

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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11th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 9:2-12
Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35



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 2 page 84

Tropar and Kondak- for the Dormition on pg. 169

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



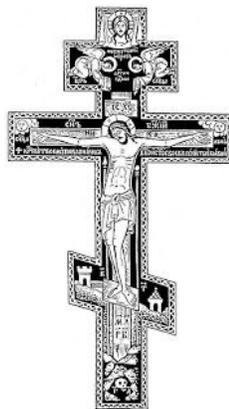
Join us next door for
 Coffee, Food, and
 Fellowship in Christ!



The Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God

May God Grant Many Happy and Blessed Years to the Newly Baptized Servant of God Eleanor Rose Morgan, her parents Blake and Natasha, and all of her Family and Loved Ones!

The Memory of Something Good... *“You must know that there is nothing higher and stronger and more wholesome and good for life in the future than some good memory...if one has only one good memory left in one's heart, even that may sometime be the means of saving us.”* -The Brothers Karmazov





Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

“Blessed Is the Kingdom” 2

The Great Litany of Peace2

First Antiphon5

Second Antiphon7

Hymn of the Incarnation.....10

The Beatitudes14

The Little Entrance16

Resurrection Tropar and Kondak (Tone 2).....84

Tropar and Kondak for the Dormition.....169

Trisagion (#2).....18

Prokimenon (Tone 2) 86

Epistle 1st Corinthians 9:2-12

Alleluia (#2)23

Verses 86

Glory to You, O Lord.....24

The Gospel Matthew 18:23-35

The Sermon.....Fr. Matthew

The Triple Litany.....25

Cherubic Hymn (#2).....28

The Great Entrance and Cherubic Hymn (Continued)33

The Creed37

The Anaphora 39

Holy, Holy, Holy (#2).....42

The Hymn of Praise 45

Hymn to the Birthgiver of God.....47

The Litany of Supplication..... 50

The Lord’s Prayer (#3).....54

The Communion Prayer 58

Communion Hymns.....59-62

In the Fear of God with Faith and Love Come Forward.....63

The Reception of Communion / Receive the Body of Chris...61

We have seen the True Light (#1).....64

Thanksgiving Hymn (#1)65

Thanksgiving Litany67

Amvon Prayer.....171

Announcements.....Fr. Matthew

The Dismissal.....71

Intonation for the Living.....72

Post Communion Prayers of Thanksgiving.....73

Monthly Schedule

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

Saturday 08/26 4 pm- Great Vespers
5 pm- Evangelism and Greeter Meeting / Welcome Bag Assembly - Everyone is Invited and Encouraged to Participate!

Sunday 08/27 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 08/29 9 am- Divine Liturgy: The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist
10 am- Pirohi Making

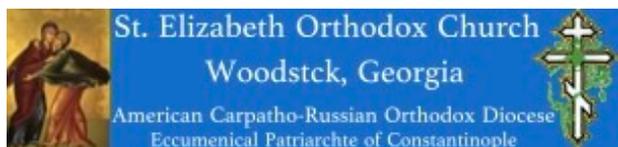
Wednesday 08/30 5:30 pm- Moleben followed by Adult Catechism Class

Sunday 09/03 10 am- Deacon’s Service

Tuesday 09/05 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Patronal Feast of Saint Elizabeth

Saturday 09/09 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 09/10 10am- Divine Liturgy: Parish Celebration of our Patron Saint Elizabeth: Parish Family Sunday



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).

Mary's Vocation and Our Own

As we approach the conclusion of the Church year (8/31), the message of hope that the Mother of God imparts to us resonates deeply. Her life and her passing guide us on the path of salvation, illuminating our spiritual journey and pointing us always in the direction of her Son; our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The hymns of this major feast day in the Church resound with the proclamation that the Mother of Life transcends from one state of existence to another. Mary passes not from life to death, but from life to life. Mary¹ is the Mother of Life. She carried within her womb the uncreated God who, in an act of humility, entered the world through her, in order to save us from death and give to us eternal life. Mary is the living Temple of the Living God. The Theotokos was called by God to serve all of creation in this most special way, and she choose to say yes to the will of God in every moment of her life.

