

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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20th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: [Galatians 1:11-19](#)

Gospel: [Luke 16:19-31](#)



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- Page 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 of the bulletin 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!



Mary Mother of God Pray for Us!



Monthly Schedule

Wednesday 10/25 5:30 pm- Vespers & Followed by Orthodoxy Class
Thursday 10/26 9 am- Divine Liturgy
Saturday 10/28 4 pm-- Great Vespers
Sunday 10/29 10 am- Divine Liturgy
Wednesday 11/01 9 am- Divine Liturgy
5:30 pm- Moleben & Class
Saturday 11/04 4 pm- Great Vespers followed by Parish Appreciation Potluck Dinner & Bonfire
Sunday 11/05 10 am- Divine Liturgy
Tuesday 11/07 5:30 pm- Great Vespers & Class
Wednesday 11/08 9 am- Divine Liturgy
Sunday 11/12 10 am- Deacon's Service
Wednesday 11/15 - Nativity Fast Begins
9 am- Divine Liturgy
5:30 pm- Vespers Followed by Parish Family Planning Meeting - *Focus on Youth Ministry*
Thursday 11/16 9 am- Divine Liturgy
Saturday 11/18 4 pm- Great Vespers
Sunday 11/19 10 am- Divine Liturgy
Monday 11/20 5:30 pm- Great Vespers: Entrance of the Mother of God into the Holy Temple
Tuesday 11/21 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Entrance of the Mother of God into the Holy Temple
Wednesday 11/22 5:30 pm- Akathist of Thanksgiving
Thursday 11/23 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Thanksgiving Day
Saturday 11/25 4 pm- Great Vespers
Sunday 11/26 10 am- Divine Liturgy
Wednesday 11/29 5:30 pm- Moleben & Class
Thursday 11/30 9 am- Divine Liturgy
Saturday 12/02 4 pm- Great Vespers
Sunday 12/03 10 am- Divine Liturgy
Tuesday 12/05 5:30 pm- Great Vespers
Wednesday 12/06 9 am- Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

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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).

Historic church sheltering civilians struck in deadly Gaza City blast

www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/20/gaza-church-strike-saint-porphyrus/

JERUSALEM — The historic Greek Orthodox Church of St. Porphyrius, Gaza’s oldest active church, was struck Thursday by Israel as it sheltered hundreds of Palestinians displaced by the war, according to religious officials.

Maher Ayyad, 72, a member of the community, said the strike hit a two-story building in the church compound, killing 18 people and injuring at least 20. About 100 people were in the bombed building at the time of the strike, he said, and about 400 displaced civilians, mainly Christians, were taking shelter in the entire complex.

Among those reported killed were relatives of former U.S. representative Justin Amash, a Libertarian who once represented Michigan’s 3rd Congressional District.

Amash tweeted Friday afternoon that several relatives who had been sheltering in the church, including two women he identified as Viola and Yara, were killed in the strike.

There are about 1,000 Palestinian Christians remaining in Gaza, and the loss was “huge” for the community, Ayyad said. About 500 Christians, including Ayyad, have relocated to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate School in Gaza City.

The Gaza-based Palestinian Health Ministry said Friday that at least 16 Christians were killed in the strike.

The Washington Post geolocated the strike and confirmed the location of the church based on a [video](#) that shows people searching through rubble of a destroyed building in Gaza City. The Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem [blamed](#) Israel for the strike.

The Israel Defense Forces said in an emailed statement that a strike targeting a Hamas control center “damaged the wall of a church in the area” and that it is “aware of reports on casualties” and is reviewing the incident.

In footage geolocated by The Washington Post, people searched through rubble after the Church of St. Porphyrius in Gaza City was struck Oct. 20. (Video: X)

Rescuers were still digging through the rubble early Friday. Later in the day, services were held to mourn the dead.

“We pray all the time for a cease-fire,” Ayyad said. “It’s too much for Gazans.”

Ayyad is also a medical director at [al-Ahli Hospital](#), where a blast Tuesday killed 471 people and injured more than 300, according to Ashraf al-Qudra, a spokesman for Gaza’s Health Ministry. Israel has disputed that death toll.



