

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



8th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: *1 Corinthians 1:10-18*
Gospel: *Matthew 14:14-22*



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 7 pg. 99

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.



The Feeding of the 5,000

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book



Monthly Schedule

Monday 08/01- *Dormition Fast Begins*

Wednesday 08/02 5:30 pm- Parakalis 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
5 pm- *Evangelism and Greeter Meeting / Welcome Bag Assembly - Everyone is Invited and Encouraged to Participate!*

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

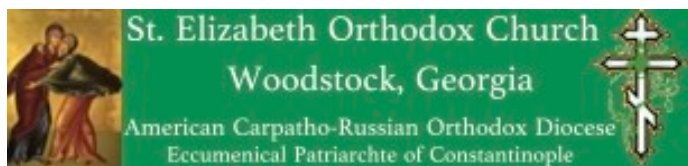
Tuesday 08/22 9 am- Pirohi Making

Wednesday 08/23 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Adult Catechism Class

Thursday 08/24 9 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 of the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).





Orthodox Christian
PRISON MINISTRY

WHO WE ARE

Donate to OCPM Today!

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church in the US and an agency of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops.



OUR MISSION

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry serves those who are incarcerated and their families, and provides resources, training, and support to our ministry partners so that lives are transformed and God is glorified.

WHAT WE DO

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT - Through our Correspondence Ministry, OCPM case managers maintain relationships with Orthodox and non-Orthodox prisoners over years and decades at a time.

CATECHISM & EDUCATION - We provide personalized spiritual care, Bibles, books, icons, and catechism study courses in the Orthodox faith. OCPM publishes our own books and icons, which have been designed for use in prison and are printed to meet the stringent rules of prison mailing rooms.

COACHING & COUNSELING - OCPM trains Orthodox priests and laypersons to visit and counsel those in prison, and we counsel families with loved ones in prison. We advocate for correctional facilities around the country to recognize the Orthodox faith so that priests can enter prisons and administer the Sacraments and services.

RE-ENTRY SUPPORT - OCPM counsels those recently released from prison and trains local churches in how to fully welcome and support someone through his or her re-entry.

YOUR 2022 IMPACT

2,555 icons sent

51,188 Bible studies, daily readings, and spiritual reflections sent

7,205 personalized letters sent and received

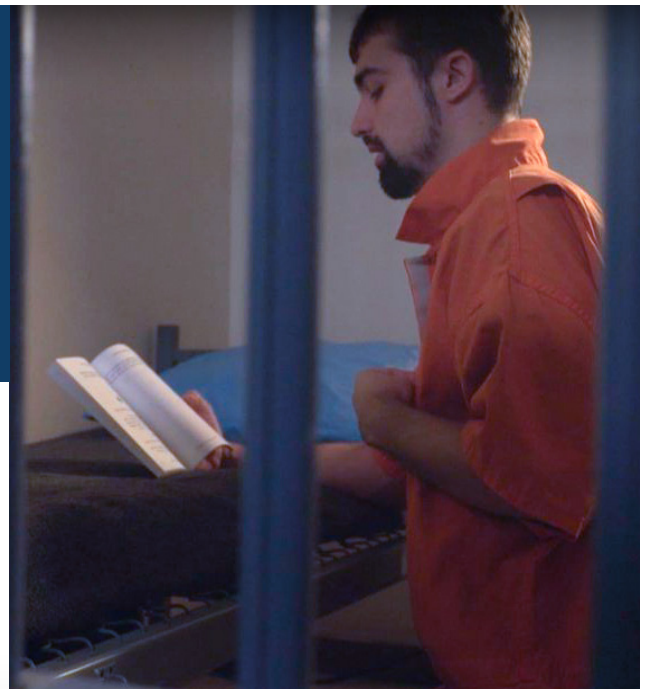
CONTACT US

276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183
New York, NY 10001

(347) 868-6957

LEARN MORE

WWW.THEOCPM.ORG





Orthodox Christian PRISON MINISTRY

[Donate to OCPM Today!](#)

PRISON MINISTRY AWARENESS SUNDAY

Did you know that there are Orthodox Christians practicing their faith in prison?

Or that there are prisoners who are ready to repent of their crimes and embrace the Orthodox Church?

Who will minister to them?

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry (OCPM) is the national prison ministry of the Orthodox Church. OCPM corresponds with thousands of prisoners across the country and provides spiritual books, Bibles, icons, and catechism courses. OCPM trains Orthodox priests and laypeople to enter prisons and minister to prisoners.



