

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

2265 E. Cherokee Dr. Woodstock, GA
 A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
 Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

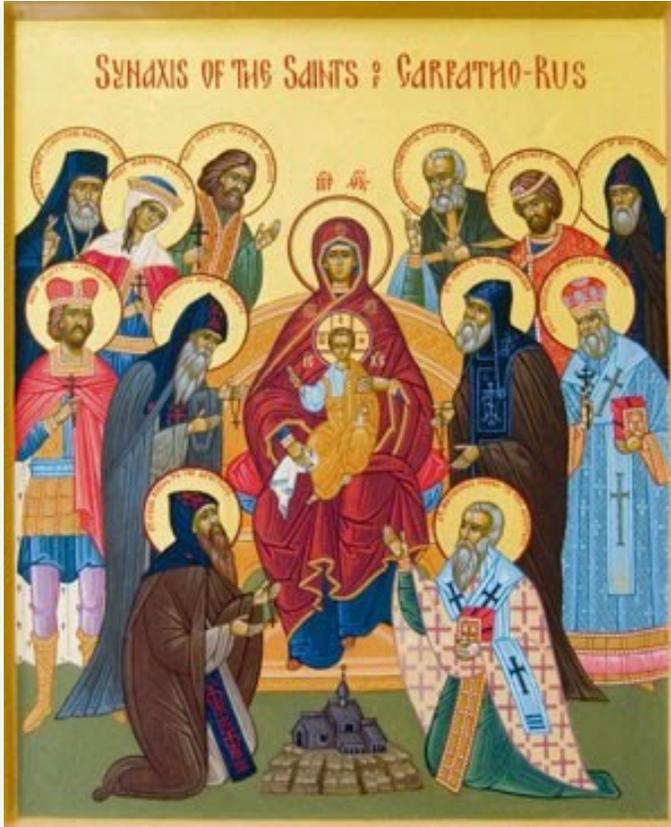
Reverend Father Matthew Dutko, Pastor

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Sunday June 14th 2015 2nd Sunday After Pentecost

Epistle: Romans 2:10-16 Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23

Sunday of Regional Saints



Synaxis of Carpatho-Rusyn Saints

Tropar, Tone 1

Your tomb was sealed with a stone by the Jews, * and the soldiers guarded Your most pure Body; * yet You arose on the third day, O Savior, * giving life to the world. * The heavenly powers cried out to You, O Giver of Life: * "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! * Glory to Your Kingdom! ** Glory to Your plan of salvation for You alone love mankind.

Tropar, Tone 8

As a beautiful fruit of the sowing of Your salvation * the land of Carpatho-Rus offers to You, O Lord, * all the Saints that have shone in it. * By their prayers, keep the Church and our homeland in deep peace ** through the Mother of God, O Most Merciful One.

GLORY TO THE FATHER, AND TO THE SON, AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Kondak, Tone 3

Today the choir of the Saints who pleased God in our homeland * stands before us in Church and invisibly prays for us to God. * With them the angels glorify Him * all the Saints of the Church of Christ keep festival with them ** and together they pray for us to the Eternal God.

NOW AND EVER AND FOREVER. AMEN.

Kondak, Tone 6

O unashamed intercessor of Christians, * ever loyal advocate before the Creator, * do not disregard the prayerful voices 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:

Wednesday 6/17 7:20 PM– Moleben To The Mother of God– Followed by Orthodox Christian Studies Class

Saturday 6/20 5 PM– Great Vespers

Sunday 6/21 10AM– Divine Liturgy

What the Synaxis of Carthapo-Rusyn Saints means to those who aren't Carpatho-Rusyn

I am sure that some of you are wondering this morning, why is this day important to me? After all, some of you are thinking, I am not Carpatho-Rusyn and neither were my ancestors. St. Elizabeth's is a diverse, multi-ethnic Orthodox community. Some of us are Carpatho-Rusyn, but some of us are Russian, Dutch, Mexican, Brazilian, or simply, American (and many others!). This being the case, why is the Synaxis of Carpatho-Rusyn Saints important to all of us?

