

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 pm.
9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

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)
**December 13, 2015: 28th Sunday after Pentecost/ Sunday of the Forefathers/
Repose of Venerable Herman, Wonderworker of All America**

Website<http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>

Facebook page:www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMissionOfAlliance

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. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.



Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion (Forefathers)

Through faith You justified the Forefathers,
betrothing through them the Church of the gentiles.
These saints exult in glory, for from their seed came forth a glorious fruit:
she who bore You without seed.//
So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

Tone 7 Troparion (St Herman)

Joyful North Star of the Church of Christ, guiding all people to the Heavenly Kingdom; teacher and apostle of the True Faith; intercessor and defender of the oppressed; adornment of the Orthodox Church in America:

Blessed Father Herman of Alaska, // pray to our Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls!

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 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs // they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 3 Kontakion (St Herman)

The eternal light of Christ our Savior guided you, blessed Father Herman, on your evangelical journey to America to proclaim the Gospel of peace.

Now you stand before the throne of glory; intercede for your land and its people: peace for the world and salvation for our souls!

Tone 6 Kontakion (Forefathers)

You did not worship the graven image, O thrice-blessed ones, but armed with the immaterial Essence of God, you were glorified in a trial by fire.

From the midst of unbearable flames you called on God, crying:

“Hasten, O compassionate One! Speedily come to our aid, // for You are merciful and able to do as You will!”

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is *Your name forever!*
v: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Epistles: *Colossians 3:4-11 (Forefathers); Galatians 5:22-6:2 (St Herman)*

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.

v: They called to the Lord and He answered them.

Tone 6

v. His seed shall be mighty in the land.

Gospels: *Luke 14:16-24 (Forefathers); Luke 6:17-23 (St Herman).*

Communion Hymns

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil *tidings*.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



“Let us remember our ancestors, the Holy Christian Martyrs of the early Church.....who refused, despite painful penalties and horrendous persecution, to worship, venerate or pay obeisance in any way to idols who are angels of Satan. The foundation of our Holy Church is built upon their very blood. In today’s world of spiritual apathy and listlessness, which are the roots of atheism and turning away from God, one is urged to disregard the spiritual roots and origins of secular practices when their outward forms seem ordinary, entertaining and harmless. The dogma of atheism underlies many of these practices, denying the existence of both God and Satan. Our Holy Church, through Jesus Christ, teaches that God alone stands in judgment over everything we do and believe and that our actions are either for God or against God. No one can serve two master.” *St. Nikolai Velimirovich*

The Sunday that falls between December 11-17 is known as the Sunday of the Holy Forefathers. These are the ancestors of Christ according to the flesh, who lived before the Law and under the Law, especially the Patriarch Abraham, to whom God said, “In thy seed shall all of the nations of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3, 22:18).

St. Herman of Alaska

Our venerable father **Herman of Alaska** (1756 - December 13, 1837) was an 18th century missionary to Alaska. He, in 1790, became the first saint to be glorified by the Orthodox Church in America, concurrent with parallel services in another location by the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. St. Herman is remembered by the Church on August 9 and December 13.

Herman of Alaska was a Russian Orthodox monk from Valaam Monastery in Russia who traveled with eight other monks in 1793 to bring the Gospel to the native Aleuts and Eskimos in the Aleutian Islands. As part of the Russian colonization of the Americas, Russians had been exploring and trading there since at least 1740. Thus, he marks the first arrival of Orthodox Christian missionaries in North America. He built a school for the Aleutians, and he often defended them from the injustices and exploitation of the Russian traders. He was known to them as *Apa* which means "Grandfather." He lived most of his life as the sole resident of Spruce Island, a tiny wooded island near Kodiak Island.

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Small Compline & Matins 6 pm, immediately followed by Christmas Liturgy (beginning approximately between 7 to 7:15 pm).

Please note, there are no services Christmas morning, since the Festal Liturgy is done the night before.

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Doreen Wishnok

Stefanie Waseman

The Knoll Family

Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)

Roland Augspurger

Leslie and Tim Kocevar
Joan Downey
Beth Plocher
Susan Smith Miller (Heidi' Gresh's sister)
Brenda Grey
Wally and Debby Borojevich and family
Jennifer White
J. P. Cervo
Renee Young
Julian Farian
Larry Gainer
Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)
Carl, friend of Father David
Lisa, friend of Father David
Father David and Family
James Rickard and Family

For The Repose of the Souls of the newly departed Servants:

+Mildred "Peggy" Borojevich (Wally's mother)
+John Tillman
+Abbi Moyer (Friend of Tammy Rininger)
+Mother Ana

ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual meeting for our Parish will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 following the Divine Liturgy. Please see Father Joe or Deacon James if you have any questions prior to the meeting.

SATURDAY VESPERS:

Vespers will be held every Saturday at 4 pm until the clocks move forward in the Spring.

ADULT EDUCATION:

Book study/Christian Education will follow the vespers service and take place in the fellowship area at the church.

CHOIR PRACTICE:

Choir practice will take place on the Tuesday to prepare for our Christmas services. We will have our practice at the church at 7 pm. The choir date is December 15.

CAROLING:

The Choir is planning on Christmas Caroling. Please see Helen Blebea to schedule a stop at your home! Please note that Heidi sent an email with information regarding caroling to the parish, so check your emails.

FLOWER FUND:

Donations are gratefully accepted for poinsettias to decorate the church for the Nativity. If you wish to donate, please mark your envelope or check directing your donation to the Flower Fund.

COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:

There are/will be sign-up sheets posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions please see Father Joe or Deacon James. We are asking for individuals, families or groups to sign up on a monthly basis to maintain the church. November is covered. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

December 13 – Washingtons
December 20 – Dan Ralich
December 24 – Parish Members
December 27 – Wally and Debby Borojevich

There will be a sign up sheet for Christmas Eve this weekend and next weekend. We are asking for hors d'ouerves, desserts, drinks.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOURS!!!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

T.J. Cotterman – 11th

Tammy Rininger–11th

J.P. Cervo – 17th

Camryn Catania–20th

Jaga Radosevic–25th

Katie White – 28th

Helen “Oney” Baier–30th

Father Dragan Filipovich–30th

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Matt and Amy Catania – 29th