Mary is not set apart from the rest of us. She is called to holiness just as we all are, she is human just like the rest of us. What makes her special is that by her own choice, she continually says "yes" to God and "no" to sin. Just like every human being that has ever and will ever live, Mary has the ability to choose. She has free will and the potential to turn away from God's call and disregard her extraordinary vocation, but she remains steadfast in her faith and love for her Son and God.

The story of Mary always points us toward Christ. She exemplifies what faith is through her unwavering submission to the will of God. Mary's life is a testament to her obedience to God's will. She trust's God's calling for her and responds with a resounding "Yes, Lord!" to the call she received. She made the conscious decision to embrace life and light over the darkness of sin and death. Through her choices, she demonstrates that we, too, can follow her example and aspire to imitate her holy life, just like the countless saints throughout history.

The passage from life on earth to life in the kingdom of heaven is a journey that we are all called to, and the Birthgiver of God shows us the way. The promise and great human potential for holiness revealed by Christ's Transfiguration finds its realization in Mary's life and passing. This very promise of salvation, extended to the repentant thief and all humanity, is echoed in the life of Mary and all the great saints of the Church. Mary along with the choir of saints and angels proclaim with faith the words of Saint Paul, "Here I am, Lord, send me!"

Loving Jesus in the manner that Mary did holds the key to passing from life to life rather than from life to death – this is what we see vividly in the icon of the Dormition. In the icon for the feast we Christ receive the pure soul of His mother, Mary. This symbolizes the hope that we too can pass from life to life, if we love Christ in the same way that Mary loves Him. Just as Christ calls Mary to holiness and to the fullness of life in Him, He calls us all to the same life. Mary is a temple of the living God, and we are called to be the same.

Saint Paul's words remind us that we too temples of the living God. Just as Mary housed God within her, we too possess the potential to be dwelling places for the Life-Creating Spirit. Crafted in the divine image and likeness, we are designed for holiness, blessedness, and salvation within God's Kingdom. Our purpose as living Temples of the Holy Spirit is to radiate the light of God for all to witness.

Just as Mary carried God within her womb and became a living Temple of the Living God, we are also called to embody this holy and divine calling. We are created to be Temples of the Holy Spirit and receive Christ, the Holy One into very being through the reception of Holy Communion. As we strive to emulate Mary's example, we seek her intercession and prayers, asking the Mother of God to guide us toward the fulfillment of our divine purpose – to become living Temples of the Living God.

Mary is always showing us the way, pointing to her living Son, our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Icon of the Feast of the Dormition Explained [from www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org)

In the center of this Icon we see Christ appearing in His Glory, and holding in his arms the pure soul of His Mother. The Apostles encircle the Mother of God bowing their heads in honor of her. On the left Saint Peter censes the body of the Virgin Mary while Saint Paul bows low before her on the right.

Together with the Apostles are several bishops and women. The bishops traditionally represented are James, the brother of the Lord, Timothy, Heirotheus, and Dionysius the Areopagite. They are shown wearing episcopal vestments. The women are members of the church in Jerusalem.

In front of the bed of the Theotokos is a candle, and a boat of incense, which that helps to form a central axis in the icon. Above the candle is the body of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary. Standing over His mother is Christ holding her most pure soul. Christ is surrounded by His angels who are reflecting His Glory. Above Christ, the gates of heaven stand open, ready to receive the Mother of God.

This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.

The Mother of Life

Did you know that some fetal cells are passed from the child to the mother and remain with her after her pregnancy and even all throughout her life? The cells of the mother are also exchanged and remain with her children throughout their lives. We've all heard of "mother's intuition", and it seems there is some science to back up this classic expression. As parents we can usually tell when something isn't right with our kids, but there is just something about moms that is special. The bond between mother and child is truly incredible and mysterious.



