

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 pm.  
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)**

**January 10, 2016: 32nd Sunday after Pentecost / Sunday after the Theophany-  
Afterfeast of the Theophany / St Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa / St. Dometian, Bishop of  
Melitene**

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

**Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMissionOfAlliance](http://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 7            Troparion            (Resurrection)**

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 1            Troparion of the Feast**

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness to You, calling You His Beloved Son; and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the truthfulness of His word.  
O Christ our God, You have revealed Yourself, // and have enlightened the world, glory to You!

**Tone 4    \* Troparion (SS Gregory and Dometian)**

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 the hierarchs Gregory and Dometian!

**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 7            Kontakion        (Resurrection)**

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

**Tone 1            Kontakion        (St Gregory)**

You kept watch with the eyes of your soul, holy bishop, revealing yourself as a watchful pastor for the world. With the staff of your wisdom and your fervent intercession, you drove away all heretics like wolves. // You preserved your flock free from harm, most wise Gregory.

**Tone 4            Kontakion of the Feast**

Today You have shone forth to the world, O Lord, and the light of Your countenance has been marked on us. Knowing You, we sing Your praises: "You have come and revealed Yourself, // O unapproachable Light."

**Tone 1                            Prokeimenon                            (Sunday after Theophany)**

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!  
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!

**Epistle:**            Ephesians 4:7-13            (Sunday after Theophany)

**Tone 5            Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: "Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens."

**Gospel:**            Matthew 4:12-17            (Sunday after Theophany)

*(Instead of "It is truly meet"... sing the following hymn to the Theotokos)*

Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos,  
more honorable than the heavenly hosts!

No tongue knows how to praise you worthily, O Theotokos;  
even Angels are overcome with awe praising you.

But since you are good, accept our faith;  
for you know our love inspired by God!

You are the defender of Christians, and we magnify you.

**Communion Hymns**

The grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men.

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

**Saint Gregory, Bishop of Nyssa**, was a younger brother of St Basil the Great (January 1). His birth and upbringing came at a time when the Arian disputes were at their height. Having received an excellent education, he was at one time a teacher of rhetoric. In the year

372, he was consecrated by St Basil the Great as bishop of the city of Nyssa in Cappadocia. St Gregory was an ardent advocate for Orthodoxy, and he fought against the Arian heresy with his brother St Basil. Gregory was persecuted by the Arians, by whom he was falsely accused of improper use of church property, and thereby deprived of his See and sent to Ancyra.

In the following year St Gregory was again deposed in absentia by a council of Arian bishops, but he continued to encourage his flock in Orthodoxy, wandering about from place to place. After the death of the emperor Valens (378), St Gregory was restored to his cathedra and was joyously received by his flock. His brother St Basil the Great died in 379. Only with difficulty did St Gregory survive the loss of his brother and guide. He delivered a funeral oration for him, and completed St Basil's study of the six days of Creation, the Hexaemeron. That same year St Gregory participated in the Council of Antioch against heretics who refused to recognize the perpetual virginity of the Mother of God. Others at the opposite extreme, who worshipped the Mother of God as being God Herself, were also denounced by the Council. He visited the churches of Arabia and Palestine, which were infected with the Arian heresy, to assert the Orthodox teaching about the Most Holy Theotokos. On his return journey St Gregory visited Jerusalem and the Holy Places. In the year 381 St Gregory was one of the chief figures of the Second Ecumenical Council, convened at Constantinople against the heresy of Macedonius, who incorrectly taught about the Holy Spirit. At this Council, on the initiative of St Gregory, the Nicene Symbol of Faith (the Creed) was completed. Together with the other bishops St Gregory affirmed St Gregory the Theologian as Archpastor of Constantinople. In the year 383, St Gregory of Nyssa participated in a Council at Constantinople, where he preached a sermon on the divinity of the Son and the Holy Spirit. In 386, he was again at Constantinople, and he was asked to speak the funeral oration in memory of the empress Placilla. Again in 394 St Gregory was present in Constantinople at a local Council, convened to resolve church matters in Arabia. St Gregory of Nyssa was a fiery defender of Orthodox dogmas and a zealous teacher of his flock, a kind and compassionate father to his spiritual children, and their intercessor before the courts. He was distinguished by his magnanimity, patience and love of peace. Having reached old age, St Gregory of Nyssa died soon after the Council of Constantinople. Together with his great contemporaries, Sts Basil the Great and Gregory the Theologian, St Gregory of Nyssa had a significant influence on the Church life of his time. His sister, St Macrina, wrote to him: "You are renowned both in the cities, and gatherings of people, and throughout entire districts. Churches ask you for help." St Gregory is known in history as one of the most profound Christian thinkers of the fourth century. Endowed with philosophical talent, he saw philosophy as a means for a deeper penetration into the authentic meaning of divine revelation. St Gregory left behind many remarkable works of dogmatic character, as well as sermons and discourses. He has been called "the Father of Fathers."

***Hymn of Praise, by St. Nikolai Velimirovich***

O, Holy Lord, holy in creating,  
All that You create by Your Word, by Your Spirit You consecrate.  
O, Mighty Lord, mighty in suffering,  
For the world You walk to Your death; for the world, You resurrect.  
Immortal Lord, in voice we praise You;  
Father, Son, Holy Spirit — God, have mercy on us!  
The Father, who appeared over Jordan as a voice,  
The Spirit, who as a white dove hovered,  
The Son, who by the Prophet John was baptized,  
Three rays of light, one light shown,

The Trinity manifested, we praise You in voice:  
Father, Son, Holy Spirit — God, have mercy on us!

**PRAYERS requested**

For The Health and Salvation of:

Doreen Wishnok  
Stefanie Waseman  
The Knoll Family  
Ann Cervo  
Roland Augspurger  
Leslie and Tim Kocevar  
Joan Downey  
Beth Plocher  
Susan Smith Miller (Heidi' Gresh's sister)  
Brenda Grey  
Wally and Debby Borojevich and family  
Jennifer White  
Gregory Cervo  
Renee Young  
Julian Farian  
Larry Gainer  
Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)  
Carl, friend of Father David  
Lisa, friend of Father David  
Father David and Family  
James Rickard and Family

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

+Mildred "Peggy" Borojevich (Wally's mother)  
+John Tillman  
+Abbi Moyer (Friend of Tammy Rininger)  
+Mother Ana

**Birthdays:**

Katia Gresh – 11th  
Noah Walentik-17th  
Georgie Washington – 20th

**Leave-taking of the Christmas Tree:**

Following Liturgy this Sunday, we need volunteers to help de-decorate the Christmas tree and carefully store the lights and decorations for "a long winters nap!"

**ADULT EDUCATION:**

Book study/Christian Education will follow the vespers service and take place in the fellowship area at the church.

**COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:**

There are/will be sign-up sheets posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning on a quarterly basis. 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

maintain the church. November is covered. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

### **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: [fricervo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fricervo@sbcglobal.net)

#### ***Prepare your home as follows:***

- \*Have a candle, icon and bowl on an uncluttered table.
- \*Turn off all radios, televisions, computers and music devices.
- \*Household pets who may interfere with the prayers and necessary movements should be removed from areas of the house to be blessed.
- \*The first names of those for whom special prayers are to be offered(immediate family members) should be clearly typed or printed on a sheet of paper, distinguishing between the living and the departed.
- \*Everyone present in the house should come together and stand by the table until the service is concluded.

***Please Note:*** That while gestures of hospitality are appreciated, please do not feel compelled to provide food and pastries for the priest. Father has numerous medical dietary restrictions.