



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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Sunday	Dec 9	<i>28th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 3 / St Nicholas the Wonderworker</i>
		Readings: Heb 13:17-21 Luke 6:17-23
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Dinner & Program
Monday	Dec 10	<i>Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes & Eugrapus</i>
		3:30 - 5:00pm Confession
Wednesday	Dec 12	<i>St Spyridon the Wonderworker</i>
		7:00 pm Prefestal Vespers Confession
Saturday	Dec 15	<i>Patapius of Thebes</i>
		5:30 pm Graet Vespers Confession
Sunday	Dec 16	<i>29th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 4 / Sunday of the Forefathers</i>
		Readings: Col 3:4-11 Luke 14:16-24
		9:00 am Church School

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Dec 2

Attendance: (Adults 117, Children 24)	141
Operating	\$4,529.00
OCA Assessments	181.00
Uganda Children	74.00
Charities	176.00
Maintenance	23.00
Icons	15.00

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

See Maureen if you want your name to be listed on the Parish Christmas Card to be printed in the Christmas Bulletin. A \$10.00 donation is required and all proceeds are donated to Charity.

EVENING ADULT CLASS

The Class will meet this week on Dec 11 at 7:00 pm to continue our study of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

COOKIE / FOOD SALE

Our sale is next Saturday, beginning at 9:00 am. Cookies can be dropped off Friday evening. Please include an 'Ingredient Card' with each type of cookie and consider helping out at the event. If teens need 'Service Hours,' here's a great way to get them.

CONFESSION NOTE

Confession is in order for everyone during Advent. Please approach in a timely manner taking advantage of the extra times scheduled in December.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom), Perry (Capitan), Sbdcn Leonard, Kathy (Denise F's sis), John (Adam's nephew), Ted Geletka, Nina Stehnach (Fr's frnds), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Nancy, (Ruth B's frnd), Joella (Lu D's daughter) Lillian (Lu D's mom), Bradley (Tina C's son), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Birthdays: Matthew Bailey (12/11), Varvara Zasukhina (12/13),

Newborns: Emmett (Tom & Laura).

Expecting: Inga & Vytas, Bobby & Juliana, David & Maria, Daniel & Danielle, Colin & Tamuna.

Departed: Fr Dcn Dennis & Helen Lucak (11/10), Larry Weber (11/9, Maureen M's uncle).

Newly Illumined: Silvia Nicoletti.

Our Seminarian: Deacon Brian Crivella & Family.

Our Missionaries: Peter & Sharon.

Happy Saint Nicholas Day!

St Nicholas - the Early Years

Edited by Petr Chudoba

Nicholas was exceedingly well brought up by his parents and walked piously in their footsteps.

His mother and father taught him to be generous to others, especially to those in need.

According to St. Simeon Metaphrastes,

“To be sure they had had more than a taste of worldly pomp and circumstance. But they nobly exemplified for their son how he should want nothing for his own selfish purposes by devoting themselves wholly to that which is good and following it in all ways.”

Nicholas learned that helping others makes one richer in life than anything else.

St. Simeon also wrote that young Nicholas showed from the beginning that he wanted to please God.

“Then, like some good and fertile soil, when he reached the proper age he was sent to the gramaticus for schooling. Under him and from his keen and subtle genius, in a short time Nicholas mastered the many disciplines although all those of political and mercantile nature he rejected. He avoided immoderate companions and consorting and conversing with women. Refusing even so much as to turn his eyes in their direction, he bade them goodbye. Taking leave of worldly ways, he spent all his time in holy churches, according to the saying of the divine David preferring to be abject to them [Ps 83].”

Nicholas was nine years old when a plague swept through his village. Both his father and mother died. Although Nicholas moved in with friends of his parents, he felt lost without the two people he'd loved so dearly. The seed that they had planted in him, however, continued to grow.

Young Nicholas often visited his Uncle Nicholas, who was bishop over Patara, and helped him with the Divine Liturgy there. Nicholas assisted the older men at the church so that he'd benefit from their example and guidance. Under Uncle Nicholas' guardianship, the young boy learned the texts of prayers, details of rituals, and showed a remarkably quick mind and sincere devotion.

Nicholas passed entire days and nights in church lifting up his heart to God in prayer and reading the Holy Scriptures and other Christian books. He meditated on spiritual knowledge, enriching himself in the divine grace of the Holy Spirit and creating within himself a worthy dwelling for Him, in accordance with the words of Holy Scripture:

“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” (**I Corinthians 3:16 NKJV**)

St. Simeon wrote again that,

“Being humble, the Saint sought to avoid men's praises,

but once again he could not hide his virtues, as they were God-given and served all those who followed his guidance.”

His uncle rejoiced at the spiritual success and deep piety of his nephew. He ordained Nicholas a reader in the church, and then elevated him to the dignity of presbyter, making him his assistant and entrusting him to speak, instructing the flock. In serving the Lord, young Nicholas was fervent of spirit, and in his proficiency with questions of faith, he was like an elder, which aroused the wonder and deep respect of believers.

Constantly at work and in prayer, Presbyter Nicholas displayed great kind-heartedness towards the flock, and towards the afflicted who came to him for help.

Because he lived such an ascetic and righteous life, Nicholas was ordained into the priesthood at New Zion when he was nineteen years old. His uncle – addressing him as he took his vows – prophesied:

“I see, brethren, a new sun rising above the Earth and manifesting in himself a gracious consolation for the afflicted. Blessed is the flock that will be worthy to have him as its pastor, because this one will shepherd well the souls of those who have gone astray, will nourish them on the pasturage of piety, and will be a merciful helper in misfortune and tribulation.”

This prophecy was indeed later fulfilled. Nicholas wasn't just a diligent young man and student, but an exceptional priest as well. God gave him the gift to work signs and wonders and to heal the sick.

Nicholas added labors to labors; keeping vigil and remaining in unceasing prayer and fasting, he, being mortal, strove to imitate the bodiless ones. Merciful, trustworthy and loving what is right, he walked among the people like an angel of God.

His parents had left him an inheritance, which enabled him to buy food for the hungry, to dress the naked and care for orphans and widows. Nicholas was careful to remain anonymous with his charities. Usually he preferred to receive no credit for his gifts, desiring rather to make his visits to the homes of the poor and unfortunate under the cloak of darkness so that no one would know who he was. One story claims that he would dress up in a disguise and go out into the streets and give gifts to poor children. Nicholas felt that if anyone should receive the praise and glory, it should be God, and not himself.

“But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.” (**Matthew 6:3-4 NKJV**)