Scientists have found that what these fetal cells are doing inside their mother is quite remarkable. When a mother experiences an illness, the living cells of her children within her body have been identified in the vicinity of the disease. Initially, researchers thought that these cells might be linked to the cause of the mother's ailment. However, studies now show that these cells are working to combat the illness, safeguarding the mother's well-being. This may mean that mothers have a unique ability to heal through the cells of their own children.

The creation of human life and motherhood itself are great mysteries of this life. This is even more so in the case of the Birthgiver of God. By being the Mother of God, Mary becomes a living Temple, a moving sanctuary, embodying the Divine in her human womb. Remember, some of the fetal cells of children stay with the mother throughout her life. This means that the fetal cells of our Lord stayed within His earthly Mother all throughout her life. To me, this speaks to the beauty of our Lord's Incarnation. That God would descend the Heavens and take on our form. The God who created the universe out of nothing became as the tiniest cell within Mary's womb.

Following her peaceful passing, Mary did not go from life to death; rather, she passed from this life on earth to life in Paradise with Christ. Mary shows us the destiny for all of us who love Christ and serve Him. The Feast of the Dormition commemorates Mary's holy life, her passing, her resurrection, and her sanctification. As the New Eve, she has tasted the heavenly fruit of life, preceded only by Christ, the firstborn from the dead. The grave could not contain Mary, just as it couldn't confine Christ, her Son and God.

As we celebrate the Dormition of the Mother of God all of this gives us something to think about. Remember those fetal cells transferred from child to mother? This would imply that Mary carried Christ's Divine human cells within her all throughout her life. Perhaps they helped heal her when she was ill and perhaps those cells helped to comfort her in some mysterious way at the foot of the Cross. Even after Christ's death, resurrection, and, ascension to heaven, the tiniest cells of the Creator lingered within the Mother of God. This would mean that following Christ's Resurrection and Mary's falling asleep, that not even the smallest of Christ cells could not be conquered by the grave. Christ is the giver of life and has trampled death by His own death. "The tomb and death had no power over the Birthgiver of God". (*Kondak of the Feast*). This is a great and holy mystery, but faith and science do not need oppose each other. When God is put at the forefront, science is an avenue to unravel the profound mysteries of God's creation.

St. Cyril of Alexandria, in his writings defending the title "Theotokos" during the Council of Ephesus, stressed Mary's unique and sinless role in bearing Christ. He argued that her purity and holiness were prerequisites for bearing the Son of God. Faith and Holiness is something that Mary choose. She cooperated with the will of God and answered her calling. We are all human just like Mary, and God is calling all of us to holiness, salvation, and sanctification just like He called Mary. Our Lord is calling us out of the grave and into His loving arms, but we need to know His voice, just like Mary does!

The Dormition of the Mother of God

Please unscramble the words below



Created on TheTeachersCorner.net [Word Scramble Maker](http://WordScrambleMaker.com)

1. LNLIAGF AELSEP

Dormition means...

2. HATSOM

On the third day after Mary's dormition, this apostle arrived to venerate her.

3. EDBSSEL

Before Mary reposed, she _____ all the disciples who appeared before her.

4. SFRELWO

On the feast of Dormition the Church blesses these.

5. EMGSNAHTEE

This is the name of the garden where you can find the tomb of the Birhgiver of God.

6. YRLAMILUSUCO

The apostles were _____ transported from all over the world to the bedside of the Mother of God before her dormition.

7. VECEERDI

Witho ut any pain, Mary fell-asleep in the Lord and her Son _____ her soul.

