



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 35

2021

Number 44

Sunday	Nov 21	<i>22nd Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 5 / Entrance of the Theotokos</i>		
		9:00 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Annual Meeting
Wednesday	Nov 24	<i>Hieromartyr Clement, Pope of Rome</i>		
		6:30 pm	Prefestal Vespers	Confession
Saturday	Nov 27	<i>Great Martyr James</i>		
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers	Confession
Sunday	Nov 28	<i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 6 / Monk Martyr Stephen</i>		
		Readings:	Eph 2:4-10	Luke 13:10-17
		9:00 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Nov 14

Attendance	138
Operating	\$4,505.00
OCA Assessments	78.00
Maintenance	100.00
Icons	90.00
Uganda	140.00
Thanksgiving Meal	420.00
Zoe	30.00
WiFi	10.00

NEW CATECHUMENS

During Advent, we will be praying for Michelle and Nicolina Hoover and Ashley Blankenship who will be Chrismated for Christmas.

CONFESSION NOTE

Confession is in order for everyone during the Advent Season. Please note the additional times scheduled and approach in a timely manner.

ST JAMES

Saturday, Nov 27 at 10:00 pm. Kurt Hardman says we're all set with helpers. Thanks to them.

YOUTH GROUP

Please sign up in the foyer for our first meeting next Saturday, Nov 27 at 3:00 pm. Open to all ages and parents are welcomed to participate and assist the younger ones.

EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

Tuesday, Nov 23 at 6:30 pm in the Church.

ST NICHOLAS CELEBRATION UPDATE

Last day to sign up for the St. Nicholas Day dinner is

next Sunday, November 28. The meal is being catered and an accurate count is necessary. We also need folks to sign up to donate wine, beverages and desserts. Please sign up accordingly. If you are able to help with serving and clean up please notify Paula Tintor Ptintor@sbcglobal.net or text at 440-488-5662.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), Dr Mike Soroka, 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), Bill Butterfield (Jen's husband), suffering Christians in the Middle East.

Birthdays: Betsy LeMaster, Kate Schlotzer (11/21), Alexander Kisha (11/23).

New Borns: Wyatt (Brian & Katya), Seraphina (Bobby & Juliana).

Expecting: Mario & Beth (Val C's son & dr-n-lw), Brad & Katie, Peter & Katie (Clements frnds), Ryan & Jessica.

Newly Illumined: William (John) Walker

Newly Departed: Michelle Blocksom (Fr Zdinak's csn 11/13), Joan Maty (Fr A's frnd 11/4), Joanne Michshaw (Paula T's sister, 11/6), John Choma (Darlene H's uncle, 10/19).

The Beatitudes Part IV — Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

by Fr Thomas Hopko

“Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied” (Mt 5.6). Strictly speaking, this beatitude of the Lord blesses, not the righteous, but the seekers of righteousness. It is those who are hungry and thirsty for what is just and good who receive the blessings of God, who also says:

Do not be anxious, saying “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we wear?” For the heathen seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first His kingdom and its righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well (Mt 6.31–33).

Man’s life consists in seeking, in hungering and in thirsting for righteousness. This is the spiritual teaching of the scriptures and the saints. The satisfaction and rest comes from God, but is a satisfaction and rest which itself always and for eternity becomes the basis of a new hunger and thirst. This is not in contradiction to Christ’s teaching that “he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst” (Jn 6.35). It is rather the affirmation that the “inquiet” of man’s heart, as Saint Augustine (5th c.) has said, is created “toward God,” and that the “rest” which is found in Him is itself, as Saint Maximus (7th c.) has said, an “ever-dynamic rest,” always growing and developing in ever greater union with the uncontainable and inexhaustible richness and fullness of divine being and life.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa (4th c.) said it this way:

. . . the human mind . . . constantly flowing and dispersing to whatever pleases the senses . . . will never have any notable force in its progress towards the True Good [i.e. God].

For it is impossible for our human nature ever to stop moving; it has been made of its Creator ever to keep changing. Hence when we prevent it from using its energy on trifles, and keep it on all sides from doing what it should not, it must necessarily move in a straight path towards truth (On Virginity).

Thus, in a certain sense, it [our humanity] is constantly being created, ever changing for the better in its growth in perfection; along these lines no limit can be envisaged, nor can its progressive growth in perfection be limited by any term. In this way, in its state of perfection, no matter how great and perfect it may be, it is merely the beginning of a greater and superior stage (Commentary on the Song of Songs).

This spiritual teaching means that the truly spiritual person will not merely move from unrighteousness to righteousness, but will move for all eternity in God to ever-greater righteousness and perfection. The hunger and thirst in this way is an essential characteristic of the living soul of the righteous person; it is the essential dynamic of spiritual life. The Apostle Paul has given this very doctrine:

. . . But one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind, and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature be thus minded . . . (Phil 3.13–16).

And we all, with unveiled faces, reflecting the glory of the Lord, are being changed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the spirit (2 Cor 3.18).

There is no satisfaction for man’s spirit but God. It is the satisfaction of perpetual growth in union with God. To hunger and thirst for God, “for the living God” (Ps 42.2) is spiritual life. To be filled and contented with anything else is death for the soul.