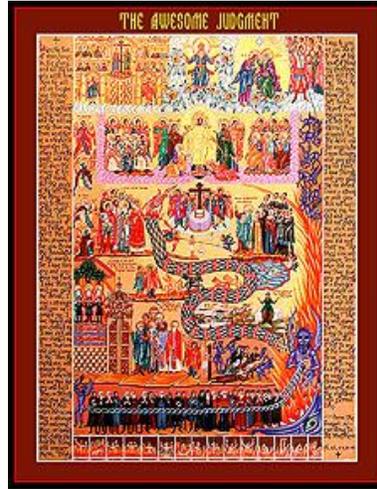


St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship  
at the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)  
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)

Mission Phone # 330 768-7633

Mission Website <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com>

February 23, 2014: Sunday of Meatfare/Sunday of the Last Judgment



**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. 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 (from the Lenten Triodion)**

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!

**Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

**Tone 3 Prokeimenon**

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!*

**Tone 8:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!*  
*v: For the Lord is a great God and a great King over all the earth.*

**Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Communion Hymns**

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!



### **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 Last Judgment** or **Meatfare Sunday** is the third Sunday using the Lenten Triodion, the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent. This is the third week of the pre-Lenten start of the Paschal cycle of worship in the Orthodox Church.

This Sunday is called Meatfare Sunday since according to monastic tradition it is the last day before Pascha for eating meat but still eat dairy products and eggs till the start of Great Lent.

The Gospel reading this Sunday remembers Christ's parable of the Last Judgment (Matthew 25:31-46). This adds to the previous pre-Lent Sundays and teaches that it is not enough to see Jesus, but to see ourselves as we are, and to come home to God as His prodigal children. The Church teaches that one must also be God's children by following Christ, his only-begotten divine Son, and by seeing Christ in everyone and by serving Christ through them.

Salvation and final judgment will depend upon deeds, not merely on intentions or even on the mercies of God apart from personal cooperation and obedience. All piety and prayer is ultimately directed towards the goal of serving Christ through His people.

From the reading we hear:... *"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 in prison and you visited me. .... For truly I say to you, if you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me"* (Matthew 25 ).

**Coffee Hour:** Our covered dish luncheon in celebration of the Mission's first anniversary was wonderful! Thank you to everyone for contributing. We were also happy to welcome several guests for the event! Thank you for attending!

Coffee Hour host for this week is Dan Ralich.

Coffee Hour host for next week is Linda Cervo

Thank you for graciously offering to host. The following dates are still open: March 30 and April 13 (Palm Sunday)

**Prayer requests:** Barb Suitca (sister in law of Krupkos), Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier), Jovanka Kramanak (please pray for the repose of her soul, Jovanka passed away February 17). Memorial prayers for Otto and Florence Baier and Star requested by Oney Baier. Recovery prayers for Tammy for shoulder surgery.

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