

**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 7, 2016: 36th Sunday after Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Meeting of Our
Lord / St Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus/Venerable Luke of Hellas**

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

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMissionOfAlliance

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 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!

For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead.

He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (The Meeting of our Lord)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!

From you shone the Sun of Righteousness, ^Christ our God,

enlightening those who sat in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,

you accepted in your arms the ^Redeemer of our souls, Who grants us the Resurrection!

Tone 4 Troparion (SS Parthenius and Luke)

O God of our Fathers, always act with kindness towards us; take not Your mercy from us, but guide our lives in peace// through the prayers of Your saints!

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 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death.

On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs//

they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 1 Kontakion (The Meeting of our Lord)

By Your Nativity You sanctified the Virgin's womb and blessed Simeon's hands, ^O Christ God. Now You have come and saved us through love.
Grant peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only Lover of Man!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle: Timothy 1:15-17

Tone 3 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!
v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:) Tone 3

O Virgin Theotokos, hope of all Christians, protect, preserve, and save those who hope in you! In the shadow and letter of the Law, let us, the faithful, discern a figure: every male [child] that opens the womb is holy to God.
Therefore we magnify the firstborn Word of a Father Who has no beginning, // the Son firstborn of a Mother who had not known man.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Saint Parthenius, Bishop of Lampsacus, was a native of the city of Melitoupolis (in northwestern Asia Minor), where his father Christopher served as deacon. The youth did not receive adequate schooling, but he learned the Holy Scripture by attending church services. He had a good heart, and distributed to the poor the money he earned working as a fisherman. Filled with the grace of God, St Parthenius from age eighteen healed the sick in the name of Christ, cast out demons and worked other miracles. Learning of the young man's virtuous life, Bishop Philetus of Melitoupolis educated him and ordained him presbyter.

In 325, during the reign of Constantine the Great, Archbishop Achilles of Cyzicus made him bishop of the city of Lampsacus (Asia Minor). In the city were many pagans, and the saint fervently began to spread the faith in Christ, confirming it through many miracles and by healing the sick. The people began to turn from their pagan beliefs, and the saint went to the emperor Constantine the Great seeking permission to tear down the pagan temple and build a Christian church in its place. The emperor received the saint with honor, gave him a decree authorizing the destruction of the pagan temple, and provided him with the means to build a church. Returning to Lampsacus, St Parthenius had the pagan temple torn down, and built a beautiful church of God in the city.

In one of the razed temples, he found a large marble slab which he thought would be very suitable as an altar. The saint ordered work to begin on the stone, and to move it to the church. Through the malice of the devil, who became enraged at the removal of the stone from the pagan temple, the cart overturned and killed the driver Eutychian. St Parthenius restored him to life by his prayer and shamed the devil, who wanted to frustrate the work of God.

The saint was so kind that he refused healing to no one who came to him, or who chanced to meet him by the wayside, whether he suffered from bodily illnesses or was tormented by unclean spirits. People even stopped going to physicians, since St Parthenius healed all the sick for free. With the great power of the name of Christ, the saint banished a host of demons from people, from their homes, and from the waters of the sea.

Once, the saint prepared to cast out a devil from a certain man, who had been possessed by it since childhood. The demon began to implore the saint not to do so. St Parthenius promised to give the evil spirit another man in whom he could dwell. The demon asked, "Who is that man?" The saint replied, "You may dwell in me, if you wish." The demon fled as if stung by fire, crying out, "If the mere sight of you is a torment to me, how can I dare to enter into you? An unclean spirit, cast out of the house where the imperial purple dye was prepared, said that a divine fire was pursuing him with the fire of Gehenna.

Having shown people the great power of faith in Christ, the saint converted a multitude of idol-worshippers to the true God. St Parthenius died peacefully and was solemnly buried beside the cathedral church of Lampsacus, which he built.

February 7, Contemplation of St. Nikolai Velimirovich: Contemplate the Lord Jesus, as a Sower:

1. As a Sower whose seed grow slowly and surely;
2. As a Sower of the new teaching, new power and new order;
3. As a Sower of the new spiritual food, by which mankind will be fed until the end of time.

Thought for the Day: "Humble people have no needless or petty quarrels with others, because they have no egocentric desires to always have their own way. They are not self-seeking; for they know that it is God's will, not their own, that they should strive for. Therefore, humility naturally brings with it unity, both with God and with our fellows." --
Metropolitan JOSEPH, Primate AOCANA.

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.

Many Years!

John Baier – February 10, birthday

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/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 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.

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

