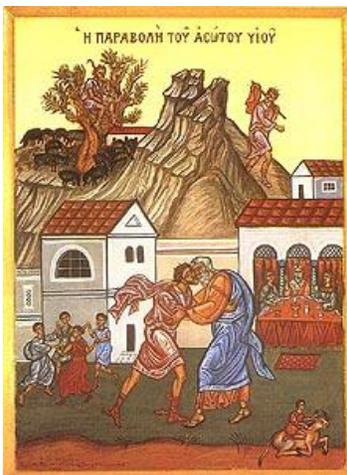


**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship at Mount Union University, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am**  
**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**  
**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)**  
**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**  
**February 16 2014 Sunday of the Prodigal Son**



**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 3 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)**

I have recklessly forgotten Your glory, O Father; and among sinners I have scattered the riches which You gave  
me.

And now I cry to You as the Prodigal: “I have sinned before You, O merciful Father; receive me a penitent, and  
make me as one of Your hired servants!”

**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!

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

**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!*

**Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

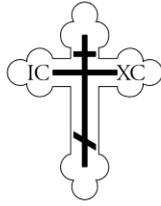
*v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me..*

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

**Gospel:** Luke 15:11-32

**Communion Hymn**

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



### **St. Nikolai Mission First Anniversary**

Today marks the first anniversary of our Orthodox Mission of Alliance. To celebrate this milestone we are having a covered-dish dinner after Liturgy. Jaga is coordinating this agape meal of thanksgiving.

#### **Blessing of homes:**

\*Because having one's home blessed is a very important Orthodox Tradition, all parishioners who recognize the importance of this practice and desire to have the spiritual benefits of such blessings should talk to Father and make an appointment.

\*The blessing of the home is not merely a social event. Take it seriously, with preparation and prayer. Televisions, computers, radios and music must be turned off and family members should be present and attentive. Explain to children the meaning of this service (i.e. the priest is bringing the church to our home which confirms that our home is an extension of the church – where we pray, show love for God and one another).

\*Be sure to have ready a candle, an Orthodox Icon (not a religious picture), a bowl for water and a printed or typed list of names of family members that you want the priest to pray for.

\*Do not feel obligated to provide food or refreshments for the priest.

**DEADLINE** for home blessings is the week of February 23.

**The Sunday of the Prodigal Son** is the second Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the previous Sunday, the services of the Church began to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth Sunday before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. As with the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the theme of this Sunday is repentance, and the focus on the parable of the Prodigal Son leads Orthodox Christians to contemplate the necessity of repentance in our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Through this parable, our Savior has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance and the greatness of God's compassion. The holy Fathers placed this reading in the Lenten preparation period so that we might come to our senses, since we are all troubled by sins, often alienated from God and His Mysteries and make a strong effort to return to Him through repentance during the holy days of Great Lent.

This parable also reminds those who have persisted in habitual sins not to despair and lose hope, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness. In the person of the prodigal son we see God's goodness and compassion that is so great there is no sin that can prevent His love and mercy for the repentant sinner.

**COFFEE HOUR: WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY 23 AND MARCH 2!**

Thank you to Tom and Lana Baier for hosting coffee hour last week!

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT [WWW.STNIKOLAIORTHODOXMISSION.COM](http://WWW.STNIKOLAIORTHODOXMISSION.COM) !!!!**

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance  
P.O. Box 193  
Maximo, Ohio 44650  
[www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com](http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com)