

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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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

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!



The St. Elizabeth News

Christ is Among us!



22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: [Galatians 6:11-18](#)

Gospel: [Luke 8:41-56](#)



Christ is Among us!



The Raising of the Daughter of Jairus



Monthly Schedule

Tuesday 11/07 5:30 pm- Great Vespers & Class instead of on Wednesday Night

Wednesday 11/08 9 am- Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Synaxis of Archangels Michael & Gabriel & All Heavenly Hosts

Sunday 11/12 10 am- Deacon's Service followed by Special Presentation from Lou Zagami on IOCC Humanitarian Work

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- 40th Day Memorial of Evelyn Melnikoff+

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: Feast of Saint Nicholas

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).

INTERNATIONAL ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

**Next Sunday
after the
Deacons
Service!**



BEACON OF HOPE: IOCC's Humanitarian Work

Sunday November 12, 2023

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

2265 East Cherokee Drive

Woodstock, GA 30188

Louis Zagami, IOCC Development Officer,
will lead a discussion on IOCC's worldwide
humanitarian programs and answer questions about
how you support people in need around the world.

*IOCC, in the spirit of Christ's love, offers emergency relief and development programs to those in need,
without discrimination, and strengthens the capacity of the Orthodox Church to so respond.*



PO Box 17398 • Baltimore, MD 21297-0429

877.803.IOCC • relief@iocc.org

Visit us online at iocc.org

The Angelic Choirs

The first hierarchy of angels is made up of the **Seraphim**, the **Cherubim**, and the **Thrones**. The **Seraphim** make up of the first choir of angels, and they are known to express the love of God. They guard the Holy Throne of God in Heaven. The **Cherubim** make up the second choir of angels; they express the wisdom of God. They guard the Holy Throne of God on *Earth*, i.e. the tabernacles in all the various parishes. The **Thrones** make up the third choir of angels and they express the peace of God. These first three make up the first hierarchy of angels.

The second hierarchy of angels is made up of the **Dominations**, the **Virtues** and the **Powers**. The Dominations assert the will of God, while the Virtues carry out the orders. If any obstacles present themselves then the Powers step in to block them out. A football analogy might help to imagine all of this: the Dominations are like the coaches, yelling out instructions; the Virtues are like the running backs (they run with the football); and the Powers are like the fullbacks (they tackle anyone who is in the way of the running back).

The third and final hierarchy of angels is made up of the **Principalities**, the **Archangels**, and the **Angels**. The Principalities make up the seventh choir of angels, and they are known to protect towns, cities, nations and their leaders. The Archangels make up the eighth choir of angels and are known to make intercessions in times of great need. Finally, there are the Angels, including those life-long companions who inspire us to do good and avoid evil.

Based on these, then, you can pray for specific intentions to the angels when you need to feel the love of God (Seraphim); when you need an insight into the wisdom of God (Cherubim); when you need to peacefully submit to the will of God (Thrones); when you need to know the will of God (Dominations); when you need help carrying out the will of God (Virtues); when you need help removing obstacles keeping you from doing the will of God (Powers); when your nation and its leaders need protection and guidance (Principalities); when you or a loved one need special intercessions and protection (Archangels); and, finally, when you or a loved one need guidance in daily life (Angels).

A Prayer to our Guardian Angel

O holy Angel of Christ, I come to you with honor, my holy guardian who, since my baptism, have been assigned to me to protect my body and soul. I ask for your powerful intercession. I know that I have often offended you by laziness and bad habits. You are without stain in your glory, and I have often driven you away by my sins. I pray and beseech you, most holy guardian, be merciful to me, your sinful and unworthy servant. Be my defender and aid me against my enemies.

Through your intercession, make me worthy to be a partaker of the kingdom of God, with all the Saints forever. Amen.



One of the ways that God is always with us is through our Guardian Angel.

Saint Basil the Great tells us that before the world itself was created: before God created a single grain of sand, drop of water, or living cell, He created every single angel that would ever exist. This means that before the earth was even formed, God thought about you and loved you so much that He created a guardian angel just for you.

