

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

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

Sunday December 17th

*28th Sunday after Holy Pentecost – Tone 3
Sunday of the Forefathers*

**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. 16th - Union Ave UMC-Vespers, 5pm
Sun. Dec. 17th - St. Mary's - Liturgy, 11am
Sun. Dec. 17th - St. Mary's - Annual Meeting
Wed. Dec. 20th - Hill's - Bible Study, 6pm

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxchurch.org
Or Like us on FaceBook



Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 3

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.

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 Holy Forefathers - Tone 2

Through faith Thou didst justify 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 Thee without seed.// So by their prayers, O Christ God, have mercy on us!

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 3

On this day Thou didst rise 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 Thy power.

Glory . . .

Kontakion for the Holy Forefathers - Tone 6

Ye did not worship the graven image,/ O thrice-blessed ones,/ but armed with the immaterial Essence of God,/ ye were glorified in a trial by fire./ From the midst of unbearable flames ye called on God, crying,/ "Hasten, O compassionate One!/ Speedily come to our aid,// for Thou art merciful and able to do as Thou dost will!"

Now and Ever . . .

Kontakion of the Forefeast of Nativity - Tone 3

Today the Virgin cometh to the cave/ where she will give birth in an ineffable manner to the Word/ Who is before all the ages./ Rejoice, therefore, O universe, when thou hearest it heralded:/ Glorify Him, with the angels and the shepherds,// Who chose to be seen as a new-born babe, the God Who is before all the ages.

Priest: Let us attend: Peace be unto all

Reader: And to thy spirit

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Congregation: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Reader: For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Congregation: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Reader: Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers

Congregation: And praised and glorified is Thy name forever!

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Colossians (3:4-11)

Priest: Let us attend

Reader (READ SLOWLY): When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Priest: Peace be to thee that reads. Wisdom

Reader: The Alleluia in the 4th Tone:

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (14:16-24) Then He said to him, “A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, ‘Come, for all things are now ready.’ But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’ Still another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.’ And the servant said, ‘Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.’ Then the master said to the servant, ‘Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.’ For I say to you that none of those men who were invited shall taste my supper.”

The Sunday Communion Hymn

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

The Holy Prophet Daniel and the Three Children: Ananias, Azarias and Misael.

All four of them were of the royal tribe of Judah. When Nebuchadnezzar destroyed and plundered Jerusalem, Daniel, as a boy, was taken off into slavery together with Jehoiachin, King of Judah, and many other Israelites. The account of his life, sufferings and prophecies can be found in detail in his book. Utterly given to God, Daniel from his early youth received from God the gift of great discernment. His fame among the Jews in Babylon began when he denounced two lecherous and unrighteous elders, and saved the chaste Susannah from an unjust death. But his fame among the Babylonians stemmed from the day when he solved and interpreted the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar. For this, the king made him a prince at his court. When the king made a golden idol in the Plain of Dura, the Three Children refused to worship it, for which they were cast into the burning fiery furnace. But an angel of God appeared in the furnace and soothed the flames, so that the Children walked in the furnace untouched by the fire, and sang: 'Blessed art Thou, Lord God of our fathers!' The king saw this marvel, and was amazed. He then brought the Children out of the furnace and did them great honour.

In the time of King Belshazzar, when the king was eating and drinking with his guests at a feast out of consecrated vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem, an invisible hand wrote these three words on the wall: 'Mene, Tekel, Upharsin'. No-one could interpret these words but Daniel. That night, King Belshazzar was killed. Daniel was thrice thrown into a den of lions for his faith in the one, living God, and both times God preserved him alive. Daniel saw God on His throne with the angelic powers, often saw angels, had insight into the future of certain people, of kingdoms and of the whole human race, and prophesied the time of the coming of the Saviour on earth. According to St Cyril of Alexandria, Daniel and the Three Children lived to great old age in Babylon, and were beheaded with the sword for the true Faith. When Ananias was beheaded, Azarias held out his robe and caught his head, then Misael caught Azarias's head and Daniel Misael's. An angel of God carried their bodies to Judea, to Mount Gebal, and placed them under a rock. According to tradition, these four men arose at the time of the death of the Lord Jesus and appeared to many, then fell asleep again. Daniel is counted as one of the four Great Prophets (with Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel). He lived and prophesied halfway through the thousand years before Christ.

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



Special Announcements

Choir Rehearsals

For the next few weeks, anyone who wishes to help with the music for our services is strongly encouraged to attend rehearsals that will be held in the Belden Room (coffer hour room) starting at 10:15am, each Sunday morning. Mat. Rachel and Allison Krupko will be leading these rehearsals. The hope is that together we can help each other find a solution to singing the services that is both musical and prayerful for everyone.

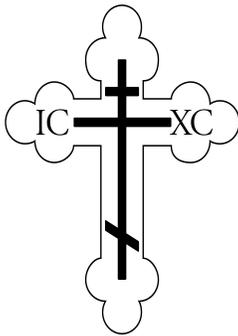
Regarding Confession

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth on Dec. 25th, 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>



Upcoming Events:

We will be holding our annual community meeting this Sunday, December 17th. 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, 23rd. All who would like to participate in either signing or hosting our group, please let Georgie Washington know.

Christmas Schedule: (Locations TBA)

Fri., 12/22 – Royal Hours – 5pm

Sat., 12/23 – Great Vespers – 5pm

Sun. 12/24 – Divine Liturgy – 11am

Sun. 12/24 – Vigil for Nativity – 5pm

Mon. 12/25 – Divine Liturgy – 7am

Today we are especially praying for

the Health and Salvation of:

Richard R.

Richard, Tetiana, Arhem

Fr. Joseph

Arika, Renee,

Ashley, and Chloe.

Valentina

Josh W.

The Minnick Family

The Gresh family

Kathy Jo, Michael

Kelli

Liz and Carla

Kim, Dale, Helen,

Larissa, and Niki

Fr. Andrew &

The Community of St. Matthew's

Larissa

Steve and Sandy

Anthony

Joan

Slavco

Anthony

Thomas

Mat. Rebecca

Rebecca

Thomas

Marsha

Jackie

Dorothy

Matthew

Paul

For The Departed Soul of:

+June

+Fred