To really understand why this day is important to all of us, we need to have a little background on the Ecclesiology of the Orthodox Church. Ecclesiology is the study of the question, "What is the Church?" and "where do we find the fullness of the Church?" This question results in many answers. We, here at St. Elizabeth's, represent the fullness of the Church. We are the Eucharistic gathering of the assembly of Christians. We are the ones who have answered God's calling to us. Yet we do not represent the fullness of the Church on our own, in our one, local community. So what is it that makes our local community the fullness of the Orthodox Church? There is no such thing as the independent Orthodox Parish. Every single Orthodox Church belongs to a Diocese. Every Diocese is obedient to her ruling hierarch, or The Bishop. St. Ignatius, a 2nd century Bishop and Martyr said that the Bishop is to be revered as an Icon of Christ, as His earthly representative. Therefore, it is through the Bishop that the Church remains One, Holy, and Apostolic, as the Creed states. **Continued on back...**

You might think that Unity is maintained in the Orthodox Church through the Eucharist, through the Body and Blood of Christ. And you would be absolutely correct if you thought that! The reception of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist is the highest point of Orthodox Christian Unity. It is Christ who unifies all, and we receive Him into ourselves at every single Liturgy at St. Elizabeth's. However, it is *only through the blessing of the Bishop that this is possible!*

There is a cloth on the Altar called an *Antimension*. This cloth, which holds relics of the Saints within it, has the Bishop's signature written on it. This cloth is the permission of the Bishop to serve the Liturgy at St. Elizabeth's. In the ancient Church, only the Bishop could serve Liturgy. As the Church grew, Bishops granted permission to Priests to serve in their stead. Through the *Antimension* and the Ordination of Priests, the Bishop presides at every Liturgy! It is through this and by the Grace of God, that Bishops keep the Orthodox Church—One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

So back to the question, why are the Carpatho-Rusyn Saints important to each of us? They are important because St. Elizabeth's Mission is a Church in the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. (Carpatho-Russian and Carpatho-Rusyn are synonymous.) To be Orthodox means to love and be obedient to our Bishop, who by Grace is Christ's living Icon. To love and be obedient to our Bishop is to love and be obedient to the Diocese of which we are a part of (even though we are far away from Johnstown!).

Why then are the Carpatho-Rusyn Saints important to us? Because whether or not we are Carpatho-Rusyn, we are members of American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. To be Orthodox means to love and be obedient to your Bishop and your Diocese (amongst many other things!). To love and be obedient to your Diocese means to love the Saints who are the forefathers of the founders of our Diocese. It means to be thankful to those Saints for their prayers, as they fervently pray for the guidance, protection, and Salvation of the entire American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese. That means that the Carpatho-Rusyn saints are praying for the Salvation of each and every one of us! What could be more important than that? So on this day, the Second Sunday after Pentecost we commemorate the Saints of Carpatho-Rus and thank them for their prayers for all of us and our God-Blessed Diocese.

Announcements

- **Camp Nazareth Registration is Open– The last day for the early bird discount is tomorrow, June 15th!**
- **5th of July Parish Picnic–** The Independence Day Parish Picnic celebration will take place following Liturgy on Sunday July 5th on the Parish grounds. Please take a look at the sign up sheet for items to bring available in the Atrium.
- **Jr. ACRY–** Following Liturgy this morning there will be an organizational meeting for all of the parish youth ages 8-18.
- **Baby Shower for Kasi!–** Congratulations and God's Blessing to Kasi and Rob Williams! The Altar Society is sponsoring a baby shower for Kasi this Saturday, June 20th at 1pm! Kasi is registered at Target and Baby's "R" Us.
- **Atlanta Braves–** The outing at the Atlanta Braves game has been postponed due to lack of response. I know that many of you are interested, but we need to pick a date. After looking at the schedule further, Friday, **July 17th** may be our only option before school starts up again. If these dates cannot work for you, please let me know! Otherwise additional information will be emailed out during the week. Remember to invite friends and family!
- **Orthodox Christian Studies Class–** Starting soon we will be offering and advertising an Orthodox Studies class to the public. All of us need to be prepared to speak with those outside of the faith about Orthodoxy. Please consider attending this class now, and again when it is opened to the public. One of the topics for this week will be Orthodoxy and the Modern American Society.
- **Thank You!–** To all those who worked so hard in and around the Church this week! God Bless you all!
- **Testimonials–** I would like for everyone who is interested to write a brief essay about St. Elizabeth's and the Orthodox Faith. You can take this wherever you want, but some things to talk about are what the Church means to you, and how the community at St. Elizabeth's has deepened your Faith. Things like that. The idea is to post these essays to our website. That way, potential members of our community can get a sense for what St. Elizabeth's is all about before they ever walk in the door. ***I strongly encourage everyone*** to participate. That means you! Everyone has a different view and something to offer to this project. That means kids too!!! Don't worry about grammar, or not being a strong writer, I can edit your finished product. Just ask the Holy Spirit for His guidance and write with your heart!



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, Phillip, Jeff, Lesley, Page Family, Stephen (Blessed Repose), The Blonar Family, Anna (Blessed Repose), Louise,