*“I was in prison,
and you visited Me.”
Matthew 25:36*

3,881

TOTAL PRISONERS MINISTERED TO

51,188

BIBLE STUDIES, DAILY READINGS, AND SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS SENT IN 2022

Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry
276 5th Avenue, Ste. 704-3183
New York, NY 10001

347-868-6957
info@theoacpm.org

WWW.THEOCPM.ORG



ASSEMBLY OF CANONICAL
ORTHODOX BISHOPS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Festival, The Dormition Fast, & Evangelism

As the Orthodox Church observes the Dormition Fast, it provides us with a great opportunity to deepen our faith in Christ. Fasting seasons provide us with an opportunity to nurture our relationship with God, hold onto it tightly, and put it into practice. The Church invites us to use this season for personal spiritual growth. With our upcoming festival only 10 weeks away, the Dormition Fast can help to spiritually prepare us for the special and holy work of sharing the beauty of the Orthodox Faith.

The Dormition Fast begins on August 1st and ends on August 15th, the commemoration of the falling asleep of the Virgin Mary. This feast was officially established in the 6th century, but the story of Mary's Dormition has been a pious custom of the Church since the days of the Apostles. This fasting season honors the exemplary life of the Mother of God and her obedience to God's will; it calls us to know and love Christ like His Mother knows and loves Him.

All Orthodox Christians are called to participate in the Dormition Fast through prayer, fasting, participating in the life of the Church, caring for the poor, and reflecting on the life of the Virgin Mary. It is a God given time to grow in our spiritual life, cultivating virtues, and seeking a deeper understanding of God's love and plan for our lives.

The Orthodox faith is a precious treasure, enriched by centuries of tradition, theology, and spirituality. As members of Christ Body who have a desire to share the faith, we must first recognize and appreciate the beauty and depth of our faith to share it effectively with others. In order to share the treasure of faith we need to use it and fasting seasons in the Church are given to use in order to encourage us to use the many gifts of the Church in order to know God more deeply.

The Church community plays a crucial role in supporting one another's spiritual growth. We all know the joys of seeing the friendly faces of our Church Family weekly. We look forward to being together in God's House. During the Dormition Fast (and all throughout the year) I invite you to think about how we can continue to make Saint Elizabeth's a welcoming and loving environment, how we can strengthen the bonds of fellowship and encourage one another to grow in Christ.

As the Woodstock International Food Festival approaches on the second weekend in October, the Dormition Fast serves our community as a special time to prepare for evangelism. By understanding

and experiencing the richness of our faith, we can confidently share it with others, inviting them to explore the truth and beauty of the Orthodox Church.

Continued on the Next Page....



The Festival, The Dormition Fast, & Evangelism (2 of 2)

Practically speaking, we can use this fasting period to set specific spiritual goals. Do I have a daily prayer routine? Am I reading spiritual texts? Have I gone to Confession lately? Have I been consistent in my Church attendance? Have I cared for those in need by loving my neighbor as my brother? Have I shown forgiveness and mercy to others as God shows it to me? As yourself these questions and see what you are able to do this Dormition Fast season. By setting achievable goals, you can experience a sense of accomplishment and growth in your faith.

Take time to examine your heart and identify areas of your life sins that need to be repented. Seek the Sacrament of Confession to experience spiritual healing and reconciliation to the Church. This is also a time to cultivate virtues like humility, compassion, and forgiveness. Strive to embody the qualities exemplified by the Virgin Mary in her life of faith.



On Saturday August 12th, after Vespers, our community is invited to come together to discuss evangelism and assemble visitor welcome bags. These thoughtful gifts can include informational materials about the Orthodox faith, a warm invitation to join worship services, a Saint Elizabeth mug, and small tokens of hospitality. If you have ideas for something for the welcome bag please share them with Father Matt or bring them with you on the 12th.

The Dormition Fast offers a transformative period for Orthodox Christians to grow in Christ, deepening their faith and understanding of the Church's treasure. By using this season for personal spiritual growth and focusing on evangelism our community is blessed with the opportunity to share the beauty of God's Church with the world around us, both during the Food Festival and throughout the year. My God bless us and guide us to Him so that we may know Him and love Him just like the Virgin Mary shows us by the example and beauty of her life.

