

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



### 1st Sunday after Pentecost

**Epistle:** *Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2*  
**Gospel:** *Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38*



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. 217**



### Sunday of All Saints



## Monthly Schedule

**Monday 06/12-** *Apostles Fast Begins*

**Wednesday 06/14-** Class on the Book of Acts by Dr. Tim Furnish

**Sunday 06/18 10 am -** Divine Liturgy- Father's Day

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

**Thursday 06/22 9 am-** Divine Liturgy

**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- Parish Family Sunday

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

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

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

**Saturday 07/01 4 pm-** Great Vespers

**Sunday 07/02 10 am-** Divine Liturgy - Potluck 4th of July Party in Coffee Hour

**Thursday 07/06 9 am-** Divine Liturgy

**Friday 07/07 7pm-** Outdoor Movie Night

**Saturday 07/08 4 pm-** Great Vespers

**Sunday 07/09 10 am-** Divine Liturgy

**Wednesday 07/12 6 pm-** Moleben

## Becoming a Saint

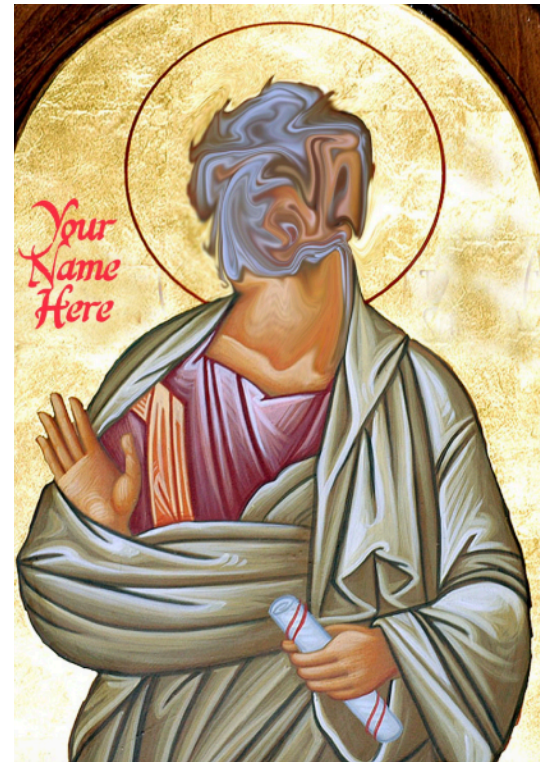
On the Sunday after Pentecost the Church in her wisdom remembers all the Saints throughout the ages. The Holy Spirit, Who was sent to the world on Pentecost, is the One who guides and inspires us to live a holy life. The saints are the ones who inspired by the Holy Spirit have received the promised reward; those who by God's grace and the gifts of the Holy Spirit have followed after Christ and *become holy*.

It is God's plan for all of us, *our destiny*, to receive this very same reward; to *become holy* like the saints are holy, like Christ our God is Holy. The saints who came before us show us the way to holiness, they are our examples; our lights on the road that lead us to Christ and His Kingdom.

These saints are people just like you and me. They faced the same temptations that we all face; yet they chose life over death. They chose to live in Christ rather than to die in sin and in doing so they became holy, they became *like-Christ*.

We all face choices every day. The choice to dive into the many fleeting passions and pleasure of this life. The choice to place our self - our needs and our pride above the needs of others, or the choice to love our neighbor as our brother. The path of the saints is then path of Christ, *to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow after Christ*.

If our destiny is sainthood, if God created us to become *like* Him and to be with Him in paradise then the saints are the ones who are truly alive. When we choose sin we choose death over life and reject holiness; in doing so we choose to be inhuman because God created us for life. The saints are the ones who are truly human, because they are what they became what they were created to be. The saints are alive in Christ, they are what we are all called to become; holy, i.e. truly human.





## Prayer and Fasting to Heal the World

This year, Monday June 12th marks the beginning of the *Apostles Fast*. In the Orthodox Church we have 4 major fasting seasons during the Church year.

The first is the *Nativity Fast, or the Fast of Saint Phillip*. This fast begins 40 days before the Birth of our Lord on November 15th and ends on Christmas. The next fast is the one we are most familiar with, that of Great Lent and Holy Week - the period of 48 days leading up the Resurrection of Christ. Right at the end of the Church year, we celebrate the Feast of the Dormition of the Birthgiver of God and prior this great feast is a two-week fast. The Apostles Fast varies in length from year to year, but always begins after All Saints Sunday, which is always the Sunday after Pentecost, and ends with the celebration of the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29th. That means that this year, the Apostles Fast will last for a little more than two weeks.

Just like every other fasting season in the Church, this time is set aside for us as an opportunity to grow in our faith. The fasting seasons give us an opportunity to put away our old selves and put on Christ. They remind us to place all of our trust in God who is the true and only source of our lives. Fasting is an essential part of the spiritual life of all Orthodox Christians. Through His ministry, our Lord shows us how important prayer and fasting is for all of us.

