



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

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Number 33

Sunday	Aug 18	<i>9th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 8 / Afterfeast of Dormition</i>
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Saturday	Aug 24	<i>Hieromartyr Eutychius</i>
		5:30 pm Great Vespers Confession
Sunday	Aug 25	<i>10th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 1 / Apostle Titus of the Seventy</i>
		Readings: 1 Cor 4:9-16 Matt 17:14-23
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Aug 11

Attendance: (Adults 130, Children 45)	175
Operating	\$4,803.00
OCA Assessments	168.00
Uganda Children	60.00
Charities	10.00
Icons	15.00
Maintenance	745.00

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Please inform Mark Joslin if you are willing to help compile our 2020 budget.

SUMMER CONFESSION

Please note the special times scheduled for Confession this month and approach in a timely manner.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Classes begin Sept 8 with our Prayer Service at 9:00 am in the church.

PLEDGE SUNDAY

Please be watching for your Pledge Packet arriving at the end of this month. Pledge Sunday is Sept 8.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Approved Minutes from each Council Meeting will now be posted on the Bulletin Board.

EASTERN CHURCHES SEMINAR

Notre Dame College's Center for Pastoral Theology and Ministry will present the 27th annual Eleanor Malburg Eastern Churches Seminar on Oct. 7-8.

Exploring what the Orthodox, Byzantine and Roman

Catholic churches can offer to people seeking spiritual life, it opens Oct. 7 at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 5720 State Road in Parma at 7 p.m. Oct. 7, and continues the morning of Oct. 8 at Notre Dame College, 4545 College Road in South Euclid. Cost of the seminar is \$30 before and \$35 after Sept. 30.

For more information, contact Sr. Mary Ann Baran at (216) 373-5389 or <mailto:mbaran@ndc.edu>.

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: Greg & Diane Kochan (8/18), Frances & Merideth Janek (8/24).

Birthdays: Galina Povozahev (8/20), Mary Ray, Alex Dzura, Mary Pahoulis (8/23).

Our Seminarian: Deacon Brian Crivella & Family.

Newly United: Greg & Grace, Doug & Alyssa.

Newly Illumined: Luka.

Memory Eternal: Fr John Matusiak (8/15) Fr's friend, Elroy Sieloff (8/13) Ron' dad, Fr Steven Belonick (8/7) Fr's friend, Irene Kornblum (8/4) Jim R's aunt, Alex (8/6) Ted K's uncle, Dorothy Kochan (7/25) Greg's Aunt, Margaret (7/21) Holly K's Grandma.

Church School Begins Sept 8

I Wonder Where the Lions Are?

by Fr Lawrence Farley

These past days have seen the departure from our midst of two men who have justly been described as “lions of the OCA”: Fr. Steven Belonick and Fr. John Matusiak. I knew them both.

Fr. John and I regularly exchanged email, news, weather reports, and prayer requests in his capacity as editor of the “Reflections in Christ” column on the OCA website. My wife and I met Fr. Steven and his Matushka Deborah after Liturgy at their Binghamton church in 1985 when we were on the way down from Canada to St. Tikhon’s Seminary when I was first a student there. Fr. Steven and Deborah instantly identified us as two waifs in need of kindness and counsel and took us in, both to their home and their hearts, becoming mentors and a kind of surrogate parents. They offered us the wisdom and love that many students at St. Vladimir’s Seminary would later experience. Many miles separated us from both Fr. Steven and Fr. John, so that I never got to know them as well as others did. But that hardly mattered: one knows a lion when one sees one.

One feels the loss keenly, which in a way is rather odd. Their deaths were hardly unexpected, since they both came after extended battles with cancer. Yet their passings still strike us with all the force of an unexpected blow, and feel not so much like the loss of a friend as the loss of a limb. We feel personally diminished, robbed, impoverished. I suspect that we experience such deaths as if they were unexpected because death is so unnatural: they, like everyone else, were never meant to die. They, like everyone else, were created to live with God forever. And now that Christ has risen from the dead, and has trampled down death by death, they will.

One is tempted to say in the style of funeral eulogies that we will never see the like of such li-

ons again. But it would be rash to say that, since their leonine grandeur was not the inevitable result of their DNA or their upbringing, but was ultimately the gift of God. It is God who makes lions and saints, and if He did it with Fr. Steven and Fr. John, He can do it again with others as He pleases. The Holy Spirit did not die with them, and He can inspire others as He inspired them. What we can say is that no one will ever again be quite like them. They were unique gifts, and that is why we will miss them.

Where does their passing leave us, and what do we do now? I suggest three things: gratitude, anticipation, and inspiration.

As we think over their lives, we should give thanks to God that He gave us such gifts as Fr. Steven and Fr. John. In this case gratitude to the Giver involves also gratitude to the gifts themselves. We express our gratitude to these lions for all they have done for us by mingling our tears with supplication, and commending them before the throne of God. Let us pray for them and their families, confident that they are also praying for us in the Kingdom,

Secondly, we live in anticipation. It was C.S. Lewis who said, “Christians never say goodbye;” they only say, “Au revoir,” be seeing you. Death cannot separate us from Christ, and so it cannot finally separate us from one another. Soon enough we will see them again, and that will be a merry meeting.

Finally, we may draw inspiration from their lives. These lions walk among us no longer; they now walk and shake their manes in the high halls of heaven. But we will never forget them. And remembering them we can be inspired to a little leonine greatness ourselves. The world still needs such greatness. Taught by these good men, let us do our best to roar.