

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday February 19th, 2017
(Tone 2) Sunday of Last Judgment
Sunday of Meatfare
Apostles of the Seventy: Archippus and
Philemon

Right Reverend Bishop Alexander (Golitzin)
Bishop of Dallas, the South,
and the Bulgarian Diocese
Reverend Protodeacon James Gresh,
Mission Administrator

Saturday Vespers – 5:00 PM
Sunday Reading of the Hours – 9:10 AM
Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Book study/Christian Education following
Vespers on Saturday – All are welcome!

Parish Council Meetings:
2nd Wednesday of every month at 6:30 PM
Parishioners are welcome!

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 will stay for coffee hour and a brief adult Christian education discussion after the service. Feel free to ask any questions about our worship, the chapel, or anything the Lord puts in your heart to ask. Again, welcome! We invite all Baptized and Chrismated members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion. This assumes that all taking Holy Communion have prepared with prayer, confession, and fasting according to the discipline of your home parish. If you are not taking Holy Communion today, please accept a piece of blessed bread. Although it is not Holy Communion it is a token of our welcome and love! We long for the day when we can all take Holy Communion together!



Resurrectional Troparion - Tone 2

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!”

Troparion of St. 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. O Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Kontakion of the Triodion - Tone 1

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

We encourage you to check out our website and to like us on Facebook for updates and information!

Website: www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMissionOfAlliance/

Prokeimenon Tone 3

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure.

V: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

Epistle Reading - 1 Cor: 8:8-9:2

But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse. But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak. For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols? And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. Am I not an apostle? Am I not free? Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Tone 8

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

V: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!

V: Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.' Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave Me no food; I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Hymn to the Theotokos

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos, ever blessed and most pure, and the Mother of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God, the Word: true Theotokos we magnify you.

Communion Hymn

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

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; Praise befits the just!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Homily On Being Tested

By St. Nikolai

"The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours?" (St. Luke 16: 10-12). This is how the Householder of both the material and spiritual world speaks. Material wealth He calls "small" and the spiritual wealth He calls "great." To whomever material wealth is given and proves himself to be selfish, hardhearted, arrogant, unmerciful and godless, to him spiritual wealth cannot be given, for if he is unfaithful in small things, he will be unfaithful in great things; when he is unfaithful in the physical, he will be unfaithful in the spiritual. Man undergoes a test in a foreign world, and if he passes the test, he will gain his own world; if, however, he fails the test, who will give him his world? Man's true world, his homeland, is the heavenly sublime, divine world. The earthly world, however, is the world of coarseness and deterioration; a foreign world for man. But man is sent into this foreign world to complete a test for that, his true world; for his heavenly homeland. Both expressions of the Savior, however, are similar in meaning. O how profound and true is their meaning! Just as light disperses darkness, so do these words of the Savior disperse our confusion in relation to that: why are we sent into this life? And what should we do? Whoever is able to read with a pure understanding, to him, everything is said in these two sentences. Therefore, let us know that God will not bestow the spiritual gifts; the gift of understanding, nor the gift of faith, nor the gift of love, nor the gift of purity, nor the gift of prophecy, nor the gift of miracle-working, nor the gift of authority over demons, nor the gift of discernment, nor the gift of the vision of the heavenly world to him who has gambled and used these gifts for evil - as did the prodigal son - with the gifts of bodily health, or earthly riches or glory and position among men or knowledge of the material world or some other skill or ability. O Lord Most Gentle, sustain our fidelity toward You in that which You have entrusted to us. To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.



