

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

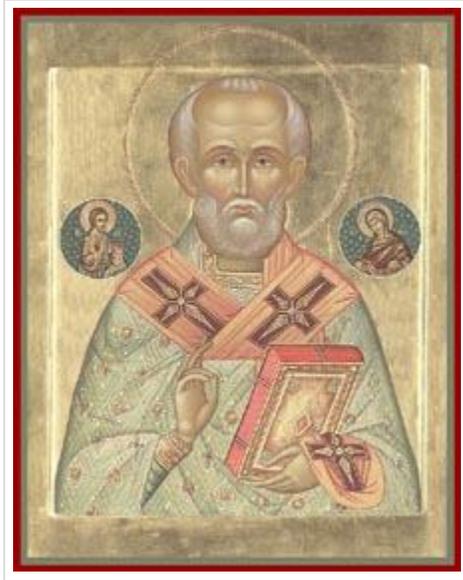
**Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
December 6, 2015: 27th Sunday after Pentecost/ St. Nicholas the Wonderworker,
Archbishop of Myra in Lycia**

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 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 4 Troparion (St Nicholas)

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 Nicholas, entreat Christ our God// that our souls may be saved!

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 2 Kontakion (Resurrection)

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

Tone 3 Kontakion (St Nicholas)

You appeared as a priest in Myra, O Saint Nicholas, fulfilling the Gospel of Christ, O venerable one; you laid down your life for your people and rescued the innocent from death. // Therefore, you have been blest as a great initiate of the grace of God.

Tone 2 Prokeimenon

The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation.
v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Epistles: Ephesians 6:10-17 (27 Sunday A.P.) Hebrews 13:17-21 (St Nicholas)

Tone 2 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

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

Tone 4 (St Nicholas)

v. Your priests shall be clothed in righteousness, and Your saints shall rejoice.

Gospels: Luke 17:12-19 (30 Sun AP); Luke 6:17-23 (St Nicholas)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. (Ps 111/112:6)
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

From The Prologue from Ohrid: Lives of Saints

St. Nikolai Velimirovich writes about St. Nicholas

This glorious saint, celebrated even today throughout the entire world, was the only son of his eminent and wealthy parents, Theophanes and Nona, citizens of the city of Patara in Lycia. Since he was the only son bestowed on them by God, the parents returned the gift to God by dedicating their son to Him. St. Nicholas learned of the spiritual life from his uncle Nicholas, Bishop of Patara, and was tonsured a monk in the Monastery of New Zion, founded by his uncle.

Following the death of his parents, Nicholas distributed all his inherited goods to the poor, not keeping anything for himself. As a priest in Patara, he was known for his charity, even though he carefully concealed his charitable works, fulfilling the words of the Lord: Let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth (*Matthew 6:3*).

When he gave himself over to solitude and silence, thinking to live that way until his death, a voice from on high came to him: "Nicholas, for your ascetic labor, work among the people,

if thou desirest to be crowned by Me." Immediately after that, by God's wondrous providence, he was chosen archbishop of the city of Myra in Lycia. Merciful, wise and fearless, Nicholas was a true shepherd to his flock. During the persecution of Christians under Diocletian and Maximian, he was cast into prison, but even there he instructed the people in the Law of God.

He was present at the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea [AD 325] and, out of great zeal for the truth, struck the heretic Arius with his hand. For this act he was removed from the Council and from his archiepiscopal duties, until the Lord Christ Himself and the Most-holy Theotokos appeared to several of the chief hierarchs and revealed their approval of Nicholas.

A defender of God's truth, this wonderful saint was ever bold as a defender of justice among the people. On two occasions, he saved three men from an undeserved sentence of death. Merciful, truthful, and a lover of justice, he walked among the people as an angel of God. Even during his lifetime, the people considered him a saint and invoked his aid in difficulties and in distress. He appeared both in dreams and in person to those who called upon him, and he helped them easily and speedily, whether close at hand or far away. A light shone from his face as it did from the face of Moses, and he, by his presence alone, brought comfort, peace and good will among men. In old age he became ill for a short time and entered into the rest of the Lord, after a life full of labor and very fruitful toil, to rejoice eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven, continuing to help the faithful on earth by his miracles and to glorify his God. He entered into rest on December 6, AD 343.

HYMN OF PRAISE TO SAINT NICHOLAS, by St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Holy Father Nicholas, The four corners of the world glorify you. As a knight of the powerful Faith, The Faith of God, the true Faith.

From the cradle he was devoted to God, From the cradle until the end; And God glorified him-His faithful Nicholas.

Famous was he throughout his life, And even more renowned after death; Mighty on earth was he, And even more mighty is he in heaven.

Glowing spirit, pure heart, He was a temple of the living-God; For this the people glorify him, As a wonderous saint.

Nicholas, rich in glory, Loves those who honor him as their "Krsna Slava"; Before the throne of the eternal God, He prays for their good.

O Nicholas, bless us, Bless your people, Who, before God and before you, Humbly stand in prayer.

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
Mother Ana
Julian Farian
Larry Gainer
Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)
Carl, friend of Father David
Lisa, friend of Father David
Father David and Family

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

+Bruce Abraham
+Mildred "Peggy" Borojevich (Wally's mother)
+John Tillman

ANNUAL MEETING: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!

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 next 2 Tuesdays of December to prepare for our Christmas services. We will have our practices at the church at 7 pm. The choir dates are December 8, 15.

CAROLING:

The Choir is planning on Christmas Caroling. Please see Helen Blebea to schedule a stop at your home!

COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:

There are sign-up sheets posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning. 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 6 – Helen Blebea
December 13 – Washingtons
December 20 – Dan Ralich
December 24 – Parish Members
December 27 – Wally and Debby Borojevich

There is a sign up sheet for Christmas Eve. We are asking for hors d'ouerves, desserts, drinks.

A reminder that we will be decorating the church and a Christmas Tree on Saturday, December 5 after Vespers.

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