

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

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

Sunday December 24th
29th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 4
Eve of the Nativity of Christ

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:

Friday, 12/22 - Royal Hours, St. Nikolai's, 5pm
Saturday, 12/23 - Vespers, St. Nikolai's, 5pm
Sunday, 12/24 - Divine Liturgy, St. Mary's, 11am
Sunday, 12/24 - Vespers, St. Mary's, 1:30pm
Sunday, 12/24 - Vigil, St. Nikolai's - 5pm
Monday, 12/25 - Divine Liturgy, St. Mary's, 7am
Wednesday, 12/27 - **NO BIBLE STUDY**

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



Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 4

When the women disciples of the Lord/ learned from the angel the joyous message of thy Resurrection,/ they cast away the ancestral curse/and elatedly told the apostles:/ “Death is overthrown!/
Christ God is risen,// granting 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 Fathers - Tone 2

Great are the accomplishments of faith,/ for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of flames as though in the waters of rest;/and the Prophet Daniel appeared/a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep,// So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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 Forefeast - Tone 4

Once Mary with child by a seedless conception/ was registered in Bethlehem/ with the aged Joseph/ as of the house of David./ The time came for the birth/ and there was no room at the inn/ but the cave proved a delightful palace for the Queen.// Christ is born to raise the fallen image that fell of old.

Glory . . .

Kontakion for the Holy Fathers - Tone 1

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare thyself, O Ephratha!/ The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb./ The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,//and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Now and ever . . .

Kontakion for the Forefeast - Tone 3

Today the Virgin comes to the cave/ to give birth to the Eternal Word./ Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!/ Glorify with the angels and the shepherds// the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

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 Hebrews (11:9-40)

Priest: Let us attend

Reader (READ SLOWLY): By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense. By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff. By faith Joseph, when he was dying, made mention of the departure of the children of Israel, and gave instructions concerning his bones. By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw he was a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king's command. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented - of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having

obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

Priest: Peace be to thee that reads. Wisdom

Reader: The Alleluia in the 4th Tone:

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For Thou hast saved us from them that oppose us, and hast put to shame them that hate us.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (1:1-25)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers. Judah begot Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez begot Hezron, and Hezron begot Ram. Ram begot Amminadab, Amminadab begot Nahshon, and Nahshon begot Salmon. Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, and Jesse begot David the king. David the king begot Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah. Solomon begot Rehoboam, Rehoboam begot Abijah, and Abijah begot Asa. Asa begot Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat begot Joram, and Joram begot Uzziah. Uzziah begot Jotham, Jotham begot Ahaz, and Ahaz begot Hezekiah. Hezekiah begot Manasseh, Manasseh begot Amon, and Amon begot Josiah. Josiah begot Jeconiah and his brothers about the time they were carried away to Babylon. And after they were brought to Babylon, Jeconiah begot Shealtiel, and Shealtiel begot Zerubbabel. Zerubbabel begot Abiud, Abiud begot Eliakim, and Eliakim begot Azor. Azor begot Zadok, Zadok begot Achim, and Achim begot Eliud. Eliud begot Eleazar, Eleazar begot Matthan, and Matthan begot Jacob. And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations, from David until the captivity in Babylon are fourteen generations, and from the captivity in Babylon until the Christ are fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, 'God with us.'" Then Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS.

The Sunday Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Special Announcements:

Evening Services at St. Nikolai's

We are going to begin holding our evening services in our own building. While this is exciting, please know that it is still under construction and we will need to be VERY flexible in order not to interfere with our contractors. This may mean that for certain periods we will not be able to use the space. In this event, we will hold services at the Hill's.

When coming to St. Nikolai's, be aware that there is currently very limited lighting, no seating, equipment that can be dangerous to small children, dirt and dust on the floors, and trip hazards. We will need to remove any personal or liturgical items each time when leaving.

We will still hold all of our social events, Divine Liturgy, and Bible Study elsewhere until the building is completely finished. With that said, it is still very exciting that we will be one again filling our own temple with prayer and worship after many months of "exile."

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.

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 meet for our monthly gathering on Jan. 12th at John's Bar & Grill on Cleveland Ave. in Canton, 6pm. Please let Steve Bozeka know if you are planning to attend.

Fr. Mikel, Mat. Rachel and their family will be travelling to St. Tikhon's Monastery from Dec. 26th through the 30th. There is no Bible Study on the 27th, nor Vespers on the 30th. Fr. Mikel is available by phone or e-mail for any emergencies.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December 20 - Camryn Catania

December 25 - Jaga Radosevic

December 28 - Kate White

December 30 - Helen Baier

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

Mary Lou

Katherine

The Mission Vision Corner

Goal: Viable and self-sustaining parish by 2020.

Stewardship

Offerings Last month: **\$2,858**

What we need: \$4,350

Attendance

Divine Liturgy: 20 adults, 7 children

Vespers: 6 adults, 4 children

Our Goal: 50+