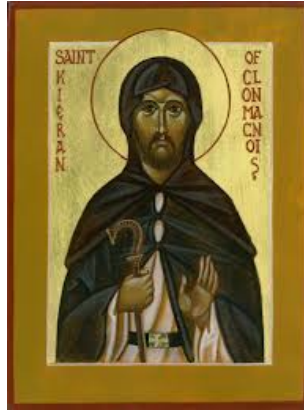


Just Too Generous



This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at <http://dce.oca.org>.



On September 9th the Church celebrates the memory of Saint Kieran of Clonmacnois in Ireland.

Born in 512 in County Roscommon, Kieran was the grandchild of a poet and historian. He liked to think about the meaning of life, and found joy in nature's beauty. His own family lived simply, and he spent much of his childhood herding the family cattle. This gave him a special love of animals and a willingness to be compassionate with all creatures, including other people.

During these same years he was tutored at home by Justus, the same pious Christian who had baptized him, encouraging him to pray and to turn his thoughts often to the wonders of God.

When he got older, Kieran was sent to complete his education at the monastery at Clonard, under the direction of the great Saint Finnian. Here he met fellow students such as Columba, the future enlightener of Scotland. Columba said of his classmate, "He was a lamp, blazing with the light of wisdom."

Having completed his studies with Saint Finnian, Kieran left Clonard and went to a monastery in the Aran Isles. Its abbot was another saint, Enda, who had a vision that he shared with his student. Enda saw a tall tree with a massive trunk. The tree spread its sheltering branches, heavy with fragrant fruit, over the whole land of Ireland. Some of the fruit was carried off by birds to places beyond the island country itself.

Saint Enda told Kieran, "You yourself are the tree in this vision." He said that all of Ireland would find shelter under Kieran's grace, and that many, in Ireland and places past its borders, would be nourished by his prayer and fasting. He directed Kieran to go to the center of the country and to build a church on the banks of a stream.

The monastery of Clonmacnois was established by Kieran and a few other monks on the banks of the River Shannon. This famous Christian center trained priests, scholars and missionaries for a thousand years, even though Kieran died of the plague in 544, just seven months after it opened.

In the time in between Saint Enda's directive and the establishment of Clonmacnois, Kieran visited a smaller island monastery. His stay was brief, because the monks soon asked him to leave. Perhaps they were jealous of his fame, but what they said was that he was giving so much to the poor that there wasn't enough left for them. Kieran was just too generous.

What is generosity? Mother Teresa wrote that if love is to be real it must cost, must hurt, must empty us of self. Saint Basil the Great urged Christians to give "splendidly" to the poor. He said that if you're the target of many beggars you should feel grateful and honored that you don't have to make a nuisance of yourself at other people's doors, but other people come and bother you at your own!"

What would Saint Kieran say if we could ask him, "Is it possible to be just too generous?"

St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Orthodox Christian Church

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Bulletin for Sunday, September 7th, 2014

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost • Tone 4

1 Corinthians 16:13-24, Matthew 21:33-42



Commemorations: Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos. Sunday before Elevation. Martyr Sozón of Cilicia (ca. 304). St. John, Archbishop and Wonderworker of Novgorod (1186). Ven. Serapion of Spaso-Eliazar Monastery (Pskov – 1481). Martyrdom of St. Makáry, Archimandrite of Kanev (Pereyaslavl' – 1678). Apostles Evodia (Euodias) and Onesiphorus of the Seventy (66). Martyr Euppsychius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (2nd c.). Ven. Luke, Abbot, near Constantinople (10th c.). Ven. Cloud (Clodoald), Abbot, founder of Nogent-sur-Seine near Paris (560).

Welcome to Our Visitors

We welcome all visitors to our Divine Liturgy and services. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Please sign our guest book and join us for refreshments and fellowship after the services.

Feel free to ask questions before or after the services. Any member of our Council or Congregation are glad to assist you. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found at the candle desk.

Parish Council of Stewards

Michael Kuziak - President

Natalie Kurchaski - Secretary

Glenn Penkofflidbeck - Vice President

Susan Egan - Treasurer

Phyllis Sturevant - Member at Large

Sophie Brubaker - Member at Large

Please continue to pray for: Olga, Vera, Richard, Daria, Daria, Evelyn, Alla, June, Nina, Joan, Luke, Anne, Alex, Alan, Nadia, Glenn, Kathryn, Elena, Ivan, Jevon, Dori, Kyra, Roderick, Albert, Barbara, Irene, Susan, Eva, Richard, Douglas and Dionysia.

Many Years! This week we celebrate: Ann Pavlik, Max Freeman and Kathryn Jankura on the occasion of her birthday. And we also celebrate the birth of Alena Catherine King, granddaughter of Daria and John Krawchuk.

Upcoming Services and Events

Monday, September 8, 2014	8:30a - Akathist for the Theotokos: commemorating Her Nativity
Tuesday, September 9, 2014	8:30a - Daily Matins
Wednesday, September 10, 2014	4:30p - Open Doors 6:00p - Memorial for the Victims of 9/11 6:30p - Choir Rehearsal in preparation for the Archbishop's visit
Thursday, September 11, 2014	8:30a - Matins
Saturday, September 13, 2014	5:30p - Great Vespers with Litya for the Exaltation of the Cross
Sunday, September 14, 2014	9:30a - Divine Liturgy - Exaltation of the Holy Cross

- Dates to Note -

Saturday, September 20, 2014 - Parish Tag Sale

Sunday, September 21, 2014 - Church School lessons begin

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 - Book Club - "Heaven is for Real"

Saturday, October 11, 2014 - Visit by His Eminence Nikon at Great Vespers

Sunday, October 12, 2014 - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Nikon followed with a catered lunch.

- Announcements -

Given the feedback that I've received, we will be holding Bible Study on Wednesday evenings, beginning Sept 24th. Please update your calendars according. We will be studying the 15 Old Testament readings from the Divine Liturgy of Great and Holy Saturday.

Parish Events

Our Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 16th of November this year. I bring this up now because we will be looking to fill two positions on the Council, as well as delegates for the 2015 Diocesan Assembly and All American Council. Please look at your calendars, discuss with your family and pray that we may fill these positions so necessary for our parish life.

This month we begin choir rehearsals to prepare for the visit of our Archbishop Nikon. Choir is a ministry of the Church and essential to the prayerful worship of this community. **If you sing, please make these rehearsals!** Sept 10th, 17th and Oct 8th. If you have a conflict, consider rearranging your schedule to give priority to the Church.

Community Events

Families Helping Families - Fall Food Drive
Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 10a to 2p at the Clinton Stop and Shop
Help restock the Clinton Food Pantry with donations of nonperishables.
Cash donations gratefully accepted.

Valley Shore CROP Hunger Walk
Sunday, October 5th beginning at 1p at St Paul Lutheran Church,
56 Great Hammock Road, Old Saybrook.
Registration is at 12:15p. Donation forms/envelopes are available from Fr Steven
www.churchworldservice.org

Diocesan and National Church Events

The 51st Diocesan Assembly on October 24-25th in Cumberland, RI
Vinny Melesko will be the parish delegate this year. John Skrobat will attend as a member of the Diocesan Council and Joan Skrobat will attend as an Observer.
Anyone else wishing to attend the Assembly as an observer should talk with Fr Steven as soon as possible.

The 18th All American Council will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from July 20-24th, 2015. We will need a "lay" representative from parish to attend. If you have any interest in participating, please talk with Fr Steven.
You should also know that there is an assessment of \$12.50 per member in each parish to help cover expenses for the AAC.