

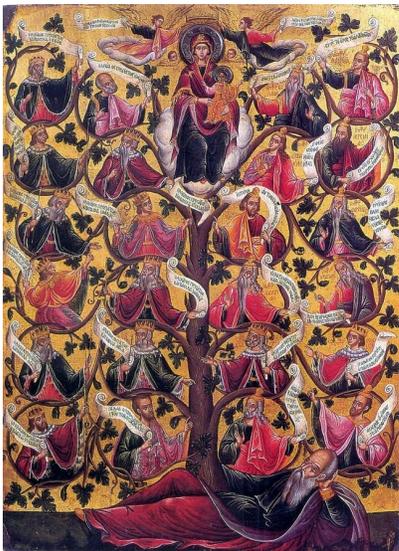
THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

2263 E. Cherokee Dr. Woodstock, GA

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Sunday of the Holy Fathers



Today the Virgin is on her way to the cave* where she will give birth in 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.

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Today is the Sunday before Christmas! In the gospel reading we hear the genealogy account from Matthew Chapter One. We hear this reading every year on the Sunday before Christmas, but did you know there is also another account of Christ's lineage in Luke (Ch. 3:23-38). The accounts have different names, but that doesn't mean that one is right and one is wrong, they are both Scripture! So how, and why, are they different?

The Gospel of Matthew begins with "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ" (Mt 1:1). This is because one of the purposes for the Gospel of Matthew was to show that Jesus of Nazareth is the expected Jewish Messiah, that He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets. Saint Matthew's Gospel was originally intended for the Jews. This means that there is an emphasis on Jesus Christ being the anticipated Messiah of Old Testament prophecy. The genealogy in The Gospel of Matthew also links Christ to prominent figures of the Old Testament and shows Him to be the fulfillment of prophecy.

Christ's genealogy in the Gospel of Matthew starts with "Son of David, Son of Abraham". Abraham is older, but David comes first. This is because Christ is the fulfillment of the promise made to David, to bring forth the Messiah from his line (2. Sam. 7:12-13).

Reverend Father Matthew Dutko, Pastor

Phone: 607-206-0384 Email: fatherdutko@gmail.com

Sunday December 20th 2015 29th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10,32-40 Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Weekly Schedule:

Thursday 12/24 8:30AM– Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for Christmas Eve

5PM Holy Night Supper **7PM** Christmas Eve Vigil

Friday 12/25 10AM The Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ- Divine Liturgy

Saturday 12/26– 10AM– Synaxis of the Birthgiver of God– Divine Liturgy

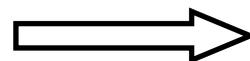
Sunday 12/27– 10AM Divine Liturgy– Feast of St. Stephen

Tropar Tone 4: Blue book pg. 90 Red book pg. 105

Tropar of the Holy Fathers – blue book pg. 129 red book pg. 146

Kondak of the Three Youths– pages same as above...

Kondak Tone 3: Kondak of Preparation



THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

The genealogy in the Book of Matthew shows Jesus Christ to be the fulfillment of all the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament. This is why the genealogy in Matthew concentrates on the royal, Davidic lineage of Christ as the Son of David, the anointed Messiah. The names in Matthew's genealogy focus on the names of members of Christ's family who were in the line of the Davidic throne.

Matthew also breaks down the genealogy into 3 sections of 14 generations (up to Christ). By doing this Matthew amplifies the fact that his message is for Israel, as the breakdown separates significant phases in Israel's history. Matthew also shows, through the choice of selected women in the genealogy, who were not Israelites, that Christ is the Saviour for the entire human race.

The Book of Matthew was originally written for the Jews, but the Book of Luke was originally written for the gentiles. Luke's goal to show Jesus Christ not only as the Jewish Messiah, but the Saviour of the world. Luke wanted to show the entire world the Jesus Christ was not just the Jewish Messiah, who came only for Israel, but rather, that He is the incarnate Son of God; the Lord and Saviour for all mankind.