Saint John Chrysostom says, "that everyone has an angel!" Every one of us has a guardian angel who has been assigned to us: to protect us, guide us, and to be with us all throughout our life. This guardian angel existed long before you, everyone you've ever known, and before the ground that we stand on. God thought about you before time began and created you a guide & helper; an intercessor to pray for you. A guardian to ensure that you would never be alone.

In one of the prayers at our baptism we ask that God "unites our life with a shining angel" That angel is shining with the light of Christ and he prays for us and shows us how to reflect Christ's Light; protecting us from the darkness and loneliness that comes with sin.

Every one of us goes through the journey of our life with this guardian and companion. We even pray in every Divine Liturgy, for this "guardian of body and soul." Whether you are in your home or at the church, alone in the middle of a desert, or in a crowded city - your guardian angel is there, pointing you to Christ, praying for you, guiding you, and protecting you.

There is a story in the Book of Kings about the prophet Elisha. Elisha is in a city surround by a foreign army ready to attack and destroy the inhabitants. Elisha's servant is justifiably afraid for their lives; but Elisha tells him not to be afraid, *for they have an even bigger army*. Elisha could see something that his servant could not, the angelic army sent by God to defend them. Even though we may not see our guardian angel, just like Elisha's servant couldn't see the army of angels, our guardian angel is always with us.

Saint Ambrose says that Elisha's servant couldn't see the host of angels because his mind was "in bondage". Elisha's soul was pure and holy, but his servants was not. This is why it's so important for us to pray every day and to ask our guardian angel to always stay by our side. When we sin and ignore our guardian, it's just like we push our angel away from us.



One of the ways that God is always with us is through our Guardian Angel.

The prayer to our guardian angel in the *Come to Me* prayer book says, "I know that I have often offended you by laziness and bad habits...I have often driven you away by my sins". When we are in bondage to a sin we are in service to the devil and his demons instead of being in service to God; and when we do this, we drive our guardian angel away. We drive away the angel who God created just for us, whose purpose is to protect us and guide us toward Christ all throughout our life.

Our angel is always reminding us that God loves us and is with us. He defends us from our enemies, from the devil and his demons who want nothing more than for us to abandon the Church. The dark forces of the devil try to convince us to leave Christ behind and choose something else. We are always being tempted to choose the quick pleasures of life that lead us away from Christ in every moment of every day, in every short lived thought or choice that the world tempts us with instead of choosing Christ and the eternal gift that he offers to us in salvation.

In the end, Elisha prays that God open the eyes of his servant so that he too can see the heavenly host of angels that God sent to protect them and the city. If we had the eyes of faith to see, we too would see our own guardian angel standing by our side.

If we had the eyes of faith we would know that we are never alone when we choose to love God and serve Him, because when we choose Christ, our angel is always by our side, pointing us to Him.

Just like God opens the eyes of Elisha's servant to see all the angels around him, he opens our eyes as well when we cry out to Christ in prayer, repentance, and sorrow over our sins. Elisha's servant was afraid until He saw just how much God loved. When Elisha's servant was able to see all the angels that God sent, the loneliness and fear escaped him like the comforting gust of a summer breeze; he knew that he wasn't alone, for God was with him.

Just like Elisha's servant, we don't need to be afraid and we don't need to feel alone. Our guardian angel is always with us, ready to guide and protect us just like he was created by God to do before the earth was even formed. But first, we need to love Christ and serve Him; when we do this we can be sure that our heavenly guardian is by our side.



The Healing Power of Faith and Compassion

The story of the raising of Jairus' daughter and the healing of the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment is a testament to the boundless love and mercy of our Lord. In this miraculous narrative, we witness the transformation of despair into hope, sickness into health, and separation into communion with God.

The Desperate Plea and the Unexpected Interruption

Jairus is a distraught father who seeks Christ's help for his only daughter who lies near death. On His way to answer this desperate plea, Christ is confronted by a throng of people. In the midst of the crowd, a sickly woman reaches out to touch the hem of His garment, a profound act of faith. This woman has been sick for 12 years and should feel hopeless, but instead she believes so much. She believes that all she needs to do is touch a piece of our Lord's robe, It is her unwavering belief and trust in God that leads to her healing.

