

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



Reverend Father Matthew Dutko Pastor/Administrator

Father Deacon Steven Hanes

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www.stelizabethga.org



26th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: [Ephesians 5:9-19](#)

Gospel: [Luke 18:18-27](#)



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 1- Page 81

Kondak of Preparation for the Nativity Tone 3- Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave* where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding* to the Word Who is in all eternity* Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded.* With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him* Who chose to be seen as a newborn babe* while remaining God in all eternity.

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 Prophet Zephaniah



Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

using the Blue Pew Book

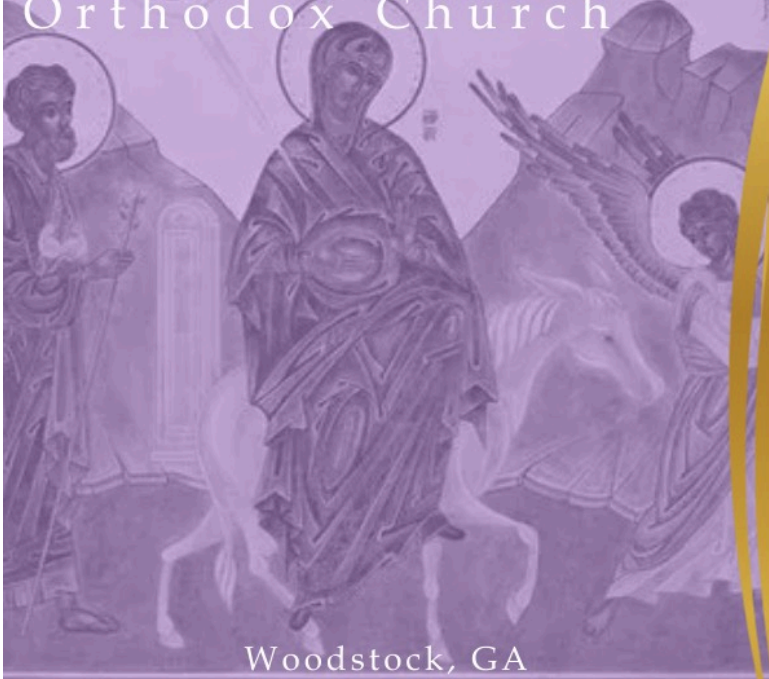
Monthly Schedule

- Monday 12/04 8:30 am-** Divine Liturgy
- 10 am** Nut Roll Making
- Tuesday 12/05 5:30 pm-** Great Vespers & Class / Advent Presentation
- Wednesday 12/06 9 am-** Divine Liturgy: Feast of Saint Nicholas
- Thursday 12/07 9 am-** Halupki Making
- Friday 12/08 3-7 pm-** Food Sales
- Saturday 12/09 11:30-3:30 pm-** Food Sales
- 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 12/10 10 am-** Divine Liturgy: Special Parish Celebration of Saint Nicholas Day
- Tuesday 12/12 8:30 am-** Divine Liturgy
- 10 am-** Pirohi Making
- Wednesday 12/13 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- 5:30 pm-** Moleben & Class
- Thursday 12/14 9 am-** Food Prep
- Friday 12/15 3-7 pm-** Food Sales
- Saturday 12/16 11:30-3:30 pm-** Food Sales
- 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 12/17 10 am-** Divine Liturgy followed by the Christmas Play
- Monday 12/18 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday 12/19 9 am-** Food Prep
- Wednesday 12/20 9 am-** Divine Liturgy
- 5:30 pm-** Moleben & Class
- Friday 12/22 9 am-** Royal Hours of Christmas
- 3-7 pm-** Food Sales
- Saturday 12/23 11:30-3:30 pm-** Food Sales
- 4 pm-** Great Vespers
- Sunday 12/24 10 am-** Divine Liturgy
- 4:30 pm-** Holy Night Supper (Potluck Strict Fast Community Dinner)
- 6:30 pm-** Vigil Service of Christmas Eve
- Monday 12/25 10 am-** Divine Liturgy: The Nativity of our Lord, God, & Saviour Jesus Christ

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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 if the Liturgy to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread).

Saint Elizabeth Orthodox Church



Woodstock, GA

The Nativity Fast

Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave where she will give birth in a manner beyond understanding to the Word Who is in all eternity. Rejoice, therefore, universe, when you hear it heralded. With the angels and the shepherds, glorify Him Who chose to be seen as a newborn babe while remaining God in all eternity.