Historic church sheltering civilians struck in deadly Gaza City blast

www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/10/20/gaza-church-strike-saint-porphyrus/

The Order of St. George, an associated order of the church, issued a statement confirming Thursday's strike. "Archbishop Alexios appears to have been located and is alive, but we don't know if he is injured," the Order of St. George stated. The blast hit "two church halls where the refugees, including children and babies, were sleeping."

The Church of St. Porphyrius's original structure dated to the 5th century, and the current structure, in a historic quarter of the city, was built in the 12th century. It is named for a former bishop of Gaza, Saint Porphyrius, and placed where he is believed to have died in A.D. 420. The church, characterized by thick walls and a richly decorated interior, has long been a place of refuge and community for its members, who are a religious minority in the Gaza Strip.

A Palestinian American woman who moved from Gaza to the United States in the early 2000s said in an interview that she had relatives and friends sheltering in the church at the time of the strike, some of whom were injured.

"They're terrified. They're shaken. They don't know what to do, and they don't know where else to go," said the woman, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of concern for her family's safety. She expressed outrage at the idea that more than 1 million civilians could evacuate from a place as densely populated and heavily bombed as Gaza City — a mass movement called for by Israel last week. "It's impossible," she said.

She said that she grew up going to the Church of St. Porphyrius and that her family has deep ties to the church, dating to when they became refugees during the 1948 founding of Israel and mass displacement of Palestinians.

Describing the congregation as close-knit and family-like, she said she's not only worried about her relatives. "I'm concerned for everyone because we're a small community."

Christians make up about 1 percent of Gaza's population and have faced restrictions and discrimination by the Hamas government, according to human rights groups. During the 2014 Gaza war, about 1,000 Palestinian

Muslims fled Israeli shelling for the Church of St. Porphyrius, where graves were damaged by shrapnel from a nearby strike, Reuters reported.

Gaza hospital where hundreds were killed is owned by Anglican Communion branch

In a statement early Friday, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem said the targeting of churches sheltering innocent citizens "cannot be ignored."

"The Patriarchate stresses that it will not abandon its religious and humanitarian duty, rooted in its Christian values, to provide all that is necessary in times of war and peace alike."



Always be Thankful

Every Divine Liturgy is a beautiful and sacred experience, and every time we are here, we are truly blessed to have the opportunity to participate in it. Let us join together to express our gratitude and seek peace, not only in the Holy Land but across the entire world, where conflicts and suffering can hinder the faithful from their worship.

Last Sunday, in Gaza, faithful members of St. Porphyrius Orthodox Church attend the Divine Liturgy and received Holy Communion. Tragically, the Church and its surroundings were hit with weapons of war on Thursday, leaving us uncertain whether these dear members of our global Orthodox Christian community can join us for today's Liturgy. Some may have lost their lives, while others may be injured. All of our brothers and sisters in Christ need our prayers for peace.

As we gather here at St. Elizabeth's for our Sunday morning Divine Liturgy, let us approach the Chalice with reverence, gratitude, and sincere prayers for peace. In this way, we express our solidarity with those affected by conflicts worldwide, and we hope for a day when all can worship the Lord freely and without fear.

May God grant rest to the souls of all our departed brothers and sisters in Christ living in war torn regions and may he send his healing peace from above to those suffering and desiring to worship Him in peace and thanksgiving.



Children Receiving Holy Communion at St. Porphyrius Orthodox Church in Gaza Last Sunday

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church *A Mission Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese*

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October 22, 2023

Christ is Among us! He is and Always Shall be!

Dear Parish Family & Friends of Saint Elizabeth's,
Thank you to each and every one of you for your incredible dedication and hard work during our recent Church festival. It was an absolute joy to witness the unity and cooperation among our parishioners, all coming together in the name of Christ and our beloved Parish.

This year's festival holds a special place in my heart. Every year the festival is special, but this year it was a genuine celebration of faith, family, and community. The laughter, smiles, and shared moments of joy were truly heartwarming. It's these instances that remind us of the beautiful bond we share in Christ as a church family.

Our Church isn't just a place of worship; it's a community of believers who support and uplift one another. The success of our festival was not merely measured in financial gains but in the unity, happiness, and shared moments of faith in Christ. The energy, enthusiasm, and love poured into each task and every smile shared were a testament to your commitment and devotion and a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

So, thank you, each and every one of you, for making this festival my personal favorite. Your hard work, dedication, and spirit were truly inspiring, and it reminds me of the wonderful things we can achieve together in the name of Christ.

