

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday August 13th 2017
10th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 1)

His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER
Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447
Protodeacon James Gresh, Attached

Saturday Vespers - 5:00pm
Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30am
Compline with Akathist - Wed. 6pm
Thursday Divine Liturgy - 9:30am
Vigil for Great Feasts - 6:30pm
Liturgies for Great Feasts - 9:30am
(All Liturgies are preceded by the reading of hours - 9:10am)

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com
Or Like us on FaceBook



Welcome!

The entire parish family of St. Nikolai Orthodox Church welcomes you today! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and the people of our parish. We hope that you can stay for coffee hour after the service.

Please note that we invite all Baptized members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion, provided that they have refrained from food and drink since midnight, and prepared themselves through prayer and recent confession.

If you are joining us today but have not been baptized in the Orthodox Church we welcome you but kindly ask you to refrain from approaching for Holy Communion. Please feel free to approach to kiss the cross at the end of the service and to take a piece of blessed bread as a token of our love. We pray that soon all people would find their true home in the Orthodox Church so that we might, together, share in Holy Communion of Christ's undivided Body.

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life: "Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your Kingdom!// Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

Troparion of the Transfiguration - Tone 7

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos!// O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Glory . . .

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 1

As God, You rose from the tomb in glory, raising the world with Yourself. Human nature praises You as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master! Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to You:// "You are the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Now and ever . . .

Kontakion of the Transfiguration - Tone 7

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God, and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold You crucified, they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world// that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

The Prokeimenon in the First Tone (Resurrection)

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!

v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone (For the Leavetaking of Transfiguration)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (I Cor. 4:9-16)

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

The Alleluia in the First Tone

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me..

v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

The Alleluia in the Eighth Tone

v: The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (17:14-23)

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting. Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing the Irmos of the 9th Ode from the Festal Canon)

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!

Your childbearing was without corruption; God came forth from your body clothed in flesh, and appeared on earth and dwelt among men. Therefore we all magnify you, O Theotokos.

The Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance, and will exult in Your name forever. (*Transfiguration*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Today we also remember the blessed repose of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (+1846)

Although he was a famous bishop, the saint lived in very simple circumstances: he slept on straw, covered by a sheepskin coat. His humility was so great that he paid no attention to the workers who laughed at him as he walked about the monastery, pretending that he did not hear it. He used to say, "It is pleasing to God that even the monastery workers mock me, and I deserve it because of my sins." He often said, "Forgiveness is better than revenge." Once, a fool named Kamenev struck the saint on the cheek saying, "Don't be so haughty" The saint, accepting this with gratitude, gave the fool three kopeks every day for the rest of his life. All his life the saint "in troubles, and sorrows, and insults... joyfully endured, mindful that there can be no crown without the victory, nor victory without effort, nor effort without struggle, nor struggle without enemies" (Ode 6 of the Canon). Strict towards himself, the saint was indulgent towards others. On the Friday before Palm Sunday, he entered the cell of his friend the schemamonk Metrophanes, and he saw him at table together with Cosmas Ignatievich, of whom he was also fond. There was fish on the table, and his friends became upset (Fish is not permitted during Lent, except for Feast days). The saint said, "Sit down, for I know you. Love is higher than fasting." To further calm them, he ate some of their fish soup. He especially loved the common folk, and comforted them in their grievous lot, interceding with the landowners, and moving them to compassion. He gave away his pension, and gifts from admirers, to the poor.

