

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 pm.
Book study/Christian Education following Vespers
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)
February 14, 2016: Sunday of Zacchaeus/Venerable Auxentius of Bithynia
Website: <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com>
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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 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 1 Troparion (for Venerable Auxentius)

Dweller of the desert and angel in the body,
you were shown to be a wonder-worker, our God-bearing Father Auxentius. You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil, and prayer: healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith. Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown! Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!

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 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.
v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!

Epistle: 1 Timothy 4:9-15

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!
v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

Communion Hymn

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

ZACCHAEUS OF LITTLE STATURE

By: St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"Today, salvation has come to this house" Luke 19:9.

Thus it was spoken by the One Whose word is life and joy and restoration of the righteous. Just as the bleak forest clothes itself into greenery and flowers from the breath of spring, so does every man, regardless of how arid and darkened by sin, becomes fresh and youthful from the nearness of Christ. For the nearness of Christ is as the nearness of some life-giving and fragrant balsam which restores health, increases life, give fragrance to the soul, to the thoughts and to the words of man. In other words, distance from Christ means decay and death and His nearness means salvation and life.

"Today, salvation has come to this house" said the Lord upon entering the house of Zacchaeus the sinner. Christ was the salvation that came and Zacchaeus was the house into which He entered. Brethren, each one of us is a house in which sin dwells as long as Christ is distant and to which salvation comes when Christ approaches it. Nevertheless, will Christ approach my house and your house? That depends on us. Behold, He did not arbitrarily enter the house of the sinner Zacchaeus, rather He entered as a most desired guest. Zacchaeus of little stature climbed into a tree in order to see the Lord Jesus with his own eyes. Zacchaeus, therefore, sought him; Zacchaeus desired Him. We must also seek Him in order to find Him and desire Him in order that He would draw nearer to us and, with our spirit, to climb high in order to encounter His glance. Then He will visit our house as He visited the house of Zacchaeus and with Him salvation will come.

Draw near to us O Lord, draw near and bring to us Your eternal salvation. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

St, Nikolai's Contemplation of the Day:

Contemplate the Lord Jesus as a Father who weeps for His children in the wilderness, calling to them and gathering them together:

1. The children of the nation of Israel (at one time).
2. The children of all peoples on earth
3. The children of all time, from the creation to the end of the world.

Putting the "Saint" Back in St. Valentine's Day



According to Hallmark Cards, each year on Valentine's Day more than 163 million cards are exchanged - a quarter of all the cards that are sent in a year. How did the name of a third-century Christian martyr become linked with an annual celebration of romantic love? Let's explore the history of Valentine's Day...

The roots of Valentine's Day go back to the time of the Roman Empire. In ancient Rome, February 14th was a holiday to honour the Goddess of women and marriage. The following day, February 15th, began the Feast of Lupercalia.

By the third century the golden era of Roman empire had almost come to an end. Lack of quality administrators led to frequent civil strife. Education declined, taxation increased and trade was difficult. The empire had grown too large to be shielded from external aggression and internal chaos with existing forces. More and more capable men were required to be recruited as soldiers and officers to protect the nation from takeover. The Emperor Claudius II felt that married men were more emotionally attached to their families, and thus, would not make good soldiers. So to assure high quality soldiers he issued an edict forbidding marriage.

The ban on marriage was a great shock for the Romans. But they dared not voice their protest against the mighty emperor. The Christian bishop Saint Valentine also realized the injustice of the decree. Seeing the distress of young couples who gave up all hopes of being united in marriage, he planned to counter the monarch's orders in secrecy.

Whenever couples thought of marrying, they went to Saint Valentine who met them afterwards in a secret place, and joined them in the sacrament of matrimony. And thus he secretly performed many marriages for young couples. But such things cannot remain hidden for long and it was only a matter of time before Claudius came to know of these secret marriages and had the saint arrested.

While awaiting his sentence in prison, the saint was approached by his jailor, Asterius. Hearing of Saint Valentine's divinely given power of healing, Asterius requested the latter to restore the sight of his blind daughter, which he did.

When Claudius met Saint Valentine, he was said to have been impressed by the dignity and conviction of the holy bishop. However, Saint Valentine refused to agree with the emperor regarding the ban on marriage. It is also said that the emperor tried to convert Saint Valentine to the Roman gods but was unsuccessful in his efforts. The saint refused to recognize the Roman Gods and even attempted to convert the emperor to Christianity. This angered Claudius who gave the order of execution of Saint Valentine.

Meanwhile, it caused great grief to Asterius' young daughter to hear of her miraculous benefactor's imminent death. Legend says that just before his execution, Saint Valentine asked for a pen and paper from his jailor and signed a farewell message to the jailor's daughter "From Your Valentine" ... a phrase that lived ever after.

Memorial Service today, requested by Jaga Radosevic, for:

The Abess, Mother +Ana

Protopresbyter +Slobodan Zivadinovich

Many Years!

(Popadija-Khoria-Presbytera-Matushka-Preoteasa) Linda Cervo – February 14, birthday.

George & Helen Blebea – February 18, 66th Anniversary!

The prayer list has been revised. If you wish to have someone listed please advise Father.

PRAYERS requested:

For The Health and Salvation of;

Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier's mother)

Father John and Cindy Zdinak & Family

Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)

Helen (Father David's aunt)

Carl (friend of Father David)

Lisa “

Bruce “

Kitty “

Paul “

Father David and Family

Doreen Wishnok

Stefanie Waseman

The Knoll Family

Roland Augspurger

Leslie and Tim Kocevar

Beth Plocher
Renee Young
Larry Gainer
James Rickard and Family
Gregory Cervo
Ann Cervo
Letitia (Lynette Baier's mother)
Julian (Georgie & Corbin's grandson)

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

+Joshua Zdinak
+Michael Horney (Ann Cervo's brother)

Celebration of our parish 3rd Anniversary/next Sunday, February 21
After Liturgy, we will have a parish covered dish dinner. Please sign the sheet in the social hall, indicating what you will be bringing.

Coffee Hour: *Today, Jaga Radosevic*

COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:

There is a sign-up sheet 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 clean the church. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

(please note that we need individuals to sign up for coffee hour following next week's parish anniversary celebration)

Stewardship: Please pray, contemplate and complete the parish pledge form and return to the Priest or Deacon, as soon as possible. May the Lord direct you and bless you for returning some of your possessions to further the work of His holy Church.

Save Your Stuff. Once again our parish is going to have a rummage sale at the Hartville Flea Market, this spring. Please contact Georgie Washington for details.

Blessing of Homes

The Blessing of homes is a long honored Tradition of Orthodoxy. The Holy Water which is blessed in the Church for the Feast of Theophany is taken by the priest to bless and sanctify the homes of the faithful. By this we are reminded that our homes are to be an extension of the Church; a place where we pray and celebrate the many blessings of life. Through this special blessing we reinforce our connection to God and His Church and we ask for the Lord's protection and guidance in our daily activities. We should be mindful that even if we have had this blessing in past years, we should nevertheless, want to repeat our prayer that the Lord will "keep safe from harm those who dwell here; grant to them Your Blessing, purification and health of body..."

To schedule a day and time for your home to be blessed, please see or contact Father
(330) 284-8353 or email: frjcervo@sbcglobal.net