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

Announcements:

- **Children's Christmas Play Practice Today!** - Please text or email me this week your availability for Christmas Play Participation: The play will be performed **in two weeks**, on Sunday 12/17 after the Divine Liturgy
- **Want to Help St. Nicholas?**- Saint Nicholas let me know that he could use some help getting some extra stocking stuffers for the kids. We need 35 of any given item, something that works for both boys and girls. Saint Nicholas was hoping for less candy this year. Please let me know if you can help!
- **Project 24/7-** Join us in the fight against depression and suicide within our families and communities. Discover Project 24/7, a crucial initiative for suicide prevention awareness. Click the link, consider a purchase, and be a beacon of hope for those in need.
- **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: Dec. 13th- 9am, and Dec. 29th - 6:30 pm.**
- **Christmas Food Sales-** The time has come to get ready for this years Christmas food sale! Please take a look at the food making schedule in the bulletin and see how you might be able to help your Church with this years Christmas fundraiser. Can't help make food? Consider making a special donation to offset the cost of supplies for this years sale!
- **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.



Zephaniah, the Prophets, & Advent

As we follow the Star of Bethlehem and travel on the sacred journey of Advent, we wait in a season of anticipation, reflection and repentance. During these days our Orthodox Church turns its gaze toward the memory of the Holy Prophet Zephaniah, whose feast we joyously celebrate on December 2. In the tapestry of prophetic voices that heralded the advent of the Messiah, Zephaniah's words stand as a beacon of hope and righteousness.

Zephaniah was the son of Cushi, a member of the tribe of Simeon who lived during the seventh century before the birth of Christ. His

prophetic ministry unfolded against the backdrop of a challenging era in the Kingdom of Judah. Idolatry and moral decay had taken root, prompting the pious King Josiah to embark on a mission of religious reform.

Zephaniah, a humble and pure soul raised in Godliness, became a fervent advocate for this reform. His words, recorded in three impactful chapters, resonate with boldness as he addresses the religious and moral corruption plaguing the Holy City of Jerusalem. He warned of the consequences of straying from the path of righteousness and called for a return to the simplicity of their forefathers.

Amidst the cries against corruption, Zephaniah's prophetic eyes looked to the future, where he foresaw the coming of the promised Messiah. In a triumphant declaration, he urged Zion to rejoice, proclaiming, "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem" (Zephaniah 3:14). His words are filled with the hope of redemption and the promise of a righteous King and Saviour.

Zephaniah envisioned a time when the gentiles would become the people of God through the Messiah. He spoke of the Messiah as the Just Judge, rewarding each according to their works. This vision echoed the broader theme of the Nativity Fasting Season – the anticipation of Christ's coming to redeem humanity.

As we observe the Nativity Fast, we are invited to draw inspiration from the life of Zephaniah and his fellow prophets. Like them, we are called to stand against the tide of moral decay, to be voices of righteousness in a world that often strays from the divine path. Zephaniah's commitment to reform and his anticipation of the Messiah's coming serve as a poignant reminder for us during this sacred season of preparation for the Incarnation of God.

In our prayers and in our daily lives, we are reminded to emulate the prophetic wisdom of Zephaniah. To seek God's guidance to discern the future, just as Zephaniah did through his humility and purity of heart. May we, like the prophets of old, anticipate the advent of the Messiah with joy and hope, preparing our hearts to receive the Christ Child in the manger of our hearts.

As we celebrate the Feast of Saint Zephaniah, let us unite in prayer, seeking the intercession of this holy prophet. May his example inspire us to be steadfast in our faith, to stand against corruption, and to eagerly await the coming Messiah. Through the grace of God, may we, like Zephaniah, be vessels of prophetic wisdom, proclaiming the good news of Christ's coming to the world on Christmas.



MEET SAINT NICHOLAS!

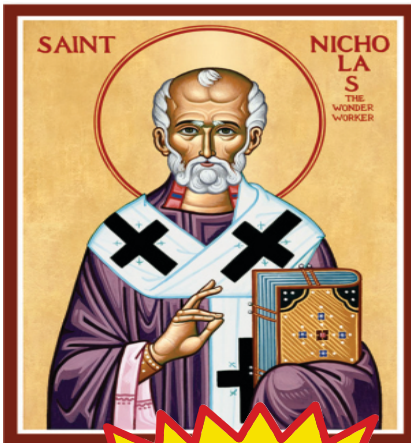
AT SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

Hear his TRUE story that became a legend!

Santa Claus is known and loved by us all, but have you heard the true story?

Saint Nicholas of Myra was an early Christian bishop from the city of Myra in Asia Minor during the Roman Empire. Because of the many miracles attributed to him, he is also known as Nicholas the Wonderworker. His reputation spread, and his legendary practice of secret gift-giving gave rise to the tradition of

..... **Santa Claus.**



Come and Celebrate this Great Saint's Day!

Sunday, December 10th

Divine Liturgy at 10am
Following Liturgy:

HEAR THE STORY OF SAINT NICHOLAS
A VISIT FROM SAINT NICHOLAS

BREAKFAST!

GAMES!

ACTIVITIES!

NEXT SUNDAY!!!



