



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 39 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

Volume 26

2012

Number 2

Sunday Jan 8 30th Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 5 / Sunday after Theophany

9:00 am Church School
10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

Saturday Jan 14 Leavetaking of Theophany

6:30 pm Vigil

Sunday Jan 15 31st Sunday after Pentecost / Tone 6 / Venerable Paul of Thebes

Readings: 1 Tim 1:15-17 Lk 18:18-27

9:00 am Church School
10:00 am Divine Liturgy Coffee Hour

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Jan 1

Attendance: (Adults 86, Children 39)	95
Operating	\$2,443.00
Charities	40.00
Uganda Children	75.00
Icons	75.00
Christmas Flowers	135.00
Parish Charities	70.00

NEW CLEANING COORDINATOR NEEDED

We are in need of someone to coordinate the Church Cleaning. The Schedule is complete and so this would involve dealing with substitutions and so forth. Please let LuAnn know if you can help. We would also like to thank Debbie Covelli for her dedicated work to the Church Cleaning these past few years.

RETIREMENT PARTY

After 49 years at Holy Trinity, Fr Vladimir Berzonsky will be retiring as of March 1. You are invited to a celebration in his honor on Sunday, Jan 29 at 3:00 pm at St Michael's Woodside Party Center. Tickets are \$30 for Adults and \$10 for children 7-10. Contact Lydia Kelbach at 440-888-7934.

HOUSE BLESSING SIGN-UP

Please sign up in the foyer if you would like to have your house blessed during the Theophany Season.

PRAYER CORNER ++++++

Eleanor Alexander (Tom's mom), Steve Peterson (Christani frnd), Fr Theodore (Fr A's frnd), Shane (Wick frnd), Pan Theophylactus, Judy Kormos (Sheranko csn), Dimitri Kochan (Greg's dad), Perry (Captain), Chuck Nicoletti (Chad's dad, cancer), Chariessa (Clements frnd), Jack Strok (Peggy H's dad), Francis Arndt (Schroeder), James & Bess (Chongris), Kathy

Madda (cancer, Schroeder frnd), David Wilson (Christani frnd), Bruno & Mary Christani, Bill Wilcoxson (Bagley dad), Tamara, Annette (Fr's Aunt, cancer), Angie (Bagley friend), Barbara Havrilesky (Schroeder cousin), Milka (Alusheff frnd), Shane (Wick frnd), Charlie Broome (Sabol frnd, cancer), Judy (Valko frnd, stroke), Jennifer Heffernan (Mazurik csn), Wanda Waligora (Schroeder Aunt), William Webb (Christani uncle), Steve Peterson (Christani), John Mazurik (Paul's brother), Kylie Rambo (Sabol frnd), Ed LeMaster (Jared's dad), Yelena (Gomer frnd), Charles Alusheff, Sandra Hemmer (heart transplant, Klinar csn), Nick Fedorko (Christani brother), Jan Schau (Furman frnd), Shirley Rosa, Betty Sapp, Bill Rasoletti (Joslin frnd), Dale Hudak, Debbie Barney (Renda frnd), Amelia (Hocevar niece), Jordan Glavinos (Zorka's grnd-dghtr), Andy Schmidt (Carnahan uncl).

Newborn: Erika (Katie & Bruce & Greg).

Expectant Parents: Cara & Jeremy (Deb's niece), Sarah and Mike Bede, Laura and Bryan (Alexander), Michelle & Mario (Furman frnd), Amy & Rick (Wagner).

Birthdays: Tess Lannon (1/8), Michelle Ray (1/9). Fr. Andrew (1/13).

Anniversaries: Ron & Ruth Bede (1/12).

Missionaries: Peter and Sharon Georges.

----- Memory Eternal -----

Laddie Masek (Diane K's dad, 12/28), Mary Louise (Fr's frnd, 12/27), Annette Bunch (Fr's aunt 12/15), Oliver Pham (Bede frnd), Margaret Gorta (Elaine T's mom, 12/4).

Some Writings about Jesus Are Not Gospels

January 8 is marked as the Sunday after Theophany. Over the past few weeks the Church has celebrated that momentous event as well as the Lord's Nativity.

What is known about the years between those two events, the time during which Jesus was growing up and preparing for His three-year ministry? The second chapter of the Gospel of Luke gives us a bit of insight, in the description of the twelve-year-old Jesus answering the questions of the elders in the Temple. After this, He returns to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, and is obedient to them (2: 46-51).

Luke's words show that Jesus had the wisdom of His Father, and used it properly, to enlighten His people. The words also reveal His willingness to take on humanity completely, which included living in submission to two human parents. Beyond this, there is little if any information in the four Gospels about Jesus as a child or a young man growing into adulthood.

But other books claim to tell us far more than the New Testament Gospels we read in church. These books describe a young Jesus showing his power by turning clay birds into real birds. When he doesn't like the way other children are acting, he curses them and turns them permanently into corpses, and then blinds their parents.

Because the accounts in these books are so different from the early Church's experience of Jesus Christ, they were not accepted as part of the Gospel canon, meaning the group of books

the Church regarded as truthful descriptions of God's plan and saving work. Documents that would become part of the New Testament had already been written just a few decades after Jesus' death and resurrection,

some of them eyewitness accounts. These authentic descriptions formed the basis of the Church's teachings about the risen Lord. The great second-century saint Justin Martyr referred to the canonical Gospels as the "remiscences" of the apostles.

Saint Paul wrote in Ephesians 4: 4-6, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all." The early Church, as Paul's words show, was unified in its core beliefs about God, and therefore was quite able to dis-

tinguish those writings that did not reflect those beliefs. That is why books like those that depicted Jesus as a vengeful child did not make it into the canon of Scripture.

Bible scholar Ben Witherington writes about this in his book "The Gospel Code: Novel Claims about Jesus, Mary Magdalene, and Da Vinci." Witherington's book is an excellent answer to fiction like "The Da Vinci Code" and other books that pretend to tell the hidden truth about the formation of the Bible. He explains how it really was formed, and happened, and enables the reader to determine which of the many writings about Jesus are fiction, and which are true Gospels.

