

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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 Father Deacon Steven Hanes
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2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16
Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23



Christ is Among us!

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!

This Week's Music...

Tropar and Kondak Tone 1- pg. 81

Kondak, Tone 6- O unashamed intercessor of Christians, * ever loyal advocate before the Creator, * do not disregard the prayerful voices of sinners * but in your goodness hasten* to assist us who trustfully cry out to you: ** Intercede always, O Mother of God, in behalf of those who honor you!



Sunday of Regional Saints



Monthly Schedule

Wednesday 06/21 Canceled and moved to 6/28- 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



Celebrating Father's Day: Lessons from the Lives of the Saints

Father's Day is a time when we honor and appreciate the important role of fathers in our lives. The lives of saints provide us with rich examples of how to live our lives. As we celebrate Father's Day, we can look to the saints to teach us how to be better fathers and better children. In the lives of the saints, we find valuable lessons that illuminate the important role of fatherhood in our faith and in our lives.



Saint John Chrysostom, a renowned Church Father, Archbishop of Constantinople, and author of the Divine Liturgy we celebrate most Sundays, often spoke of the profound impact his father had on his life. His father, Secundus, was a devout Christian who instilled in him a deep love for God and the Church. It was through his father's guidance and example that Saint John developed his fervent faith and commitment to serving God.

Saint Zachariah was the father of Saint John the Baptist. Despite initially doubting God's promise of a child due to his old age and his wife Saint Elizabeth's barrenness, Zachariah ultimately exhibited unwavering faith. God, in His wisdom, silenced Zachariah's voice until the birth of John as a sign of the importance of trust and obedience.

Zachariah's life teaches fathers the power of faith and the importance of placing our hope and trust in God first. As fathers, we are called to place our trust in God's love and mercy for our families, even when faced with the storms of life. Through Zachariah's story, we understand that embracing God's will and surrendering to His guidance can lead to profound blessings in our lives and the lives of our children.

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Celebrating Father's Day: Lessons from the Lives of the Saints

Zachariah's ultimate sacrifice for his son exemplifies the lengths to which a father will go to protect and nurture their child. When King Herod sought to harm Saint John the Baptist, Zachariah valiantly defended his son, even at the cost of his own life. This act of sacrificial love echoes the timeless example of fathers who are called to put the well-being of their children and their families above themselves. While it may not always require such extreme measures, all parents need to know this kind of sacrificial love that Saint Zachariah shows us.

Saint Joachim, the father of the Virgin Mary, faced the challenge of infertility alongside his wife, Saint Anna. Despite enduring years of longing and societal ridicule, Joachim never lost hope and steadfastly relied on prayer. His persistent faith and devotion to God bore fruit when they were blessed with the birth of the Virgin Mary.

Joachim's life teaches fathers the virtues of patience, perseverance, and the power of prayer. In a world that values instant results and quick fixes, Joachim's example reminds fathers to remain steadfast in their commitment to their families. Patience and trust in God's timing enable fathers to navigate the challenges and uncertainties of life by trusting in God's will.

Saint Nicholas of Myra, the beloved saint known for his generosity and love for children, was greatly influenced by his father, Theophanes. Theophanes, a wealthy and pious Christian, raised Saint Nicholas in the faith, teaching him to care for the poor and to be compassionate towards those in need. Saint Nicholas, inspired by his father's teachings, went on to become a renowned bishop whose acts of charity and love echo throughout the ages.

Saint Joseph, the Foster Father of Jesus, holds a unique place in our faith. Although not biologically related, Joseph embraced his role as the protector, provider, and guardian of the Holy Family. He loved and cared for Jesus and Mary even in the face of exile and great dangers at the hands of King Herod.