In Matthew 17 an epileptic, demon possessed young boy is placed before Christ. The boy's father tells Jesus "I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Christ quickly calls out his apostles and the whole human race with them for being "faithless" and he casts out the demon from the tormented boy and heals him. The disciples wondered why they couldn't expel the demon and Christ told them "Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."

*Except by prayer and fasting.* This passage reminds us of the grace that is poured out upon the world when we humbly cry out to God in secret, through prayer and fasting. Just like it was in the case of the boy possessed by demons, fasting and prayer, by the Grace of the Holy Spirit aids us in our earthly pilgrimage towards Christ to lay aside our passions and earthly cares and unite ourselves to Christ.

Our world is in desperate need of the healing grace of the Holy Spirit that is poured forth through prayer and fasting. War in Ukraine, disease, and economic & political unrest plague the world. To combat the sicknesses of the world we need the grace of the Holy Spirit to come and dwell within us just as He came to the apostles on Pentecost. We need to be reflections of Christ and beacons of light for our world that is experiencing so much pain, suffering, sickness, and death right now. When we do this, when we love Christ with all our heart, soul, and mind - when we deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow after Christ - When we become like Him: the world is forever changed for the better.

That means that you have the ability by the grace of God to change the world for the better every day by becoming more like Christ. The Church knows this, and the Church knows that the way to become like Christ starts with prayer and fasting. So, I invite all of you to participate in the Apostles Fast this year. Pray for healing and peace all over the world. Abstain from the passions of this life and be reminded that the only food we need to survive comes from Christ who is the Manna in the Wilderness & the Bread of Life.



St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church Proudly Presents...

# Family Sunday's



## Independence Day Potluck PICNIC

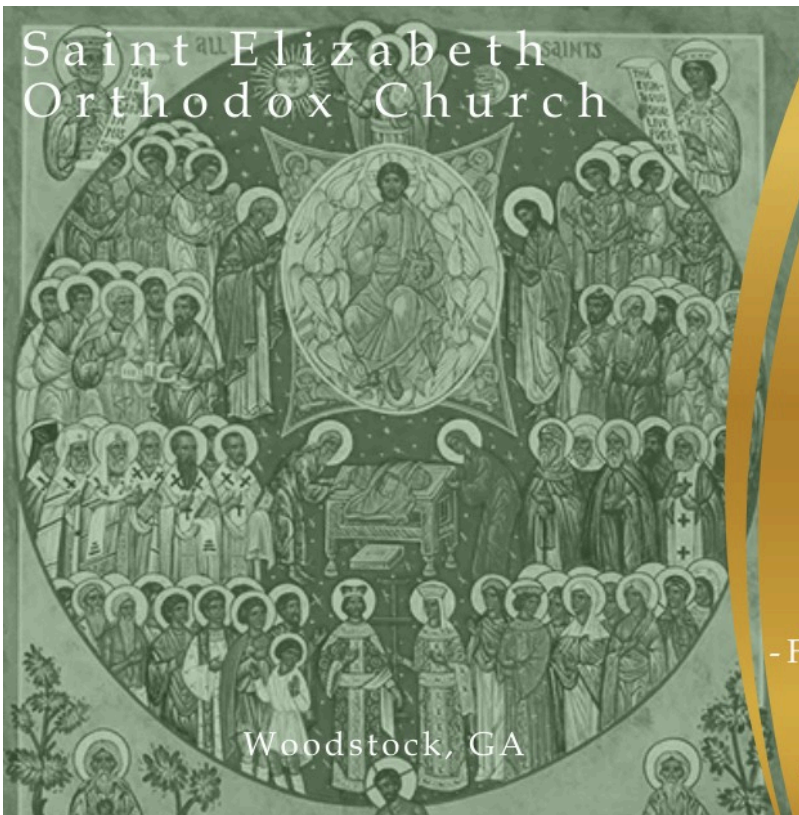
2265 East Cherokee Drive  
Woodstock, GA 30188



## Following the Divine Liturgy on JULY 2nd

Join us as we gather together in  
Thanksgiving & fellowship on Sunday July  
2nd for a special Independence Day themed  
potluck coffee hour, and activities for  
adults and children!





The Savior's inspired Disciples became instruments of the Spirit through faith. They were scattered to the ends of the earth, sowing the glad tidings of the True Faith. From their divine garden the army of martyrs blossomed in grace. They became images of Christ's saving Passion, enduring every kind of torture, scourging, and fire. Now they boldly pray for our souls.

-From Vespers on All Saints Sunday  
Become a Member of  
Saint Elizabeth's!  
[www.stelizabethga.org](http://www.stelizabethga.org)

## Announcements:

- **Sunday School 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](mailto:rachelbprince@gmail.com).
- **The Next Parish Family Sunday will be held on Sunday June 25th!**
- **Parish Family Independence Day Themed Potluck on 07/02 following the Divine Liturgy**
- **Outdoor 4th of July Themed Movie Night on 07/07 at 7pm**
- **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 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, Dexter

*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 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 Jospeh+ & 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!

Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Christ is Among us!