

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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www.stelizabethga.org



15th Sunday after Pentecost



Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15
Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20
Gospel: Matthew 22:35-46
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1



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!

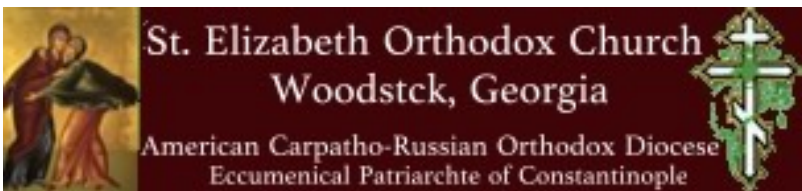
Christ is Among us!

This Week's Music...

Tropar & Kondak Tone 6- Page 96

Tropar & Kondak for the Feast - Page 1110

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



Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross



Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

Monthly Schedule

- 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 and Steaming for Halupki
- Tuesday 10/10 9 am-** Halupki Making and Festival Prep
- Wednesday 10/11 5:30 pm-** Moleben & Festival Prep
- Thursday 10/12 9 am -** Festival Prep
- 6 pm-** Festival Prep
- Friday 10/13 9 am-** Divine Liturgy: Special Intention for the Help of the Holy Spirit
- 6 pm-** Festival Prep
- Saturday 10/14 9 am-** Final Festival Prep

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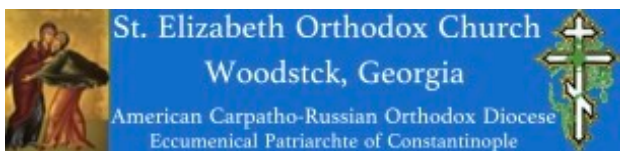
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Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, non-Orthodox visitors and inquirers are invited to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).



**ANYONE CAN
WEAR A
CROSS...**



BUT CAN YOU CARRY ONE?

The Exaltation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross

The power and mystery of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord is at the heart of Christianity. The symbol of the Cross, once thought of solely as a horrific instrument of execution, became a symbol of Salvation and eternal life through Christ's life-giving death and resurrection. Every year on September 14th The Orthodox Church celebrates the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. This feast holds a unique place among the twelve major feasts of the Orthodox Church. While most other feasts commemorate significant events in the lives of Christ or the Virgin Mary, the Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on a symbol—the Cross itself. In this article, we will explore the rich history of this feast and how it aligns with Christ's teachings about taking up our own crosses.

Taking Up Our Crosses: A Lesson from Simon of Cyrene

Christ's words, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily and follow Me," call us to a profound spiritual journey. But what does it truly mean to take up our cross?

We can find a powerful example in Simon of Cyrene, a man who unexpectedly found himself helping Christ carry His cross on the journey to Golgotha. Simon was on his way home from a journey when he encountered the dramatic scene of our Lord carrying His Cross through the streets of Jerusalem. Wearing from his travels, Simon likely yearned to return home to the comforts of his family and rest. Yet, Roman soldiers seized him, compelling him to bear Christ's Cross, a burden he did not choose, but was forced upon him.

Consider the weight of Simon's burden—literally carrying the instrument of Christ's crucifixion. Despite his personal desires, Simon took up this immense cross, leading it to Golgotha where it would become a symbol not of darkness and death, but of eternal illumination.

In our own lives, we, too, encounter crosses—difficulties, challenges, and burdens that we did not seek. But like Simon, we must recognize that these burdens are not mere trials; they are blessings in disguise. We are called to learn to see the world through Christ's merciful eyes, understanding that our crosses, no matter how heavy, hold the potential for redemption, transformation, and salvation.

Continued on the Next Page...



The Exaltation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross-Continued

The Transformation of the Cross: From Shame to Glory

In Christ's time, the cross symbolized shame; it was the ultimate punishment for the gravest of criminals. It was a sign of humiliation and suffering. However, Christ, in His divine wisdom, transformed this symbol of shame into an icon of glory. He turned the instrument of death into the emblem of love, mercy, and victory. Christ's Cross became the crown of life, illuminating the world with hope and salvation.

Christ and Simon of Cyrene both turned their crosses—literal and metaphorical—into beautiful blessings. They looked at the world through the lens of divine love and compassion. To emulate them, we must learn to see the good in others, even when faced with challenges or hurt.

The History of the Feast: Finding and Recovering the Cross

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross commemorates two significant events in Christian history—the finding of the Cross in 326AD and its recovery in 627AD.

In 326AD, St. Helen, the mother of the Roman Emperor St. Constantine, embarked on a journey to Jerusalem to find the true Cross. At that time, the Roman Empire had only recently legalized Christianity, and the site of Christ's tomb and Golgotha had been covered with a temple to the goddess Venus. St. Helen discovered the Cross buried beneath the earth, where basil plants were growing, signifying the holiness of the relic.

During an excavation at Golgotha, three crosses were unearthed—the Cross of Christ and the crosses of the two thieves crucified beside Him. To determine which was Christ's, a deceased man was placed on each cross, and the third cross miraculously revived the man, confirming its authenticity. Christians from all corners flocked to see and venerate the Holy Cross, which the bishop, St. Macarios, lifted up for all to witness, thus giving rise to the term "Elevation."

However, the Cross faced another perilous journey when it was stolen by the Persians during an invasion of Jerusalem in 614 AD. It remained in their possession for 14 years until the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius successfully recaptured it and returned it to the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem in 627AD.

