



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for 50 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

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Number 11

Sunday	Mar 19	<i>3rd Sndy of Lent / Tone 7 / Veneration of the Cross</i>
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour
		5:00 pm Deanery Akathist to the Life Giving Cross / St Michael's
Wednesday	Mar 15	<i>Fourth Wednesday of Lent</i>
		4:00 pm Confession
		6:30 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Friday	Mar 24	<i>Eve of Annunciation</i>
		6:30 pm Great Vespers & Litya Confession
Saturday	Mar 25	<i>Annunciation to the Mother of God</i>
		9:30 am Divine Liturgy
		4:00 pm Confession
		5:30 pm Great Vespers Confession
Sunday	Mar 26	<i>4th Sndy of Lent / Tone 8 / St John Climacus</i>
		Readings: Heb 6:13-20 Mk 9:17-31
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Mar 12

Attendance	123
Operating	\$3,550.00
Maintenance	68.00
OCA Assessments	879.00
Charities	68.00
Alms	425.00
Uganda	105.00
Flowers	10.00
Icons	20.00

CATECHUMEN CLASS

Tuesday, March 21 at 6:30 pm. We will be continue discussing the Nicene Creed. Everyone is invited.

COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, March 23 at 6:30 pm.

READERS MEETING

Next Sunday, March 26 in the Church following Liturgy.

CONFESSION NOTE

Please note the special times added for Confession throughout Lent and approach in timely manner. Ev-

eryone should offer their Confession during the Great Fasting Season.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

Perry (Capitan), Julian, Sarah Crivella, Joella (Lu-Ann D's dghtr), Paris Santone (Debbie C's nephew), Anna Como, Barb (Renda frnd), Nick Covelli, David Campbell (Deb's bro), Norma K, George H, (Maryann S's frnds), the suffering Christians in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Birthdays: Alice Hadzinsky, Timothy Schlotzer, Ashlyn Brzozowski (3/25).

Newborns: Nicholas (Brian & Katya) Wells (Mitch & Winnie). Galen (Scott & Alysse), Lannon Marie (Jairus & Riley Morton).

Expecting: Stephen & Rebecca, Maxim & Mindy, Collin & Laiken, Patrick & Elizabeth, David & Maria.

Newly Departed: Fr Daniel Rentel, (2/7).

Our Missionaries: Peter & Scott.

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

Saint Patrick, Bishop of Armagh, Enlightener of Ireland

Saint Patrick, the Enlightener of Ireland was born around 385, the son of Calpornius, a Roman decurion (an official responsible for collecting taxes). He lived in the village of Bannavem Taberniae, which may have been located at the mouth of the Severn River in Wales. The district was raided by pirates when Patrick was sixteen, and he was one of those taken captive. He was brought to Ireland and sold as a slave, and was put to work as a herder of swine on a mountain identified with Slemish in Co. Antrim. During his period of slavery, Patrick acquired a proficiency in the Irish language which was very useful to him in his later mission.

He prayed during his solitude on the mountain, and lived this way for six years. He had two visions. The first told him he would return to his home. The second told him his ship was ready. Setting off on foot, Patrick walked two hundred miles to the coast. There he succeeded in boarding a ship, and returned to his parents in Britain.

Some time later, he went to Gaul and studied for the priesthood at Auxerre under Saint Germanus (July 31). Eventually, he was consecrated as a bishop, and was entrusted with the mission to Ireland, succeeding Saint Palladius (July 7). Saint Palladius did not achieve much success in Ireland. After about a year he went to Scotland, where he died in 432.

Patrick had a dream in which an angel came to him bearing many letters. Selecting one inscribed "The Voice of the Irish," he heard the Irish entreating him to come back to them.

Although Saint Patrick achieved remarkable results in spreading the Gospel, he was not the first or only missionary in Ireland. He arrived around 432 (though this date is disputed), about a year after Saint Palladius began his mission to Ireland. There were also other missionaries who were active on the southeast coast, but it was Saint Patrick who had the greatest influence and success in preaching the Gospel of Christ. Therefore, he is known as "The Enlightener of Ireland."

His autobiographical Confession tells of the many trials and disappointments he endured. Patrick had once confided to a friend that he was troubled by a certain sin he had committed before he was fifteen years old. The friend assured him of God's mercy, and even supported Patrick's nomination as bishop. Later, he turned

against him and revealed what Patrick had told him in an attempt to prevent his consecration. Many years later, Patrick still grieved for his dear friend who had publicly shamed him.

Saint Patrick founded many churches and monasteries across Ireland, but the conversion of the Irish people was no easy task. There was much hostility, and he was assaulted several times. He faced danger, and insults, and he was reproached for being a foreigner and a former slave. There was also a very real possibility that the pagans would try to kill him. Despite many obstacles, he remained faithful to his calling, and he baptized many people into Christ.

The saint's Epistle to Coroticus is also an authentic work. In it he denounces the attack of Coroticus' men on one of his congregations. The Breastplate (Lorica) is also attributed to Saint Patrick. In his writings, we can see Saint Patrick's awareness that he had been called by God, as well as his determination and modesty in undertaking his missionary work. He refers to himself as "a sinner," "the most ignorant and of least account," and as someone who was "despised by many." He ascribes his success to God, rather than to his own talents: "I owe it to God's grace that through me so many people should be born again to Him."

By the time he established his episcopal See in Armagh in 444, Saint Patrick had other bishops to assist him, many native priests and deacons, and he encouraged the growth of monasticism.

Saint Patrick is often depicted holding a shamrock, or with snakes fleeing from him. He used the shamrock to illustrate the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. Its three leaves growing out of a single stem helped him to explain the concept of one God in three Persons. Many people now regard the story of Saint Patrick driving all the snakes out of Ireland as having no historical basis.

Saint Patrick died on March 17, 461 (some say 492). There are various accounts of his last days, but they are mostly legendary. Muirchu says that no one knows the place where Saint Patrick is buried. Saint Columba of Iona (June 9) says that the Holy Spirit revealed to him that Patrick was buried at Saul, the site of his first church. A granite slab was placed at his traditional grave site in Downpatrick in 1899.