

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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12th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 19:16-26



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!

Christ is Among us!

This Week's Music...

Tropar & Kondak Tone 3 pg. 87

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!



AGIOGRAFIA
 ICONS STUDIO

Icon of Christ the Teacher



Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

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Monthly Schedule

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

10 am- Nut Roll Baking

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

10 am- Nut Roll Baking

Thursday 09/07 6 pm- Great Vespers: The Feast of Nativity of the Mother of God

Friday 09/08 9 am- Divine Liturgy: The Feast of Nativity of the Mother of God

Saturday 09/09 4 pm- Great Vespers

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

Tuesday 09/11 9 am- Pirohi Making

Wednesday 09/13 5:30 pm- Great Vespers: Exaltation of the Life Giving Cross - Followed by Adult Catechism Class

Thursday 09/14 9 am- Divine Liturgy: The Feast of Exaltation of the Life Giving Cross

Saturday 09/16 4 pm- Great Vespers

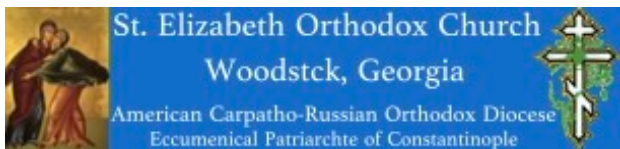
Sunday 09/17 10 am- Divine Liturgy: Sunday after the Elevation of the Cross

Sunday 09/24 10 am- Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 09/26 9 am- Pirohi Making

Wednesday 09/27 5:30 pm- Moleben & Class

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).



Make Sure to Note The New Dates of the Festival on Your Calendar!



**Save the Date!!!
October 14th & 15th**

Join us for the 6th Annual Woodstock International Food Festival!

Full Menu at

www.woodstockinternationalfoodfestival.com



Mary Mother of God

Pray for us!

The Relevance of the Desert Fathers: Learning from the Life of Venerable Father Poemen

As we commemorate the feast of the Desert Ascetic Father Poemen (8/27), we delve into the lives of these ancient saints known as the Desert Fathers, seeking to uncover the timeless wisdom they offer to us even after nearly 2,000 years. Venerable Father Poemen (340-450), an Egyptian ascetic, stands as a testament to the enduring relevance of their teachings in our lives today.

In his early years, Poemen demonstrated a remarkable thirst for spiritual knowledge. Like a diligent bee gathering honey from flowers, he visited renowned spiritual elders, absorbing their wisdom and experiences. This pursuit of wisdom led him to Elder Paisius, who prophetically exclaimed upon seeing Poemen, "This child will save many; the hand of God is with him." This encounter foreshadowed Poemen's profound impact on the lives of those who would cross his path.

The monastic life called to Poemen, and he eventually became a monk, drawing his two brothers into the same path. Even when his mother sought to visit her sons, Poemen posed a profound question: "Do you desire more to see us here or there in eternity?" This question encapsulated the Desert Fathers' perspective – a focus on the eternal, rather than the temporal.

Together with his brothers, Poemen followed a disciplined routine. Their days were marked by prayer, work, and reading. This disciplined life spoke volumes about their commitment to simplicity, a virtue that resonates deeply in our modern age of excess. Their practice of a single daily meal reminds us of the power of self-control, moderation, and the reliance that we place on God to be the "daily bread" that feeds our souls.

In the face of adversity, Poemen's resilience shone. Forced to flee from raiders, he and his companions established themselves in a new location. This experience mirrors the challenges we encounter in life – unexpected storms that demand adaptability and faith.

Perhaps one of the most enduring contributions of Poemen and his companions was the creation of the *Apophthegmata Patrum*, or Sayings of the Desert Fathers. Through this collection, the collective wisdom of the monks was preserved and passed down through the ages. These sayings, rooted in the practical wisdom of the desert, continue to guide and inspire Orthodox Christians and spiritual seekers today.

Poemen was, often described as a wise shepherd, known for his humility and compassion. His tolerance for the weaknesses of others shows us the importance of having understanding, empathy, and forgiveness in our interactions with others. In a world that demands instant results, patience is a necessary virtue that Father Poemen teaches us through the ages.

As we reflect on the life of Venerable Father Poemen, we recognize that his legacy extends far beyond the pages of history. The Desert Fathers' emphasis on detachment from materialism, dedication to prayer, and cultivation of virtues remains as relevant as ever. Their focus on the eternal invites us to reconsider our priorities in a world often dominated by the fleeting and superficial.

In a time where distractions abound and the noise of modern life can drown out the voice of the soul, the Desert Fathers, exemplified by Poemen, call us to seek the profound silence within. Their wisdom guides us toward a life of simplicity, inner reflection, and spiritual growth. As we celebrate the feast of Venerable Father Poemen, let us embrace the lessons he offers, allowing them to illuminate our paths in the modern desert of our lives.

Take some time this week to look up and enjoy the short and inspirational bits of spiritual wisdom from the lives of the Desert Fathers.



Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

"A brother once visited Abba Poemen. As they were sitting with some other people, the visitor praised a certain brother, saying that he was a hater of evil. "What does it mean to hate evil?" Abba Poemen asked him. The brother was at a loss and could not find a suitable answer. He got up at once, made a prostration to the Elder, and said to him: "Abba, What is hatred of evil?" And the Elder replied: "He who hates his own sins and justifies his neighbor has attained to hatred of evil." -Abba Poeman (Feast Day 08/27)

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Woodstock International Food Festival Dates:** Saturday October 14th and Sunday October 15th - Please save this date on your calendar. Sorry for any confusion!
- **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-** Thank you to everyone for helping out with this important activity for the ministry of our community and for the glory of Christ's Church!
- **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 important 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+, 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+, 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!



6th Annual Saint Elizabeth's



— October 14th and 15th, 2023 —
Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church