

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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14th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14



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 & Kondak Tone 5- Page 93

Tropar & Kondak for the Feast Tone 4- Page 106

Kondak of Saint Elizabeth Tone 4- Like the full moon, you received the light of righteousness* from the Messiah, the noetic Sun,* O Elizabeth beloved of God,* and with Zacharias you walked in all the commandments of the Lord.* Wherefore, blessing you with worthy hymns,* we magnify the Lord, the most compassionate Light, Who illumines all.

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



Feasts of Saint Elizabeth and the Birth of Mary



Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

Monthly Schedule

- 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 9 am-** Divine Liturgy for the Departed
- 5:30 pm-** Moleben & Catechism Class
- Saturday 9/30 4 pm-** Great Vespers: Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God
- Sunday 10/01 10 am-** Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Protection of the Mother of God - Parish Family Sunday
- Monday 10/02 9 am-** Cabbage Coring and Steaming for Halupki
- Tuesday 10/03 9 am-** Halupki Making
- Wednesday 10/04 5:30 pm-** Moleben & Catechism Class
- Saturday 10/07 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 10/08 10 am-** Divine Liturgy: Festival Volunteer Training & Festival Dry Run During Coffee Hour
- Monday 10/09 9 am-** Cabbage Coring

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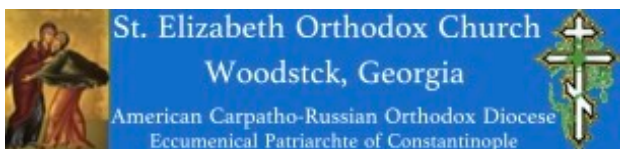
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Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).

Christ is Among us!



Festal Procession on the Feast of Saint Elizabeth

After "Blessed be the name of the Lord..." To Take Place on the Interior of the Church

During the Procession the Church is Blessed with Holy Water and we sing:

Tone 2 Celebrating the memory of Your righteous ones,* Zacharias and Elizabeth,* O Lord, through them we entreat You to save our souls!

Tone 8 You made the barren wilderness fertile with the streams of your tears;* and by your sighing you have given fruit by your struggles a hundredfold.* Accordingly, you become a star for the universe, sparkling with miracles.* Therefore, O righteous Mother Elizabeth,* intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Kondak Tone 4 Like the full moon, you received the light of righteousness* from the Messiah, the noetic Sun,* O Elizabeth beloved of God,* and with Zacharias you walked in all the commandments of the Lord.* Wherefore, blessing you with worthy hymns,* we magnify the Lord, the most compassionate Light, Who illumines all.

At each of the four stops, we have a reading from the Gospel:

Matthew 6:14-21, Mark 11:23-26, Luke 7:36-50, John 20:19-31

Litany After the Procession

D: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

R: Lord, have mercy. (three times)

D: Furthermore we pray the He will preserve this city and this church, and every city and countryside from pestilence, famine, earthquake, flood, fire, sword, foreign invasion, civil war and riot; and that our good God Who loves mankind will be graciously favorable to us and hear us, and that He will turn away from us all anger stirred up against us, and that He will deliver us from all his righteous punishment which we deserve, and that He will have mercy upon us.

R: Lord, have mercy. (three times)

D: Furthermore we pray that the Lord God will hear the voice of supplication of us sinners, and have mercy on us.

R: Lord, have mercy. (three times)

Pr: Hear us, O God our Savior, hope of all those who live at the far ends of the world and of those far out at sea. Be kind to us, O Master; forgive us our sins and have mercy on us. For You are gracious and You love mankind, and we give glory to You, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

R: Amen.

Then the Usual Dismissal.



Our Patron Saint...Feast Day on September 5th

Patron saints hold a special place in the life of our Orthodox Church communities. They are more than just namesakes; they are spiritual guides and intercessors who connect us to our faith's rich heritage. Through their exemplary lives and devotion to Christ, our patron saints inspire us to walk the path of righteousness that leads to Christ. They are not distant figures of the past but active intercessors who pray for us, guide us, and offer their heavenly support in our daily lives. This is what Saint Elizabeth does for us, she is always praying for us and pointing us to salvation in Christ. As we gather to celebrate the feast day of Saint Elizabeth, the beloved patron of our parish, let us reflect upon the significance of her faithful life and how her enduring testimony can help grow our faith and impact our daily lives.