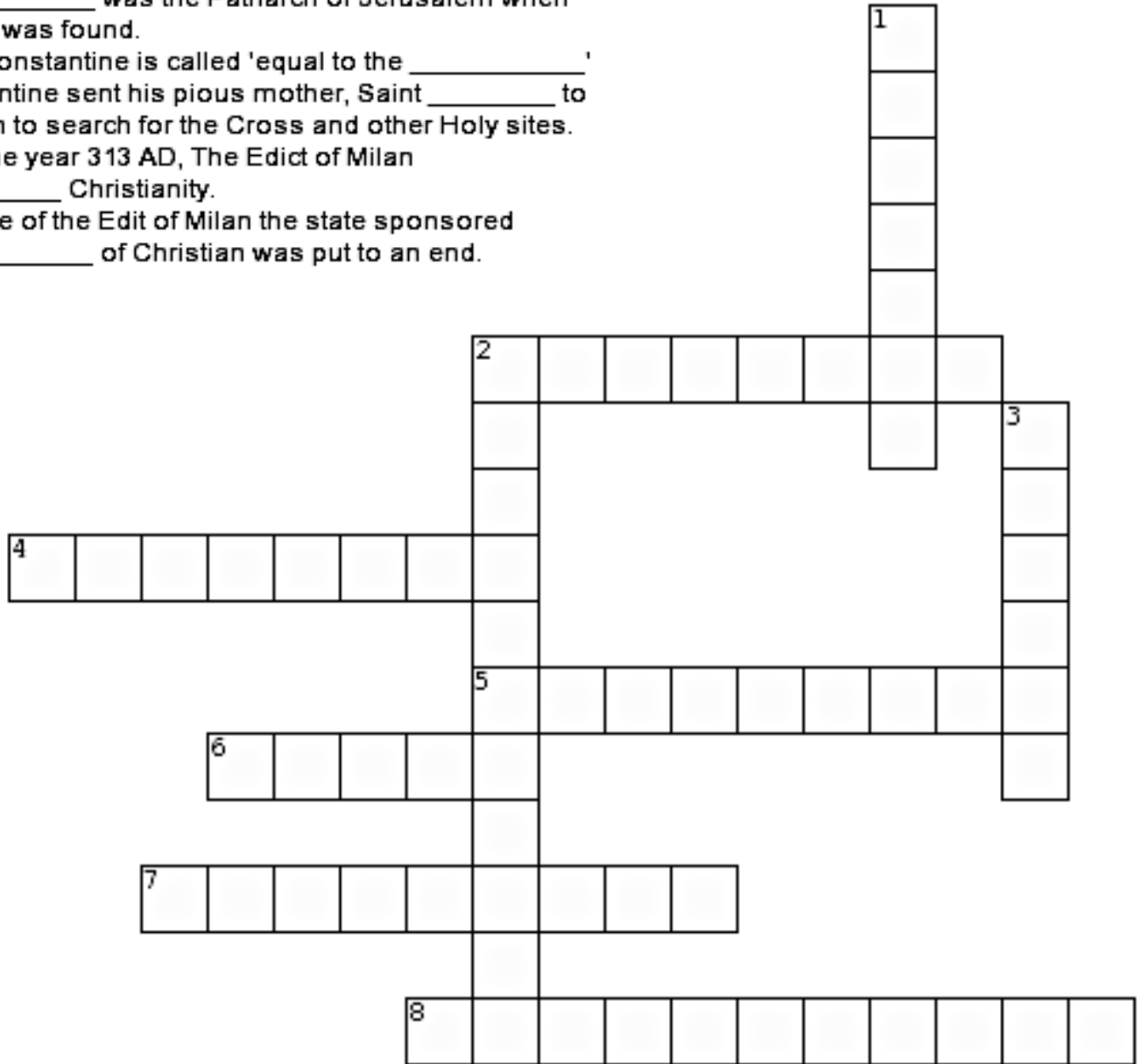
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross is a solemn yet joyous occasion, marked by strict fasting and profound reflection. It serves as a reminder of Christ's transformative power and the Salvation that he offers to all, turning shame into glory and death into life. In our own lives, as we carry our crosses, we must learn to see the blessings within them, just as Simon of Cyrene did. By looking at the world through Christ's merciful eyes, we can find redemption, transformation, and the promise of salvation.



The Elevation of the Holy Cross

Across

- 2. The Empress St. Helen built more than 80 _____ in the Holy Land.
- 4. _____ was the Patriarch of Jerusalem when the Cross was found.
- 5. Saint Constantine is called 'equal to the _____'
- 6. Constantine sent his pious mother, Saint _____ to Jerusalem to search for the Cross and other Holy sites.
- 7. In the the year 313 AD, The Edict of Milan _____ Christianity.
- 8. Because of the Edit of Milan the state sponsored _____ of Christian was put to an end.



Down

- 1. Saint Constantine saw a vision of the Cross in the heavens, written beneath the Cross it said 'by this you shall _____'
- 2. Who was the Roman Emperor when the Holy Cross of Christ was rediscovered?
- 3. A _____ was placed on the three crosses to determine which cross was the True Cross. The True Cross is life-giving...



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

As the Cross is lifted on high, it urges all of creation to praise the undefiled Passion of Christ, Who was lifted up on it. For by the Cross He killed the one who killed us, and brought us back to life when we were dead. He adorned us in beauty, and in His compassion made us worthy to live in heaven. Therefore we rejoice and exalt His Name, and magnify His infinite condescension.

-From Vespers on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Precious and Life Giving Cross

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Help Your Church by Baking Something Tasty!**- The festival is coming and we need baked goods for the bakery! Spend some time with your family in the coming weeks and bake some cookies or other treats for our festival bakery! Bake something that you are proud of and you think people will enjoy :)
- **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+, 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
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Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Christ is Among us!

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2021

2nd
Weekend
In
October

2nd
Weekend
In
October



presented by
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October 14th & 15th • 2023



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