



# 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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<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan 9</b>	<i>29th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 4 / Sunday after Theophany</i>
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Chrismations      Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Jan 12</b>	<i>Afterfeast of Theophany</i>
		6:30 pm Vespereal Liturgy
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jan 15</b>	<i>Venerable Paul of Thebes</i>
		5:30 pm Great Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Jan 16</b>	<i>30th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 1 / Sunday of the Ancestors of the Lord</i>
		Readings: Col 3:12-16      Luke 18:18-27
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy      Coffee Hour

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Jan 2**

Attendance	93
Operating	15,720.00
OCA Assessments	575.00
Maintenance	100.00
Icons	60.00
Uganda	205.00
Xmas Card	50.00
Charities	75.00
IOCC	25.00

**SPECIAL WELCOME**

We welcome Michelle and Nicolina Hoover who embraced the Orthodox Faith this morning. May God plant them firmly in His Vineyard and bless and keep them for many years.

**HOUSE BLESSING**

Please sign up in the foyer if you wish to have your house blessed this Theophany Season.

**EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

The Class will meet this week on Tuesday, Jan 11 at 6:30 pm.

**YOUTH GROUP**

We will have our 'kick off' meeting next Saruday, Jan 15 at 3:00 pm. Hoping the kids can stay for Vespers afterward.

**UGANDA CHRISTMAS PROJECT**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Advent Church School Project. Today is the last day to receive donations.

**BISHOP'S VISIT**

Archbishop Paul will be with us for the weekend of Jan

23. Peggy Walker is planning the meal for after Lurgy on that Sunday. Please contact her if you can help.

**PRAYER CORNER + + + + +**

Perry (Capitan), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), Tim Price, Francis James (Anna D's frnd), Paris Santone (Debbie C's nephew), Subdeacon Leonard, Kristin & Cameron Robinson, Evelyn (Maureen M's mom), Dave Renda, Tina (Jim's fmly), Greg Williamson (Michelle S's frnd), Ron Moore (Collins's dad), suffering Christians in the Middle East.

**Birthdays:** Michelle Ray, Tim Price (1/9), Danil (Bozhukiv) Antinoff (1/10), Fr Andrew, Renee Kirouac (1/13).

**New Borns:** Chloe (Ryan & Jessica), Wyatt (Brian & Katya), Seraphina (Bobby & Juliana).

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

**Newly Illumined:** Ashley (Elizabeth), Michelle Hoover (Christine), Nicolina Hoover (Christine).

**Newly Departed:** Kim, Robert (1/5, Maryann S's friends).

The streams of the Jordan received You, their source, and the Comforter descended in the form of a dove. He Who bowed the heavens now bows His head. The Clay cries aloud to the Potter: "Why do You command me to do what is beyond me; for I rather should be baptized by You." O sinless One, Christ our God, glory to You!

— Vespereal Hymn for Theophany —

# The Beatitudes Part VIII — Peacemakers

by Fr Thomas Hopko

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God” (Mt 5.9).

Christ, the “prince of peace,” (Is 9.6) gives the peace of God to those who believe in Him.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you” (Jn 14.27).

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace” (Jn 16.33).

This is the peace which St Paul lists as one of the “fruits of the Holy Spirit” (Gal 5.22); the “peace of God which passes all understanding” (Phil 4.7). It is peace understood as “the liberation from passions, which cannot be attained without the action of the Holy Spirit” (Saint Mark the Ascetic, 4th c., *Two Centuries on Spiritual Law*). The peacemakers are those who have the peace of God in themselves and spread this peace to those around them. This peace, first of all, is the freedom from all anxiety and fear. It is the peace of those who are not anxious about their lives, about what they shall eat and drink, about what they shall wear (cf. Mt 6.25–33). It is the peace with which men’s hearts are not troubled nor afraid of anything (cf. Jn 14.27). It is the peace which exists in men even in the most terrible of human situations, in suffering and in death. It is the peace which is in the one who can say:

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness, or peril or sword? As it is written, “For Thy sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered” (Ps 44.22).

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (Rom 8.35–39).

The inner peace of God is not the absence of external conflict. The peacemakers of God are not those who are freed from terrific struggles in life, or those who can cause the absence and disappearance of strife among men. Christ Himself did not do this. On the contrary, the Prince of Peace Himself, the Lord who gives strength and peace to His people (Ps 29.11), has claimed that He Himself will be the cause of much conflict among men.

Do not think that I have come to bring peace on earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s foes will be those of his own household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it; and he who loses his life for My sake will find it (Mt 10.34–39; Lk 12.49–53).

The blessed peacemaker is the one who bears witness to Christ and takes up his cross and loses his life for the Lord without fear or anxiety. He is the one who enters every human conflict until the end of time, fortified by the peace of God. He is the one who does not deny the Lord or compromise His truth by the exercise of violence, but bears witness by his own peace in the midst of conflict, the peace which is “not as the world gives” (Jn 14.27). Thus, the peacemaker does not provoke others to irritation or violence, except by the truth and love of his life, and leaves all vengeance to the Lord. He is the one who follows Jesus in overcoming evil only by good.

If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourself, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord” (Lev 19.18, Deut 32.35). No, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head” (Prov 25.21–22). Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Rom 12.18–21).

In making peace, the peacemaker himself is a son of God like the Lord Jesus Himself, who paradoxically and inevitably is the cause of much scandal and strife (cf. Lk 2.34–35, 7.23, 21.18).