



# 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 32

2018

Number 1

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan 7</b>	<i>31st Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 6 / Sunday after Theophany</i>		
		9:00 am	Church School	
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy / Baptism	Coffee Hour
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan 13</b>	<i>St Hilary of Poitiers</i>		
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers	Confession
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan 14</b>	<i>32nd Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 7 / St Nina of Georgia</i>		
		Readings:	1 Tim 1:15-17	Lk 18:35-43
		9:00 am	Church School	
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Dec 24/25**

Attendance: (Adults 120, Children 28)	148
Operating	\$6,551.00
OCA Assessments	440.00
Uganda Children	75.00
Charities	29.00
Icons	50.00
Other	35.00

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Dec 31**

Attendance: (Adults 117, Children 25)	142
Operating	\$3,187.00
OCA Assessments	440.00
Uganda Children	104.00
Charities	9.00
Icons	55.00

**YEAR 2018 ASSESMENTS**

Please note our annual per person obligations to the OCA & Diocese for 2018 is \$176.00. There are envelopes for this in your packet and your timely response is greatly appreciated.

**HOUSE BLESSING**

Please sign-up in the Foyer if you wish to have your house blessed this Theophany Season. Blessings can be scheduled up to Feb 11.

**PRAYER CORNER + + + + +**

Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom), Perry (Capitan), Sbdcn Leonard, Kathy (Denise F's sis), Jim (Ruth's dad), Michael (Chongris nphw), Ted Geletka, (Fr's frnd), Connie (Linda D's frnd), Alex Dzura, infant Julian, John Clements, Willie (Elena G's son), Infant Sophia

(Elaine T's granddaughter), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

**Birthdays:** Kevyn Roth (1/7), Tess Lannon, Stephanie Iorga (1/8), Michelle Ray, Tim Price (1/9), Danil (Bozhukov) Antonoff (1/10), Renee Kirouac, Fr Andrew (1/13).

**Expecting:** Tom & Miranda, Mitch & Winnie, Brian & Nicole, Cole & Sarah, Matt & Krista, James & Lisa.

**Our Seminarian:** Brian Crivella & Family.

**Our Missionaries:** Peter & Sharon.

**Newly Illumined:** Anastasia.

**Newly United:** John & Lindsay.

**Memory Eternal:** Ron Bede's (Stephen) 1st Anniversary on Jan 5, Leona (Pauline Demanksy's sis), Fr John Klembara, Russ Bechowiak.

*O Christ the King, You came to the river as a man, and in Your goodness made haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, for the sake of our sins, O You who love mankind.*

— Hymn from the Theophany Vigil —

# The Feast of Theophany

Theophany is the Feast which reveals the Most Holy Trinity to the world through the Baptism of the Lord (Mt.3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22). God the Father spoke from Heaven about the Son, the Son was baptized by Saint John the Forerunner, and the Holy Spirit descended upon the Son in the form of a dove. From ancient times this Feast was called the Day of Illumination and the Feast of Lights, since God is Light and has appeared to illumine “those who sat in darkness,” and “in the region of the shadow of death” (Mt.4:16), and to save the fallen race of mankind by grace.

In the ancient Church it was the custom to baptize catechumens at the Vespers of Theophany, so that Baptism also is revealed as the spiritual illumination of mankind.

The origin of the Feast of Theophany goes back to Apostolic times, and it is mentioned in The Apostolic Constitutions (Book V:13). From the second century we have the testimony of Saint Clement of Alexandria concerning the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, and the night vigil before this Feast.

There is a third century dialogue about the services for Theophany between the holy martyr Hippolytus and Saint Gregory the Wonderworker. In the following centuries, from the fourth to ninth century, all the great Fathers of the Church: Gregory the Theologian, John Chrysostom, Ambrose of Milan,

John of Damascus, commented on the Feast of Theophany.

The monks Joseph the Studite, Theophanes and Byzantios composed much liturgical music for this Feast, which is sung at Orthodox services even today. Saint John of Damascus said that the Lord was baptized, not because He Himself had need for cleansing, but “to bury human sin by water,” to fulfill the Law, to reveal the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and finally, to sanctify “the nature of water” and to offer us the form and example of Baptism.

On the Feast of the Baptism of Christ, the Holy Church proclaims our faith in the most sublime mystery, incomprehensible to human intellect, of one God in three Persons. It teaches us to confess and glorify the Holy Trinity, one in Essence and Indivisible. It exposes and overthrows the errors of ancient teachings which attempted to explain the Creator of the world by reason, and in human terms.

The Church shows the necessity of Baptism for believers in Christ, and it inspires us with a sense of deep gratitude for the illumination and purification of our sinful nature. The Church teaches that our salvation and cleansing from sin is possible only by the power of the grace of the Holy Spirit, therefore it is necessary to preserve worthily these gifts of the grace of holy Baptism.