For three years before his repose he prayed each day, "Tell me, O Lord, of my end." And a quiet voice in the morning dawn said, "It will be on a Sunday." In that same year, he saw in a dream a beautiful meadow with wondrous palaces upon it. He wanted to go inside, but they said to him: "In three years, you may enter. For now, continue your labors." After this the saint secluded himself in his cell and admitted only a few friends. Both clothing and a grave were prepared for the time of his death. He often came to weep over his coffin, while standing hidden from people in a closet. A year and three months before his death, in a vivid dream, it seemed to the saint that he was standing in the monastery church. A priest of his acquaintance was carrying the Divine Infant, covered with a veil, out of the altar through the Royal Doors. The saint approached and kissed the Infant on the right cheek, and he felt himself stricken on the left. Awakening, the saint sensed a numbness in his left cheek, his left leg, and a trembling in his left hand. He accepted this illness with joy. Shortly before his death, the saint saw in a dream a high and twisting ladder and he heard a command to climb it. "At first, I was afraid because of weakness," he told his friend Cosmas. "But when I started to go climb, the people standing around the ladder lifted me higher and higher, up to the very clouds." "The ladder," said Cosmas, "is the way to the Heavenly Kingdom. Those who helped were those you have helped by your advice, and they remember you." The saint said with tears, "I thought so, too. I feel that my end is near." He frequently received the Holy Mysteries during his illness.

Saint Tikhon died, as was revealed to him, on Sunday August 13, 1783, at the age of fifty-nine. The first uncovering of his relics occurred on May 14, 1846.

St. Nikolai's reflection for today:

"Give thanks to the Lord but do not forget His great men, the poor and the needy, for they can accomplish much with God the Lord." These are the words of the illustrious Russian ascetic of the nineteenth century, Father Nazariah, the abbot of Valaam Monastery. He spoke these words to the wife of a high-ranking official in St. Petersburg who fell into disfavor with the Tsar because of certain serious accusations. The accused official became ill from worry and lay in bed. Hearing that Father Nazariah arrived in St. Petersburg, the wife of this official hurriedly sought him out and related the misfortune which had befallen them and implored him to pray to the Lord for her husband. "Do you have any copper or silver coins in change?" Father Nazariah asked her. The woman brought the coins and gave them to him. And so, Father Nazariah left. The same evening Nazariah again returned and gladdened the wife with this news: "Glory to God, all those close to the Tsar [God, the King] have promised to pray for you." Naturally, the wife thought of Tsar Alexander and his courtiers, while the spiritual father was thinking about the beggars on the streets to whom he had distributed the coins and sent them to pray to God for the husband of this woman. And surely the news arrived that the emperor ordered that the matter concerning this official be taken up again and reviewed. And, it was just what the official wanted. When the woman began to thank Father Nazariah, he said: "Give thanks to the Lord but do not forget His great men, the poor and the needy, for they can accomplish much with God the Lord."

Good Stewards

Our Parish Council is preparing several ways to communicate our financial health and opportunities to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasures. In August, Fr. Mikel will be offering a brief discussion related to this effort. Stay tuned!

Special Announcements:

Vigil and Liturgy for the Feast of Holy Dormition – August 14th & 15th

Weekday Services

Akathist-Wednesday nights at 6pm

Liturgy-Thursday mornings at 9:30am

Fr. Mikel's Office Hours: *I am simply dedicating these specific times to be available to meet with you. I am certainly available at other times, just let me know.*

Fall Kick-Off Event – Sept. 3rd

We have a venue!! Our Kick-Off will take place immediately after Divine Liturgy at Butler-Rodman Park, 2295 State St. in Alliance at the Jaycees Shelter. Please bring a covered dish to share. Enjoy fellowship, games, music and more! Please mark your calendars!!

Upcoming Gatherings:

We are hoping to resume monthly gatherings for the men and women of our community starting in September. If you have any ideas about the possibility of a Ladies Tea or Men's Breakfast, please feel free to speak to Fr. Mikel or Mat. Rachel.

**Today we are especially praying for
*the Health and Salvation of:***

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Arika, | Helen, |
| Renee, | Larissa, |
| Ashley, | Niki |
| Chloe, | Larissa |
| Valentina | Steve and Sandy |
| Josh W. | Anthony |
| The Minnick Family | Joan |
| The Fromholtz Family | Slavco |
| Kathy Jo, | Anthony |
| Michael | Thomas |
| Kelli | Mat. Rebecca |
| Liz and Carla | Thomas |
| Kim, | Marsha |
| Dale, | |

For The Departed Soul of:

- +Andy Dordea
- +Pdn. Gregory
- +Daniel
- +Jenny Codrea

