



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 44 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

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Number 19

Sunday	May 13	<i>6th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 5 / The Blind Man</i>	
		9:00 am Church School	
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Prayers for Mothers	Coffee Hour
Wednesday	May 16	<i>Leavetaking of Pascha / Eve of Ascension</i>	
		6:30 pm Vespers	
Saturday	May 19	<i>Hieromartyr Patrick of Bishop of Prussia</i>	
		5:30 pm Great Vespers	
Sunday	May 20	<i>7th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 6 / Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</i>	
		Readings: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 John 17:1-13	
		9:00 am Church School	
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / May 6

Attendance: (Adults 113, Children 27)	140
Operating	\$4,292.00
OCA Assessments	149.00
Uganda Children	53.00
Charities	30.00
Zoe	445.00
Icons	40.00
IOCC	10.00

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

May God bless and keep all of our mothers for many years and establish the souls of our departed mothers in the Mansions of the Righteous. Memory eternal!

SPECIAL WELCOME

Julian Rosca was baptized into Christ yesterday. May God plant him firmly in his vineyard and bless and keep him for many years.

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 17 at 7:00 pm

JOSS RECEPTION

A Send Off Brunch will take place on Sunday, May 27 following Liturgy for Bob & Chris Joss. This will be a catered event and we need an exact count of those who will attend. Please sign-up in the Foyer.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom), Perry (Capitan), Sbdcn Leonard, Kathy (Denise F's sis), Jim (Ruth's dad), John (Adam's nephew), Ted Geletka, (Fr's frnd), Alex Dzura, infant Julian, John Clements, Willie (Elena G's son), Sarah Crivella, Darlene (Mary V's csn), Donald Starr (Scott C's fr-n-lw), Denise Fross, Mary Georges (Peter's mom), Nancy, (Ruth B's frnd), Andy Dzura, Tom Bohl (Andy D's frnd), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Birthdays: Jim & Lisa Gordon (5/14), Corrine Schroeder (5/15), Anna Cunningham (5/16), Nicholas Fross (5/18).

Newborns: Asher (Brian & Nicole), Cooper (Jimmy & Heather), Henry (Fred & Faith), Nina Margaret (Matt & Krista)

Expecting: Alexandr & Olga, Chad & Meredith, Matt & Michelle, Tom & Miranda, Mitch & Winnie, Jon & Larissa.

Our Seminarian: Brian Crivella & Family.

Newly Illumined: Julian Rosca, Michael Schlafer, Cami (Tetiana) Price, Stephanie Iorga.

Memory Eternal: Milica Knezevich (Cindy B's Baba, 4/15).

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

“I ascend to My Father and your Father”

by Fr Stephen Kostoff

According to the mind of the Church, the Risen Lord is also the Ascended Lord. In the words of Father Georges Florovsky, “In the Ascension resides the meaning and the fullness of Christ’s Resurrection.” Though the visible presence of the Risen Lord ended 40 days after His Resurrection, that did not mean that His actual presence was withdrawn. Christ solemnly taught His disciples – and us through them – “Behold, I am with you always, to the close of the age” [Matthew 28:20]. The risen, ascended and glorified Lord is the Head of His body, the Church. The Lord remains present in the Mysteries/Sacraments of the Church. This reinforces our need to participate in the sacramental life of the Church, especially the Eucharist, through which we receive the deified flesh and blood of the Son of God “unto life everlasting.”

Christ ascended to be seated at “the right hand of the Father” in glory, thus lifting up the humanity He assumed in the Incarnation into the very inner life of God. For all eternity, Christ is God and man. The deified humanity of the Lord is the sign of our future destiny “in Christ.” For this reason, the Apostle Paul could write, “your life is hidden with Christ in God” [Colossians 3:3].

The words of the “two men ... in white robes” (clearly angels) who stood by the disciples as they gazed at Christ being “lifted up” as recorded by Saint Luke in Acts 1:11, point toward something very clear and essential for us to grasp as members of the Church that exists within

the historical time of the world: “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven.” The disciples will remain in the world, and must fulfill their vocation as the chosen apostles who will proclaim the Word of God to the world of the crucified and risen Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. They cannot spend their time gazing into heaven awaiting the return of the Lord. That hour has not been revealed: “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by His own authority” [1:7]. The “work” of the Church is the task set before them, and they must do this until their very last breath. They will carry out this work once they receive the power of the Holy Spirit—the “promise of my Father”—as Christ said to them in Luke 24:49. Whatever our vocation may be, we too witness to Christ and the work of the Church as we await the fullness of God’s Kingdom according to the times or seasons of the Father.

In our daily Prayer Rule we continue to refrain from using “O Heavenly King” until the Day of Pentecost. We no longer sing the Paschal troparion, “Christ is risen from the dead,” but replace it from Ascension to Pentecost with the troparion of the Ascension: “Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the Blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world!”