

St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship at University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.

Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)

Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)

April 21, 2013: Fifth Sunday of Lent: St Mary of Egypt



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death, and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

Tone 8 Troparion (St Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal//
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

Tone 4 Troparion St. Nikolai

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence;
your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that
our souls may be saved.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)

You descended into hell, O my Savior,
shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator,
and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 3 Kontakion (St Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman,
you became through repentance a bride of Christ.
Having attained angelic life,
you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//
Therefore O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.
v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

Tone 5 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: "Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens."

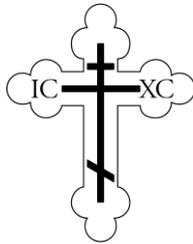
Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

(Instead of "It is truly meet," we sing the following Hymn to the Theotokos)

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace:
the assembly of Angels and the race of men.
O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise,
the glory of virgins,
from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –
our God before the ages.
He made your body into a throne,
and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens.
All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.
Glory to you!

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil
tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Schedule of this week's Services:

Wednesday, April 24, Presanctified Liturgy, 7 pm. Mt Union Chapel. Soup & Salad fellowship after Liturgy.

Saturday, April 27, Lazarus Saturday Liturgy, 9 am.

There will be a general Parastas (memorial service) at the end of Liturgy. Please bring the names of departed family members, relatives, Kumovi, loved ones (printed) to be commemorated.

Saturday, April 27, Vespers for Palm Sunday, 7 pm. Confession heard after Vespers.

Sunday, April 28, Palm Sunday Liturgy, 9 am.

Palms have been ordered, donations covering the \$36 cost are welcome.

Holy Week Schedule:

Tuesday, April 30, Bridegroom Matins, 7 pm.

Wednesday, May 1, Holy Unction, 7 pm.

Thursday, May 2, Holy Thursday Liturgy, 9 am.

Thursday, May 2, Matins for Holy Friday with 12 Passion Gospels, 7 pm.

Friday, May 3, Holy Friday Vespers, 3 pm.

Friday, May 3, Matins of Holy Saturday, 7 pm.

Saturday, May 4, Holy Saturday Liturgy, 9 am.

Saturday, May 4, Nocturn, **Resurrection Matins & Pascha Liturgy**, 10 pm.

With blessing of eggs & food baskets with fellowship following Liturgy.

Donations: For those desiring to make a contribution to this missionary effort, please make your check payable to "*St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance.*"

Pascha Donations:

Flowers: If you are interested, we are accepting donations towards flowers for Pascha. Please indicate on your envelope if you would like to contribute towards flowers and if you would like it to be a memorial.

Eggs: Please bring red eggs to be blessed and handed out following Pascha Liturgy.

Baskets: Last week you received information regarding Pascha Baskets. We are hoping to share these with each other and break the fast following the Pascha Liturgy

Plashchanitsa-Epithafios-Winding Clothe: depicting Christ in the Tomb, that is used in the Tomb on Holy Friday. A new one is being made for our mission. The Icon printed on canvas has been donated by Greg Rajsich, the brocade fabric is being provided by Deacon James & Heidi Gresh and the construction and sewing is being done by Linda Cervo for only the cost of materials (approximately \$150). This is an item that would normally cost \$500 to \$3000. Again, donations for this sacred item are most welcome.

Pascha Invitation: The Gresh family is inviting everyone to a Pascha celebration at their home (9135 Gans Avenue, Canton, Ohio 44721) beginning at noon, May 5. Please join in celebrating the Resurrection! Please bring a covered dish and if you have a favorite drink, bring that too!

A case of sacramental wine has been ordered (cost \$144), donations for all or part of it would be appreciated.

Note: at the service of Preparation of the Holy Gifts before the Liturgy, the priest prays for "*those who brought this offering and for those whom they brought it.*"

Icon of St. Nikolai of Zica: Our mission is commissioning a handwritten icon of St. Nikolai. This will contain a compartment to hold the relics that we are to receive. We are humbly accepting donations towards the icon which will cost \$1200.00. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to "*St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance*" make a notation that it is for the Icon of St. Nikolai of Zica.

Coffee Social: Will take place following the Divine Liturgy, in the fellowship room on the left side, down the hall from the chapel; please join us.

Procedure for receiving Holy Communion: In the Orthodox Church, Holy Communion is reserved only for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and regular confession. Those who have done so should approach the chalice with their arms crossed over their chest. Do not make the sign of the cross while standing in front of the chalice; state your baptismal first name; open your mouth wide (do not stick out your tongue), tilt your head back and allow the priest to deposit the holy gifts into your mouth (no need to close your mouth on the holy spoon).

Welcome to our non-Orthodox visitors: As stated above, Holy Communion is reserved only for prepared Orthodox Christians. We invite all visitors to introduce yourself to Fr. Joe and Fr. Deacon James at the end of the liturgy and to come forward to receive a piece of the blessed bread (which is given "instead of Holy Communion," especially to those Orthodox not prepared to receive the Eucharist and to those who are not Chrismated Orthodox). We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the historic Orthodox Christian Faith.

Thought for the Day:

Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things.

Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance
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