

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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www.stelizabethga.org



2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 5:1-10

Gospel: Matthew 6:22-33



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 2- pg. 84

Tropar and Kondak for the Birth of John the Baptist- pg. 160

Look on page two for more details on how to follow the order of the Divine Liturgy with the Blue Pew Book.



The Nativity of John the Baptist



Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

Monthly Schedule

Today- Panachida for Sarah Elizabeth Price (Mother of Stephen Price)

Parish Family Sunday

Kitchen Clean Up All Week - Please See Sign up Sheet on the Bulletin Board

Wednesday 06/28- 5:30 pm- Vespers followed by Adult Class (*Catechism*)

Thursday 06/29 9 am- Divine Liturgy: 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

Wednesday 7/05 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Catechism Class

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 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Catechism Class

Thursday 07/13 9 am- Divine Liturgy

Saturday 07/15 1-7pm - Little Saints Day Camp & Community Dinner (**6pm**)

5 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 07/16 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Wednesday 07/19- 5:30 pm- Vespers followed by Adult Class (*Catechism*)

Thursday 07/20 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Feast of Saint Elijah

Saturday 07/22 4 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday 07/23 10 am- Divine Liturgy

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Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end if the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).

Choosing God as Our Sole Master in a World of Distractions

In the very foundation of our Faith lies the commandment, "You shall have no other gods before Me." This divine instruction resonates with the essence of our faith and underscores the importance of serving God as our sole Master. As we navigate the complexities of a modern and ever-changing world, Within the tapestry of our spiritual lives, we unravel the profound impact of Christ's words, discovering the significance of consciously aligning our choices with unwavering devotion to God. By faithfully adhering to the first commandment, we walk on a transformative path that shapes our lives and deepens our connection with God.

In a society that entices us with countless distractions and false promises of worldly happiness, it is essential to remember the sacred commandment to have no other gods. The call to choose God as our sole Master becomes an intimate invitation to cultivate a deep and personal relationship with Him. It is a call to renounce the false gods of material possessions, worldly acclaim, and selfish desires that seek to dethrone the Almighty from the throne of our hearts. In accepting this call, we embark on a transformative journey that shapes our lives in profound ways.

Every day presents a battleground of choices, where our loyalty and devotion are put to the test. From the mundane to the significant, these choices serve as litmus tests of our commitment to God. It is the decision to spend our time immersed in spiritual growth or succumb to the temptations of a secular and superficial world. In every moment of every day we face the ongoing struggle to uphold the first commandment; to choose the Holy Trinity or the false gods presented to us by the Devil. It is in these moments that we have an opportunity to reaffirm our love and allegiance to God, recognizing that He alone is worthy of all praise. The command to have no other gods finds its practical application in every facet of our lives. It reminds us that our choices should reflect our commitment to serving God above all else. In our relationships, we strive to exemplify God's love and forgiveness. In our professional endeavors, we uphold ethical standards that honor Him. Even in the seemingly insignificant details, such as what we watch, read, or listen to, we must consciously choose that which nourishes our souls and aligns with our devotion to love and serve the one true God.

Paradoxically, choosing to serve God as our sole Master grants us true freedom. As we surrender to His will and relinquish the pursuit of temporary worldly pleasures, we discover a liberation that transcends the superficialities of the material world. In prioritizing our relationship with God, we release the burdens of worry and anxiety, knowing that He is the provider of all our needs. By placing our trust in Him and acknowledging His sovereignty, we experience a profound sense of peace and contentment that surpasses all understanding.

Obedience to the first commandment, to have no other gods, requires a constant commitment to self-reflection and spiritual growth. In the depths of our hearts, we recognize the need for transformation, and it is through our obedience to God that this transformation unfolds. The prayer of St. Ephraim, often recited during Lent, serves as a guiding light on this journey. Its words penetrate our souls, revealing the areas in which we need purification and fortifying our resolve to serve God alone. "O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit in purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins and not to judge my brother; For You are blessed now and forever. Amen"

In a world overflowing with distractions and competing allegiances, the first commandment resonates as a timeless call to serve God as our sole Master. In embracing this commandment, we discover a profound freedom that transcends the fleeting pleasures of this world and opens up to us the doors of immortality and joy in God's presence.

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church Proudly Presents...

Family Sunday's



Independence Day Potluck PICNIC

2265 East Cherokee Drive
Woodstock, GA 30188

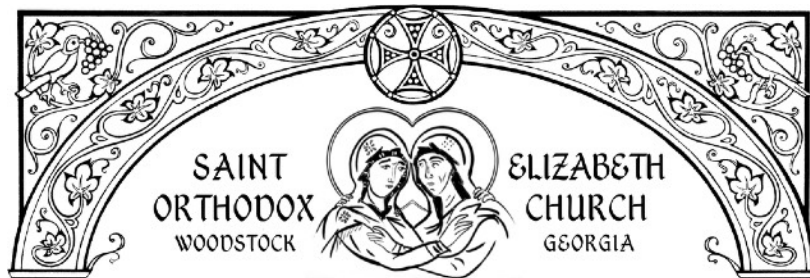
Following the Divine Liturgy on JULY 2nd

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!

Report on Parish Summer Meeting at Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

Date: June 4, 2023

Introduction: On June 4th, Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church held its parish summer meeting, coinciding with the feast of Pentecost. The meeting served as a platform for important discussions and announcements regarding various initiatives aimed at enhancing the stewardship and overall experience of the parishioners. This report provides a summary of the key points discussed during the meeting.



