



St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

2265 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 November 29th 2015

26th Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Glory be to Jesus Christ



Making the Journey to the Manger...

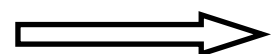
All of us are on our way to Bethlehem, to the Cave where our Savior is to be born. We make this journey with the Wise Men from the east, the shepherds from their fields, and the angels from high. The wise men followed a star and the shepherds followed the angels, but how do we make sure that we can make it to? What do we follow so that we can insure we make it to witness the birth of our Savior too?

We know that we should come to Church more, that we should pray more, fast more, and give more to the Lord. But we also need to *repent* more! In this Advent season, as we journey to be with our Savior for His birth we need to repent more, in order to be with Him we need to be more *like Him*.

With the Grace of our Lord this Christmas season we can all remove the sins in our lives that keep us from being like our Savior. Take the time out these next few weeks to ask the Lord what you need to do to be more like Him. Ask Him where you fall short and ask Him to help you. Then make your *Confession*.

One way you can make sure that you don't get lost on your way to Bethlehem, on your way to the Cave, is to go to Confession before Christmas day. If you've strayed off course, going to Confession is like following the Star all the way to the manger of our Lord.

Think about it like this, what do we do before Christmas? We clean our Church and our homes, and we decorate them with beautiful lights, trees, and decorations. We do all this to prepare for the Birth of



26th Sunday after Pentecost 3rd Sunday of Advent

Tropar and Kondak Tone 1- Blue Book pg.81 Red Book pg. 95

Kondak of Preparation for the Nativity of Christ Tone 3

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

Weekly Schedule of Divine Services

Wednesday 12/2 7:20PM- Moleben (Prayer Service) followed by Orthodoxy Class

Friday 12/4 9AM- Divine Liturgy- For the Departed

Saturday 12/5 12PM- Family Christmas Art Class followed by Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas

Sunday 12/6- 10AM Divine Liturgy- Feast of St. Nicholas (Potluck)



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of Christ. Well our bodies are Temples of the Holy Spirit and just as we clean our homes and our Church we must not forget to clean the Temple of the Holy Spirit, we must not forget to clean our souls. We do this by being truly repentant, truly sorry for and aware of our sins— and by going to Confession.

When we've done this we can truly decorate our souls with love. Love for Christ. Love for one another. Love for our neighbor, our brother, and even our enemies. We can decorate our souls so that when we arrive at the Cave, we, like the Wise Men can present gifts to our Lord. Not gifts of gold, frankincense, or myrrh—instead we present a much more valuable gift. The gift of honoring our Lord by being truly *like Him*.

May Christ Bless all of us this Advent season and guide us along the way to His manger so that on December 25th we can all proclaim with love and joy in our hearts— Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

- **Panachida**— Following Liturgy as a Birthday memorial to George Page.
- **Gift to the Patriarchate**— We are all asked to give a donation to our Patriarchate in Constantinople. It is important for us all to remember our Patriarch Bartholomew and the worldwide work of our Patriarchate. A special collection will be taken following Liturgy. Checks can be given, but please make them out to St. Elizabeth's and mark "Patriarchate" in the memo section.
- **Sunday School/Christmas Play Practice**— Today after Liturgy!
- **Bishop Gregory's Advent Prayer Challenge**— In case you missed it last week, Bishop Gregory has challenged each of us to pray a special prayer for peace each night in our evening prayers. If you need a copy of the prayer they are available in the atrium
- **Christmas Decorating**— Thank you to all those who came to help set up Christmas decorations! You all did a beautiful job!
- **Special Christmas Art Class!**- Teresa Van Buul will be teaching a Christmas themed art class on Saturday, December 5th at 12PM. The Cost to participate will be 20\$. Each participant will get to make their own hand crafted Christmas ornament! This is also the eve of the Feast Day of St. Nicholas so following the class will be a potluck dinner and Great Vespers.
- **Sunday School Project**— If you have any left over Halloween candy please bring it in for a special project for the kids. We will also need half gallon milk cartons so please wash them out and bring them in!
- **New Coffee Hour Sign up Online**— If you haven't signed up for coffee hour in a while remember that this is an important part of our community life. Check out <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0e45a4ae29aa8-coffee> and sign up!



Prayer List

Evelyn Melnikoff, Fr. John and Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Pacio 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

