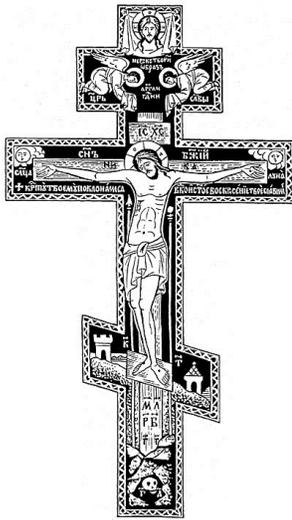


THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

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

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

Sunday September 21st, 2014

The Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 1:18-25 Gospel: John 19:6-35

The tone of the week is tone 6, found on page 93. The Troarp and Kondak for the Cross are found on page 110.

Weekly Schedule:

Wednesday-9/24: Moleben to the Holy Cross @ 6:45 followed by discussion-Topic: "The Old Testament Prophets"

Saturday-9/27: Great Vespers @ 5 PM

Sunday- 9/28: 16th Sunday after Pentecost- Divine Liturgy @ 10 AM

Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!!!

Since Apostolic times, the days when the Apostles of Jesus Christ still lived, taught, and worshiped Christ, Sunday has always been the day when Church remembers and commemorates the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The ancient Romans dedicated the first day of the week to the sun god. Since Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week (Mk 16:9), and He is the Son of Justice, and the true "Light of the World" (Jn. 8:12) the Church took the pagan feast day of the sun and gave it the fullness of its true meaning, in Christ.

The Church has always taken the feasts and teachings of the pagans and given them the fulfillment of their beliefs in Jesus Christ. Anyone who says that the Church merely took the old pagan customs and gave them a Christian flare is completely wrong. A reading of the Fathers of the Church will show that never in our Christian history have we attempted to hide the fact that pagan customs were adapted for Christianity. Rather we, as a Church, relish in the fact that those pagan feasts, which had no purpose, now, through Christ, receive fulfillment and eternal truth.

The Apostles called Sunday, "The Lords Day" (Rev 1:10). **So what are we supposed to do, and not do on our Lord's Day?**

(Continued on next page...)



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Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!!! “This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!”

There are two elements to the proper observance of Sunday's which have always been a part of the Tradition of the Orthodox Church. The first, and most important aspect of what Orthodox Christians do on Sundays is **worship God**.

The worship of God on Sundays comes directly from the *Book of Acts*. The Apostles, in the *Book of Acts* celebrated the “Breaking of Bread” (Acts 2:46), or the Eucharist on Sundays. “On the first day of the week we assembled for the *Breaking of Bread* and Paul preached a sermon” (Acts 20:7).

The Orthodox Church continued the tradition handed on to them by the Apostles for the centuries to come. One of the earliest Christian documents, the *Didache* (The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles), written between 70-90 AD, affirms this ancient Liturgical truth of the Church. The *Didache* was actually lost for centuries and was only rediscovered in the year 1873.

The *Didache* is an ancient instruction manual which passes on the Traditions of the Apostles of Jesus Christ to future generations. One of the Instructions in the *Didache* states “On the Lord's Day (Sunday) come together and break bread and give thanks after confessing your sins that your sacrifice may be pure.” The breaking of bread and the giving of thanks is in actuality the very same Eucharist, the very same Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, which we continue to celebrate in the Church today.

The second important element to the proper observance of Sunday in Orthodox Tradition is known as **Sunday Rest**.

Sunday Rest, is most certainly a carry over of the ancient Jewish Tradition to Honor the Sabbath. To keep the Sabbath day free from labor in order to devote that free time to worshipping the Lord.

The Patristic writer, Origen, tells us that “On a Sunday a Christian should not pursue a worldly calling.” In the busy world in which we live today this can seemingly be a very difficult task. As Americans we are constantly pulled in countless worldly directions. Constantly distracted by news and media. Constantly going from one place to the next, both in our minds and in reality. However, it is **important for our souls** that we listen to Origen and “not pursue a worldly calling” on Sundays.

We must keep Sundays for the Lord. Use the teachings and tools the Church gives you. Start Sundays by coming to Church and celebrating the Eucharist with the community of Orthodox Christians. For the rest of the day, set aside the worldly chores that take up the rest of our weeks. Set aside the chores, the tasks, the school work.

Take the time to praise God, and make lasting memories with family. Sunday is a day which we **fully** devote to God. A wonderful way to praise and thank God is to praise and thank your family for the love and happiness you give to each other. Sundays should be a day for God, and a day for family; not a day for the earthly cares of this world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM FR. MATTHEW

St. Elizabeth Youth: Next Sunday we are planning a trip for the Parish Youth to Cagle's Family Farm/ Corn Maze. Following the maze we will have a fire and cookout back here at St. Elizabeth's. Anyone interested in helping please see Fr. Matt after Church. I hope that everyone is looking forward to a festive fall outing!

Altar Society Meeting: Following Church this Sunday!

Prayer List: As you know, the Prayer List for the Parish has been started over. Please let me know if you are in need of prayers, or are undergoing any type of hospital stay. Please forgive me if you gave me a name that is not on the list. Just let me know so that I can make adjustments for next week so that your loved ones can be remembered in the prayers of the St. Elizabeth's faithful. Thank you and God Bless!

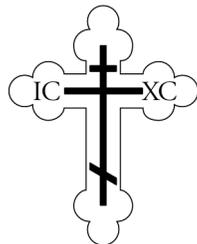
Confession: Confession is essential to every Orthodox Christian. As of right now, Confession's will be available upon request. Please call or email to set up a time.

Great Vespers: The service of Great Vespers will be held every Saturday, unless otherwise posted. This is an excellent way to prayerfully "unwind" yourself and take a step back from the busy world which infiltrates our lives and souls on a daily basis. Attending Vespers is also an opportunity, which the Church offers us, to spiritually prepare ourselves to attend the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning. Prior to, or following Vespers, is also the perfect time to come to Confession.

Weekday Services: If interested, please request a time and date!

Birthdays/Anniversaries: Please let me know Birthday's and Anniversaries so that you can be prayed for on your special days.

Altar Flowers: If anyone wishes to donate flowers to be placed in the Altar area for a special intention please contact me.



THE PRAYERS OF OUR PARISH

Prayer's for health or special intention.

James 5:13-14

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing Psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

This Scripture verse can be found in the Epistle reading heard during the Moleben Service to St. Nectarios the Wonderworker. St. Nectarios is a 20th century Saint whom many miraculous healings are attributed to.

Prayer List:

Evelyn Melnikoff, Tyler, Maria, Pani Betty Jean Baranik, Fr. James Gleason, Carl Paccio, Johanna, James, Tim, Lilia, Herbert and Mary Schleining , Patricia James, Anna



Through the prayers of St. Elizabeth, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, all the Saints, and by the power of the most precious and life giving Cross, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!