

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday August 20th 2017
11th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 2)

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

Services this coming week:

Saturday-Great Vespers at 5pm

Sunday-Divine Liturgy at 9:30am

Wednesday-Akathist at 6pm

Thursday-Divine Liturgy at 9:30am

Parish Council-This Wednesday at 7pm

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com
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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 2

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

Troparion of the Dormition - Tone 1

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.

Troparion for the Prophet Samuel - Tone 2

We celebrate the memory of your prophet Samuel, O Lord; through him, we besech you:
"Save our souls!"

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, // and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Glory . . .

Kontakion for the Prophet Samuel - Tone 8

You were a precious gift given to God before you conception. You served Him like an angel from your infancy, O blessed one. You were granted the charism to announce beforehand future things. Therefore, we cry to you: "Rejoice, Samuel, Prophet of God and great high priest."

Now and Ever . . .

Kontakion of the Dormition - Tone 2

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.

Prokeimenon for the Resurrection in the Second Tone

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Prokeimenon for the Dormition in the Third Tone

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

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (I Cor. 9:2-12)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

The Alleluia in Second Tone

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

For the Dormition, in the same tone

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

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (18:23-35)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt.

But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)

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. **Irmos:** 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

For the Resurrection: Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

For the Dormition: I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE HOLY PROPHET SAMUEL

Samuel was the fifteenth and last judge of Israel. He lived eleven hundred years before Christ. Samuel was born of the tribe of Levi of the parents Elkanah and Hannah in a place called Ramatha or Arimathea where the noble Joseph was born [Joseph of Arimathea]. The barren Hannah besought Samuel from God through weeping and dedicated him to God when he was three years of age. Living in Shiloh near the Ark of the Covenant, Samuel, in his twelfth year, had a true revelation from God concerning the punishments which were pending before the house of the high priest Eli because of the immorality of his sons Hophni and Phineas. That revelation soon materialized: the Philistines defeated the Israelites, slew both of Eli's sons and captured the Ark of the Covenant. When the messenger informed Eli of this tragedy, he fell dead to the ground and expired in the ninety-eighth year of his life. The same thing occurred to his daughter-in-law, the wife of Phineas. From then on and for twenty years the Israelites were the slaves of the Philistines. After this period of time, God sent Samuel to the people to preach repentance if they wished to be saved from their enemies. The people repented and rejected the foreign idols that they served and recognized Samuel as a prophet, priest and judge. Then Samuel set out with an army against the Philistines and with God's help confused and defeated them and liberated the land and the people. After that, Samuel peacefully judged his people until old age. Seeing him in old age, the people asked him to install a king for them in his place. In vain Samuel tried to turn the people away from this, saying to them that God is their only King but the people stood by their demands. Even though this demand was not pleasing to God, God commanded Samuel to anoint Saul, the son of Kish from the tribe of Benjamin, as their king. Saul reigned for a short time only and God rejected Saul because of his impudence and disobedience and then commanded Samuel to anoint Jesse's son David as king in Saul's place. Before his death, Samuel gathered the entire people and bid them farewell. When Samuel died all of Israel mourned for him and they buried him honorably in his house at Ramatha.

From the *Prologue*, compiled by St. Nikolai of Zicha and South Canaan

St. Nikolai's reflection for today:

Repent before death closes the door of your life and opens the door of judgment. Repent before death and since you do not know the hour of death, repent today, even now, and cease to repeat your sin. Thus, St. Ephraim the Syrian prays: Before the wheel of time stops in my life, have mercy on me; Before the wind of death blows and diseases, the heralds of death, appear on my body, have mercy on me; Before the majestic sun in the heights becomes darkened for me, Have mercy on me; and may Your light shine for me from on high and disperse the dreadful darkness of my mind; Before the earth returns to earth and becomes decay and before the destruction of all the features of its beauty, have mercy; Before my sins deceive me at the judgment and shame me before The Judge, have mercy O Lord, filled with gentleness; Before the hosts come forth, preceding the Son of the King to assemble our miserable race before the throne of the Judge, have mercy, Before the voice of the trumpet sounds before Your coming, spare Your servants and have mercy, O Lord our Jesus; Before You lock Your door before me, O Son of God, and before I become food for the unquenchable fires of Gehenna, have mercy on me."

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:

Fall Kick-Off Event – Sept. 3rd

This will take place after Liturgy at Butler-Rodman Park in Alliance. Please plan to bring a covered dish.

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.

Birthdays:

August 18-Kaci Krupko

August 22-Jacob Baier

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

Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.

Valentina

Josh W.

The Minnick Family

The Fromholtz Family

Kathy Jo, Michael

Kelli

Liz and Carla

Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki

Larissa

Steve and Sandy

Anthony

Joan

Slavco

Anthony

Thomas

