



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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Sunday	Sept 8	<i>12th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 3 / Nativity of the Theotokos</i>	
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Friday	Sept 13	<i>Eve of the Elevation of the Cross</i>	
		6:30 pm	Great Vespers & Litya Confession
Saturday	Sept 14	<i>Elevation of the Life Creating Cross</i>	
Fast Day		9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers Confession
Sunday	Sept 15	<i>13th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 4 / Afterfeast of the Cross</i>	
		Readings:	1 Cor 16:13-24 Mt 21:33-42
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Sept 1

Attendance: (Adults 94, Children 40)	134
Operating	\$2,964.00
OCA Assessments	110.00
Uganda Children	80.00
Charities	65.00
Icons	20.00
Maintenance	116.00

TODAY IS PLEDGE SUNDAY

Hopefully everyone received their packet and submitted their card today. If not, please tend to this asap so we have good data for planning our 2020 budget. See Nick Covelli if you need a Pledge Packet.

SERVICES FOR ANNE LYNCH

Tuesday, Sept 10: Calling Hours 4:30-7:00 pm
Funeral 7:00 pm, Coffee Hour.

Wednesday, Sept 11: Casket Closing Service 10:00 am, Luncheon. Anne will be buried in Maryland.

SEPTEMBER IS DIOCESAN SEMINARIAN MONTH

On Sunday Sept 29 a Special Collection will be taken to benefit the Seminarians from our Diocese. Please read the Bishop's letter and the flyer emailed to you.

NEW BOOK CLUB UNIT

The book club is going to be focusing on a study of North American Saints this Fall rather than read a spe-

cific book. Meetings to be held after vespers on Saturday (approx. 6:30), beginning the end of September. Participants will explore the lives of the saints, discuss their virtues and connect the stories to everyday life.

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), Tracy, Joe (Dzura frnds), David McNaughton (Holly K's dad), Dan Rausch, suffering Christians in the Middle East.

Anniversaries: Dale & Denise Fross (9/9), Shane & Maryann Clouse (9/11).

Birthdays: William Kurtz (9/8), Leonard Heim III, Elizabeth Povozahev (9/10), Eliana Kingsbury (9/11), Timmy & Jimmy Renda (9/12), Ted Kisha (9/14).

Newly United: Greg & Grace.

Newly Illumined: Luka.

Memory Eternal: Anne Lynch (9/5), 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.

The Nativity of the Mother of God

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary: The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna

had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pi-

TROPARION

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

ous couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy

Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried," Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.