



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 11	<i>13th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 4 / Afterfeast of the Nativity</i>		
PLEDGE SUNDAY		9:00 am	Church School	
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour
Tuesday	Sept 13	<i>Eve of the Elevation of the Cross</i>		
		5:00 pm	Confession	
		6:30 pm	Vesperal Liturgy	
Saturday	Sept 17	<i>Martyr Sophia, and her daughters Faith, Hope and Love</i>		
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers	Confession
Sunday	Sept 18	<i>14th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 5 / Afterfeast of the Cross</i>		
		Readings:	2 Cor 1:21-2:4	Matt 22:1-14
		9:00 am	Church School	
		10:00 am	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Sept 4

Attendance	125
Operating	\$5,243.00
OCA Assessments	67.00
Maintenance	205.00
Charities	110.00
Uganda	355.00

PLEDGE SUNDAY

Thanks to all who have submitted their Pledge Card today. If you haven't done so yet, please attend to this soon. Pledges can also be emailed to Nick Covelli - illevoc@sbcglobal.net.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

Please email Fr A know if you have names which may not be on the Calendar, ie, newborns, recent parishoners, etc.

MEDALLION PROJECT

The display in the Foyer will help us understand the scope of the Project. There will be 40 medallions of individual Saints which can be sponsored by anyone interested. Each one can be purchased for \$350 on a first come basis. Please see Laura Abernathy with your ideas and to avoid any duplications.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Julian, John Clements, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D's dghtr), Francis James (Anna D's

frnd), Paris Santone (Debbie C's nephew), Kristin & Cameron Robinson, Anna Como, Evelyn Kontra (Renda frnds), Nick Covelli, Jan Ursinyi, Jan & Tonya (Ruth Bede's sis & frnd), suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Anniversaries: Mary Ann & Shane Clouse (9/11).

Birthdays: William Walker (9/7), Eliana Kingsbury (9/11), Tim & Jim Renda (9/12), Ted Kisha (9/14), Linda Halligan, Maddi Visnick (9/15), Stephan Lechintan, Abby Moore (9/16).

Expecting: Brian & Katya, Jairus & Riley, Doug & Allysa, Jeffrey & Michelle.

Newly Illumined: Sophia & Maria Lepointe.

Newly United: Rachel & Weston.

Newborns: Vasili (Joseph & Vanessa).

Expecting: Brian & Katya, Jairus & Riley, Doug & Allysa, Jeffrey & Michelle.

Departed: Queen Elizabeth II (9/8), Metropolitan Herman (9/6), Ivana Kucmanic (9/5, David's gram), Metropolitan Kallistos Ware (8/24), Patty Horabik (8/11, Jim's sis-n-law), Matushka Anne Hopko (8/4).

The Exaltation of the Precious Cross

In 313 Saint Constantine issued the Edict of Milan, by which Christianity was legalized and persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the Empire were stopped. Although Licinius had signed the Edict of Milan in order to oblige Constantine, he continued his cruel persecutions against Christians. Only after his conclusive defeat did the Edict of Milan extend also to the Eastern part of the Empire. The Holy Equal of the Apostles Emperor Constantine, triumphing over his enemies in three wars, with God's assistance, had seen the Sign of the Cross in the heavens. Written beneath were the words: "By this you shall conquer."

Ardently desiring to find the Cross upon 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 Makarios, the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Saint 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 Dormition.

Although the holy Empress Helen was no longer young, she set about completing the task with enthusiasm. In her search for the Life-giving Cross, she questioned both Christians and Jews, but for a long time her search remained unsuccessful. Finally, she was directed to a certain elderly Jew named Jude who stated that the Cross was buried beneath the temple of Venus. They demolished the pagan temple and, after praying, they began to excavate the ground. Soon the Lord's Tomb was uncovered. Not far from it were three crosses, and a board with the inscription ordered by Pilate, and four nails which had pierced the Lord's Body (March 6).

In order to discover on which of the three crosses the Savior had been crucified, Patriarch Makarios alternately touched the crosses to a corpse. When the Cross of the Lord touched the dead man, he was restored to life. After witnessing the raising of the dead man, everyone was convinced that the Life-giving Cross had been found.

Christians came in a huge crowds to venerate the Holy Cross, beseeching Saint Makarios to lift the Cross, so that those far off could see it. Then the Patriarch and other spiritual leaders lifted the Holy Cross, and the people prostrated themselves before the Honorable Wood, saying "Lord have mercy." This solemn event occurred in the year 326.

During the discovery of the Life-giving Cross another miracle took place: a woman who was close to death was

healed by the shadow of the Holy Cross. The elderly Jude (October 28) and other Jews believed in Christ and were baptized. Jude was given the name Kyriakos, and later he was consecrated as the Bishop of Jerusalem. He suffered a martyr's death for Christ during the reign of Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363).

Saint Helen took part of the Life-giving Wood and nails with her to Constantinople. Saint Constantine ordered a majestic and spacious church to be built at Jerusalem in honor of the Resurrection of Christ, also including under its roof the Life-giving Tomb of the Lord and Golgotha. The church was built in ten years. Saint Helen did not survive until the dedication of the church, she reposed 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 Honorable and Life-giving 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 Phokas (602-610) the Persian king Khosrôës II attacked Constantinople defeated the Greek army, plundered Jerusalem, capturing both the Life-giving Cross of the Lord and the Holy Patriarch Zachariah (609-633).

The Cross remained in Persia for fourteen years, and only under Emperor Herakleios (610-641), who defeated Khosrôës and concluded peace with his successor and son Syroes, was the Lord's Cross returned to the Christians.

With great solemnity the Life-giving Cross was transferred to Jerusalem. Emperor Herakleios, wearing a crown and his royal purple garments carried the Cross of Christ. The Emperor was accompanied by Patriarch Zachariah. At the gates by which they ascended Golgotha, the Emperor stopped suddenly and was unable to proceed. The holy Patriarch explained to the Emperor that an Angel of the Lord was blocking his way. Herakleios was told to remove his royal trappings and to walk barefoot, since He Who bore the Cross for the salvation of the world had made His way to Golgotha in all humility. Then Herakleios donned plain clothes, 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 is gathered together, the Cross is exalted, and the city makes solemn, and the people celebrate the feast."