



# 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 14

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Apr 4</b>	<i>3rd Sndy of Lent / Tone 2 / Veneration of the Cross</i>
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Apr 7</b>	<i>4th Wednesday of Lent</i>
		4:00 pm Confession
		6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Apr 10</b>	<i>Martyr Terrence and his companions</i>
		4:30 pm Confession
		5:30 pm Great Vespers      Confession
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Apr 11</b>	<i>4th Sndy of Lent / Tone 3 / St John Climacus</i>
		Readings: Heb 6:13-20      Mark 9:17-31
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour

**STEWARDSHIP / Mar 28**

Operating	\$2,357.00
OCA Assessments	678.00
Maintenance	20.00
Icons	44.00
Uganda	187.00
Charities	176.00
Alms	150.00
Lenten Project	50.00
Flowers	40.00
Mmeorial	25.00
Wi Fi	22.00

**OUR HALL IS AVAILABLE FOR LITURGY**

We are now streaming Sunday Liturgy in the hall. This means that if you are not on the list for the Church, you are welcomed to attend in the hall and approach for Holy Communion.

**EVENING ADULT CLASS**

We are continuing our study of the Nicene Creed this Tuesday, April 6 at 6:30 pm, over Zoom.

**LENTEN PROJECT**

This year we will be supporting Project Hope in Lake County. See the info that was emailed last week. When noting it on your envelope, indicate Church School Lenten Project.

**YOUTH RETREAT**

This Saturday, April 10th from 4-5:30. The kids will learn about Icons and laminate one of their own to

take home. Adult helpers are welcome. We presently have thirteen kids signed up. Please let Cindy Renda know (cindyrenda60@gmail.com) by today.

**CONFESSION NOTE**

Please note the special times added for Confession throughout Lent and approach in timely manner. Everyone should offer their Confession during the Great Fasting Season.

**PRAYER CORNER + + + + +**

Perry (Capitan), Sbdcn Leonard, Ted Geletka, Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), our Parish Faithful, the Furman family, Marie Gaydos (Maryann S' csn), Mary Ellen (Ruth B's mom), Fred Bessel (Jean M's frnd), Dr Michael Soroka, Mike Nadolski (Gloria H's frnd), Richard Mirauntz, Tim Price, Francis James (Anna D's frnd), Kim H (Maryann S's friend), Bruno Christani, suffering Christians in the Middle East.

**Birthdays:** Lucia Bagley (4/4), Emily Schlotzer (4/8).

**Expecting:** Greg & Grace, John & Michelle, Matt & Michelle, David & Maria, Patrick & Deanna, Jairus & Riley.

**Newborns:** Mallory (Matt & Michelle, Fr A's niece).

**Newly Departed:** Fr Vladimir Lecko (Fr A's frnd, 3/15), David Velianoff (Tom A's cousin 3/17), Joesph Weiland (Cindy R's friend 3/11).

# The Sunday of the Cross

by Archbishop Dimitri

*“...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul? Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”* (Mark 8:34-38. From the reading for the Sunday of the Cross.)

On Sunday, April 4th, observe Mid-Lent. This, the Third Sunday of the Fast is dedicated every year to the Adoration of the Holy Cross.

It has been said that Lent is a time for returning to “the basics” of the Faith, for re-evaluating priorities, for renewing one’s commitment to Jesus Christ. The Cross, in a profound sense is basic to our Faith. Its acceptance, therefore, as the way of life for Christ’s followers lies at the very heart of any understanding of Lent. The Cross is our badge and emblem as Christians. Without the Cross, both in Christ’s life and in ours, there is no genuine Christianity and consequently, no reason to observe Lent or any other sacred season.

In speaking of the Cross we must take note of its constant use by Christians. We adorn our church buildings and homes with it. We carry it reverently in processions and venerate it. The Cross is worn around our necks as a daily reminder of who we are: people who have died and risen with Christ. In addition we sign ourselves with the Cross. In so doing we mark or brand ourselves, on the one hand, with the emblem of shame. For our Lord, pure, undefiled and guiltless, was put to death in a manner reserved for the worst of criminals. It is written, “cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.” (Galatians 3:13; Deuteronomy 21:23) Indeed He was “condemned between two thieves,” one of whom confessed, “... we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss ... Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.” (Luke 23:41-42) By suffering crucifixion our Lord endured the penalty that each of us deserves for our many sins, for our wickedness.

In and through Christ, however, the Cross, once synonymous exclusively with humiliation, becomes His glory and ours as well. It becomes His victory over sin and death

and ours also. Through the Cross and its completion in the Third Day Resurrection we have everlasting life. Thus the Cross is the main emblem for Christians of joy and strength. Along with St. Paul we “glory ... in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ ...” (Galatians 6:14)

The Christian must take very seriously the words of our Lord in the Gospel lesson quoted above: “Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me.” How do we deny ourselves and lose our lives, in order to come after the Lord to save our lives? The answer is very simple, but its very simplicity makes it the hardest thing on earth to accomplish. Nevertheless it must be done, by putting God and our relationship with Him, first, above every other consideration: before business, pleasure, country, family, friends or reputation. “What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?” What a price to pay in order to enjoy a few fleeting years of earthly goods, or brief moments of fame, that we value so highly. Yet, there is no denying it, our Lord stated repeatedly, in no uncertain terms, “What shall a man give ...?”

Taking up the Cross and following the footsteps of Christ is not merely a formal compliance with a set of external religious or charitable acts. To be sure, such acts are necessary. We must demonstrate openly how we feel towards Him. These acts, however, cannot be some sort of mechanical or self-affirming performance. Rather they must proceed from the depths of the heart, a heart turned completely toward Christ. Our Lord wants His followers hot, not lukewarm (Revelation 3:15-16), as hot as the flames that burn before icons of His saints. During Great Lent Orthodox Christians are quite accustomed to celebrating the weekday penitential services with great solemnity, almost entirely by candlelight. The burning wicks, illuminating the temple in which God is being praised, are vivid reminders of the heat and intensity of the saints’ devotion to Christ. What we say, in effect, when we light candles in Church or before our personal icon corners, is that we now light the flame of devotion in our own hearts. The act of lighting a candle is a pledge of our promise, with God’s help and the intercessions of the saints, that we will kindle the fire of faith within ourselves.

The Church reminds us that our minds and our hearts must be on the Cross. Upon it God’s only begotten Son gave His life for us. In turn, we must ‘lose our lives for His sake and the gospel’s,’ and thus find salvation.