SAINT ELIZABETH ORTHODOX CHURCH

HOLIDAY HELP

FAMILY SPONSORSHIP

FILLING A CHRISTMAS WISHLIST AS A PARISH FAMILY

The list on the next page is a Christmas wishlist for a family in need. This Christmas wishlist was provided to us by Kasi Williams for a family of 7 that attends the local school where Kasi works

Bring a gift to help make their Christmas a memorable one!

DROP-OFF BY 12/10

We are the only ones who have this list and we have a special opportunity as a parish family to help this family to experience Christ's love this Holiday Season. Use the Sign up Genius or let Kasi know that you got an item on the list. If you wrap the gift, please mark which person the gift is for. Thank you!

[Click Here to See the List!](#)

kasi.sponhaltz@gmail.com



**Next Sunday is
The deadline to
Bring in your
gifts!!!**



404-268-6359

Saint Elizabeth's

Christmas Menu

FRIDAY DECEMBER 8th, 15th, & 22nd from 3-7 pm
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9th, 16th, & 23rd from 11:30-3:30 pm

Pierogi

Mashed potatoes and cheese are delicious alone, but wrap them in a warm pasta blanket with a butter & onion bath and you've got heaven on a plate!
Available Fresh Cooked or Frozen - \$15 a Dozen or 2 dozen for \$25

Halupki - Cabbage-Rolls

Nothing says comfort food like these delicious Cabbage Rolls. Rice and ground beef are cooked, mixed and then wrapped in a cabbage blanket and bathed in a tangy tomato sauce. Cabbage Rolls are Frozen and Ready to be Heated up at Your Home! 6 for \$15

Nut, Poppy, & Apricott-Rolls

A Holiday Classic! Nuts and sugar nestled comfortably in a warm, sweet dough blanket.
Warm up your holidays with this decadent dessert treat! Now available with poppy seed or apricott fillings! \$17 per roll or 2 for \$30.

www.WoodstockInternationalFoodFestival.com

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CHRISTMAS FOOD SALES
WANT TO HELP, BUT DONT HAVE THE TIME?

make a special donation!

Potatoes - \$150	Poppy- \$75
Butter - \$200	Raisins- \$50
Milk- \$75	Onions- \$80
Eggs- \$75	Olive Oil-\$50
Sugar- \$100	Flour- \$150
Cheese- \$200	Propane- \$150
Nuts- \$200	Containers- \$200
Apricot-\$75	Beef- \$200
Cabbage- \$75	Rice- \$100
Tomato Sauce-\$100	

BECOME A FOOD SALE SPONSOR!

BECOMING A FOOD & SUPPLY SPONSOR WILL HELP TO OFFSET COSTS AND HELP OUR PARISH FAMILY TO REACH OUR YEARLY FUNDRAISING GOAL FASTER!

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE LOVE, GENERIOUSITY, AND SUPPORT! YOUR SUPPORT OF THE FOOD SALES HELPS TO ALLOW OUR PARISH TO THRIVE!

THIS FUNDRAISER HELPS TO SUPPORT THE CONTINUED GROWTH AND MINISTRIES OF OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY! MAKE A DONATION AND BE A PART OF THE TEAM!

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St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church Traditional Christmas Eve Holy Night Supper, Christmas Eve Vigil, and Christmas Day Divine Liturgy

Please be our guests and join with the St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church family for a traditional Christian celebration of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. In the Orthodox Church, the forty days before Christmas is known as the Nativity Fast, or Advent. Advent is a time of preparation for the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Orthodox Christians participate in a fast from certain foods during this time of preparation which includes abstinence from meat and dairy products on most days. The fast culminates on Christmas Eve with a meat and dairy free dinner known as *Holy Night Supper*. At this traditional dinner, born out of the mountains of eastern Europe, the family gathers together to celebrate and give thanks for the good tidings of great joy that the birth of Christ brings into the world. All are welcome to attend a similar dinner at no cost, hosted by the St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church Parish Family starting at 4:30 pm on Christmas Eve. Since St. Elizabeth's is an international community fasting dishes from all over the world will be represented at our version of the Holy Night Supper. In the *Old World*, after finishing the *Holy Supper* on Christmas Eve, the family would walk over to the Church for the



celebration of the Christmas Eve Vigil, at St. Elizabeth's you will have the same opportunity to walk next door to the Church and celebrate the birth of Christ with your family. On Christmas morning the faithful will gather together once again to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, which is the central liturgical service in the Orthodox church. *Come and see* this ancient Christian celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! St. Elizabeth's is located at 2265 East Cherokee Drive in Woodstock. The dinner will begin at 4:30 PM with the Christmas Eve Vigil Service to follow at 6:30 PM. Also, please join us on Christmas morning as we celebrate the Birth of our New Born King with the traditional Orthodox Divine Liturgy at 10AM! If you have any questions please call at 404-268-6359.

St. Elizabeth Orthodox Church
2265 East Cherokee Drive
Woodstock, GA 30188



Celebrate
The Nativity of
Jesus Christ
at St. Elizabeth's

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

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!