the Orthodox Church.

The events of Pentecost are the fulfillment of Jewish Feast of Weeks. The Feast of Weeks commemorates the giving of the Law, while Pentecost marks the coming of the Holy Spirit—the law written not on tablets of stone but on the hearts of believers. In the Orthodox Church the descent of Holy Spirit usurers in the fulfillment of the Law and the receiving of God's mercy and grace in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit enables believers to participate in the life of Christ and empowers them to live according to God's commandments. It is through the Holy Spirit that Orthodox Christians are united with Christ and find the means to become holy as He is holy and attain theosis—the process of becoming more and more like God where we find salvation.

At the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on Pentecost their is a transition from the Law to the Spirit, from the external to the internal, and from the written word to the living Word.

Pentecost is the celebration of the birth of the Church and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. Understanding this relationship highlights the beauty and perfection of God's plan of salvation and the significance of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Church.

The Power of the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost

Pentecost is one of the most significant feasts in the life of the Church. Among the many beautiful traditions observed during this holy season, the kneeling prayers of Pentecost hold a special place. The kneeling prayers of Pentecost, as with all Traditions of the Church, play an important role in deepening our faith and our connection with our Heavenly Father.

Kneeling is an act of humble submission and reverence, acknowledging our complete dependence on God. It symbolizes the disciples' posture of humility and readiness to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Just as Christ knelt in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion, we, too, kneel in recognition of our own unworthiness and the immense grace bestowed upon us by Christ through the sending of the Holy Spirit.



The kneeling prayers of Pentecost are recited at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. This period of kneeling represents the intense anticipation and yearning for the Holy Spirit's presence and guidance in our lives. As we physically humble ourselves through the act of kneeling, we open our hearts to receive the blessings and spiritual empowerment of the Holy Spirit, who fills us with wisdom, understanding, peace, hope, and strength.

In the first kneeling prayer, we recognize that Christ Himself knelt in prayer to His Father in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:41). This prayer humbly asks God to hear us, accept us, forget our sins, cleanse our minds from sinful thoughts, make us worthy of His presence, visit us, deliver us from the Devil's grasp, secure our lives according to His sacred laws, entrust us to the care of a guardian angel, gather us into His Kingdom, grant us forgiveness, and purify us through the Holy Spirit.

In the second kneeling prayer, we seek guidance from God on how to pray and what to pray for. We ask Him to govern our lives, reveal the path we should walk, bestow wisdom upon us, renew our spirits, strengthen our minds, guard us against worldly temptations, instill in us a desire for heavenly treasures, show us mercy, sanctify us, extend His helping hand, and accept our heartfelt prayers.

