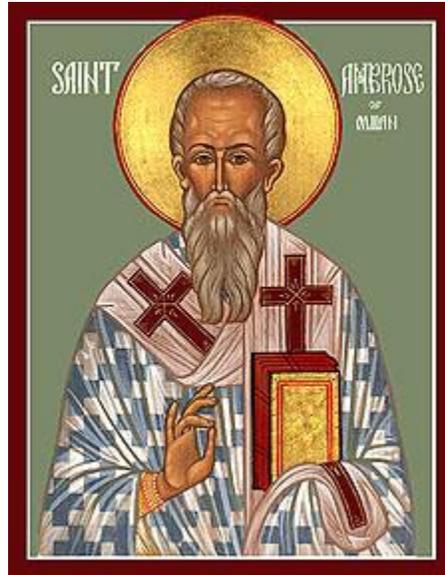


St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance in conjunction with Orthodox Campus Fellowship, University of Mt. Union Dewald Chapel
Divine Liturgy: 9:00 am.
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633
Mission Website "<http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>
December 7, 2014:26th Sunday after Pentecost/St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan



Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure ^body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Your ^Kingdom!//
Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

Tone 4 Troparion (St Ambrose)

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 Ambrose, 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 1 Kontakion (Resurrection)

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

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

v: :He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever

Tone 2 v: Arise, O Lord, into Your resting place: You and the Ark of Your sanctification!
Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Communion Hymn

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

THE SEASON OF ADVENT: HOW ARE WE CALLED TO RESPOND?

By His Eminence, Metropolitan Joseph- Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight the paths of our God” (Isaiah 40:3).

The Merriam-Webster online dictionary offers the following as one of the definitions for the word “prepare”: *“to make yourself ready for something that you will be doing or something that you expect to happen.”*

How appropriate it is to focus on the word “prepare” as it relates to the goal of the Advent Season. We are called to prepare ourselves to meet Jesus Christ Himself, the Incarnate God. We are called to remove ourselves from the distractions and unhealthy lifestyles which characterize our material existence. We are called, during a season when our culture calls for indulgence in material things, to reject this indulgence, and focus on our spiritual health.

The quote given above from the Book of Isaiah is of course the prophecy of the ministry of John The Forerunner, who came to prepare the way for the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. On another level, it is a call to each of us to prepare ourselves for the “way of the Lord”. What is this “way of the Lord”?

The quote above gives us a strong clue in the text “make straight the paths of our God.” The implication is that we have caused our path to become “crooked,” and not straight. Something that is “crooked” can be said to be dishonest, or tainted, and this is exactly what we wish to avoid in our lives. The Advent Season is a time for taking that which has been tainted, and reaching out to the Lord to make it straight and pure.

The entire message of the bible is a message of the call by God to His children to be reconciled to Him, and to be united to Him in love. This effort passes through the judges, kings and prophets of the Old Testament where God, through these holy people reaches out to His children. The ultimate outreach from God to His people is the Incarnation of God as man, embodied in the nativity of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ in the Flesh. God chooses to come into this world in partnership with His creation. He chooses to come as a humble babe in the cave, born to the Theotokos, so that humankind could share as intimately as possible in His coming. The question for us is this: Will there be room in the “inn of our hearts” for Him to lay His head, or will the “inn of our hearts” be filled with carnal things and clogged with passions so that there is no room for the Lord?

It is clear then, that there is only one appropriate response for us to the incarnation of God in the flesh, and that is a response of a loving child who returns their loving Father. A response which offers up to God the only thing that we can offer, and the only thing that He asks of us. That is the offering of ourselves, which requires a change in heart, a radical departure from all of the things of this world which separate us from God. A departure from all of the things which prevent us from fulfilling our ultimate destiny, that is to strive to *“be perfect just as your Father in Heaven is perfect.”* (Matthew 5:48)

Therefore my beloved in Christ, I ask you to join me in this Advent journey which will culminate in the Nativity of Christ. I ask you to join me in resisting the ways of our secular culture and to utilize this season to cleanse, renew and restore our

souls and our hearts. I ask you to join me in waiting patiently for the time of this season when we will indeed leap for joy at the coming of the Lord. I ask you to simply open your hearts to God so that He may fill them with the peace, love, and joy that can never be taken away, and that we may worthily exclaim "Christ is Born! Glorify Him!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ST. NICHOLAS FEAST VESPERAL LITURGY

Friday, December 5 at 6:30 pm. St. George Antiochian Church, 1118 Cherry Ave. Canton

ANNUAL MEETING:

Our annual meeting will be held Sunday, December 7, 2014 immediately following Divine Liturgy.

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Jim (Cousin of Fr. David)

George Borojevich (brother of Wally and Debby)

Mother Ana

Nanci Stradley (Pancreatic Cancer)

Dawn Shaheen

Patricia Kosivich, friend of and helper to Mother Ana

Father Joe Cervo

Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)

George Ralich, (Dan's father)

Katie (Granddaughter of Father Stevo Rocknage, St. Sava Church in McKeesport, who is battling a rare genetic disease)

Stefanie Waseman

Metodija Damljanovic (4 year old child who fell ill suddenly and grandson of Prota Vasko Sokolovic)

Roland Augspurger (friend of the Krupko's who is battling cancer)

Jenny Codrea (friend of the Blebea's)

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+Stancy Bakich Popichak (Mother of Father Robert Popichak of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Carnegie, PA)

+Rudy Jovanov (friend of the Krupko Family)

+Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

+Father Djuro Majerle

+Max

(Please give us any updates to the prayer request list at the beginning of each month)

COFFEE HOUR:

December 7 - Larry and Deanna Dordea

December 14 - Corbin and Georgie Washington

December 21 - The Krupko and Catania Families

December 24 - Father Joe and Linda Cervo

December 28 - The Novak Family

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to sign up for Coffee Hour. We are already signing up for 2015 Coffee Hours. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!! If anyone is interested in chairing Coffee Hour sign ups, please let us know.

DONATIONS:

Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS:

We have received the following special donations during November:

From: George and Helen Blebea	For: Health of Mission Members
George Blebea	Health of Helen Blebea on her birthday
George and Helen Blebea	Health of Jenny Codrea

CHRISTMAS GIVING:

Last year, we adopted two local families and purchased food and gifts for them for Christmas. We are planning to do the same project this year. Allison Krupko has volunteered to chair this charitable offering. We will be taking collections to purchase gifts. Please make checks payable to St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission.

BUILDING PROJECT:

We are finalizing plans to begin phase one construction of our mission building project. If you have not made a commitment and would like to, please discuss this with either Father Joe or Deacon James by email or phone and/or by making your check payable to St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance. May God Bless all donors for their support of our Mission and purpose in celebrating Orthodoxy.

CHOIR PRACTICES:

Choir Practice will be held at the Gresh Home on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Please join us.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Amy and Matthew Catania – 29th

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

T. J. Cotterman - 11th
Tammy Rininger – 11th
J. P. Cervo – 17th
Camryn Cantania – 20th
Jaga Radosevic – 25th
Kate White – 28th
Father Dragan Filipovic – 30th

(We are preparing the 2015 calendar and need birthdays and anniversaries for anyone not currently on our calendar)

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance
P.O. Box 193
Maximo, Ohio 44650
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633
email: stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com
website: www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com