

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

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

Sunday December 3rd
26th Sunday after Holy Pentecost –Tone 1

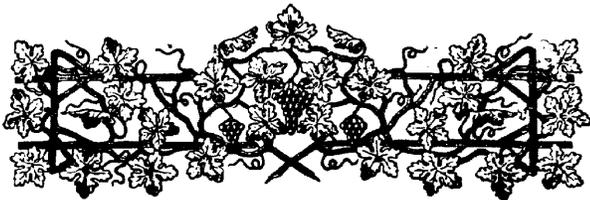
His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER
Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447

Upcoming Services:

Sat. Dec. 2nd - Union Ave UMC-Vespers, 5pm
Sun. Dec. 3rd - St. Mary's - Liturgy, 11am
Sun. Dec. 3rd - St. Mary's - Stewardship Potluck
Wed. Dec. 6th -Washington's - Bible Study, 6pm

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



Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,/ while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,/
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,/ granting life to the world./
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:/ “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O
Christ!/ Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest of mankind!”

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 Prophet Zephaniah - Tone 2

We celebrate the memory/ of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord;/ through him we beseech Thee://
“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.

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,/ raising the world with Thyself./ Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished./ Adam exults, O Master!/ Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// “Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”

Glory . . .

Kontakion for the Prophet Zephaniah - Tone 4

Thou hast been revealed by the Spirit of God to be brilliant, O Prophet Zephaniah,/ for thou didst proclaim the coming of God:/ “Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!/ Proclaim Him, O Jerusalem!// Behold, your King is coming to save mankind!”

Now and Ever . . . Steadfast Protectress

Priest: Let us attend: Peace be unto all

Reader: And to thy spirit

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 1st Tone: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

Congregation: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

Reader: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just!

Congregation: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

Reader: Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us

Congregation: As we have set our hope on Thee!

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Ephesians (5:9-19)

Priest: Let us attend

Reader (READ SLOWLY): Brethren, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.” See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

Priest: Peace be to thee that reads. Wisdom

Reader: The Alleluia in the 1st Tone.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David>>

>>His anointed, and his seed forever.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (18:18-27)

Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not

commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother.'" And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth." So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

The Sunday Communion Hymn

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



The Holy Prophet Zephaniah

Born on the mountain of Savarat and of the tribe of Simeon, he lived and prophesied in the seventh century before Christ, in the time of Josiah the pious King of Judah, and was a contemporary of the Prophet Jeremiah. With his great humility, pure mind and constant striving after God, he was found worthy of seeing into the future. He foretold the day of the wrath of God and the punishment of Gaza, Ashkalon, Ashdod, Ekron, Nineveh, Jerusalem and Egypt. He looked upon Jerusalem as a filthy, polluted and oppressing city ... her princes within her are like roaring lions; her judges are evening wolves ... her prophets are light and treacherous persons; her priests have polluted the sanctuary, they have done violence to the Law (Zeph. 3:1- 4). Foreseeing the coming of the Messiah, he cried out with rapture: 'Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all thy heart, O daughter of Jerusalem!' (3:14). This seer of secrets and mysteries went to his rest in the place where he was born, there to await the general Resurrection and his reward from God.

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

What is Stewardship?: Reflections from *Introducing the Orthodox Faith* by A. Conaris

Give proportionately, lovingly. Give generously. "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly." When it comes to giving to God and His work, if you must err, err on the side of generosity, as you would if your loved one were in need and presented a request. Err on the side of going beyond what is practical and try what is spiritual. "He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully," writes St. Paul. Give abundantly and you will receive abundantly.

Give proportionately, lovingly, generously. Give wisely. How does a Christian spend his money wisely? A wise Christian will sit down and make two columns: Column #1 will be entitled, "What are we living for?" and Column #2 will be "What are we spending for?" We can never determine wisely what we shall spend for until we realize what we are living for. What we are living for will determine what we do with our possessions.

Special Announcements:

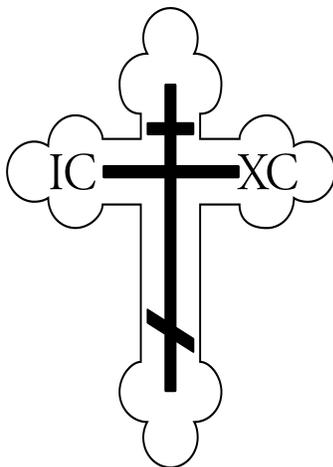
Regarding Confession

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:

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 17th. Please mark your calendars for this important event.

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.

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

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

For The Departed Soul of:

+June
+Fred