

# THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

## St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Church

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 4th 2015

Sunday Before Theophany

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

### Theophany Icon



**Tropar Tone 5:** Blue book p. 93 Red book p. 108

**Tropar and Kondak for the Sunday before Theophany :** Blue Book pg. 142 Red Book pg. 162

**Kondak Tone 5:** Blue book p. 93 Red book p. 108

### Weekly Schedule:

**Monday 1/5:** Theophany Vigil with the Great Blessing of Water at **7:45 PM**—Day of Strict Fasting

**Tuesday 1/6:** Theophany Divine Liturgy at **9AM**.

**Saturday 1/10:** Great Vespers at **5PM**.

**Sunday 1/11:** Divine Liturgy at **10AM**.

Theophany, or Epiphany, is a major feast day in our Church. We remember Christ's Baptism, and more importantly, the Divine Revelation of the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity. **I Strongly encourage** all who are able to attend the vigil service tomorrow night to come, and be present for the Great Blessing of Holy Water. This is an opportunity for all to be present at the Mystery of the Blessing of the waters and to bring home holy water with you as a source of strength in your home!

**Pledge Cards :** Our annual meeting is **January 25th**. In order to have a working budget to discuss please take time to consider your pledge. Pledge cards are available today. They will also be mailed to your homes. Please have your cards turned in by January 18th.

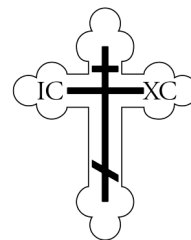
**Poinsettia's:** Thank you again to all who supported our Church through the gift of memorial Poinsettia's. Please feel free to take them home today if you would like. I fear they won't last much longer!

**Sunday School:** Sunday School will resume next week. In class we will be discussing the meanings of various parts of the Liturgy. Anyone interested in learning the same material is welcome to attend!

Evelyn Melnikoff, Tyler, Maria, Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Johanna, James, Herbert and Mary Schleinig, Patricia James, Anna, Basil, David, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, George, Athanasia, Ethel, Kathy, Lester, Sally, Jack, Angela, The Bezzera Family, Phillip



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



Stewardship Letter and Pledge Card

Dear Parish Family,

Christ is Born!

The Christmas season is known to the whole world as the season of giving. After all, it was on Christmas Day that God gave to the world the most perfect gift we could ever receive. The gift of his only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Why did God give the world such a gift? Why did God open the doors of Paradise to all mankind? We can answer this question with one word...love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

Think of that gift which God gives to us. The gift of His Son. The gift of salvation. All of this because of love. God blesses mankind with such gifts because He loves us.

Now it is our turn to think what gifts we can give back to Christ and His Church. Our gift can never be proportional to the gifts which God gives to us, but nevertheless, our gifts to the Church should be a reflection of the love we have in our hearts and in our souls for our God.

Remember to truly search the depths of your souls and think about your responsibility to your Church. Decide in your hearts the most you and your family can give, and pledge that amount to St. Elizabeth's.

Remember the words of St. Paul when you decide on your pledge. "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." God loves a cheerful giver! So give to your Church all that you are able, with joy in your hearts.

When we give back to God, whether it be through our time, our talents, or our treasures; we are following His commands and showing that we love Him. If you can pledge more than you have in years past, pledge more. If you need to pledge less, pledge less and feel not one ounce of sadness in your heart. Remember the widow's mites (Luke 21:1-4) and remember that your parish family loves you and is always here to support you in anyway we can.

God provides for those who come to him in humility and in faith. It is through all of our prayers that St. Elizabeth's will grow in the years to come. It is a reality that the Church needs money to stay open, but what it needs infinitely more than money, is prayer and love. It is only through faith that St. Elizabeth's can truly grow.

Thank you all for your continued support of St. Elizabeth's . Remember to cheerfully give all that you can this year and show in that gift your love for Christ and His Church.

May God always bless you all with health, happiness, and salvation in His Kingdom!

With love in Christ,

Fr. Matthew Dutko

**SAINT ELIZABETH'S ORTHODOX CHURCH  
STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD FOR 2015**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Member? Yes [ ] No [ ]

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/we am offering to God, through St. Elizabeth's, the following stewardship of my money:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ weekly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually \$ \_\_\_\_\_ one-time

*Only the Priest and the Treasurer will see this form.*

*Please put this card into an envelope, mark the envelope "Pledge for 2015" and bring to **Divine Liturgy by Sunday, January 18, 2015.** You may mail the card to Fr. Matthew, 2263 E. Cherokee Dr., Woodstock, GA 30188.*