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

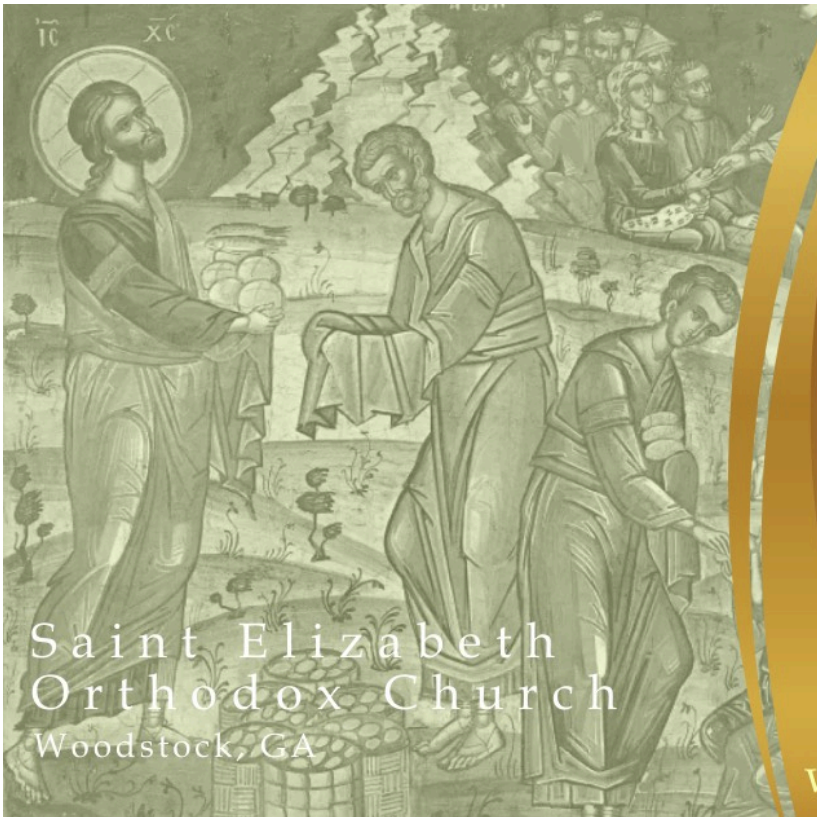
Proskomedie Prayer Sheet

For the Living



For the Departed





"O Christ our God, we have been miraculously fed by the multiplication of the loaves and fish, and now, having partaken of the divine Eucharist, we fervently beseech You: Grant that the multitudes of our passions may be overcome, by the intercessions of the Birthgiver of God, and all the saints. Amen."

Become a Member of Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Our Children are on their way to Camp Nazareth!-Sunday School Today!**
- **Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry Sunday-** Tim Furnish will be sharing a few words with us this morning about OCPM.
- **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 tomorrow!



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!

Camp Nazareth 2023

This week marks a special occasion for many of the children of our parish as they travel to Camp Nazareth. Camp is a beautiful and special place where God's peace is experienced. Please keep our young ones in your prayers throughout this exciting and meaningful week.

Alongside children from Saint John the Wonderworker in Atlanta and more than a hundred others from across the diocese, our "little saints" will immerse themselves in a unique Orthodox Christian experience summer camp experience. Camp Nazareth is not just another camp; it is "our piece of Paradise", where the focus is always placed on Christ, fostering an environment of joy, fellowship, and prayer.

This year, thanks to Tripp's efforts in organizing the travel arrangements, the camp experience is even more special for the young people of our parish as they will all be able to travel together in a 15-passenger van. We are grateful to Michael Mason and Mike & Elaine Filkins for their kindness in transporting the children to camp and volunteering for the week.

In the world today there are countless distractions and challenges that pull us away from our faith. Camp Nazareth is like an oasis for young people, providing them rest and solace in the midst of the busyness of the world. At camp our kids can embrace Christ and their spiritual life, free from worldly concerns, for an entire week. It is a place that our Metropolitan and many others fondly refer to as "our piece of Paradise and "the Jewel of the Diocese."

For our children, this week promises endless opportunities for summer fun, experiencing God's beauty in nature, and swimming in the Jr. Olympic sized pool. More importantly, it is an opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of the Orthodox Church and learn about who God is and who He created them to be all while cultivating lifelong friendships that are rooted in Christ and a shared faith in Him.

Please say extra prayers for our kids as they experience a week at Camp Nazareth as well as for those who begin the new school year. Pray to God for our young people to open their hearts, to learn, to make friends, and to grow in their faith, so that they may know the loving presence of Christ all the days of their lives.

Together, let us lift our voices in prayer, knowing that God's guidance and love will surround them throughout this special week.



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+ Ester+

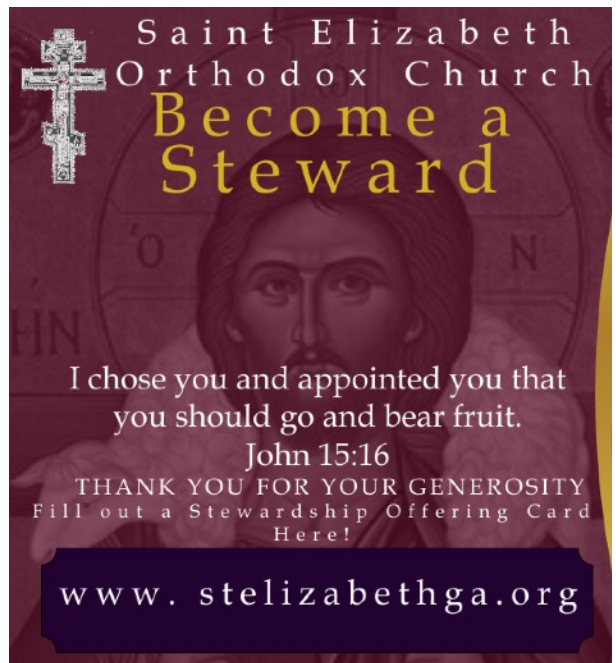
Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers & Mothers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!

Holy Saint Elizabeth Pray for us!



Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Eternal Memory!



Christ is Among us!