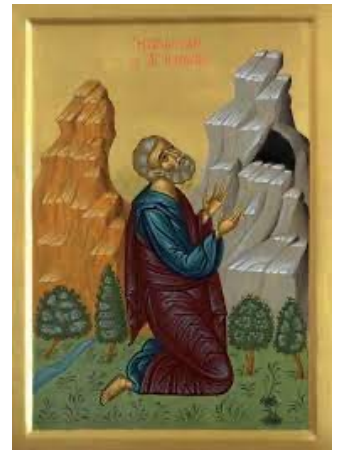
Joseph's life exemplifies the selfless love and sacrificial nature of fatherhood. Despite the challenges and uncertainties he faced, Joseph embraced his responsibility wholeheartedly, offering unconditional love, guidance, and protection to Jesus. He teaches fathers the importance of being present, supportive, and actively engaged in the upbringing of their children.

The consistent example from all of these fathers is their unwavering faith, patience, selfless love, and sacrifice. Their examples remind us of the profound impact fathers can have on the lives of their children. The best impact we can have as fathers is to place God first in our lives above everything else, to trust Him, and to align our will to God's Divine Will.

Placing God first means living a life rooted in prayer, regularly communing with God by praying in the home as a family and attending the divine services. Our job as fathers is to teach our children to know and love Jesus. To show them the compassion and love that our Heavenly Father shows us. The best way to share this most important message with our kids is to live our faith and teach by our own example. Our children are always watching us, and our example is their greatest teacher.

A good father prioritizes the spiritual well-being of their children. Our job as fathers is to pass down the faith and teachings of Christ to our children. Fathers today must instill in their children a love for God and a deep understanding of the Orthodox Christian faith. The world will be pulling them in a different direction, but our divine calling as fathers is for us to help our children to know Christ and love Him.

When fathers prioritize their love for God and their commitment to living out their faith, it naturally overflows into their relationships with their children (and their wives too!). They become living examples of faith, integrity, and virtue, guiding their children on a path of righteousness and instilling in them the values and teachings of our Orthodox Christian tradition just like the saints and holy fathers who came before them.





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!



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Pray For Vocations!

Since Peter and Andrew first heard the call of Christ and dropped their fishing nets over two thousand years ago, men and women have been called to serve Christ and His Church. No matter what we do in life, no matter what our vocation, it is our calling, honor, and duty to serve our Lord. It is so easy in the busy and distracting world we live in to block out the sound of our Lord calling to us. The challenge laid out before all of us is to silence our earthly cares and listen to the loving sound of our Lord calling us to His purpose. In order for us to hear that call, we need to pray for it. Remember to always pray that the Lord make his purpose clear to you and to others, so that we might know our vocation. So that we can better serve our all loving Creator.

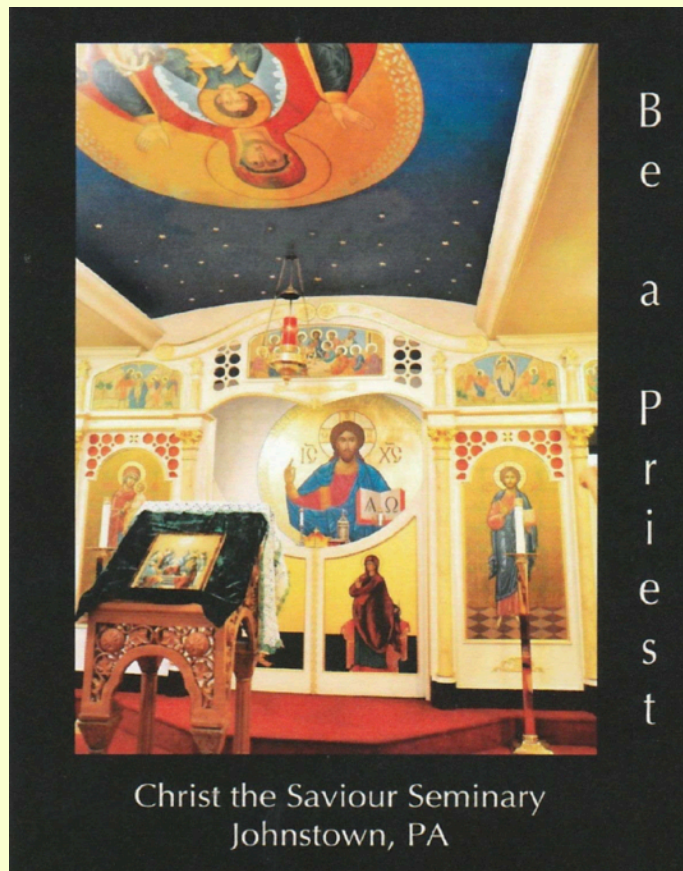
Here at St. Elizabeth's we should always be praying that we are working for God's purpose and His glory; that we are ready to receive the souls He sends our way and share with them the light, beauty, and truth of His Holy Orthodox Church. We should pray that God always guides us to His light, teaches us His commandments, and that He shows us how and helps us to serve Him. We need to pray not only for ourselves, but for everyone, and for the whole world: for vocations for men and women at every level of service to Christ and His Bride, the Orthodox Church.

