



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Celebrating our 50th Year witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

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Sunday	Jun 4	<i>Eighth Sunday of Pascha / Tone 7 / Pentecost</i>		
		9:30 am	Divine Liturgy / Kneeling Prayers	Picnic
Saturday	Jun 10	<i>Leavetaking of Pentecost</i>		
		5:30 pm	Great Vespers	
Sunday	Jun 11	<i>1st Sndy aft Pentecost / Tone 8 / Pentecost</i>		
		Readings:	Heb 11:33-12:2	Matt 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30
		9:30 am	Divine Liturgy	Benefit Dinner

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / May 28

Attendance	135
Operating	\$3,797.00
Maintenance	88.00
OCA Assessments	108.00
Charities	20.00
Restitution	\$500.00
Uganda	110.00

HONORED

We ask all of God's blessings upon our Church School Teachers, Students Staff, and our Graduates. Our High School Grads: Viktor Povozahev who will be attending Kent State, Nora Sherman who will be starting at Lakeland and then continuing on at Kent as an Education Major and Stephan Lechintan. Our College Grads: Deanna Covelli graduated from Lakeland with an Associates of Science and will be pursuing a Bachelors in Health Science at Ohio State, George LeMaster who will graduate this month from Full Sail University with a BS in Game Development and an AS in Computer Science and Tina Rausch who graduated from Kent State University College of Nursing with her MSN Masters of Science in Nursing with a concentration in Nursing Education.

BENEFIT DINNER

Next Sunday, June 11, we will have our Spaghetti Dinner with all proceeds to go to LuAnn's daughter, Joella whose been battling cancer for many years. Please come to enjoy and to offer your generous free will offering to this worthy cause.

FLOOR PROJECTS

The carpeting in the Church has been steam cleaned and the hall flooring will be stripped and waxed sometime in July.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

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

Anniversaries: Tom & Heidi Darrah (6/9).

Birthdays: James Oberhausen (6/6), Alex Visnick (6/7), Emilia Rausch (6/10).

Newborns: Raphael (David & Maria)

Expecting: Peter & Caitlin, Stephen & Rebecca, Maxim & Mindy, Collin & Laiken, Patrick & Elizabeth.

Newly Illumined: Joseph, Mary, Eve, Vasili, Collin.

Our Missionary: Scott.

We celebrate the feast of Pentecost: the coming of the Holy Spirit, the appointed day for the promise, the fulfillment of our hope. A breathing which is the Breath of God; a present share in the tongues of fire. How great and honorable is this mystery! Therefore we cry to You: Glory to You, O Lord, Creator of all!

— Vespers Hymn of Pentecost —

Celebrating our 50th Anniversary

Pentecost

The festival of Pentecost has its roots in the Old Testament. It began as a harvest feast and later added the giving of the Law of Moses on Mount Sinai as the “harvest” of the Old Covenant. Our Christian Feast of Pentecost is celebrated on the fiftieth day after the Resurrection of Christ. On this feast the Descent of the Holy Spirit effected a New Covenant. It was precisely this descent of the Spirit which revealed to the world the knowledge of the mystery of the Holy Trinity, consubstantial, undivided and yet distinct. It was the fulfillment of the revelation concerning the Persons of the one God as three.

The Icon of Pentecost is a marked contrast with the biblical description of the Descent of the Spirit. The Book of Acts of the Apostles (2: 2) records that “suddenly from up in the sky there came a noise, like a strong, driving wind which was heard all through the house where they were seated.” In contrast, the Icon is characterized by serenity and composure. The postures of the Apostles reveals serenity. All of them are seated, some gesturing as if in subdued conversation with one another. The gift of the Holy Spirit remains the inner life of grace. The event of Pentecost forms the Church and is the inauguration of the Kingdom of God.

The twelve Apostles form a semi-circle to express the unity of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. They are pictured in an inverse perspective — their figures grow larger as they recede into the background. The center place which is unoccupied is reserved for Christ, the invisible head of the Church. Some ancient icons symbolize Christ’s invisible presence with an altar, the throne of His glory.

The Evangelists are shown holding books; another has a scroll as a sign of having received the gift of teaching. Above the semi-circle, beyond the edge of the panel, there is a symbol of heaven from which rays or tongues of fire descend. This is a sign both of the sanctification of the Apostles and Disciples, and of their baptism with the Holy Spirit and fire.

The world, to which the Apostles would preach, is represented at the bottom of the Icon by one symbolic figure of a king. He is known as “Cosmos” as he represents the whole world enveloped by sin. He sits in a dark place since the whole world had formerly been without the light of faith. He is bent over to show he was made old by the sin of Adam. Through the power of the Holy Spirit the twelve Apostles brought light to the whole world by their teaching.

The Icon of the Descent of the Holy Spirit represents the great event of sanctification which took place in the apostolic community. At the same time, it is an expression of the sanctification of our lives in the Church by the Holy Spirit Who is constantly glorified: “Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life.”