

St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.
Worship site: Rainbow's End Nursery. 10079 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
August 18, 2013; 8th Sunday after Pentecost/Afterfeast of the Dormition
Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria (2nd c)



Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen,// granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Dormition)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated to life O Mother of Life,// and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 4 Troparion (Martyrs Florus and Laurus)

Let us praise as is meet, you faithful, the most comely, radiant and divinely wise martyrs: Most blessed Florus and all venerable Laurus,
who proclaimed to all the uncreated Trinity. Suffering unto bloodshed, they were adorned with brilliant crowns.//
Entreat Christ our God to save our souls!

Tone 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith:// enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

Tone 8 Kontakion (Martyrs Florus and Laurus)

Today all the world honors in glory the divinely wise Florus and Laurus as pious martyrs who suffered for Christ. Through their prayers may we receive grace and mercy and be delivered from calamity and temptation, and from wrath and sorrow on the Day of Judgment!

Tone 2 Kontakion (Dormition)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,// she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.
v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (*Song of the Theotokos*)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

Tone 7 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.

v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

Tone 2

v: Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification!

Gospel: Matthew 14:14-22

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing in Tone 1:)

Refrain: The Angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven

Heirmos: The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin:
for birthgiving remains virginal, and life is united to death;
a virgin after childbearing and alive after death,
you ever save your inheritance, O Theotokos.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Dormition (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos from Holy Tradition.

Following the day of Pentecost, the Theotokos remained in the city of Jerusalem, comforting the infant Christian community. She was living in the house of the beloved Apostle John, later the Evangelist. At the time of her death (tradition states she was in her early fifties) many of the Apostles were scattered throughout the world preaching the Gospel. All but Thomas converged around the Blessed Virgin.

As they stood around her bedside, she commended her spirit to the Lord, and Jesus appeared, taking up her soul in His arms. The Apostles sang the funeral hymns in her honor and carried her body to a tomb in Cedron near Gethsemane.

The Apostle Thomas arrived on the third day and wished to see the Virgin for the last time. They discovered an empty tomb. Church tradition relates that the Theotokos was resurrected bodily and taken to heaven, the same reward that awaits all the righteous on the Last Day.

About the Icon of the Dormition

The Theotokos (*Birth-giver of God*) is depicted upon the funeral bier.

Christ, standing behind the Theotokos, is her Son, Who has come to receive His Mother's soul into heaven; He holds in His left arm an infant in white, symbolizing the soul of the Theotokos reborn in her glory in heaven; Christ also is robed in white and appears in an aureole (elongated halo) depicting the Light of His Divinity.

The Apostles are depicted on either side of the bier stand the Apostles; the group on the left is led by St. Peter who stands at the head of the bier; the group on the right is led by St. Paul who stands at the foot of the bier.

Below the bier is a figure of Antonius the Jew, who tried to disrupt the procession, was punished, but later repented of his sins and embraced Christianity through Baptism.

Donation Requests:

Land & Building Project:

We are still asking for everyone's consideration to make a special pledge toward the land purchase and building fund. The timing to pay your pledges can be according to your cash availability as well as being connected to our plan approval and construction schedule. As previously indicated, please convey your pledge decision confidentially to Father Joe or Protodeacon James as soon as possible.

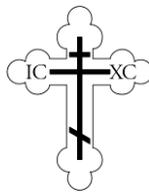
Icon of St. Nikolai of Zica:

The work on our mission patron saint handwritten icon, St. Nikolai, has begun. The Icon size has increased in conjunction with the scope of its depiction of prominent scenes of St. Nikolai's life; it will also house his holy "relics." No Icon of St. Nikolai exists that will encompass the important points of remembrance of his holy ministry. We are humbly accepting donations towards the icon which has now been finalized to cost \$1800. 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.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE:

Next Sunday, August 25, will be our last Sunday in our temporary summer home at Rainbow's End Nursery. We thank and ask God's abundant blessings to the Janice Raber Family for their kindness and generosity in allowing us to worship here over the past 3 ½ months. *"May the Lord repay them with rich and heavenly gifts; give them things heavenly for things earthly, things eternal for things temporal, things incorruptible for things corruptible"* (from the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great).

Beginning Sunday, September 1, we will be returning to the **Dewald Chapel at The University of Mount Union**, with Divine Liturgy remaining at 9 am.



St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance
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