The Church is always in need of men and women to serve in special vocations. The Church needs monks and nuns, Sunday school teachers and mentors for the young people. She needs workers and cleaners, and she needs singers, Altar servers, deacons, priests, and bishops. The Church needs all of these things and more to make up the Body of Christ and we are called on to pray that men and women everywhere answer the call to serve Christ.

Just like when Peter and Andrew answered Christ's call so long ago, we are in need of men to answer the call to the priesthood today. And so, we are all called upon to especially pray for young men to take up their cross and answer that same apostolic call of service.

The church always needs priests to serve the people. I ask all of you to add this prayer to your daily devotionals:

O Lord and Master of the harvest, who told us the harvest is great, but the laborers are few, call many to be Your future priests. For there are children to baptize, and the sick to heal, there are the dying to care for, the Bread of Life to distribute, and the Word of God to teach; there are sins to forgive and charity to be done in Your Name. grant O Lord that many shall respond to Your call, hear us and have mercy.



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Enjoy Your Summer Vocation!

The long days of summer are upon us. The time of year when the sunlight shines upon us late into the evening. The sounds of children playing and the crack of baseballs traveling off the bat fill the air. The smell of blooming flowers, suntan lotion, and melting ice cream tickle the nose. Summer is certainly a very special time of year.

When we're young summer means adventure. After all, the sky is the limit, the world is our oyster; school is out, and the thrills of summer vacation are all around us. The possibilities seem limitless. The young adults are prepping to go away to college, saying goodbye to old friends and preparing to make new ones; while the little ones are splashing in pools, or maybe swimming in lakes or the ocean for the very first time.

As adults we look forward to many things in summer, like getting to spend more time with our children, going out to a lake for the day, firing up the grill, and of course planning a little family getaway in the hopes that the stresses of life might fade away like the resending tides of the sea on a sun lite morning.

The joys and possibilities of summer seem boundless no matter what are age. However, summer doesn't come without its dangers. If we spend too much time in the sun we get burned, if we eat too much ice cream we get sick, and if we spend too much time focusing on pleasing ourselves, day dreaming of *better days* all while neglecting our spiritual life and ignoring our neighbor; we put our souls at risk of being lost. Summer vacation mustn't mean that we take a vacation form God.

It can be so easy with so much summer excitement to neglect our spiritual life, to put God aside for a little bit, and sleep in on Sunday morning. We know it's wrong, but it becomes so easy to justify in our minds. We might say that we are doing something good for our family, or that we worked so hard in the yard that we just need a little rest. The devil is so quick to plant these excuses into our hearts and minds, and we need to be prepared to fight them off.

