

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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7th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: *Romans 15:1-7*
Gospel: *Matthew 9:27-35*



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...

Topar & Kondak Tone 6 pg. 96

Kondak, Tone 6- O unashamed intercessor of Christians, * ever loyal advocate before the Creator, * do not disregard the prayerful voice 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!

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

Join us next door for
Coffee, Food, and
Fellowship in Christ!



Icon of Saint Elijah

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book



Monthly Schedule

- Tuesday 07/25 9 am-** Pirohi Making
- Wednesday 07/26- 5:30 pm-** Moleben followed by Adult Class (*Catechism*)
- Thursday 07/27 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Saturday 07/29 4 pm -** Great Vespers
- Sunday 07/30 10 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Monday 08/01-** *Dormition Fast Begins*
- Wednesday 08/02 5:30 pm-** Blessing of Water followed by Catechism Class
- Saturday 08/05 4 pm-** Great Vespers on the Eve of the Transfiguration
- Sunday 08/06 10 am-** Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord
- Tuesday 08/08 9 am-** Pirohi Making
- Wednesday 08/09- 5:30 pm-** Moleben followed by Adult Class (*Catechism*)
- Thursday 08/10 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Saturday 08/12 4 pm -** Great Vespers
- Sunday 08/13 10 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Monday 08/14 6 pm-** Great Vespers: Eve of the Dormition
- Tuesday 08/15 9 am-** Divine Liturgy: The Falling Asleep of the Mother of God
- Wednesday 08/16 5:30 pm-** Moleben followed by Adult Catechism Class
- Saturday 08/19 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 08/20 10 am-** Divine Liturgy

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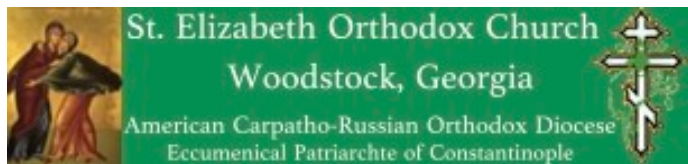
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Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).



Finding Strength in Prayer Amidst Life's Storms

"O God, You are our help and assistance, who is just and merciful, and who hears the supplications of Your people; look down upon me, a sinner, have mercy upon me, and deliver me from this trouble that besets me. I acknowledge and believe, O Lord, that all trials of this life sent by You; deal not with me after my sins, but according to Your bountiful mercy, for I am the work of Your hands, and You know my weakness. Grant me, I beseech You,



Your divine helping grace, and endow me with patience and strength to endure my tribulations with complete submission to Your Will. You know my misery and suffering and to You, my only hope and refuge, I flee for relief and comfort; trusting to Your infinite love and compassion, that in due time, when You know best, You will deliver me from this trouble, and turn my distress into comfort, and my sorrow into joy, when I shall rejoice in Your mercy, and exalt and praise Your Holy Name, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and ever, and forever. Amen." – A Prayer in Times of Trouble

Recently, the Atlanta area was hit by a powerful storm, leaving many facing the loss of power and damage to their homes. At the very same time, our friends, the Prince family experienced a far greater trauma when Tripp suffered from a heart attack. Thank God, Tripp is now on the road to recovery and will soon be reunited with his family at their home. Such storms of life, be it sickness, loss of loved ones, depression, anxiety, or the worries that accompany them, are experiences all too familiar to all of us.

In turbulent times, the Church always provides support to those in need. We are reminded that Christ never leaves anyone of us as orphans; rather, He guides us closer to Him, offering solace and salvation to those who listen for His voice and cry out for His help.

For Orthodox Christians, prayer is an essential part of our spiritual journey, especially in times of trouble. It serves as a powerful means of seeking communion with God, offering us peace amidst life's trials. Part of the prayer in times of trouble says, "O God, You are our help and assistance," This reminds us of God's mercy and compassion, urging us to place our trust and hope in His grace.

Through prayer, we are reminded that God is just, kind, merciful, and attentive to the prayers of His people. In prayer we deepen our relationship with God because it is how we speak to Him; it's how we get to know Him more deeply. No matter how isolated we may feel, we are never alone, God is always with us. Knowing God's love and mercy helps us to find meaning and purpose in life's trials. Rather than viewing these challenges as punishments, Orthodox Christians see them as opportunities for spiritual growth and the experience of the divine in their lives. When we pray in the midst of our suffering, we recognize God's great goodness and humbly seek His help in times of trouble.

