



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 12	<i>12th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 3 / Leavetaking of the Nativity</i>
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
Monday	Sept 13	<i>Eve of the Exaltation of the Cross</i>
		5:00 pm Confession
		6:30 pm Vespers Liturgy
Saturday	Sept 18	<i>Afterfeast of the Exaltation</i>
		5:30 pm Great Vespers Confession
Sunday	Sept 19	<i>13th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 4 / Afterfeast of the Exaltation</i>
		Readings: Gal 2:16-20 Mark 8:34-9:1
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour / Video

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Sept 5

Attendance	82
Operating	\$1,913.00
OCA Assessments	20.00
Maintenance	40.00
Icons	57.00
Uganda	82.00
Charities	32.00
Wi Fi	15.00

IT'S A BOY

William Kennedy Walker was born to Greg & Grace at around 9:20 pm on Sept 7. Weighing 7lbs, 15ozs, and measuring 20 1/2." Everyone is doing well.

PLEDGE SUNDAY SEPT 19

Everyone should have received their Pledge Packets. Please deposit your card with your Weekly Envelope next Sunday. Thanks.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Begins Sunday, Sept 19 with our customary Service in the Church at 9:00 am. Liturgy will start at 10:00 am beginning on this day.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Sbdcn Leonard, Julian, John Cle-

ments, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), Dr Mike Soroka, our Parish Faithful, the Furman family, Marie Gaydos (Maryann S' csn), 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, suffering Christians in the Middle East.

Birthdays: Tim & Jim Renda (9/12) Ted Kisha (9/14), Linda Halligan (9/15), Stephan Lechintan, Abby Moore (9/16), Elaine Kisha (9/18).

New Borns: William (Greg & Grace)

Expecting: Brad & Katie (Clements frnds), Ryan & Jessica, Bobby & Juliana, Brian & Katya, Greg & Grace.

Newly Illumined: Alina, Jackson.

Newly Departed: Fr Anastasios (Stacy) Richter (former Rector of Holy Assumption, Canton, OH, 9/5), Fr Sergei Glagolev (Renowned Church Musician and Pioneer of the OCA, 9/2), Ted Geletka (Fr's good frnd (8/20), John (Adam C's uncle 8/14), Valentine (Fr A's frnd. 8/5), Sotire (Adam C's uncle, 8/5), Fr Leonid Kishkovsky (Longtime OCA Church Ambassador 8/3).

Pledge Sunday and beginning of Church School — Sept 19

The Exaltation of the Life-Creating Cross

Ardently desiring to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified, Saint Constantine sent his mother, the pious Empress Helen (May 21), to Jerusalem, providing her with a letter to Saint Macarius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Although the holy empress Helen was already in her declining years, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. The empress gave orders to destroy the pagan temple and the statues in Jerusalem. Searching for the Life-Creating Cross, she made inquiry of Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful.

Finally, they directed her to a certain elderly Hebrew by the name of Jude who stated that the Cross was buried where the temple of Venus stood. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Tomb of the Lord was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Savior was crucified, Patriarch Macarius alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead one, he came to life. Having beheld the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-Creating Cross was found.

Christians came in a huge throng to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Macarius to elevate the Cross, so that even those far off might reverently contemplate it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders raised up the Holy Cross, and the people, saying "Lord have mercy," reverently prostrated before the Venerable Wood. This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-Creating Cross another miracle took place: a grievously sick woman, beneath the shadow of the Holy Cross, was healed instantly. The elder Jude and other Jews there believed in Christ and accepted Holy Baptism. Jude received the name Cyriacus and afterwards was consecrated Bishop of Jerusalem. During the reign of Julian the Apostate (361-363) he accepted a martyr's death for Christ (see October 28).

The holy empress Helen journeyed to the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior, building more than 80 churches, at Bethlehem the birthplace of Christ, and on the Mount of Olives where the Lord ascended to

Heaven, and at Gethsemane where the Savior prayed before His sufferings and where the Mother of God was buried after her death.

Saint Helen took part of the Life-Creating Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. The holy emperor Constantine gave orders to build at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-Giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The temple was constructed in about ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the temple, she died in the year 327. The church was consecrated on September 13, 335. On the following day, September 14, the festal celebration of the Exaltation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross was established.

Another event connected to the Cross of the Lord is remembered also on this day: its return to Jerusalem from Persia after a fourteen year captivity. During the reign of the Byzantine emperor Phocas (602-610) the Persian emperor Khosroes II in a war against the Greeks defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem and captured both the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch



Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years and only under the emperor Heraclius (610-641), who with the help of God defeated Khosroes and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Cross of the Lord returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-creating Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Heraclius in imperial crown and royal purple carried the Cross of Christ into the temple of the Resurrection. With the emperor went Patriarch Zacharios. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the emperor suddenly stopped and was not able to proceed farther. The holy Patriarch explained to the emperor that an angel of the Lord was blocking his way. The emperor was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world from sin had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Heraclius donned plain garb, and without further hindrance, carried the Cross of Christ into the church.

In a sermon on the Exaltation of the Cross, Saint Andrew of Crete (July 4) says: "The Cross is exalted, and everything true gathers together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast.