

# THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

## St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

2263 E. Cherokee Dr. Woodstock, GA

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese

Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Reverend Father Matthew Dutko, Pastor

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Sunday January 31st 2016

35th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

**Glory be to Jesus Christ!!!**

**Tropar and Kondak Tone 2–** Blue Book pg. 84 Red Book pg. 99

Now and Ever...

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.

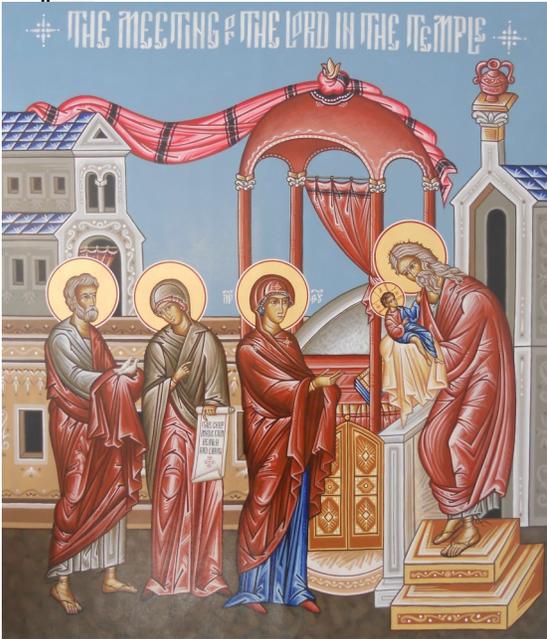
### Weekly Schedule:

**Monday 2/1 7:20 PM–** Great Vespers for the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

**Tuesday 2/2 9AM–** Divine Liturgy for *Feast Day*

**Saturday 2/6 4:30PM–** Great Vespers

**Sunday 2/7 10AM–** Divine Liturgy



The story of the Presentation is told in [Luke 2:22-29](#). Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

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When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said:

"Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. She had been a widow for many years. Anna was about eighty-four years old and spent her time in the Temple worshiping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the Messiah.

After Jesus was presented in the Temple, the family returned to Galilee to the town of Nazareth. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew and became strong, and was filled with wisdom. [http://www.goarch.org/special/listen\\_learn\\_share/presentation/index\\_html](http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/presentation/index_html)

At every Vespers service we sing the Hymn of St. Simeon towards the end of the service. Just like most of our services the text for the hymn comes directly from Scripture. You may have heard the Choir sing these words at the end of the Liturgy, or came on a Holy Day or to a Vespers service and heard them sung. Now that you know the story, every time you here them experience that same joy that Simeon experienced so long ago as he held the infant Christ Child in his arms. **Please join us this Monday evening at 7:20 PM for the Great Vespers of the Feast, and at 9AM on Tuesday Morning for the Festal Divine Liturgy.**

### **Announcements:**

*It is time for home blessings! Please sign up soon!*

***If you have yet to do so, please turn in your pledge card for 2016***

***The Annual Parish Meeting has been postponed by our Bishop– Fr. Matthew will keep you updated as he receives direction.***

Pray for Fr. And Presbyter George Pallas of Holy Transfiguration who this Saturday celebrated their 60th anniversary of Ordination!

### **Prayer List**

Evelyn Melnikoff, Fr. John and Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Johanna, James, Herbert and Mary Schleining , Patricia James, Anna, Basil, David, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, Athanasia, Ethel, Kathy, Lester, Sally, Jack, Angela , Tyler, Maria, Bezerra Family, Jeff, Lesley, Page Family, Stephen (Blessed Repose), The Blonar Family, Anna (Blessed Repose), Louise, Emma Rae , The Floyd Family, Phillip (Blessed Repose), Zachary, George, Fred and Helen Milesenko, Robin, Michael, Dean, Margaret, Jenny and Keith Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!