Through this prayer we are invited to reflect on our shortcomings and sins, fostering humility and acknowledging our need for God's mercy and forgiveness. This is not meant to induce feelings of worthlessness but to embrace the healing and saving grace that only God can provide.

Finding Strength in Prayer Amidst Life's Storms

Central to Orthodox belief is the understanding of God's providence and His wise plan for salvation. The prayer in times of trouble urges believers to trust in God's deliverance and submit entirely to His will, even when, or better yet, especially when our will and God's will do not align. Through this surrender, believers demonstrate faith and trust in God's guidance, finding comfort in the knowledge that their struggles serve a divine purpose, ultimately leading to a deeper relationship with Him.

The prayer in times of trouble emphasizes the importance of Divine Grace in weathering life's storms. It reminds believers that we are not in control of the universe, only God is, and that we can only overcome life's challenges through His empowering grace. By seeking God's grace, believers display we show our trust in God and His transformative power.

Furthermore, the prayer implores God to grant patience and strength to endure life's tribulations, fostering spiritual resilience and a deeper trust in God's Providence. This desire to learn and grow through our struggles demonstrates our commitment to faith in Christ.

When reciting the prayer in times of trouble, we are usually in a state of distress. During such moments, the prayer redirects our focus away from our struggles and towards God who is the only source of refuge and comfort. God becomes our anchor, providing unwavering support and solace during life's storms. Trusting in God's infinite love and compassion, we find hope that, in due time, He will deliver them from their troubles.



The Orthodox prayer in times of trouble holds great significance for Orthodox Christians. It not only teaches us about God's nature, but also invites us into a profound relationship with Him. As we navigate the storms of life, this prayer serves as a compass, pointing us to God, Who is our Safe Harbor and Refuge. Trusting in Him, we can find the strength to endure, knowing that all trials of this life shall pass in His divine plan of salvation.

In the Proskomedie we are all remembered on one common plate, *the discos*, and placed next to our Lord, His Mother, the Saints, the Angels, the Martyrs, and the whole community of the Church both living and departed. By including the names of our loved ones, we acknowledge their presence within the community of God's Church and seek His blessings and intercession on their behalf.

Through this act of remembrance, we unite and lift up our hearts and souls in worship before the Altar of our God. As we come together to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, the offering of these names is a reminder of the love and spiritual support we offer to one another.

Please consider taking the time, along with the members of your family, to fill out and return one of the *Proskomedie Sheets* available in the

Proskomedie Prayer Sheet

<u>For the Living</u>	<u>For the Departed</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
	



The Feast of Saint Elijah

"An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the prophets, the second forerunner of the coming of Christ, glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha, to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers. Therefore, he pours forth healings on those who honor him."

-Hymn from the Vespers of Saint Elijah

Become a Member of Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Prayers for the Prince's Appreciated-** Tripp Prince is doing well and in good spirits as he recovers from an unexpected heart attack last week. Tripp, Rachel, Lilly, Emmie, and Charlie are all greatly appreciative of the the love, support, and prayers from all of you.
- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Adult Catechism Classes-** on Wednesday evenings continue this week.
- **Are You Receiving The Saint Elizabeth News-** and other Church emails?- Sign up on our website or by using this QR code. If you are still not receiving emails please check your spam folder.
- **6th Annual Woodstock International Food Festival -** Please see the information on pages 8 and 9 in the bulletin about placing an add in the commemorative booklet. The deadline to participate is approaching soon!



Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church
CAR BLESSING

SUNDAY
JULY
23rd



11:30 am

Following the Divine Liturgy

In Remembrance of the Feast Day of Saint Elijah



Today!

WOOKEE DRIVE - WOODSTOCK

Why do we Bless Fruits and Vegetables on the Feast of the Transfiguration?

In a few weeks on August 6th we will be celebrating the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord; the moment when Jesus Christ revealed His divine glory to His disciples on Mount Tabor. The story of the Transfiguration is described in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, where Jesus ascended the mountain with His disciples Peter, James, and John. On Mount Tabor, the divine light shone through Christ's earthly form, and He appeared transfigured, conversing with the great prophets Moses and Elijah. This profound showed the disciples and all of us who Christ truly is and what our the potential inside all of us is in Christ.