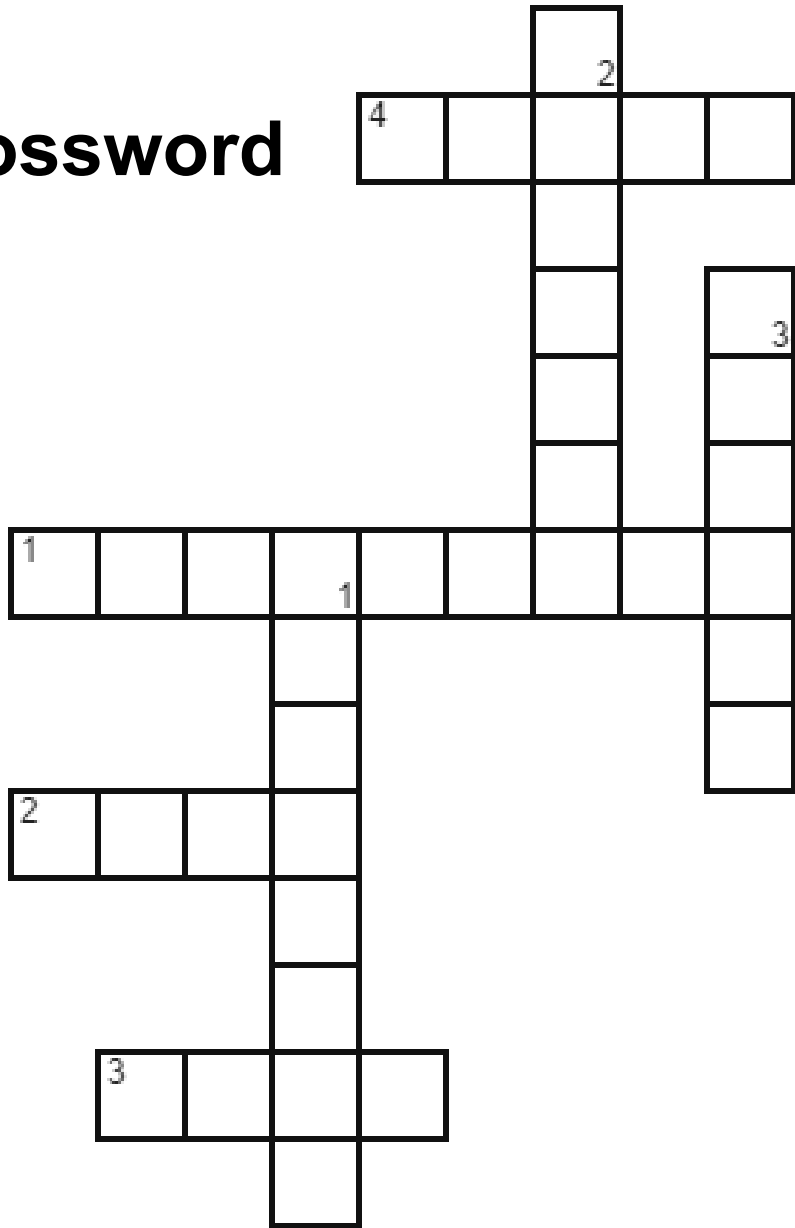
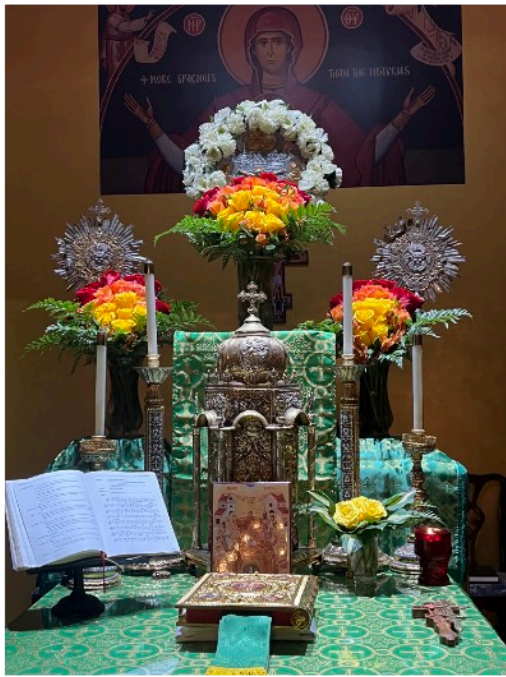
In the third kneeling prayer we remember our departed loved ones. In this prayer, we implore God to grant them eternal rest, include their names in the book of life, and forgive their sins. It also serves as a reminder for us, as we anticipate the time when we will join our departed loved ones and leave our earthly lives behind.

In these prayers we seek the blessing of a renewed outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Church and ourselves as members of the body Christ. By humbling ourselves and surrendering to God's will, we open the door to spiritual renewal, transformation, and the awakening of the gifts and talents within us. The kneeling prayers of Pentecost become a transformative experience, empowering us to go forth into the world as witnesses of Christ's love, bearing the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The power of the kneeling prayers of Pentecost lies in their ability to draw us closer to God, to deepen our faith, and to prepare us to be vessels of the Holy Spirit's grace and love. This act of submission to God needs to be carried out beyond the walls of the Church, into our homes, and spread throughout the world. When we humbly and joyfully submit to God's will we embrace the grace and guidance offered to us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the past fifty days, we have joyfully celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, rejoicing in His triumph over sin and death. As we reflect on His victory, let us humbly kneel alongside the Apostles and Disciples to receive the Paraclete, the Comforter, which is God's Holy Spirit. May He guide and comfort us in our journey of faith and may we always make our souls temples for the Holy Spirit to dwell.

Pentecost Crossword



Across

1. "O Heavenly King, the _____, Spirit of Truth"
2. After Christ's Ascension He _____ the Holy Spirit to us.
3. The story of Pentecost is found in the book of _____.
4. From Pascha to now we have not done something in the Church. Now, after Pentecost, we begin _____ to in the Church again.

Down

1. How many days after Pascha is Pentecost?
2. Pentecost is also known as The _____ of the Holy Spirit.
3. Pentecost also celebrates the establishment of the _____.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

ΝΙΑ ΤΩ ΑΒΡΑΗΜ

Woodstock, GA

A new heart I will give you,
and a new spirit I will put
within you; and I will take
out of your flesh the heart
of stone and give you a
heart of flesh. -Ezekiel 36:26

Christ is in our Midst!
He is and Always Shall Be!

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Parish Meeting Today!**
- **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.
- **God is Calling You!** - Always be thinking "am I being the person God is calling me to be?". There is always much to be done in God's service at the Church and in the world and He is calling you and inviting you to be His servant and do His work. What a joy it is to serve the Lord!



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

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!