Introduction from "Great Lent: Our Spiritual Spring (Adult Study)

By Fr. Anthony Pluth

"Lent" comes from the ancient English word for Spring - that time of natural rebirth which corresponds to the process of inner spiritual regeneration which every Christian should strive to experience in his preparation for celebrating the feast of Christ's resurrection. The Lenten season is our "spiritual spring" (Lenten Triodion), and is a time of subdued joy, a time that the Church gives us to use as our personal and corporate opportunity to come closer to the Source of divine joy - God Himself. It is a time to purge ourselves of the distractions, which weigh us down the rest of the year and prevent us from experiencing the joy that comes from being in God's continual presence. The only things which should cause us sorrow at this time are those obstacles which we ourselves place on the path to God and thus impede our journey to Him. Reflection should center first on a consideration of those obstacles, which are the same for every person: sloth (spiritual laziness or neglect), inordinate attachment or actual slavery to things of the body (passion), and selfishness. One should point out that the Church suggests effective remedies for these universal illnesses through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, an opportunity for reconciliation with our brothers and sisters whom we have offended and in whom God dwells is provided by the forgiveness ritual at the Vesper Service on Forgiveness Sunday. Remember that there are other obstacles, which may be different for each person, and there are appropriate remedies, which Christ and His Church would recommend. Christ provides us in all cases with a cure if we are willing to swallow the medicine. Just as when we begin to recuperate from any serious or prolonged physical illness we feel a sense of resurgent life and joy, so it is with our spiritual recovery during Great Lent. Let us rejoice that the Church in her wisdom gives us this yearly chance for undertaking a common cure together, for if we were left on our own, we would probably never make the effort by ourselves.

PRAYERS requested -

For The Health and Salvation of:

Gloria
 Helen, Carl, Lisa, Kitty
 Cervo Family, Gregory, & Ann
 Harper
 Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.
 Valentina
 Josh
 Minnick Family
 Kathy Jo, Michael, and Family.
 Pres. Zoe, Maria, Angelique
 Kelli
 Liz, Carla Michalik
 Max and the Turcola family
 Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki
 Larissa
 Steve and Sandy B.
 Donna Jovich
 Donald Rininger
 Tuck
 Gheorghina
 Mary Jean
 Silvia
 Angie
 Lynette B.
 Joan
 Brena
 Julian

For the Repose of the Souls of the departed Servants:

+John and Jenny Codrea



Clergy Schedule:

February 19 – Fr. Basil Stoyka

February 25-26 – Fr. Mikel Hill (*Forgiveness Sun.*)

Coffee Hour:

February 19 - Borojevich

February 26 - TBD

Birthdays:

February 1 – Cooper Thomas Cotterman

February 2 – Mka. Rachel Hill

February 10 – John Baier

February 20 – Laura Cotterman

February 23 – Sophy Hill

February 24 – Jake Krupko

Anniversary:

February 18 – George and Helen Blebea

Tentative dates for visits by Fr. Mikel:

March 5 (*Sunday of Orthodoxy*)

(*March 17-18, Fri-Sat.*) (*Feast of St. Nikolai*)

April 2- (*Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt*)

April 8-9 (*Palm Sunday - not confirmed yet*)

April 10-13 (*Holy Mon - Thurs. morning*)

April 22-23 (*Antipascha*) *baby shower weekend*

April 29-30 (*Holy Myrrbearers' Slava - Fr. Basil*)

May 6-7 (*St. Nikolai Slava - priest TBD*)

Announcements:

Choir Practice - Please come on Tuesday evenings ready to sing promptly at 7 pm. Attendance has been poor since the Ordination. Please let Heidi know if you are unable to attend. We can adjust if needed.

Supply Donation Request List – Supplies are

needed. Please see Georgie Washington to prevent duplications. She is beginning to purchase items!!

1. Kitchen dry goods: Paper towels, napkins, plastic teaspoons, forks, knives, disposable dinner plates and dessert plates, coffee cups

2. Food items: Coffee, sugar packets, creamer

3. Cleaning products: Dishwashing detergent, dish soap, hand soap, hand sanitizer, sponges, bathroom cleaner, comet, toilet paper, and window cleaner (windex or ammonia not to be used on window film)

Mark Your Calendar! (Baby shower) – Georgie Washington is organizing and planning a **baby shower** for Mat. Rachel and baby Cosette. Keep the weekend of April 22 or 23 open. It will be a covered dish event. Stay posted for updates on the details!

Special Thank you- We have a new vacuum for our cleaning needs! Thank you Steve and Sandy B.!