Christ acknowledges her faith by saying, "Your faith has made you whole." This statement holds a deep message for us. The woman wasn't merely healed; she was made whole, body and soul, becoming the person God created her to be. In the Orthodox Christian tradition, being made whole is synonymous with being in communion with God. It signifies a transformation of our inner being, aligning our will with the divine will. When we are whole, we are completely changed into the person that has created us to be.

The Compassion of Christ

When Christ finally arrives at Jairus' house, he is met with the news that the young girl is dead. In a moment that defies human understanding, Christ tells them not to weep, for she is not dead but sleeping. With divine authority, He brings the girl back to life, and she eats.

This miraculous story is a profound illustration of the compassion of God. The people in this narrative were desperate and hopeless, but they were not abandoned. They were not alone because they had faith; they knew that God was with them. In our own lives, when we face challenges and difficulties, it is our faith in Christ that assures us of His presence and compassion.

Sharing Our Burdens

Sometimes in the history of the Church, there was a practiced public confession. Where the faithful would share their sins publicly with the entire community. While we are not advocating for its return, there is a valuable lesson to be learned from this tradition. When we share our struggles, burdens, and sins with one another, we recognize that we are not alone in our suffering. Everyone has their trauma, their doubts, and their fears. In doing so, we experience God's presence with us. We recognize that just as we suffer from sin and from the storms of our lives, God suffers with us in our brokenness and desires to heal us.

As we open up to one another, we recognize that everyone is suffering in their own way, and God, our Divine Creator, knows this suffering all too well. He sent His Son to demonstrate His love, even to the point of the cross, to bring us healing and peace. The peace we pray for is the same peace that God promises to all of creation. God is calling us to know Him, and we do so when we share our burdens, support one another, and recognize that we all suffer in different ways.

Conclusion

In the end, God is with us in our suffering, just as He was with Jairus, the woman with the flow of blood, and countless others throughout history. He knows our suffering in a greater way than we can imagine because He suffers with each and every one of us. Our faith can and will make us whole, just as the woman with the flow of blood was not only healed but made whole.

May the blessing of the Lord be upon you as you embrace the healing power of faith, trust in His ways, and recognize that God is with you in every moment of your life. God is with us! "Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his elect, and he watches over his holy ones."-Wisdom 3:9



Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

Life can often lead us to feel lost, alone, and hurt, especially when circumstances seem hopeless. It's in these moments of despair that our faith is truly tested. But remember, even when the world seems to crumble around you, as Christians we must always have hope. Just as we witness in the Gospel, two individuals who persevered through what seemed like insurmountable odds. They felt lost and hurt, yet they held onto hope. They had faith in Christ. They trusted in his love and knew that his presence brings healing. Life can bring us to the edge of hopelessness, but it's precisely in those moments that we must keep moving forward. Even when feeling completely lost, alone, or hurt: don't lose hope! Keep pressing on, God is with you! In God's time, you will see the rewards of your faith. In the depths of despair, God will be your source of strength and guidance, offering a path out of the darkest moments to healing and salvation in Him.

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Join us for Sunday School Today!**
- **Parish Council Meeting** this Monday morning, 11/6 at 9 am on zoom.
- Don't miss out on the **special presentation on the IOCC next Sunday** after the Deacons Service.
- **Become A Distinguished Diocesan Donor**, see the letter on the next page!
- **Parish Appreciation Night-** Thank you to everyone for making last night's celebration so joyful. It is always such special joy to spend these precious moments together!
- **Eternal Memory!** - God grant rest to His newly departed servant Evelyn, our beloved sister in Christ, friend, and founder of Saint Elizabeth's. Thank you for all the pictures you sent in of Evelyn. An updated picture board will be posted in the bulletin the Sunday following Evelyn's 40th day memorial.
- **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: Nov. 8th- 9am, Dec. 13th- 9am, and Dec. 29th - 6:30 pm.**
- **Parish Testimonial Booklet-** Take a look at the stories people shared for the Festival Booklet and considering adding your own. This will be an ongoing project. If you submitted your story, please send me a picture of yourself that you would like to be included in the booklet.
- **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.



