

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance**  
**820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio**  
**(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)**  
**Divine Liturgy, 9:30**

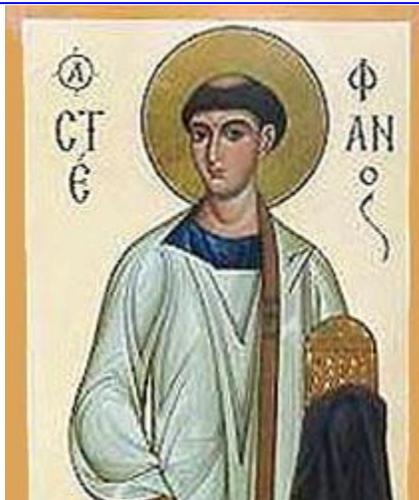
**Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America**  
**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

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

**August 2, 2015: 9th Sunday after Pentecost/  
Translation of relics of Protomartyr Stephen**

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

**Mission Website [St Nikolai of Zica Orthodox Mission of Alliance](http://StNikolaiofZicaOrthodoxMissionofAlliance.com)**



*Welcome to Visitors. Thank you for coming and praying with us today. In the Orthodox Church, Holy Communion is reserved only for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession during the Church fasting seasons. We invite you to introduce yourself to Father Joe and Deacon James at the end of the Liturgy and receive a piece of the blessed bread and join us for fellowship and Christian education at the Jonathan Casteel hall, directly through the alley way behind the church. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.*

**Tone 8            Troparion            (Resurrection)**

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!  
You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//  
O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

**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!

**Tone 4            Troparion            (Protomartyr Stephen)**

Your relics have risen from the depths of the earth,  
like a treasury for the immortal life of all creation.  
The Church, rejoicing in the grace that she receives from them,  
duteously honors you, Protomartyr Stephen.//  
Preserve us from error and heresy by your intercession!

**Tone 8            Kontakion            (Resurrection)**

By rising from the tomb, You raised the dead and resurrected Adam.

Eve exults in Your Resurrection, and the world celebrates Your rising from the dead,            O  
greatly Merciful One!

**Tone 8            Prokeimenon            (Resurrection)**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

**Epistle:**            1 Corinthians 3:9-17

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

v: Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

**Gospel:** Matthew 14:22-34

**Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance, and will exult in Your name forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Reflection on today's epistle:** *"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field; you are God's building."* Compared with God we are nothing, yet our place is no unkind place; God works as the principal Cause, we work with God as His instruments; God works one way, by His hidden influence upon the heart, we another way, by proclamation of the gospel in people's ears, but the scope and end of the work is the same. In Mark, 16:20, we read that the disciples *"went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word..."* Hence He proved what He had said before, that they should be rewarded; God will not allow ill to those who work with Him without reward: for they were *one*, they were all to be *laborers together with God*. Not as self-serving farmers, but as *"God's farmers:"* thus God's people (Isaiah 61:3), are called *the planting of the Lord*. *"God's building:"* the church is called *the house of God (I Timothy 3:15)*. Still the Apostle Paul reminds the Corinthians that they were God's, not their leaders; it was God to whom they were beholden for their conversion, their edification, created for communion with God and one another.

**The Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord:** Vesperal Liturgy, Wednesday, August 5, 6:30 pm, at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1118 Cherry Ave. Canton.

**The Transfer of the Relics of the Holy Protomartyr Stephen** from Jerusalem to Constantinople took place about the year 428. After the holy Protomartyr Archdeacon Stephen was stoned by the Jews, they left his holy body unburied to be devoured by the beasts and birds. After a day and a night the renowned Jewish teacher of the Law, Gamaliel sent people to take up the body of the Protomartyr. Gamaliel buried him on his own property, in his own tomb, not far from Jerusalem. When the Lord's secret disciple Nicodemus died, Gamaliel also buried him near the grave of St Stephen. Afterwards Gamaliel himself, who had been baptized with his son Abibas, was buried near the grave of the Protomartyr Stephen and St Nicodemus. In the year 415 the relics of the saint were uncovered in a miraculous manner and solemnly transferred to Jerusalem by Bishop John and the bishops Eutonium of Sebaste and Eleutherius of Jericho. From that time healings took place from the relics. Afterwards, during the reign of holy Emperor Theodosius the

Younger (408-450), the relics of the holy Protomartyr Stephen were transferred from Jerusalem to Constantinople and placed in the church of the holy deacon Laurence (August 10). When a church dedicated to the Protomartyr Stephen was built, the relics were transferred there on August 2. St Stephen's right hand is preserved in the Serapionov chamber of the Trinity-Sergius Lavra.

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### **PRAYERS requested**

#### **For The Health and Salvation of:**

Mother Ana  
Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)  
Stefanie Waseman  
The Knoll Family  
Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)  
Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)  
Roland Augspurger  
Leslie and Tim Kocevar  
Joan Downey  
Beth Plocher

#### **For The Repose of the Souls of:**

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

The summer schedule for our weekly study group at the Gresh house has been modified due to the hectic summer schedules of our participants. The study group will resume sessions in September. The potential start date for the Fall season could be either September 5 (which is Labor Day weekend) or September 12. We would like feedback from interested participants on their preference of the start date.

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

Aug 2nd	Washingtons
Aug 9th	Greshs
Aug 16	Annual Parish Liturgy and Picnic hosted by George and Helen Blebea
Aug 23	Open
Aug 30	Open
Sept 6	Deb and Wally Borojevich
Sept 13	Open
Sept 20	Washingtons
Sept 27	Open

Please see Deanna and Larry Dordea if you are interested in hosting a Coffee Hour. There are plenty of dates available. Thank you to Deanna, Larry and Georgie for chairing our Coffee Hours.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!!**

### **BUILDING PROJECT:**

July 31, UPDATE! By the grace of God construction of our chapel continues to advance rapidly. The general contractor continues to work on the exterior of the building. The drywall work is scheduled to begin next week. The windows are in and exterior doors are being installed. The roofing is expected to be done next week. The cupola refinishing is underway, with its installation on the roof expected in about two weeks. The electrical contractor has completed the wiring. Work on the Icons is continuing and we are still seeking additional donors. Please see Fr. Joe for further information. For updated construction pictures please visit our parish website.

We are also still in need of additional funding for the general building fund. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution, please see Father Joe or Deacon James. Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission. **May the Lord bless all our endeavors to glorify His Holy Name and bring others to the fullness of the truth.**

**Save the Date: The blessing of our chapel is scheduled for the weekend of October 17 & 18, many details will be forthcoming.**

**Parish annual Liturgy/picnic is 2 weeks away, Sunday, August 16, 9:30 am.** at George & Helen Blebea's home. Side dishes are requested.

**Heightened prayers are requested for Mother Anna**, abbess of Monastery Marcha, Richfield Ohio. She has been diagnosed with inoperable bladder cancer. May God comfort and strengthen her in the days and months ahead.

Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission.

**CHOIR PRACTICES:**

We will be taking a break for the Summer. Practices will resume in the Fall.

**MEMORIAL FUND FOR GEORGE RALICH:**

Several people have inquired about donations to the Mission in memory of Dan's father, +George Ralich. We will set aside any donations in +George's memory to purchase an item for the church. Thank you!

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

Corbin Washington - 11th  
Jacob Baier - 22th  
Greg Cervo - 23th  
Larry Dordea - 27<sup>th</sup>

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:**

Amy and Matt Catania

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