

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



13th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: *1st Corinthians 16:13-24*

Gospel: *Matthew 22:33-42*



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 Deacon's Service with us!! What a joy it is to be together in God's House. If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before, we are grateful you are here to offer your prayers with us! We hope you will stay and join us for coffee hour in the atrium. Please come back next week to celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us and 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 4 pg. 90

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!



Join us next door for
 Coffee, Food, and
 Fellowship in Christ!



The Beheading of Saint John the Baptist



Monthly Schedule

Sunday 09/03 10 am- Deacon's Service

Tuesday 09/05 9 am- Divine Liturgy:

Patronal Feast of Saint Elizabeth

10 am- Nut Roll Baking

Thursday 09/07 6 pm- Great Vespers: The

Feast of Nativity of the Mother of God

Friday 09/08 9 am- Divine Liturgy: The

Feast of Nativity of the Mother of God

Saturday 09/09 4 pm- Great Vespers

Sunday 09/10 10am- Divine Liturgy: Parish

Celebration of our Patronal Feast Day:

Parish Family Sunday

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 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

We've completed our annual cycle of remembering, celebrating, and entering into God's plan for our salvation: the prophecies, His birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension, the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and the sacramental presence of His body, the Church.



From a human perspective, we can be tempted with frustration at times when moving from the end of something back to its beginning—doing it over again. Yet in the case of the liturgical year, we give thanks to God that we can once again joyfully celebrate His benevolence towards us. For in our finite state we need fresh starts, and this is one of them. From the culmination of Pascha, Ascension, Pentecost, and Transfiguration, we move back to the beginning events, the Nativity of the Mother of God and the Nativity of the Son of God Himself. We start this life-giving cycle over again, and the Holy Spirit, to the degree that we participate, further increases in us the sacramental realities that propel our salvation.

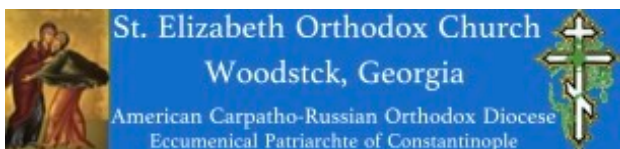
God, who created and loves us, knows our human frailty and our need for renewal. Marriages have their anniversaries, children their birthdays, the departed their memorials, and the saints their feasts. These are milestones of progress and sources of motivation for us, seasons of opportunity as we spiral ever upward towards heaven.

Notice that the last great feast of the closing year is the Dormition of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, while the first great feast of the New Year is her Nativity. Christ is the beginning and end of all things Christian. Yet the Theotokos is the chosen passage, the gate through which the incarnate Son entered into the world and opened the way of salvation for all mankind. Therefore her birth and death, that is her entire life, encapsulate the earthly life of Christ, as her womb mysteriously circumscribed Him.

The Church celebrates this day by thanking God for the spiritual and material harvests of the past year, beseeching Him for fair weather, seasonable rains, and an abundant harvest of grace and physical well-being in the year to come. This is a good time for each of us to do the same. Take a moment during personal prayers, driving in the car alone, when the kids are napping, or at any other convenient time, and thank God for what the last year offered in both blessings and challenges.

Happy New Year!

Christ is Among us!



Make Sure to Note The New Dates of the Festival on Your Calendar!



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!

Being a disciple of Christ in the New Church Year

The new year of the cycle of liturgical services begins in the Church on September 1st. When we think of the New Year in the secular sense, the first thing that comes to mind after fireworks and New Year's Eve celebrations is the *New Years Resolution*. As we begin the New Year in the Church, let us recommit our efforts to be disciples of Christ in the year ahead.

What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? In order to be a disciple of Christ there are things we must let go of first. Jesus says "Follow Me" (Mt. 4:19); Christ gives the command to follow Him and the disciples follow Him immediately. They immediately drop their fishing nets and leave their old lives behind. Christ does not say, "Set all of your earthly affairs in order and then follow Me if you want", He simply commands "Follow Me." This means that the earthly cost to the disciples was immense, that there was a great sacrifice involved with following Christ.

The disciples left behind the things the world would say matter the most and in return received a reward far greater than any treasure of the earth. In the end Christ's true disciples receive the reward of eternal life in Him. With this in mind, the cost of discipleship, their earthly sacrifice, the laying aside of their earthly cares was really no sacrifice at all. They simply gave back to God all that he had given them. Christ was so compelling that His call took no preparation, no getting used to, the disciples were called and simply dove into faith and experienced it. They eagerly followed Christ and received life from the very Source of Life,