A beautiful and spiritually enriching tradition observed on this holy day is the blessing of fruits and vegetables. In remembrance of Christ's Transfiguration and as a sign of Thanksgiving, the faithful are encouraged to bring their "first fruits" to be blessed in the Church. This tradition is symbolic of the transformative journey that occurs within both the natural world and in the spiritual life. As the seedlings are transfigured into the fruits and vegetables we eat, we too are transfigured when we put aside our old self and put on Christ. Just like the smallest seed becomes the mighty oak tree, we too are called to reach up to the heights of heaven.

The act of blessing fruits and vegetables emphasizes God's hand in the creation of all things. Just as a seed develops and transforms into a fruitful plant, believers are encouraged to undergo a similar spiritual metamorphosis (*the Greek word for transfiguration*). The Feast of the Transfiguration serves as a reminder that every individual has the potential to grow and shine the light of Christ by embracing our Lord's teachings and becoming like Him.

In the process of nurturing plants, gardeners often prune away dead branches and weeds to promote healthy growth. Likewise, Orthodox Christians use the Feast of the Transfiguration as an opportunity to reflect on their own lives. By recognizing and letting go of sinful behaviors and thoughts, we strive to put aside their old self – one that is burdened by sin and imperfections and in its place put on Christ.

As fruits and vegetables are nourished by the soil and the sun, believers are encouraged to draw strength and life from their faith in Christ. By immersing ourselves in Christ's teachings and emulating His virtues, we can transform our lives, becoming beacons of our Lord's love, compassion, and forgiveness.

In nature, the smallest seed possesses the potential to become a towering tree. Similarly, the Feast of the Transfiguration shows us our spiritual potential. By seeking a deeper relationship with God, we are called to ascend towards the "heights of heaven," cultivating an intimate relationship with the Divine.

The blessing of fruits and vegetables on the Feast of the Transfiguration holds deep spiritual significance for Orthodox Christians. By reflecting on the transformative journey of seeds growing into fruit, believers are reminded of their own potential for spiritual growth and transfiguration. This sacred tradition serves as a beautiful reminder of the interconnectedness between humanity and nature and reminds us of our God given potential to become holy as our Lord God is holy.

So remember to bring your fruit and vegetables to be blessed in the Church on Sunday August 6th. More importantly, remember the God given potential in all of us to become holy as Christ our God is holy!

TRANSFIGURATION

OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

GREAT VESPERS SATURDAY 8/5 AT 4 PM

DIVINE LITURGY SUNDAY 8/6 AT 10 AM



SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

FRUIT BLESSING

After the Divine Liturgy on
SUNDAY 8/6 AT 10 AM

2265 EAST CHEROKEE DRIVEE
WOODSTOCK GEORGIA 30188

Coming Soon!



6th Annual Saint Elizabeth's



— October 7th and 8th, 2023 —

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

**You Can
Help Our Festival
SUCCEED!**

**You Can
Help Our Festival
SUCCEED!**

You can help make our Festival Souvenir Booklet a success this year, by placing a small ***note / comment / commemoration / thought / family photo / ad***

in the booklet for yourself or your family or by passing this information on to a friend or someone you do business with.

**Make a
MEMORY!**

Help Our Festival Succeed!

You can help make our Festival Souvenir Booklet a success this year, by placing a small ***note / comment / commemoration / thought / family photo / ad*** in the booklet for yourself or your family or by passing this information on to a friend or someone you do business with.

(See page 2 for formatting and cost))

You can submit your completed art in jpg, png or pdf format (at least 200dpi, please)

OR

you can write out a description, or scribble it on a piece of paper and we will do the art for you at no additional charge.

Send information to sajem@aol.com or if scribbled on a napkin, bring it to church.

Payment can be made at:

<https://www.woodstockinternationalfoodfestival.com/advertisements>

Be sure to note "Festival Ad" and your name.

Deadline for inclusion in the booklet is August 1, 2023

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, 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, Nick & 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, Julia, Dan, Cora, Gabriel, Ethan, Tripp, Rachel, Lilly, Emmie, Charlie

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!