



# 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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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 9</b>	<i>15th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 6 / Righteous Joachim &amp; Anna</i>
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Picnic
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Sept 13</b>	<i>Eve of the Exaltation of the Cross</i>
		5:00 pm Confession
		6:30 pm Vesperal Liturgy
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Sept 15</b>	<i>Great Martyr Nicetas the Goth</i>
		5:30 pm Great Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Sept 16</b>	<i>16th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 7 / Great Martyr Euphemia, the All-Praised</i>
<b>Pledge Sunday</b>		Readings: 2 Cor 6:1-10 Matt 25:14-30
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Aug 19**

Attendance: (Adults 92, Children 43)	135
Operating	\$3,086.00
OCA Assessments	94.00
Uganda Children	98.00
Charities	18.00
Icons	207.00
Zoe	20.00

**MEMORY ETERNAL**

Sharon Georges' mother, Janet Weinland, passed away on Wednesday, September 5th.

Funeral services will be at Dean's Funeral Home 256 W. Ohio Ave. Sebring, OH 44672 on Tuesday September 11 at 2:00 pm with burial at Sebring Grandview Cemetery.

**EVENING ADULT CLASS**

The Class will not meet this week due to the Weinland Funeral, but will begin next Tuesday, Sept 18 at 7:00 pm.

**SPECIAL SALE**

The Bookstore will have an Inventory Reduction Sale beginning Sept 16. Select items will be 50-80% off.

**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), infant Julian, John Clements, Willie (Elena G's son), Sarah Crivella, Darlene (Mary V's csn), Nancy, (Ruth B's frnd), Joella (Lu D's daughter), Tom Tulloch (Dzura frnd), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

**Anniversaries:** Dale & Denise Fross (9/9), Mike & Kathy Galcgozy (9/10), Shane & Maryann Clouse (9/11).

**Birthdays:** Leonard Heim III, Elizabeth Povozahev (9/10), Eliana Kingsbury (9/11), Tim & Jim Renda (9/12), Ted Kisha (9/14), Linda Halligan (9/15).

**Newborns:** Theodora (Tom & Miranda) Matthew (Alexandr & Olga), Sophia (Patrick & Deanna), James Mitch & Winnie), Nicholas (Jonathan & Larissa).

**Expecting:** David & Maria, Daniel & Danielle, Colin & Tamuna, Tom & Laura, Chad & Meredith, Matt & Michelle.

**Departed:** Janet Weinland (9/5, Sharon G's mom), Olimpia Tandeia (8/11, Calin L's grandma).

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

**Pledge Sunday is next week, Sept 16**

# Call no Man Father

by Dcn George Shumaik

At the recent 19th All American Council of the Orthodox Church in America the salutation “Father” was on the lips of those in attendance countless times which brings to mind the exhortation by Jesus, “Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven.” (Matt 23:9)

Referencing this line of scripture, Protestants have abandoned the title “Father”, referring to those who lead their churches as pastor, minister, reverend and so forth. Quoting single lines of scripture is a classical technique in religious rhetoric to “prove” your point.

This fits into the paradigm of interpreting the Bible as being inerrant in every word. It works well for some passages. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) There is no ambiguity here about who Jesus is, where He came from and why He was sent.

There are two terms in the academic jargon of Biblical study - hermeneutics and exegetics. Both are Greek in origin. Hermeneutikos means “to interpret” and exegeisthai means “to guide forward”. The difference is admittedly subtle with the two often being conflated in contemporary use.

The hermeneutics of fundamentalist Protestantism is that the language of the Bible is literal and “self-evident”. Therefore if one reads the Bible faithfully, the meaning is clear not requiring additional explanation.

The hermeneutics of Orthodox Christianity is more nuanced. While still believing the Bible contains the inerrant word of God, interpretation is a function of the Church, drawing upon the guidance (exegesis) of the Church Fathers, Holy Tradition and the Saints. This idea is foundational starting with the Apostle Phillip leading the Ethiopian eunuch to find the story of Jesus Christ within the words of the Prophecy of Isaiah. (Acts 8)

When using Biblical text to emphasize a teach-

ing of the Faith, particularly when Jesus is being quoted, context is important. In reference to the “call no man father” issue the entire 23rd Chapter of Matthew, all 39 verses, is Christ’s rebuke of the Jewish clerics over their hypocrisy.

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!” is spoken seven times as Jesus catalogs their numerous abominations. These men were supposed to serve as paragons of virtue for the Jews. They were to be fathers as was their Father Abraham and teachers (rabbis) of the Law.

They had abdicated their responsibilities and hence did not deserve either the title of father or teacher. Jesus starkly reminds them that ultimately there is only one God the Father and one Teacher the Christ.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus refers to the Creator as the Father, my Father, our Father and the affectionate Aramaic, Abba Father. It is important to emphasize that the relationship of Jesus to His Father is unique.

Jesus is not a created being as we all are. He takes his humanity from the Theotokos and His divinity from the Father within the mystery of the Holy Trinity - as we affirm in the Creed, “begotten not made”. In biblical language, earthly fathers beget and mothers bear while neither creates. Within this context, it is appropriate to use the title father and mother for those that nurture us through childhood and beyond.

Likewise, within the Church, using Father to address those men who have taken up the cross of the priesthood as shepherds of Christ’s Holy Church is “meet and right”. They are called to shine forth with the light of Christ and to deliver the salvific sacraments to the people.

Hopefully, none would debase themselves into thinking they have equated themselves with the Creator. We should pray that every time a priest is greeted as “Father”, a measure of humility is added to his being. Amen.