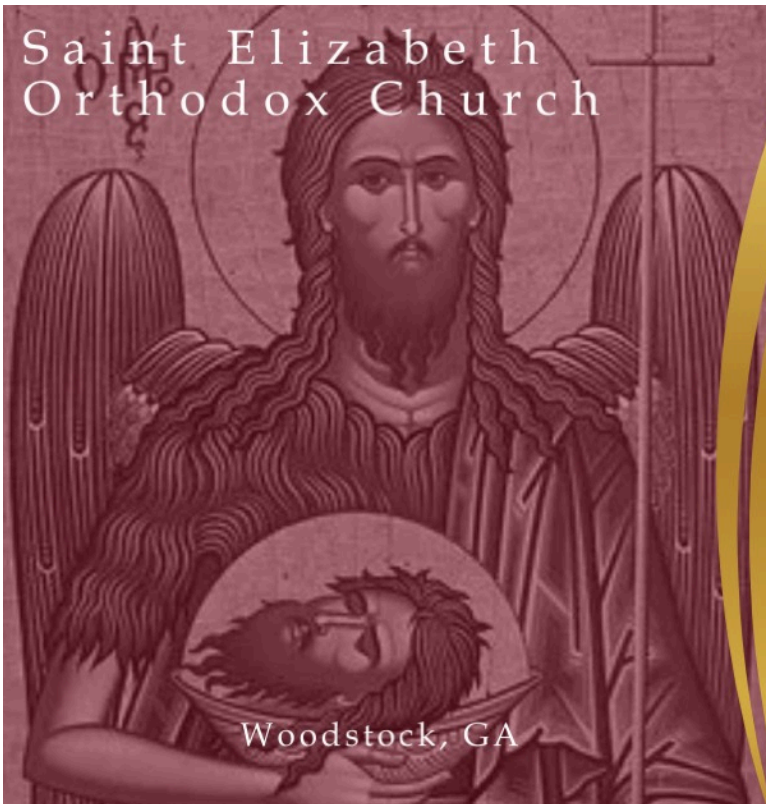
The way in which the disciples left everything behind and flocked to Christ, shows the great cost and sacrifice involved with discipleship. The disciples left behind their families, their friends, their businesses; they left their homes, and truly all they had ever known to follow Christ. To follow Christ meant letting go of all of the security, all the things they had ever known. This letting go required complete trust and commitment in Christ. For the disciples to obey Christ's command to "Follow Me" required that they must sacrifice everything to follow Christ.

We are all called to be Christ disciples. To trust Him just like his first called disciples trusted Him. To love Him like His first called disciples love Him. If we are to follow Christ then we need to leave behind our sins and find Christ at the Cross in the Sacrament of Holy Confession. To be Christ disciple is to know Him and to know Him means that we speak with Him, Listen to Him, hear Him, and spend time with Him.

When we think about this cost of discipleship, we should all think of things that we must "sacrifice" in our lives so that we can better follow Christ. What are you holding on to that you can let go of to lighten your burden; to help you take up your cross and follow Christ?

In the year ahead work to let go of the things of this life that bind you to the world instead of Christ. Trust Him and love Him more deeply and receive the peace and blessings that only come from complete dependence on our Lord for all things. Take up your cross and rest on the shoulders of our Lord, King, & God; Jesus Christ the Good Shepherd.





Saint Elizabeth
Orthodox Church

Woodstock, GA

Come, O people, let us praise the Prophet and Martyr and Baptist of the Savior! For being an angel in the flesh, he thoroughly reprov'd Herod by condemning his act of unlawful adultery; and through the impious dance, he endured the cutting off of his precious head, that he might proclaim to those in hell the good news of the Resurrection from the dead; he earnestly intercedes with the Lord, that our souls may be saved.

Come, O faithful, Let us praise the Prophet, and Martyr, and Baptist of the Savior! Living in exile, he dwelt in the wilderness, eating wild honey and locusts; and he reprov'd the king who transgressed the Law. But he comforted our faintheartedness by saying: "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand!" -From Vespers on the Feast of the Beheading of Saint John the Baptist

Become a Member of
Saint Elizabeth's!

www.stelizabethga.org

Announcements:

- **Woodstock International Food Festival Dates:** Saturday October 14th and Sunday October 15th - Please save this date on your calendar.
- **Thank you Deacon Steven** for serving this morning! Thank you all for singing and offering your prayers this morning. Join us in prayer and thanksgiving next Sunday as we celebrate the Divine Liturgy & the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, Saint Elizabeth!
- **Sunday School Today!**
- **No Catechism Class This Wednesday**
- **Saint Elizabeth Day-** This week on Tuesday morning we will celebrate the Liturgy on the Feast Day of our Patron Saint of our parish.
- **Nativity of the Mother of God-** As we begin the New Church Year, join us as we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of the Mother of God this Thursday with Great Vespers at 6 pm and this Friday with the Divine Liturgy at 9 am.
- **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 the Church enable 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 the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross on September 14th.
- **6th Annual Woodstock International Food Festival** - Have you considered placing an add, family photo, or congratulatory note in the festival commemorative booklet? If you would like to participate please speak with Johnny Sajem ASAP!
- **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.



Proskomedia Prayer Sheet

For the Living

Fill One Out Today!



For the Departed



In the Proskomedia we are all remembered on one common plate, *the discos*, and placed next to our Lord, His Mother, the Saints, the Angels, the Martyrs, and the whole community of the Church both living and departed. By including the names of our loved ones, we acknowledge their presence within the community of God's Church and seek His blessings and intercession on their behalf.

Through this act of remembrance, we unite and lift up our hearts and souls in worship before the Altar of our God. As we come together to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, the offering of these names is a reminder of the love and spiritual support we offer to one another.

Please consider taking the time, along with the members of your family, to fill out and return one of the *Proskomedia Sheets* available in the Narthex by the candles.

You Can Help Our Festival SUCCEED!

You can help make our Festival Souvenir Booklet a success this year, by placing a small ***note / comment / commemoration / thought / family photo / ad*** in the booklet for yourself or your family or by passing this information on to a friend or someone you do business with.

Make a MEMORY!

Send Information for your add to Johnny Sajem at saiem@aol.com

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
 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