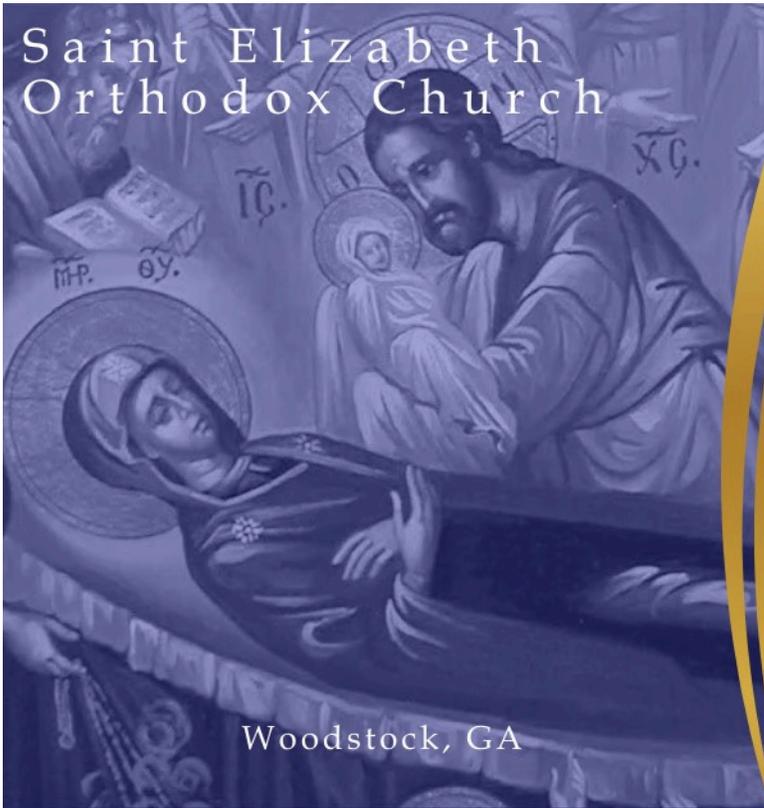
8. VHNEEA

After three days Mary's tomb was opened and her body was not there; it has been taken up to _____.

9. OLUS

In the Icon of the feast, Christ is cradling and receiving the _____ of His most pure Mother.

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



Woodstock, GA

When the Translation of your immaculate body was being prepared, the Apostles surrounded your deathbed and looked on you with trembling. They gazed at your body and were seized with awe, while Peter cried out to you with tears: "O Virgin, I see you, who are the life of all, lying here outstretched, and I am struck with wonder; for the Delight of the life to come made His dwelling in you. But fervently implore your Son and God, O immaculate Lady, that your people may be kept safe from harm!" -From Vespers on the Feast of the Dormition

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Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Flower Blessing-** Today at the Conclusion of the Divine Liturgy - in honor of the Feast of the Falling Asleep of the Mother of God
- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Interested in learning how our bells are rung?-** Want to be an evangelist to the rest of the world with their sound? Become an Orthodox bellringer! Ideal skills/qualities: good sense of rhythm, basic understanding of music theory, must be tall enough to comfortably control the bell system. Reach out to Graham Greene for more information (grahamgreene22@gmail.com).
- **Festival Testimonial Booklet-** Do you remember the beautiful articles written by the members of our parish family that were published in the Paschal Bulletin? This was such a beautiful gift and I am hoping that you are all willing to do this again. I am asking that everyone in the parish write a short (2 page maximum) article about what the Orthodox Faith means to them. How has the Church helped you to know Christ? Why did you become or remain Orthodox throughout your life? What do you love about the Church? How does has the Church enabled you to use your talents to glorify God? These are just some ideas to give you a starting point. The purpose of this is to be able to share part of what you have gained in your life in the Church with a newcomer. The goal will be to have all of our stories printed in a booklet to have in the Narthex all year round and especially to share with people at our Festival. Please send your article to me by the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross on September 14th.
- **Welcome Bag for Visitors and Greeter Training Meeting-** Moved to Saturday August 26th at 5 pm following Vespers.- We all need to be greeters who welcome newcomers with love and faith to our parish family. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate!
- **6th Annual Woodstock International Food Festival** - Have you considered placing an add, family photo, or congratulatory note in the festival commemorative booklet? If you would like to participate please speak with Johnny Sajem ASAP!
- **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.



Proskomedia Prayer Sheet

For the Living

Fill One Out Today!



For the Departed



In the Proskomedia 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 *Proskomedia Sheets* available in the Narthex by the candles.

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!

Send Information for your add to Johnny Sajem at saiem@aol.com

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, Michelle

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+, Saddie+, 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!

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!