



# 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

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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar 18</b>	<i>4th Sunday of Great Lent / Tone 8 / St John Climacus</i>
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Mar 21</b>	<i>5th Wednesday of Great Lent</i>
		4:00 pm Confession
		6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Mar 23</b>	<i>5th Friday of Great Lent</i>
		7:00 pm Akathist to the Mother of God / Special Anointing
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Mar 24</b>	<i>5th Saturday of Great Lent / Saturday of the Akathist / Eve of Annunciation</i>
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy      Lazarus Bread Baking
		4:00 pm Confession
		5:30 pm Great Vespers / Litya      Confession
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Mar 25</b>	<i>5th Sunday of Great Lent / Tone 1 / The Annunciation</i>
		Readings: Heb 9:1-14      Mark 10:32-45
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Mar 11**

Attendance: (Adults 112, Children 33)	145
Operating	\$3,151.00
OCA Assessments	444.00
Uganda Children	50.00
Charities	97.00
Alms	278.00
Icons	115.00
Kitchen Fund	500.00
Other	244.00

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Our gratitude goes out to all who came to clean the Church for Pascha. Over twenty participants, including many children, have made the church sparkle.

**CHURCH SCHOOL ALMS PROJECT**

Please be encouraging your children to be collecting money in your Baby Bottles for Zoe for Life. The funds will go toward the purchase of Special Programs to educate expectant mothers to carry their babies to term. Anyone in the parish is welcomed to be part of the project. See Debbie with any questions.

**EVENING ADULT CLASS**

The Class will resume after Pascha.

**LAZARUS BREAD BAKING**

Everyone is invited to help bake the breads this Saturday, March 24, following Liturgy. They will be distributed at the Brunch on Lazarus Saturday.

**CONFESSION NOTE**

Confession is in order for all Orthodox Christians during Great Lent. Please note the special times scheduled for Confession and approach in a timely manner throughout the season. Saturday, March 31 is the last day for Confessions but College students returning home can approach at any time. Also, when you come for Confession, consider helping with the reading of the Psalms while awaiting your turn.

**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), Alex Dzura, Bill, infant Julian, John Clements, Willie (Elena G's son), Sarah Crivella, Andy Dzura, Darlene (Mary V's csn), Donald Starr (Scott C's fr-n-lw), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

**Birthdays:** Christine Cindric (3/20), Michael Falkov (3/22).

**Newborns:** Henry (Fred & Faith), Michael David (Cole & Sarah), Nina Margret (Matt & Krista), Andrew James (James & Lisa).

**Expecting:** Matt & Michelle, Tom & Miranda, Mitch & Winnie, Brian & Nicole, Jon & Larissa.

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

**Our Missionaries:** Peter & Sharon.

**Our Catechumens:** Cami Price, Stephanie Iorga.

**Memory Eternal:** Archpriest Paul Ziatik (3/5), James Balamaci (Fr's frnd, 2/1), Maria Lagusch (2/14).

## Why Fast?

A boy once approached his father, 'Old man, why do you fast?' The father stood silent, bringing heart and mind together, and then:

'Beloved boy, I fast to know what it is I lack. For day by day I sit in abundance, and all is well before me; I want not, I suffer not, and I lack but that for which I invent a need. But my heart is empty of true joy, filled, yet overflowing with dry waters. There is no room left for love. I have no needs, and so my needs are never met, no longings, and so my desires are never fulfilled. Where all the fruits of the earth could dwell, I have filled the house with dust and clouds; It is full, so I am content—But it is empty, and so I weep.

'Thus I fast, beloved, to know the dust in which I dwell. I take not from that which I might take, for in its absence I am left empty, and what is empty stands ready to be filled. I turn from what I love, for my love is barren, and by it I curse the earth. I turn from what I love, that I may purify my loving, and move from curse to blessing.

'From my abundance I turn to want, as the soldier leaves the comfort of home, of family and love, to know the barrenness of war. For it is only amongst the fight, in the torture of loss, in the fire of battle, that lies are lost and the blind man clearly sees. In hunger of body and mind, I see the vanity of food, for I have loved food as food, and have never been fed. In weary, waking vigil I see the vanity of sleep, for I have embraced sleep as desire, and have never found rest. In sorrow, with eyes of tears I see the vanity of pleasure, for I have treasured happiness above all, and have never known joy.

'I fast, beloved child, to crush the wall that is my self; For I am not who I am, just as these passions are not treasures of gold but of clay.

I fast to die, for it is not the living who are raised, but the dead.

I fast to crucify my desires, for He who was crucified was He who lived, and He who conquered, and He who lives forever.'

Anonymous