

THE ST. ELIZABETH'S PARISH NEWS

St. Elizabeth's Orthodox Mission

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

Glory be to Jesus Christ!!!



Reverend Father Matthew Dutko, Pastor

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Sunday September 5th 2016

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Epistle: 1st Corinthians 9:2-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35



If you have never been to an Orthodox Church before you are about to participate in the Divine Liturgy. The Liturgy is the work of the people and that means that all of your prayers are necessary! We hope you will stay and join us for coffee hour in the atrium. Please feel free to ask Fr. Matthew any questions you might have! May God's blessings be upon all of you!

Tropar and Kondak Tone 2– Blue Book pg. 84 Red Book pg. 99

Kondak, Tone 6

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

Monday 9/5– 9AM– Divine Liturgy for St. Elizabeth, the Patronal Feast of our Parish

Wednesday 9/7– 7PM– Great Vespers for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

Thursday 9/8– 9AM– Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

Friday 9/9– 9AM– Divine Liturgy– Joachim and Anna, the Grandparents of the Lord

Sunday 9/11– 10AM– Divine Liturgy

- Sunday School today in the Church right after Liturgy. Please let the kids eat first!
- **Be the Bee** - If you're not familiar with the popular youth oriented Orthodox video series on *youtube*, please check it out here, https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbyQMR-_r8bJTrcWpWxSUPdJHdZjsq_zG - The videos are short, easy, and teach wonderful ways to apply our Orthodox Faith to our daily lives. **On Saturday November 5th**, somewhere in the Atlanta area a special Be the Bee retreat will be held. Please consider setting some time aside to participate, registration is available to anyone who is interested in participating! For more info please visit <http://bethebee.goarch.org/retreats>
- If you have any pictures of events at St. Elizabeth's over the years please bring them in for a picture board!
- Next Sunday's Coffee Hour is provided by Cora and Nicole, thank you so much.
- **ACRY Convention**– This weekend at the ACRY Convention, Lilia Bezerra has been elected to a national board position!
- **Great Vespers for our Patron Saint Today!**- Please stick around after coffee hour to begin the celebration of the Feast of St. Elizabeth!
- **St. Elizabeth Day**– St. Elizabeth Day will be celebrated with a Divine Liturgy on Monday Morning, and again next Sunday. Please try to come and celebrate her day and remember that she is continually praying for all of us, that the Lord may save out souls!

Evelyn Melnikoff, Fr. John and Pani Betty Jean Baranek, Fr. James Gleason, The Paccio Family, Johanna, James, Herbert and Mary Schleinig, Patricia James, Anna, Basil, David, Dianna, Denise, Alex, Jason, Athanasia, Ethel, Kathy, Lester, Sally, Jack, Angela, Tyler, Maria, 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, Michael, Dean, Margaret, Jenny (Blessed Repose) and Keith, Peter (blessed repose), Bishop Gregory and his family Bryan (Blessed Repose), Rick, the James Family, Fr. Scott, Rebecca Cooper (Blessed Repose), Fr. Paul Herbert (Blessed Repose), Joseph, Boris, Maria (Blessed Repose), Maria Starcova, Ernie (Blessed Repose), Fr. Hazuda Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, St. Elizabeth, The Holy Fathers, and all the Saints, may our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ have mercy on us and save us!



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We all know the story of St. Elizabeth from the Scriptures. We know that St. Elizabeth is the cousin of the Mother of God (Luke 1:36). We know that her husband was the prophet Zachariah, and that they were not blessed with children until they were old in age (Luke 1:7). We know that the child of Zachariah and Elizabeth was the Forerunner of the Lord, St. John the Baptist. We know that St. John began his *forerunning* when both Elizabeth and Mary were pregnant with St. John and with Christ (Luke 1:41), and we know that Elizabeth recognized the coming of the Messiah while Mary was pregnant; that Mary was “the mother of my Lord” (Luke 1:43). We know all this from the Scriptures, and to most this would be more than enough to see St. Elizabeth as both holy and righteous. But is this the only reason we love her? The only reason we look up to her? Of course not!

St. Elizabeth and her saintly life is an example to all of us. St. Elizabeth was an old woman by the time she got pregnant with St. John (Luke 1:5-25). In the ancient Jewish tradition, the people blamed the sinfulness of

the couple for a lack of children. This means the Elizabeth and Zachariah often suffered from the gossip of their community. In quiet corners people whispered about how they must be sinful people. But God had great plans for them. St. Zachariah and St. Elizabeth were to be honored as the parents of the forerunner of the Lord.

Being the subjects of constant hurtful whispers all around them could easily have led St. Elizabeth into despair. St. Elizabeth could easily have lost her faith, she could have hated God for not blessing her with children, and hated the people around her for their vileness.

This was not the case though for St. Elizabeth; she remained faithful, patient, caring, loving, humble, meek, pure of heart, and all the things that enslave us to our God and transform us into the likeness of Christ. The Christ whom she awaited, the Christ whom her son foretold and baptized. The Christ who by His death, resurrection, and ascension sets us free from the bondage of sin and death.

The *Vespers* for the feast of St. Elizabeth tell us that throughout her difficult life, St. Elizabeth always “kept the commandments of the Law”, and “walked in the commandments of the Lord”. More than this the *Vespers* remind us that St. Elizabeth had “heartfelt love for God and heartfelt love for (her) neighbors “. And what was the fruit of her loving kindness and patience? “The fruit of (her) faith was made a reality.” St. Elizabeth bore the final and greatest of the prophets. Imagine the motherly pride she must have felt as her son baptized the Creator of the Universe and the Saviour of our souls in the Jordan River.

St. Elizabeth's life was a life of difficulty , but her forbearance, patience, love of her neighbor, love of God, righteousness, and holiness is an example to all of us. We are blessed to call her our patron Saint. Always remember her, as she remembers you. Ask her to pray for you and to bless you. We should all ask St. Elizabeth to pray for us so that we too can participate in the beatitudes which she clearly embodied in her life.