

# Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

Temporarily at 8277 N Nickel Plate St., Louisville, Ohio 44641

*Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>*  
*27<sup>th</sup> 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

**Upcoming Services:**

Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> - Union Ave UMC-Vespers, 5pm  
Sun. Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> - St. Mary's - Liturgy, 11am  
Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - Hill's - Bible Study, 6pm  
Wed. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - Hill's - Parish Council, 7pm  
Fri. Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - St. George Romanian - Icon, 6pm

Please visit our website:  
[www.stnikolaiorthodoxchurch.org](http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxchurch.org)  
Or Like us on FaceBook



**Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,/ Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead,/ And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,/ all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

**Troparion for Saint Nikolai - Tone 4**

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.

**Troparion for the Martyrs - Tone 8**

Having slain the fiery ragings and fierce movements of the passions through their ascetic labors,/ the Martyrs of Christ, Menas, Hermogenes, and Euge<sup>o</sup>graphus,/ received grace to dispel the afflictions of the infirm and to work wonders/ both while alive and after death. It is a truly great wonder that naked bones pour forth healing,// Glory to our only God and Creator!

## 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.

## **Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 2**

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

**Glory . . .**

## **Kontakion for the Martyrs - Tone 4**

The Lord snatched thee from the temporal army,/ making thee a fellow inheritor of the eternal, O Menas,/  
together with Hermogenes and Eugraphus,/ with whom thou didst suffer, // thou art granted an incorruptible  
crown.

**Now and ever . . . Steadfast Protectress**

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*Priest:* Let us attend: Peace be unto all

*Reader:* And to thy spirit

*Priest:* Wisdom

*Reader:* The Prokeimenon in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tone: The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.

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

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

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

*Reader:* The Lord has chastened me sorely,

*Congregation:* *But He has not given me over to death.*

*Priest:* Wisdom

***Reader:* The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (6:10-17)**

*Priest:* Let us attend

*Reader (READ SLOWLY):* Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

*Priest:* *Peace be to thee that reads. Wisdom*

*Reader:* The Alleluia in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tone:

*Congregation:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Reader:* May the Lord hear thee in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect thee!

*Congregation:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

*Congregation:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (17:12-19)**

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

**The Sunday Communion Hymn**  
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**The Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and EUGRAPHUS.**

Both Menas and Hermogenes were born in Athens. They both lived in Constantinople, where they enjoyed the high favour of the Emperor and the honour of the people. Menas was known for his great learning and gift of speech and, although he acted outwardly as a pagan, he was in his heart a convinced Christian. Hermogenes was Eparch of Constantinople, and was a pagan through and through. He was, however, a merciful man and performed many good deeds. When dissention broke out between the Christians and the pagans in the city of Alexandria, the Emperor Maximian (285-305) sent Menas to calm the turmoil and drive the Christians from the city. Menas went and restored peace, but he also declared himself to be a Christian and brought many of the pagans to the true Faith by the power of his words and the witness of his many miracles. When the Emperor heard this, he sent Hermogenes to punish

Menas and to smother Christianity. Hermogenes brought Menas to trial, and he cut off his feet and his tongue, gouged out his eyes and then threw him into prison. The Lord Jesus himself appeared to him there, to heal and console His suffering servant. When he saw Menas miraculously healed, Hermogenes was baptised and began to preach the mighty Faith of Christ, being made Bishop of Alexandria. Then the furious Emperor Maximian came himself to Alexandria and put Menas and Hermogenes to harsh torture, which they endured courageously with the help of God's grace. Beholding the fortitude of these soldiers of Christ and the miracles God wrought upon them, Eugraphus, Menas's secretary, went into the judgement-hall and shouted to the Emperor's face: 'I too am a Christian!' The Emperor flew into a rage, took a sword and beheaded Eugraphus himself, and then he commanded the executioner to behead Menas and Hermogenes. Their holy relics, thrown into the sea, floated in a miraculous way to Constantinople, where the bishop, forewarned in a dream, met them with great ceremony and buried them with honour.

***Why do Orthodox Cross themselves from Right to Left?*** by Fr. Seraphim Holland

The act of "Placing the cross on oneself" is a request for a blessing from God. We make it from right to left to mirror the actions of the priest when he blesses us. The priest, looking at the parishioners, blesses from left to right. Therefore, the parishioners, putting on the sign of the cross on themselves, do it from right to left. Because the Lord separated the sheep from the goats, putting the faithful sheep on His right side, and the goats on the left, the Church always treats the right side as the preferred side. We only cross ourselves with our *right* hand. The priest, when blessing a person, first touches or points to their *right* side, then their left. Also the censuring of the Holy Table in the Altar is always done from the *right* side first; censuring of the Ikonostasis, the Congregation and of the Church itself always begins with the right side. The priest always gives communion with his *right* hand, even if he is left handed. There are other examples of this right side preference. When a parent makes the sign of the cross over a child, they will cross them from left to right, just as the priest blesses. When they make the sign of the cross over themselves, they would do it, logically, the other way. The Catholic Encyclopedia states that in the Roman Catholic Church, the faithful crossed themselves from right to left, just as the Orthodox do, until the 15th or 16th century. They must explain why they have changed an ancient and apostolic tradition. We cannot answer as to their motivations. Is it important to cross ourselves a particular way? In a word, yes. We do not have the authority to choose willy-nilly what parts of the Christian Tradition we want to follow. Our fathers, and countless saints crossed themselves from right to left. Ancient icons show Christ or bishops beginning a blessing from right to left. The right side is referred to in a preferential way many times in scripture and our sacred hymns. What should we want to change?

## Special Announcements

### Regarding Confession

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>, we are fasting from all meat and dairy. This period is also an ideal time to strive to attend more of the Church's services and to come to the Sacrament of Holy Confession. We should come to Holy Confession at least four times a year. Fr. Mikel is available to hear confessions after Saturday Vespers, or after Sunday Liturgy.

### Introduction to the Orthodox Faith

Our catechumens and others interested in learning more about their faith will be meeting on Sunday afternoons, at 2:30, at Panera Bread in Alliance. The discussion will revolve around weekly assignments, which are available to everyone at the link below. If you would like to join our discussion, in-person, through Google Hangout, or e-mail, let Fr. Mikel know.

<https://stnikolaiorthodoxchurch.wordpress.com>

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

Richard R.	Larissa
Richard, Tetiana, Arhem	Steve and Sandy
Fr. Joseph	Anthony
Arika, Renee,	Joan
Ashley, and Chloe.	Slavco
Valentina	Anthony
Josh W.	Thomas
The Minnick Family	Mat. Rebecca
The Gresh family	Rebecca
Kathy Jo, Michael	Thomas
Kelli	Marsha
Liz and Carla	Jackie
Kim, Dale, Helen,	Dorothy
Larissa, and Niki	Matthew
Fr. Andrew &	Paul
The Community of St. Matthew's	

### ***For The Departed Soul of:***

+June  
+Fred

### Upcoming Events:

St. George Romanian Orthodox Church will be blessed to receive the visit of the Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming (Taylor) Icon of the Mother of God on Friday, December 15, services start at 6pm.

We will be holding our annual community meeting on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars for this important event. **This Sunday will be a potluck** so bring something to share.

Our community will be visiting area homes to sing Christmas carols on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup>. All who would like to participate in either signing or hosting our group, please let Georgie Washington know.

### Birthdays and Anniversaries:

Isabell Cosette Hill - Dec. 6th  
Tam Rininger - Dec. 11th  
TJ Cotterman - Dec. 11th

