



Weekly Bulletin

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America
Witnessing to the Apostolic Faith in Lake County for over 35 Years

Father Andrew Clements, Pastor

Volume 24

2010

Number 18

Sunday	May 2	<i>5th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 4 / The Samaritan Woman</i>
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Rausch Baptism Coffee hour
Saturday	May 8	<i>Holy Apostle John the Theologian</i>
		6:30 pm Vigil
Sunday	May 9	<i>6th Sunday of Pascha / Tone 5 / The Blind Man</i>
		Readings: Acts 16:16-34 John 9:1-38
		9:00 am Church School
		10:00 am Divine Liturgy / Prayers for Mothers Brunch

ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / Apr 25

Attendance: (Adults 98, Children 29)	127
Operating	\$2,413.00
Taskes Memorial	50.00
Uganda Children	45.00
Icons	50.00
Landscaping	100.00
Parish Charities	30.00

ADULT CLASS

The class will meet this week to discuss the Bible in the Orthodox Church.

SPECIAL WELCOME

We welcome into Holy Orthodoxy Christian Joseph Rausch who was baptized into Christ today during the Liturgy. May God bless and keep him for many years!

MOTHERS DAY BRUNCH

Next Sunday a Mothers Day Brunch will be served. Mom's eat free but a Free Will Offering will be taken.

ALMS DISTRIBUTION

Our Alms Collection was \$2,040 and was distributed as follows: \$1,040 to Fr Michael Mihalick, and \$333.34 each to St Herman's, St James Soup Kitchen and the Uganda Childrens Fund. Thanks to all who contributed to the Lenten Alms.

SPECIAL PROGRAM

On Sunday, May 16, Peter & Sharon will offer a short Program on their recent work in Uganda. A Luncheon

will be served and everyone is welcome.

PRAYER CORNER + + + + +

— — — — — **For Healing / Well Being:** — — — — —

— **Eleanor** Alexander (Tom's mom), **Vera** Campbell (Deb's mom), **Tom** Alusheff, **Ben** Somerlot (Renda frnd), **Peter** Vitantonio (Mark J's csn), **Connie** Dirksin (Darah frnd), **Steve** Peterson (Christani frnd), **Bill** Stearns (Sabol frnd), **Corey** (Luann D's sn-n-lw), **Kerya** Brisbine (Clements frnd), **Elizabeth** Ries (Denise Busch's mom), **Mary J.** (Ruth B's frnd), **Fr Theodore** (Fr Andrew's frnd), **Fr Alexander** (Fr Andrew's frnd), **Cheryl** Carrol (Denise B's frnd), **Susan** Hoffacker, **Shane** (Wick frnd), **Randy** Moore (Sue C's uncl), **James** (Chongris csn), **Margarette** Fross, **Leonard** Heim, **Michael** (Carrie F. friend, marine deployment), **Martha** Tintor, **Helen** Cicismansky (Andy's mom), **Ann** (Joe Bagley's mom), **Mother Barbara**, **Alexandria** (Hopko), **Mike** Fortuna (friend of Ellen Christiansen), **James** Barkas, **Lana** O'Patka (Schroeder friend), **Jonah** Klinar.

Newly Illumined: **Christian** Rausch, **George** Hasenohrl, **Susan** Carnahan

Expectant Parents: Joe & Kristy, Nichole & Evan.

— — — — — **Memory Eternal** — — — — —

Sopkie Taskes

In addition to the Prayer Forms, you can contact Cindy Klinar by email: cklinar@windstream.net.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

I Love My God

by Fr Alexander Federoff

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel away for a relative's wedding. It had been over a year since I missed the Sunday Liturgy at my parish. The last time was November 2008 and was the weekend after the last All-American Council. It can be rejuvenating to visit another Orthodox Church. Often I hear folks say that they really do not appreciate Saint J's until they go elsewhere. Perhaps this is another subject I should write about at a future time. For now, it is enough to say that visiting another Orthodox Church can be a refreshing experience.

I had been to Saint P's several times. One of the differences this time was that they have a new rector. Another fact was that the Bishop was celebrating the Divine Liturgy because he was invited to celebrate the wedding of the daughter of one of his classmates from seminary. Three other priests served besides me – two from the parish and the third a good friend and classmate of my departed brother. Add two more priests who did not serve who are both retired and attached to the parish.

This was the Sunday of the Paralytic. In his sermon, the Bishop made several profound comments among which was that true and unique Love has to be unconditional. Once we give way to the passions that possess us, he continued, we have to take a chance because it can be risky and lead to total rejection.

Unconditional love! This theme easily carried over to the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Here were two individuals who uniquely were very involved in the life of the

Orthodox Church. The bride directs the choir and the groom serves in the altar as a tonsured subdeacon.

On the long drive back home, I thought about what the bishop said about unconditional love. I was reminded about one of the most faithful Orthodox Christians I have ever known, Mrs K, who died recently. Why was she so special? Why did it matter that the newly married couple were so dedicated and actively involved in the life of the Church? What was their motivation? Why doesn't everyone have the same zeal? Why do people look for reasons not to be involved in the liturgical life of the church? Why do they not attend church, not only regularly, but not at all?

Unconditional love! Hmm . . . I can not remember Mrs K complaining about anything. She never thought my sermons were lousy; she never complained the church was too hot or too cold; she never thought the services were too long. Her love for the Orthodox Faith and its liturgical life was unconditional. Nothing else mattered and got in her way to go to church. Mrs K was in her glory when her family, especially grandchildren, were in church. She said so, many times herself. She wanted to share her love of God and His Church with her family members, who, over time began to develop their conditions why they could not imitate her example.

Wow! I thought that I was on to something profound. Isn't it my job as an Orthodox priest to encourage everyone to grow in their love of the faith and their love to participate in the life of the church? I reminded

myself that Love is the whole story of Christianity.

The Old Testament is the story of God's love for his Chosen People, who by the way, kept rejecting Him.

The New Testament: For God so Loved the world that he sent His only beloved Son . . . Who also was rejected.

The Greatest Commandment: Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind.

Love your neighbor as you love yourself. Unconditional love! The reality is that everyone of us needs to perfect our unconditional love. We are all at different levels of growth and too often satisfied where we are. We establish our conditions! Once a young man told me that he came to Vespers because he had nothing else to do. Perhaps the real reason to attend Vespers should be because we love God, we know that He loves us, and we want to set aside some time in the day to listen to the prayers of the church which will help us grow in our love of Him.

Unconditional love! Much like a marriage. After the service, the father of the bride commented that the newly married couple were only at the beginning of their journey together. Their relationship was like water which Christ turned into wine. They will have to work hard at becoming that precious wine. They have to deny themselves in order to be one flesh. This relationship is like Christ and His Church. Christ gave His life for the Church – the ultimate expression of unconditional love!

Unconditional love -- Risky business for sure!