1. **Establishment of a New Stewardship Committee:** A new stewardship committee was introduced during the meeting. The committee, headed by Tripp Prince, Michael Mason, Elaine Filkins, and John Marion, aims to assist parishioners in utilizing their time, talents, and treasures in service to Christ and His Church. The committee's primary goal is to enable the church to pay Father's salary and transition from mission status. Additionally, it was announced that the parish would be contributing a portion of the annual salary for the remainder of the year.
2. **Introduction of the PA System:** Nick Hanzivasilis presented an update on the newly installed PA system, which includes speakers in the Church, Narthex, and Church exterior. This project has allowed the congregation to hear the bells inside the church and provides a dedicated space for children and families to be present while still being able to hear the service.
3. **Planned Maintenance and Upgrades:** Several necessary maintenance and upgrade projects were discussed during the meeting. These include:
 - Electrical maintenance in the church hall.
 - Installation of lighting in the parking lot and exterior of the church.
 - Replacement of the old temporary bakery (the shed) with permanent outdoor storage.
4. **Kitchen Cleanup and Organization Week:** To ensure the cleanliness and organization of the church kitchen, a dedicated week for kitchen cleanup and organization was scheduled for the week of June 25th. A sign-up sheet was placed on the bulletin board to allow interested volunteers to participate.
5. **Importance of Hospitality Ministry and Greeters:** The significance of having a hospitality ministry and greeters in the church was emphasized. These volunteers play a vital role welcoming parishioners and in helping them to navigate the pew book and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Additionally, a suggestion was made to include the order of the service in the weekly bulletin for easier reference. Please consider volunteering to participate in this ministry!
6. **Facebook Broadcasting:** John Marion expressed the need for a volunteer to assist with running the camera for Facebook broadcasting. This initiative aims to reach a wider audience and provide an opportunity for online viewers to participate in church services.
7. **Additional Chairs:** It was announced that 30 additional chairs were ordered for the church. These chairs have been assembled and are now available for use.
8. **A discussion was held on updating the parish directory and moving it to an online database.**

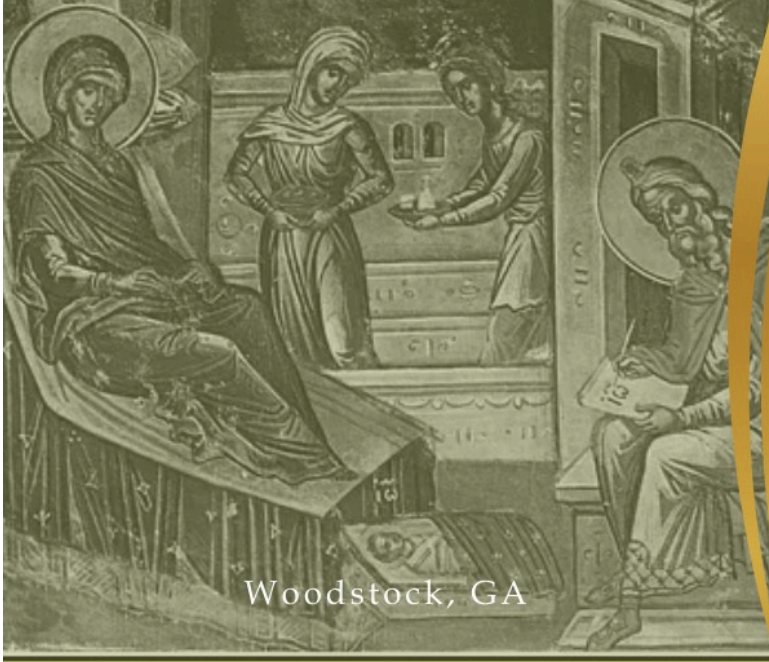
The parish summer meeting at Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church was successful in addressing various important matters. The establishment of the stewardship committee, updates on the PA system, planned maintenance projects, and the organization of the kitchen cleanup week were significant highlights. The meeting emphasized the importance of hospitality, and the ministry of greeting newcomers to the Orthodox Faith and our Parish Family. If you would like to assist in any of these ministries please let Fr. Matthew know! Thank you for all of your hard work, participation, support, and continued prayers for Saint Elizabeth's.

Please note that this report is a summary of the meeting's key points and does not include detailed discussions or individual contributions.



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Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



Woodstock, GA

The Nativity of John the Baptist

"The womb of Elizabeth, which was once barren, has become a fountain of prophecy, foreshadowing the Lamb of God." -Vespers of the Feast

"Elizabeth, the barren woman, conceives beyond hope, for God's promise is unchanging. In her old age, she carries the Forerunner. Let us, with voices of joy, sing together in harmony and say, 'Blessed art thou among women, O immaculate bride!'"

-From Matins of the Feast

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Adult Catechism Classes on Wednesday Evenings to Begin This Week.**
- Kitchen Clean Up Begins this Tuesday Morning!- a sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board. Later in the week we will need some help from folks willing to carry loads of stuff upstairs.
- Miss the Parish Meeting on 6/4? Check out the wrap up in this weeks bulletin.
- Please provide feedback on the "Order of the Service" on page two in the bulletin.
- **Sisterhood of Saints Dinner Friday June 23rd at the Gasperson Home-** Thank you to Sarah Gasperson and to all the women who helped make this lovely evening for the woman of our parish happen!
- **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 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+, 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+, Sarah Elizabeth +

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!