



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	Oc 24	<i>18th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 1 / Martyr Arethas and his companions</i>	
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Wednesday	Oct 27	<i>Martyr Nestor</i>	
		9:30 am	Divine Liturgy
Saturday	Oct 30	<i>Hiermartyrs Zenobius & Zenobia</i>	
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers Confession
Sunday	Oc 31	<i>19th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 2 / Apostle Stakhys of the Seventy</i>	
		Readings:	2 Cor 11:31-12:9 Luke 8:26-39
		9:00 am	Church School
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Oct 17

Attendance	111
Operating	\$2,184.00
OCA Assessments	40.00
Maintenance	150.00
Uganda	15.00
Charities	10.00

EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

We will begin showing the Videos on Tue, Oct 26 at 6:30 pm in the Church.

SAINT NICHOLAS CELEBRATION

Our celebration weekend is Dec 4-5 with Archbishop Paul as our special guest. We'll be catering the meal this year and need a little Crew to handle preparations and operations on the day. Please let Ken Walker know if you can help with this. We're asking our faithful to please bring a small dessert. As is our custom, a play will be presented by 'One Shoe Productions.'

COUNCIL NEEDS

We are seeking someone to fill a two year term as a Council Member. Please let Fr A know if you can serve. Also, at the end of 2022, Nick Covelli will end his term as Treasurer and is ineligible to run again. We're hoping to have someone step forward now so that they can 'shadow' Nick during his last year to learn the ropes. Anyone interested in serving in this vital role should let Ken Walker know asap.

OPTING OUT

Some have expressed a concern about having their Birthdays announced at the end of Liturgy and being published in the Bulletin since this becomes public knowledge due to both our Streaming of the Liturgy and the Bulletin appearing on our website. Please email Fr A if you want your BD to remain private.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), Dr Mike Soroka, our Parish Faithful, the Furman family, Tim Price, Francis James (Anna D's frnd), Kim H (Maryann S's friend), Paris Santone (Debbie C's nephew), Bob Joss, Subdeacon Leonard, Kristin & Cameron Robinson, Evelyn (Maureen M's mom), Dave Renda (Jim's bro), suffering Christians in the Middle East.

Anniversaries: Mike & Christine Brzozowski (10/24), Tom & Miranda Oberhausen (10/26).

New Borns: Wyatt (Brian & Katya), Seraphina (Bobby & Juliana), William (Greg & Grace)

Expecting: Brad & Katie (Clements frnds), Ryan & Jessica.

Newly Departed: John Choma (Darlene H's uncle, 10/19), Christina Cindric (10/14), Wesley Davis (George T's cousin, 9/27).

The Beatitudes Part II — Poverty in Spirit

by Fr Thomas Hopko

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Mt 5.3). This first beatitude is the fundamental condition for all man’s spiritual progress and growth. Before everything else, if a person wants to live the life of God, he must be poor in spirit.

To be poor in spirit is to recognize clearly that one has nothing which he has not received from God, that one is nothing except by the grace of God. This blessed poverty is called “spiritual” in Saint Matthew’s Gospel because, first of all, it is an attitude of mind and heart, a conviction of the soul. It is the condition of man in total emptiness and openness before God, primarily in relation to the things of the Spirit, that is, to understanding and insight, to will and desire.

To be poor in spirit is to be devoid of all pride and trust in the power of one’s own spirit. It is to be freed from all reliance on one’s own ideas, opinions and desires. It is to be liberated from the “vain imaginations” of one’s own heart (Jer 23.17, Rom 1.21). For as the holy Virgin Mary, the perfect model of poverty in spirit, has sung in her magnificent song:

God has shown strength with His arm,
He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts,
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,
And has exalted the humble and meek,
He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty (Lk 1.51–54).

Jesus Himself was poor, not only in body but in spirit. Not only was the Lord a poor man, without “place to lay His head” (Mt 8.20) but His physical poverty was the direct result of His perfect poverty of spirit.

Truly, truly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of His own accord, but only what He sees the Father doing . . . I can do nothing on my own authority . . . (Jn 5.19, 30).

If a person wishes to embark on the spiritual life, he must abandon all things and follow Christ in poverty of spirit. To be poor in spirit is simply to be wholly set free from the sinful lusts of this world.

If anyone loves this world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever (1 Jn 2.15–17).

The first revelation of the will of God is that His creatures must be poor in spirit. The violation of this spiritual attitude is the original sin and the source of all sorrows.