As the Patron Saint of our Church, Saint Elizabeth holds a special place in our hearts. Elizabeth is the cousin of Mary, the Birthgiver of God, as described in the Gospel of Luke (1:36). She was married to the righteous prophet Zachariah, and their story is one of unwavering faith. Despite their old age and barrenness, they remained faithful, and their prayers were answered when they were blessed with the birth of their son, Saint John the Baptist, the Forerunner of the Lord.

Prior to the conception of Saint John the Baptist, Zachariah encountered the angel Gabriel in the Temple and was told that he and Elizabeth would conceive a child in their old age. Zachariah's speech was taken from him for a time because of his initial doubt when he encountered the angelic message regarding the birth of his son, Saint John (Luke 1:18-20). Remarkably, Saint John began his divine ministry even before birth, as witnessed when Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, recognized the presence of the Messiah within Mary's womb (Luke 1:41).

Beyond the sacred Scriptures, Church Tradition offers additional insights into the lives of Elizabeth and Zachariah. Following the birth of Saint John the Baptist, Zachariah's speech was restored, and he returned to the Temple. Herod's soldiers, in their quest to find the Messiah, confronted Zachariah within the sacred sanctuary. When he refused to reveal Christ's location, Herod's guards mercilessly took his life. In the wake of her husband's tragic passing, Elizabeth sought refuge in the wilderness with her young son, to escape Herod's grasp. Here, Elizabeth prayed for divine protection, and by a miraculous intervention, a cave opened up in the side of a mountain, and a stream and fruit tree provided sustenance for them. After forty days, Elizabeth peacefully departed this world, leaving her son in the care of an angel who nurtured him until he began his prophetic ministry.

Continued on the Next Page



Our Patron Saint...Feast Day on September 5th

Saint Elizabeth's life, as portrayed in both Holy Scripture and Holy Tradition, serves as an inspiring example for all of us. She and Zachariah faced societal judgment due to their inability to bear children—an unjust stigma prevalent in the ancient Jewish tradition. However, their faith in God's plan never wavered. They persevered through the judgmental whispers and insinuations of their community, ultimately being honored as the parents of the greatest man born of woman, Saint John the Baptist, according to the words of our Lord.

Amidst the hurtful whispers and judgments, Saint Elizabeth remained a steadfast model of faith, patience, love, humility, and purity of heart. She exemplified the qualities that bind us to God and transform us into the image of Christ—the very Christ she awaited, the Christ her son foretold and baptized. This is the same Christ whose death, resurrection, and ascension liberated us from the bondage of sin and death—the God whom Saint Elizabeth trusted, prayed to, and loved. The very same God that she as our Patron points us towards today.

During the Vespers of Saint Elizabeth's feast day, we are reminded that throughout her challenging life, she faithfully "kept the commandments of the Law" and "walked in the commandments of the Lord." Furthermore, the Vespers emphasize her profound love for God and her neighbors, even those who judged and ridiculed her. The fruits of her loving kindness and patience bore witness to her unwavering faith—she gave birth to the final and greatest of the prophets. Imagine the motherly pride she must have felt as her son baptized the Creator of the Universe and the Savior of our souls in the Jordan River.