With deep gratitude, heartfelt blessings, and love in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Dutko



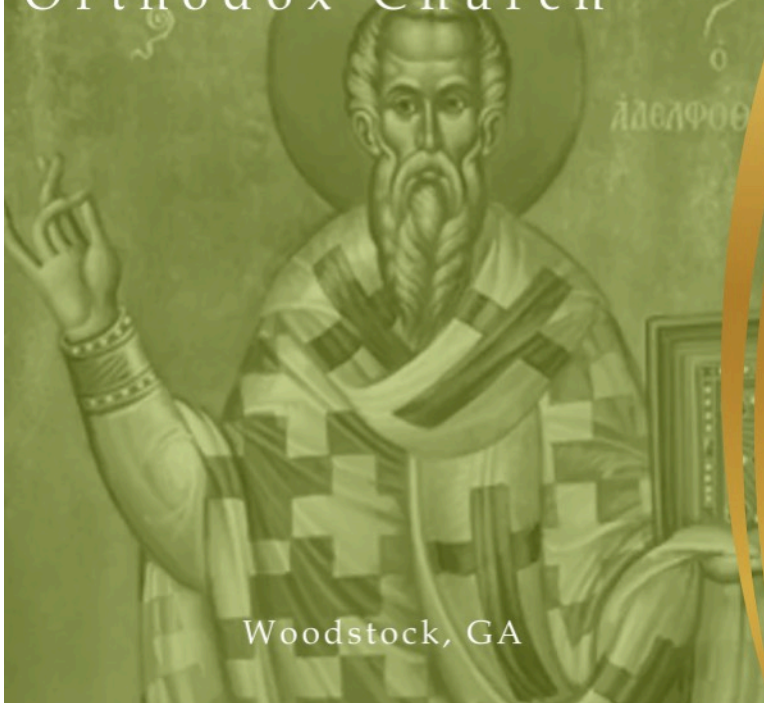
The Memory of Something Good...

“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





Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



Woodstock, GA

Blessings on the Feast of Saint James!

"Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door! My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience. Indeed, we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful.

But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath. But let your "Yes" be "Yes," and your "No," "No," lest you fall into judgment."

-The Epistle of Saint James 5:9-12

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Eternal Memory!** - God grant rest to His newly departed servant Evelyn, our beloved sister in Christ, friend, and founder of Saint Elizabeth's. Today at the end of the Liturgy we will offer a Panachida for Evelyn and Boris Melnikoff. Thank you for all the pictures you sent in! An updated picture board will be posted for Evelyn's 40th day memorial.
- **Sunday School Today!**
- **Parish Appreciation Night-** Join us on Saturday November 4th to celebrate our community. We will be celebrating Vespers at 4 pm and you and your friends are invited to come. Bring a dish for potluck and plan to spend the evening in thanksgiving, enjoying fellowship in Christ. There will be a bonfire.
- **Festival Pictures-** Thank you for all the pictures from last weeks festival. I will be posting them in next weeks bulletin. Please send me any that you took!
- **Sisterhood of Saints-** 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: Oct. 11th- 9am, Oct. 27th- 6:30pm, Nov. 8th- 9am, Dec. 13th- 9am, and Dec. 29th - 6:30 pm.**
- **Festival Testimonial Booklet-** *This is your last chance to participate!*
- **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: 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 Mileszko Family, the Blonar 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, Serge, Mark

For the Departed: Evelyn & Boris Melnikoff+, Patricia+, James+, Stephen+, Anna+, Charles+, Robert+, Loraine+. Helen+, Lewis+, Jeanne+, Vera+, George+, George+, Ernie+, Eddie+, Maria+, Carl+, Mark+, Barry+, Josph+, 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 Mileszko+, Anna+, Natalie+, Lilly+, Christine+, Anna+, Tamara+, Anastasia+, Yvonne+, John+, Betty+, Ada+, Peter+ & Wanda+, George+, Jerry+, Barb+ & Harry+, Beth+, Louise+, Nikolay+, 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 Josph+ & 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!