



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 45 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

Volume 33

2019

Number 28

Sunday	Jul 14	<i>4th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 3 / Frs of 1st Six Ecumenical Councils</i>		
		9:30 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour
Saturday	Jul 20	<i>Holy Prophet Elijah</i>		
		4:00 pm	Confession	
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers	Confession
Sunday	Jul 21	<i>5th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 4 / Holy Prophet Ezekiel</i>		
		Readings:	Rom 10:1-10	Matt 8:28-9:1
		9:30 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / June 30

Attendance: (Adults 101, Children 31)	132
Operating	\$3,731.00
OCA Assessments	90.00
Uganda Children	180.00
Charities	5.00
Icons	10.00
Maintenance	130.00

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Jul 7

Attendance: (Adults 77, Children 15)	92
Operating	\$1,562.00
OCA Assessments	357.00
Uganda Children	30.00
Charities	35.00
Icons	60.00
Maintenance	130.00

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, July 18 at 6:30 pm.

TEACHERS NEEDED

We are in need of a 4th-5th Grade Teacher and three assistants for 2nd-3rd, 4th-5th and High School. Please see Debbie if you can help.

SUMMER CONFESSION

Please note the special times scheduled for Confession in July and August and approach in a timely manner.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Sbdcn Leonard, 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), suffering Christians in the Middle East.

Anniversaries: George & Paula Tintor (7/14), Ted & Elaine Kisha, Tim & Linda Halligan (7/17).

Birthdays: Emma Moore (7/14), Oleg Kaderly (7/15), Tina Rausch, John Sapp (7/17), George Hasenorhl IV (7/20).

Newborns: Connor (Tommy & Stephanie), Luna (CJ & Iya), Luka (Bobby & Juliana).

Our Seminarian: Deacon Brian Crivella & Family.

Newly United: Doug & Alyssa, Peter & Caitlin, Cameron & Kristen, Greg & Grace.

Newly Illumined: Michael, Gregory.

“Once the Fathers of Scetis were holding a council to reprimand a monk who had committed a fault. St. Moses was invited, but he refused to attend. The priest went to him, and said, “Come, for the people are expecting you.” St. Moses arose, took a basket filled with sand that had a hole in the bottom of it, carried it on his shoulder and started walking towards the council. When the monks saw him coming with the bag of sand, with sand pouring out of the hole, they asked him the reason of his behavior. He said to them, “The sand you see running from the bag represents my sins which are always following me, and yet, today I am coming to judge the errors of my brother.” When they heard this, they left the council and every monk went to his own cell, as none could judge that monk.”

The Sayings of the Desert Fathers

Categories of Prayer

Borrowed

1. The first kind is prayer with one's own words – the personal, 'confessional' prayer. It is very comforting and we should practice it, because it aids us in combating loneliness. During this kind of prayer, we simply converse with the Lord, portraying to Him with our own thoughts our concerns to our heavenly Father. As this prayer is a product of our heart, it is impossible for God to disregard such a prayer. However we have here two problems: the first is that we tend to close the perfect God in the very narrow frame of our vision: we want God to act when and exactly how we want. The second problem is the wandering of the mind.

2. The second kind of prayer is the linear prayer. It is like a small story – for example "Our Father". This kind of prayer is very beautiful because they are the personal prayers of the saints and is extensively used in the Church's services. However this type of prayer also has a problem which is shared with the first type of prayer: the wandering of the mind. This occurs because of the mass of information – that is thoughts – in the prayer, so the mind will easily wander in and out of the prayer and think about the meanings, for example, instead of praying to our Father in heaven we will start to think about our daily bread, how to acquire it and how tasty it was also!

3. That's why the most powerful prayer is the cyclical prayer, the so-called "Jesus Prayer": "Lord Jesus Christ have mercy on me". This facility comes from it having the Name of Jesus, which itself is a source of divine energy, and because there isn't many thoughts inside which will cause the mind to wander. Also, even if the mind will wander, this is very easy to observe because the cyclical prayer will cease. Besides that, a prayer rope will help even further because it uses the senses which generates the most powerful sensations, the tactile sense, and likewise, the prayer rope will assure us a constant number of prayers so we will avoid the instability of our fallen na-

ture. (Based on Elder Aimilianos, Elder Joseph of Vatopedi, Elder Joseph Hesychast)

Great Schema Monks on Mount Athos have learnt a great deal from the Holy Fathers and their experiences. Likewise, they have learnt a lot from the humble mules which are used to carry loads of wood from the forests. The first thing which we can learn from a mule is his determination of repentance. A mule will not pass again in the place in which he stumbled – no matter what, for he will avoid it at all costs! Unfortunately we have a quite different behavior. If we have sinned in a certain environment we will most likely have the tendency to do it again saying: "It doesn't matter", "it won't happen again", "I am strong" etc. All these are from the evil one: it matters, it will happen again if we are close to the causes of sin and we aren't strong at all. We should take the example of the mules by avoiding the causes of sin and placing a great distance between us and the causes – of sin.

Secondly, is their readiness for obedience. Their disposition for obedience comes from their meekness. We cannot rely on someone who is disobedient or almost always has a counteraction at any task in which he is told to perform. Peace and progress is realized only through obedience.

Thirdly, is their love for toil and their memory. They really do what they're told with determination and steadiness. On top of that, they remember quickly and very well the paths and the steps which they have trodden. They gain experience quickly and keep it in very high regard.

We usually tend to disregard the animals – especially the mules – considering ourselves superior beings, however we forget the fact that we are distorted from sin so, in many aspects we are actually on a lower grade than animals and actually do have something to learn from them, if we want to. (Based on Avvas Nistero, Saint Isaac the Syrian, Elder Joseph of Vatopedi.)