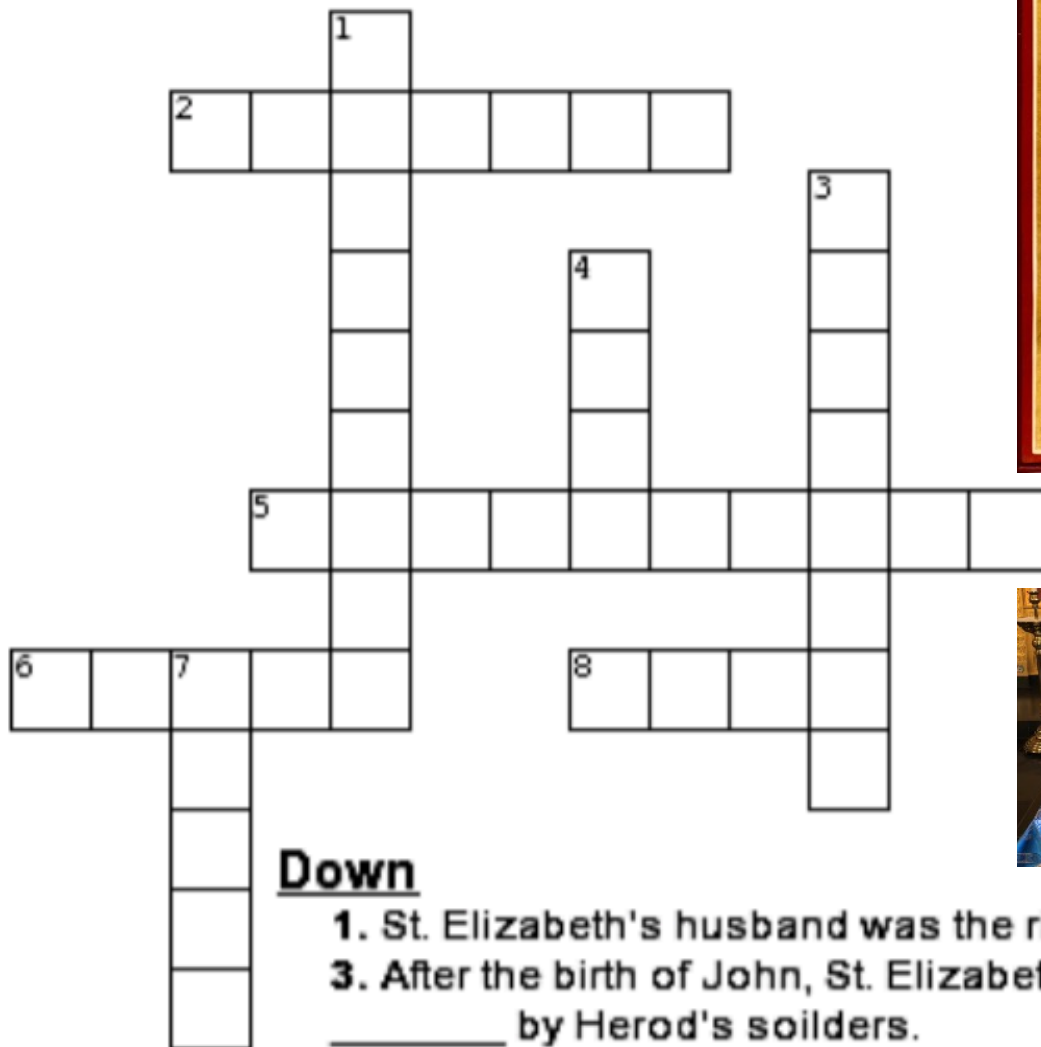
Saint Elizabeth's life was undeniably marked by difficulties, but her enduring patience, love for her neighbors, love for God, righteousness, and holiness stand as a timeless example for all of us. We are truly blessed to call her our patron Saint. Let us always remember her as she remembers us, love her as she loves us, and pray for her as she prays for us. We should humbly ask Saint Elizabeth to intercede on our behalf, that we may partake in the holiness which she so beautifully embodied throughout her life.

May Saint Elizabeth's inspiring legacy continue to guide and uplift us as we celebrate her feast day with reverence, devotion, and joy; and may she always guide us to Christ our God by her holy prayers!



Happy St. Elizabeth's Day!

Complete the crossword below



Down

- 1. St. Elizabeth's husband was the righteous...
- 3. After the birth of John, St. Elizabeth's husband was _____ by Herod's soldiers.
- 4. St. Elizabeth prayed before a mountain and a _____ was opened up to her and St. John.
- 7. After _____ days together with her son in hiding, St. Elizabeth fell asleep in the Lord.

Across

- 2. St. Elizabeth is always _____ for us.
- 5. after the passing of Zachariah, Elizabeth and John escaped to the....
- 6. St. Elizabeth's Feast day falls on September the...
- 8. St. Elizabeth never lost _____ and faith in God.

The Nativity of the Birthgiver of God

The Feast of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, celebrated on September 8th, marks the first major feast of the Orthodox Church's Calendar liturgical year. This feast is beautifully complemented by the Feast of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, which occurs in August at the end of the Church year, effectively framing the story of salvation within the annual liturgical cycle.