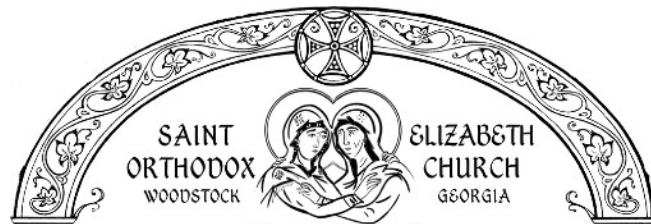
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October 29, 2023

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

Dear Parish Family,



The Holiday Season of Thanksgiving and Christmas is soon to be upon us as the year draws to a close.

Are you looking for a special way to give back to God this Holiday Season? Become a Distinguished Diocesan Donor! Your Diocese invites you to become a part of the Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program. The Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program (DDD) which was founded By His Grace, Bishop John of Thrice-Blessed-Memory, offers the faithful and friends of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese an opportunity to assist, in a meaningful way to our Diocesan apostolates and ministries.

The Distinguished Diocesan Donors Program has become an instrumental source of funding for the expansion and maintenance of Camp Nazareth, the Information Technology Ministry, Christ the Saviour Seminary, Mission & Evangelization, and other Diocesan Apostolates and Ministries, having raised over \$2.5 million dollars.

The seminary is soon to receive brand new facilities to house and educate our future priests. With a new seminary building project soon to be underway, supporting the DDD Fund during this time is very important. As a Mission Parish we have greatly benefited from the funds given out of love by the many members of our Diocese. What better way to say *thank you* this holiday season than by become a *Distinguished Diocesan Donor*.

To be an Orthodox Parish is to be part of an Orthodox Diocese. Just like we support our local Church as best as we are able, we are also all invited to support the important efforts of our Diocese as well. When we look at the beauty around us here at Saint Elizabeth's, we should feel gratitude for the steadfast support of our Diocese over the years. They have helped us take out loans to grow, supported our priests financially, and blessed us in so many ways.

For over 25 years the faithful members of our Diocese have helped us, so that by the Grace of God we can flourish and grow. This *Thanksgiving Season*, I invite you to say *thank you*, become a *Distinguished Diocesan Donor*, and support important Diocesan institutions like *Christ the Saviour Seminary* and *Camp Nazareth*. [Click Here to Give!](#)

With love in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Dutko



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 Blannar 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, Johnny, Yvette Christine, Johanna, Nicole, Caroline

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+, 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 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 Jospeh+ & Pani Patsy+, Anatoly+, Fr. Scott+, Steve+, Claudia+, Dave+, Fr. John Duranko, Michael+, Sarah Elizabeth+ Ester+

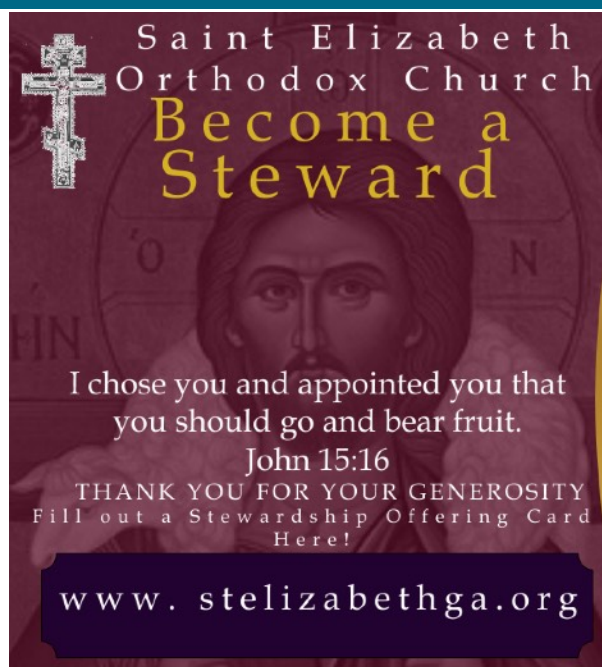
Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers & Mothers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!

Holy Saint Elizabeth Pray for us!



Keep Your Parish Family in Your Prayers!

Eternal Memory!



Christ is Among us!