



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 42 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

Volume 31

2017

Number 3

Sunday	Jan 15	<i>30th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 5 / Venerable Paul of Thebes</i>	
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 pm	Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Saturday	Jan 21	<i>St Maximus the Confessor</i>	
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers
Sunday	Jan 22	<i>31st Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 6 / Apostle Timothy, of the Seventy</i>	
		Readings:	1 Tim 1:15-17 Luke 18:35-43
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 pm	Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Jan 8

Attendance: (Adults 92, Children 17)	109
Operating	4,515.00
Uganda Children	45.00
Icons	10.00
Charities	10.00
Hall Rentel	70.00
Advent Project	250.00

COUNCIL MEETING

Our new Council will meet for the first time this Thursday, Jan 19 at 7:00 pm. Please email Mark Joslin with your Agenda items by Tuesday. Thanks.

HOUSE BLESSING

Please sign up in the foyer if you would like your house to be blessed during the Theophany Season. Daytime hours are available by calling the parish office.

NEW ROSTER TO BE PUBLISHED

In preparation for the new Roster, please email Fr Andrew with any changes.

NEW PARISHONERS

We welcome Tim & Linda Halligan who have just moved here from Luenburg, Massachusetts. They are the parents of Laura Abernathy and met while attending Bowling Green State University. Linda is a retired Math Teacher originally from the Lorain area. Tim is semi-retired from his work in real estate and grew up near Utica, NY. Linda enjoys puzzles, singing and baking and Tim is a woodworker. We wish them the best during this time of transition.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom), Perry (Capitan), Bess (Chongris grndma), Mary & Bruno, Subdeacon Leonard, Jim, (Denise F's bro), Fr Ted Bobosh, Helen Cicismanski (Andy D's mom), Linnea Kamin-sky (Matt's mom), Linda Stiscak (Furman sis-n-law), Jim (Ruth's dad), Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan, Sharon Georges, Margaret Pellack, Michael (Chongris nphw), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Birthdays: Stephen Hoffacker (1/17), John Hecht Jr, Miranda Oberhausen (1/19).

Newborns: Moses (Ben & Margaret).

Expecting: Venessa & Zach, Tom & Laura, Bobby & Juliana, CJ & Iya, Patrick & Deanna, Chris & Vallery, Vitaly & Luba, Tim & Ashley.

Newly Illumined: Theodore, Megan, Magnus & Timothy.

Memory Eternal: Ron Bede (1/5).

Men are often called intelligent wrongly. Intelligent men are not those who are erudite in the sayings and books of the wise men of old, but those who have an intelligent soul and can discriminate between good and evil. They avoid what is sinful and harms the soul; and with deep gratitude to God they resolutely adhere by dint of practice to what is good and benefits the soul.

Based on St. Anthony the Great

The Slow Work of Grace

by Fr Stephen Freeman

In the minds of many, grace is a legal concept – an expression of the kindness of God in the forgiveness of sins. As such, grace is instant and complete. This fits well within the legal conceptions of salvation. In the classical understanding of the Orthodox faith, salvation can indeed have a quality of “suddenness” – the thief on the Cross found paradise “in a single moment” according to the hymns of the Orthodox Church. But for most people – salvation is a life-long process in which we “work out our salvation from day to day in fear and trembling” (Phil. 2:12). That experience, like most of life, has a slow quality to it.

From a Prayer by the Elder Sophrony:

At times prayer seems over-slow in bringing results, and life is so short. Instinctively we cry, “Make haste unto me.” But He does not always respond at once. Like fruit on a tree, our soul is left to scorch in the sun, to endure the cold wind, the scorching wind, to die of thirst or be drowned in the rain. But if we do not let go of the hem of His garment, all will end well.

We live in a culture of fast food, and tend to want grace to operate on the same speed track. Some versions of Christianity make grace as “quick” as walking the aisle. This, of course, is misleading.

In my experience, grace works on a level that is proper to human beings with some notable exceptions (but even then one can wonder). Grace takes time because we are not built on a fast track. Human beings don't wean until about 2 1/2 years, properly (women you may correct me). We take 9 months of gestation, and we do not reach puberty for 13 years, traditionally. We are not instant people.

Neither does grace work on such an instant level (or is not at least noticeable on such an instant level). We should know that to be human requires years for some things, including things pertaining to God.

I am comforted, that, unlike physicists, theologians do not reach their best work until near retirement age. I'm waiting for my maturity!

But each of us would do well to slow down our expectations and speed up our efforts of prayer. Pray more, but wait on God. This lesson of patience is not something God does to us to torture us, but is something He does to bring us back into line with our humanity. Let patience have her perfect work (James 1:4).