The origins of the Nativity of the Virgin Mary are not recounted in the Gospels, nor do they appear elsewhere in the New Testament. Instead, Orthodox Christians turn to Church Tradition and the second-century non-canonical work known as the Protoevangelium of James (or the Gospel of Saint James) for insight into this blessed event. This ancient text, while not part of the canon of scriptures, provides valuable details about the birth and early life of the Mother of God, emphasizing her perpetual virginity—before, during, and after the birth of Christ.

According to the narrative presented in the Protoevangelium of James, Joachim and Anna, devout and righteous individuals, faced the sorrow of childlessness for many years. Despite their fervent faith and dedication to God, their prayers for children remained unanswered, causing them great distress.

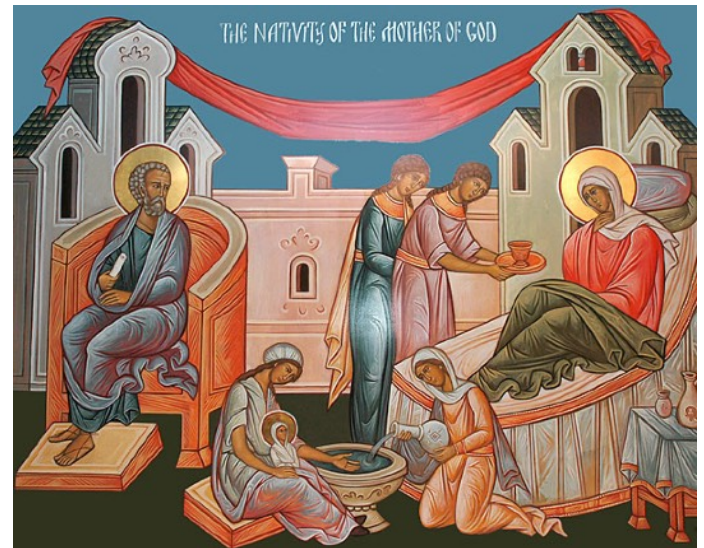
One pivotal day, Joachim went to the Temple with the intention of making an offering, only to be met with rejection by the High Priest, who chastised him for his perceived sinfulness due to his lack of children. Overwhelmed with shame, Joachim withdrew to the hill country, seeking solace and devoting himself to prayer and solitude.

While Joachim was immersed in the wilderness in fervent prayer, his wife Anna was similarly engaged in devout prayer within their home. It was during this profound moment of devotion that an angel of the Lord appeared simultaneously to both Joachim and Anna. The angel delivered the astounding news that Anna would conceive and bear a child—a child whose name would resound throughout the world.

In response to this divine revelation, Anna pledged to dedicate the child to God and His Holy Temple when the time was right. Joachim returned to their home, and in due course, Mary, who would become the Birthgiver of God, was conceived and born.

This event, as recounted in the Protoevangelium of James, underscores the miraculous nature of the Virgin Mary's birth and her extraordinary role in the divine plan of salvation. It is a narrative cherished by Orthodox Christians, and it sets the stage for the unfolding of the Church Calendar, guiding the faithful through a year of profound spiritual significance, reflection, and worship. In contemplating the Nativity of the Virgin Mary, Orthodox believers are reminded of the sacred and timeless story of God's love and providence, heralding the Incarnation of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ and the Salvation that he offers to all mankind.

As we celebrate the Nativity of the Virgin Mary the words of St. Gregory of Nyssa so beautifully guide us into a greater understanding of who Mary is. Saint Gregory says, *"What words can adequately describe the ineffable richness of Mary, this woman from the race of the Israelites who is lifted up above the choirs of angels?"* St. Gregory marveled at the incomprehensible depth of Mary's holiness, acknowledging her unique status as a woman of the Israelite lineage, a human being the same as all of us in every way, who transcends even the angelic choirs. In celebrating the birth of the Mother of God on this hallowed day, Orthodox Christians are reminded of the exalted role that Mary plays in the divine plan of Salvation, serving as a bridge between humanity and the celestial realms, and as a source of boundless inspiration and reverence for all believers throughout the ages.



Nativity of the Birthgiver of God Word Search

G T D R A L F H L D E G G T R
 A S F J Y I J O A C H I M E R
 B S J I R H C S T L S U B B K
 R E P S G T H Y R C Y M M E S
 I L T R A Q O E F R E A I G F
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 O I G A W T Z Y X L Q E E I L
 P J K N Y B K R K F Q Y R G G
 D G F M O A D I F U Y N Z Q F

Clues

The parents of Mary were 1. _____ and 2. _____.