This is why, unlike Matthew who traces Christ's genealogy only as far back as Abraham (the father of Israel), Luke traces Jesus back to Adam, and to God who created Adam. By linking Christ directly to Adam, the common ancestor of all humanity, Luke shows Christ to be the Saviour for all mankind and not just Israel. This is why Christ is called the Second Adam, the one sent by God to redeem all of Adam's race, all of humanity.

The key to understanding the differences in these narratives is to see the theological significance of the different names in the two genealogies. Matthew and Luke wove different ancestors of Christ into their Gospels to preach their specific message. Both accounts should be viewed together to see a more complete picture of Christ and of God's divine plan for the salvation of man. Through these two accounts we can see Christ as all things for all people.

Answer Key's to the Puzzles

Crossword From Two Weeks ago

Across: 1. December sixth 2. Stockings 3. Diocletian 4. Dowry 5. Sea

Down: 1. Myra 2. Saintly 3. Mother 4. Turkey 5. Nicea 6. Christ

Word Scramble From Last Week

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1. Fast | 6. Love | 11. Decorate our Souls |
| 2. Repent | 7. Forgive | 12. Be like Christ |
| 3. Confession | 8. Give | |
| 4. Communion | 9. Go to Church | |
| 5. Pray | 10. Thankful | |



Announcements

Confession: We are in a fasting season. Receiving Confession before Christmas is an important thing for each of us to do; so that we have room in the inn of our heart for our new-born Saviour. You don't have to wait until Christmas Eve, I am available anytime at your request!

Holy Night Supper: This Thursday, December 24th, is Christmas Eve! Our Traditional Holy Night Supper will begin at 5PM. The Christmas Eve Vigil will follow at 7PM. Please come and bring a Strict Fast food dish! A list of some strict fast dishes you can bring is in the Atrium and on our Facebook page, but any strict fast dish (no meat no dairy) is certainly A-Okay to bring! You can sign your name next to a dish you would like to bring or add on anything that's not on the list. If you have any questions just ask.

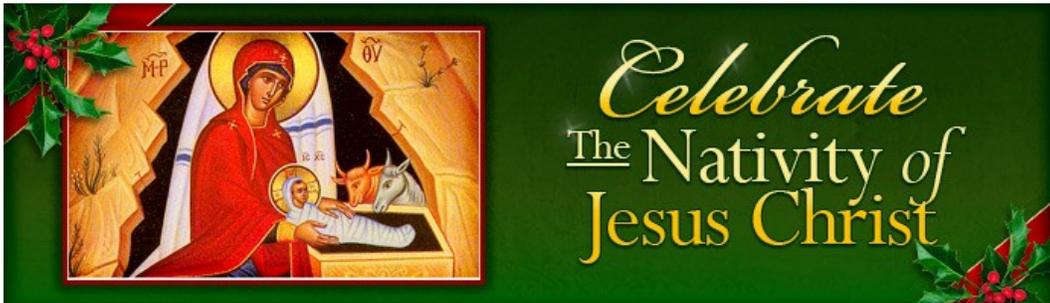
Christmas Day Liturgy: Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ will be **This Friday at 10AM.**

Christmas Play: The Christmas play will begin about twenty minutes after the dismissal today. So enjoy a snack and some Coffee. The play will be in the Church, so when asked please come back in!

Gingerbread Churches: After the play the St. Elizabeth's youth will get back to working on their gingerbread Church!

Christmas Deep Clean: Thank you so much to everyone who came in yesterday to help and keep the Church looking beautiful. Thank you again and great work everyone!

Choir Practice/Are you interested in joining the Choir?- The final choir practice before Christmas will be held after the Christmas play today! If your interested in joining, come to a practice and try it out!

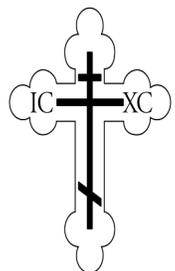


Invite a friend, neighbor, or family member to join us as we celebrate this week!

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 Blanar Family, Anna (Blessed Repose), Louise, Emma Rae, The Floyd Family, Phillip (Blessed Repose), Zachary, George, Fred and Helen Milesenko, Robin, Michael



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