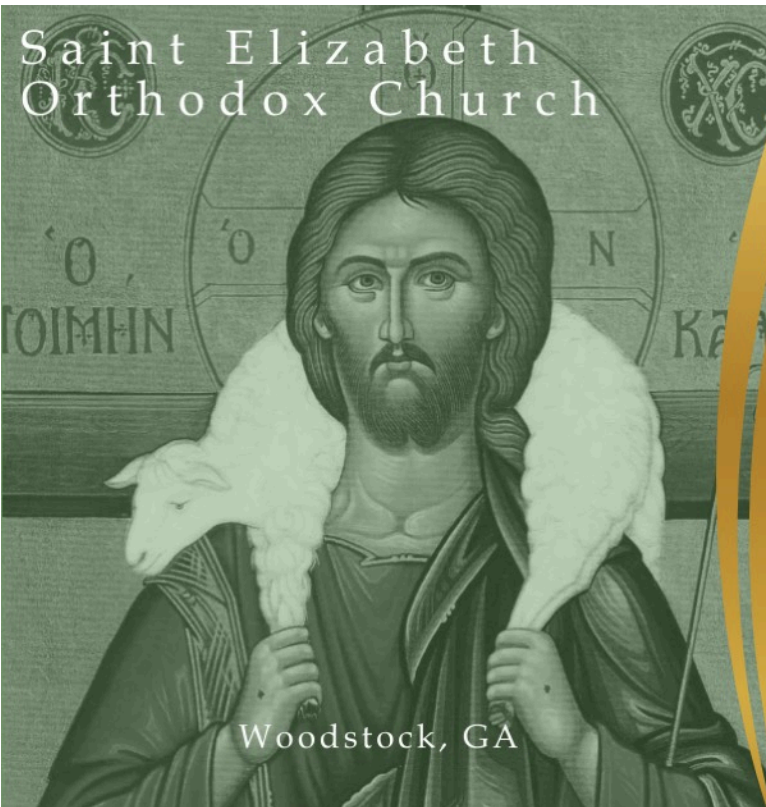
The reality is that all those beautiful summer experiences and all the beautiful memories of summers past are all gifts from God. The beauty of the blooming flowers, the length of the days, and the entire order of nature are all gifts from God. So, when we work on our yard, we should be thankful to God who has blessed us with His bounty and given us the strength to co-operate with Him in maintaining the natural beauty of the earth which He created. When we spend time with our friends and families and make memories at the lake, the baseball game, the beach, or any other place where we might find the magic of summer, we have to remember that it is our God above who has blessed us with these great opportunities of Christian brotherhood & sisterhood; to bask in the glory of His creation. To take in those beautiful sights and sounds of summer, with thanksgiving to the One who gave it all to us.

How can we enjoy the salty sea breeze without knowing that it is our Lord who sent it? How can we enjoy the smell of barbecue on the grill without being thankful to the One who blesses us with His Heavenly bounty? How can we truly enjoy any of these summer wonders without *knowing the source of the wonder*? We know that the source of that wonder is God, and when we see all that He has done, does, and will do for us, how can we do anything less than marvel at His majesty in thanksgiving, prayerfulness, and worship? How can we not come to His home, the Church, and thank Him?

If you want to get the most out of this summer remember to put Christ first. Know that He is with you at the ball game, the lake, and at the beach. Christ is there as the fireworks burst into the air and light up the night sky. He is there as the cool waters splash across your face, and as you bite into that frozen ice cream cone on a hot summer afternoon. Christ has blessed you with all that it is good in life, and He is among us, so seek His presence all throughout the summer and throughout life.

Christ is the light of the world, and summer is the time of year where the light of the sun shines the most. Just as the light of the sun shines late into the evening these next few months, let the warmth of Christ's light shine on you and your family this summer. Remember God never takes a vacation form us, so lets promise never to take a vacation form Him! Enjoy the summer, and love God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind!





Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

Happy Father's Day!

"A good father is not only concerned about the material well-being of his children but also about their spiritual growth and salvation. He guides them on the path of righteousness and leads them closer to God." -Saint John of Kronstadt

"A father's responsibility is to educate his children in the faith, to instill in them a love for God and a desire to live a righteous life. He should teach them to pray, to attend church, and to be active members of the Christian community."
-Saint Nikolai Velimirovic

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!
www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Adult Catechism Classes on Wednesday Evenings to Begin Again on 06/28-**
The class was supposed to start this Wednesday (6/21), but this is my Wedding Anniversary, so we will **begin on Wednesday 6/28**
- **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!**
- **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 Mileszko 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+, 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 Mileszko+, 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!



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!