



# Weekly Bulletin

## St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 30 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Oct 5</b>	<i>16th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 7 / Martyr Charitina of Amisus</i>	
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Oct 11</b>	<i>Holy Apostle Philip of the Seventy</i>	
		6:30 pm	Vigil      Confession
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Oct 12</b>	<i>17th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 8 / Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council.</i>	
		Readings:	2 Cor 6:16-7:1      Luke 7:11-16
		9:00 am	Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour
		3:00 pm	Valko Wedding

### ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / SEPT 28

Attendance (Adults 106, Children: 34)	140
Operating	\$3,041.00
Expansion	115.00
Parking Lot	287.00
Uganda Children	210.00
Icons	50.00
Hurricane Ike	134.00
Ticket Sales	1,225.00

### SPECIAL PRAYERS

Please keep Fr Andrew and Barry Sabol in your prayers as they travel to Chicago this week for the Diocesan Assembly.

### IT'S A BOY

Mason Andrew Zadd was born yesterday at 7:30 am to Nichole & Evan weighing 7 lbs, 5 ozs and measuring 20 1/2". Everyone is doing well.

### 35th ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

Tickets are now on sale for the Banquet honoring our 35th Anniversary. Sunday, November 1 & 2 is our Celebration Weekend. Please see Michelle Schroeder (255-7053) and Debbie Covelli (350-0549) for tickets and info. Adults - \$35 / person, Children 12 and under - \$20 / child. The banquet will be served family style and the full Menu and details are in the foyer. The event will be highlighted by a visit from His Eminence Archbishop Job and the tonsure to Reader of John Clements. His Eminence will also spend some time with our youth and teens on Saturday (details to follow) and will be our guest of honor at the Banquet on Sunday. Please extend the invitation to your outside family and friends.

### EMAIL ROSTER

We are in the process of compiling an Email Roster of the parish to help with inter parish communication. If you have email, please enter it on the form in the foyer. When completed, it will be published and eventually become part of our Parish Roster. Thanks for your cooperation.

### PRAYER CORNER ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

----- **For Healing / Well Being:** -----

- Child Zachary (Chris J's grandson)
- Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom)
- Phyllis Flynn (Mary Ellen's mom)
- Pat Kiraly (Michelle S's cousin)
- Patricia Wilcox (Rosemary B's mom)
- Michael Brindley (Denise F's bro)
- Newborn Mason Andrew and parents Evan & Nichole
- Julie & Corey & Unborn Child (LuAnn's daughter)
- Phil Thomas (M Schroeder's friend)
- Newborn Madeliene and parents Deanna & Brian
- Jeremy & Cara & Unborn Child
- Lou Brosovich (Val C's dad)
- Mike & Sarah (Soroka) & unborn child
- Elaine & Stephanie T as they travel to Hungary
- Nadia Tereshko (Alice G's mom)
- Helen Dzura (Andy's mom)

----- **Memory Eternal** -----

- Brad Burlingham (Laurie A's cousin)
- John Sankovich (Val C's friend)

# Is God Judging America?

by Fr. John Chagnon

The front pages are clogged with stories of economic failure. Politics is partisan, nasty, and ineffective. The culture appears to be growing more coarse and immature with each season on TV. The America I knew as a child seems like a dream and the one I live in now a nightmare without the relief of morning.

Is God judging America?

In the time following the tragedy of September 11, 2001, the late Rev. Jerry Falwell suggested something to that affect and was roundly critiqued for expressing his opinion that the hand of God could have been behind those events. The critiques, though, were often more about the unfashionable nature of the idea that God would judge America, or judge anyone or anything, and less about the actual content of Rev. Falwell's theory.

But could God be judging America?

The answer is "It's possible." As Christians we understand that God is active in history and can use the ebb and flow of events to hold both people and nations to account. There is no asterisk in that understanding for the United States. Only a distorted sense of our exceptionalism would have us believe we're immune from the possibility of God calling us to task and using the events of history as tools of His sovereignty. Why would there be one standard for say, the Philistines, and another for us? Why should there be?

The problem, given that understanding, is not about whether its possible that God is using the events of these times as a kind of judgment but whether we can state that with certainty. There have been times, as our Faith tells us, that certain people have been given a gift from God to proclaim with specificity that events were being directed to chastise and call a culture to repentance, and in the perspective of hindsight we can affirm that gift. But in throes of immediacy and without such a charism it would be good to proceed with caution. History is full of date setters and "prophets" who have only one thing in common, they were wrong. Are the events of these times the beginning of the end or the birth pains of a coming revival? God knows, we don't. What is heaven's take on 9/11? God knows, we don't.

But we do know something with certainty. We do know that ideas, constructs, and behavior have consequences. We have fallen prey, for a variety of reasons, in this country to a kind of life that is at once technically advanced but spiritually, emotionally, and socially selfish, materialistic, and bankrupt. Our institutions, as reflections of ourselves, have become poisoned as well with the results being fodder for the headlines. To what extent God's hand is in all of this remains unknown but perhaps we're bearing the consequences of our own actions, the pain of our abandonment of sense and the emptiness of a life detached from authentic moral order. One does not need a prophet to suggest this; one simply needs to read the Book or, for that matter, the newspaper.

So is the craziness of these times an example of God's judgement, the consequences of our own choices, or some mixture of both? I haven't the gift to say with certainty. I only know that the sickness of my culture begins to end when I address the illness of my soul.

The very fall of man consists in the fact that he desired life for himself and in himself, and not for God and in God. God made this very world a means of communion with himself, but man desired the world purely for himself alone.

So the world, having ceased to be transparent to God, has become an endless commotion,  
a senseless cycle of time constantly in flux, constantly vanishing,

and, in the final analysis, dying.

— Fr Alexander Schmemmann —