For many years Mary's parents remained 3. _____.

The Feast of Mary's Nativity is celebrated in the Church on 4. _____ 8th.

Both of Mary's parents where 5. _____ to God at the same time, asking Him to bless them with a child.

The Archangel 6. _____ announced the good news to them!

The Nativity of the Mother of God is the 7. _____ major Feast Day in the Church year.

Mary's mother promised our Lord that she would offer Mary to Him as a 8. _____.

Make Sure to be here to support the Church during our festival!



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

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

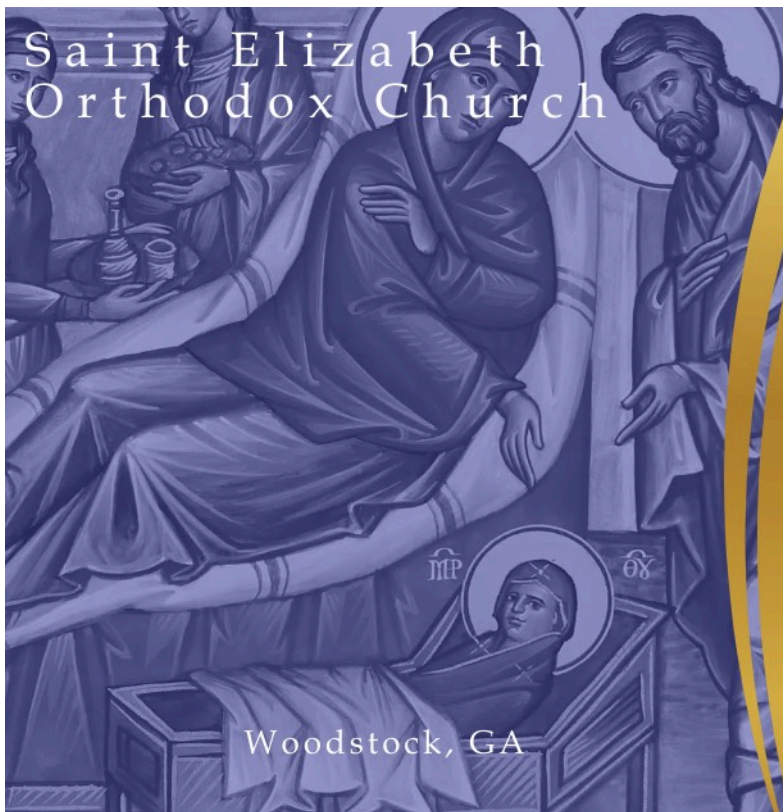
Full Menu at

www.woodstockinternationalfoodfestival.com



Mary Mother of God

Pray for us!



Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

"This is the day of the Lord!
Rejoice, O peoples, for, behold, the
bridal chamber of the Light, the
book of the Word of Life, has come
forth from the womb! The gate
that faces the East is born and
awaits the entry of the Great
Priest. She alone admits Christ
into the world for the salvation of
our souls."

-From Vespers on the Feast of the Nativity of the
Birthgiver of God

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!
www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Festal Procession in Honor of Saint Elizabeth Today!**- At the conclusion of today's Divine Liturgy there will be a special procession in honor and remembrance of our Patron Saint, St. Elizabeth. We will go around the inside of the Church, reading the Holy Gospel at the four corners and blessing the Church with Holy Water. You are invited to grab an Icon, or a banner, or a candle and join in this reverent celebration of our Patron, St. Elizabeth, who continually prays for us.
- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Sisterhood of Saints-** As summer comes to an end we are excited for Sisterhood of Saints to kick off again! This group is for any woman in the church! We will be meeting twice a month, one Wednesday morning and one Friday night. You do not have to make all the meetings to be a part of this group, please join as often as you are able! We will be reading "Seven Holy Women" and discussing the book together as a group. If you are interested in joining us please email Rachel Prince at Rachelbprince@gmail.com. She would be happy to order you a book if needed! Dates: Sept. 13th 9am (Filkins home), Sept. 29th 6:30 pm (location TBD), Oct. 11th- 9am, Oct. 27th- 6:30pm, Nov. 8th- 9am, Dec. 13th- 9am, and Dec. 29th - 6:30 pm.
- **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 October 1st.**
- **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.



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