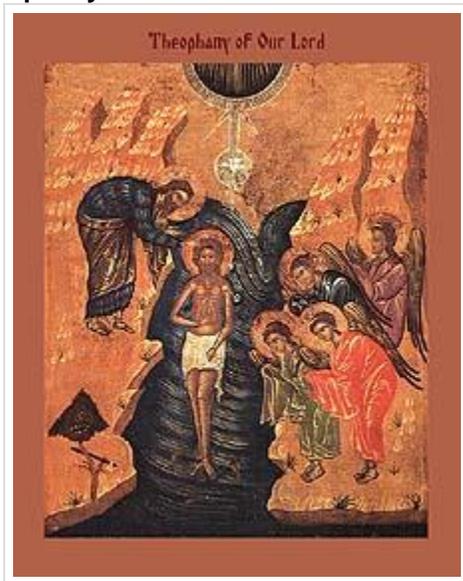


**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance
820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio
(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am**

**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
January 11, 2015: 31st Sunday after Pentecost/ Afterfeast of the Theophany Sunday after the
Theophany/Venerable Theodosius the Great**



Tone 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body.
You took captive hell, // not being tempted by it.
You came to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

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 8 Troparion (Venerable Theodosius)

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,
and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance.
By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe.
Our Father Theodosius, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

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 6 Kontakion (Resurrection)

When Christ God the Giver of Life,
raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand,
He bestowed resurrection on the human race. //
He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

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 the 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; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

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

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 Theodosius the Great lived during the fifth-sixth centuries, and was the founder of cenobitic monasticism. He was born in Cappadocia of pious parents. Endowed with a splendid voice, he zealously toiled at church reading and singing. St Theodosius prayed fervently that the Lord would guide him on the way to salvation. In his early years he visited the Holy Land and met with St Simeon the Stylite (September 1), who blessed him and predicted future pastoral service for him. Yearning for the solitary life, Saint Theodosius settled in Palestine into a desolate cave, in which, according to Tradition, the three Magi had spent the night, having come to worship the Savior after His Nativity. He lived there for thirty years in great abstinence and unceasing prayer. People flocked to the ascetic, wishing to live under his guidance. When the cave could no longer hold all the monks, St Theodosius prayed that the Lord Himself would indicate a place for the monks. Taking a censer with cold charcoal and incense, the monk started walking into the desert.

At a certain spot the charcoal ignited by itself and the incense smoke began to rise. Here the monk established the first cenobitic monastery, or Lavra (meaning “broad” or “populous”). Soon the Lavra of St Theodosius became renowned, and up to 700 monks gathered at it. According to the final testament of St Theodosius, the Lavra rendered service to neighbor, giving aid to the poor and providing shelter for wanderers.

St Theodosius was extremely compassionate. Once, when there was a famine in Palestine and a multitude of people gathered at the monastery, the monk gave orders to allow everyone into the monastery enclosure. His disciples were annoyed, knowing that the monastery did not have the means to feed all those who had come. But when they went into the bakery, they saw that through the prayers of the abba, it was filled with bread. This miracle was repeated every time St Theodosius wanted to help the destitute.

At the monastery, St Theodosius built a home for taking in strangers, separate infirmaries for monks and laymen, and also a shelter for the dying. Seeing that people from various lands gathered at the Lavra, the saint arranged for services in the various languages: Greek, Georgian and Armenian. All gathered to receive the Holy Mysteries in the large church, where divine services were chanted in Greek.

During the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Anastasius (491-518) there arose the heresy of Eutychius and Severus, which recognized neither the sacraments nor the clergy. The emperor accepted the false teaching, and the Orthodox began to suffer persecution. St Theodosius stood firmly in defense of Orthodoxy and wrote a letter to the emperor on behalf of the monks, in which they denounced him and refuted the heresy with the teachings of the Ecumenical Councils. He affirmed moreover, that the desert-dwellers and monks would firmly support the Orthodox teaching. The emperor showed restraint for a short while, but then he renewed his persecution of the Orthodox. The holy Elder then showed great zeal for the truth. Leaving the monastery, he came to Jerusalem and in the church, he stood at the high place and cried out for all to hear: "Whoever does not honor the four Ecumenical Councils, let him be anathema!" For this bold deed the monk was sent to prison, but soon returned after the death of the emperor.

St Theodosius accomplished many healings and other miracles during his life, coming to the aid of the needy. Through his prayers he once destroyed the locusts devastating the fields in Palestine. Also by his intercession, soldiers were saved from death, and he also saved those perishing in shipwrecks and those lost in the desert.

Once, the saint gave orders to strike the semandron (a piece of wood hit with a mallet), so that the brethren would gather at prayer. He told them, "The wrath of God draws near the East." After several days it became known that a strong earthquake had destroyed the city of Antioch at the very hour when the saint had summoned the brethren to prayer. Before his death, St Theodosius summoned to him three beloved bishops and revealed to them that he would soon depart to the Lord. After three days, he died at the age of 105. The saint's body was buried with reverence in the cave in which he lived at the beginning of his ascetic deeds.

Blessing of water will take place at the end of Liturgy today. All those wishing to have their home blessed should make an appointment with Father a.s.a.p.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Mother Ana

Nanci Stradley (Pancreatic Cancer)

Patricia Kosivich, friend of and helper to Mother Ana

Father Joe Cervo

Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)

George Ralich, (Dan's father)

Katie (Granddaughter of Father Stevo Rocknage, St. Sava Church in McKeesport, who is battling a rare genetic disease)

Stefanie Waseman

Metodija Damljanovic (4 year old child who fell ill suddenly and grandson of Prota Vasko Sokolovic)

Roland Augspurger (friend of the Krupko's who is battling cancer)

Joe Novak

Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)

Despina Poulos (mother of Steve Poulos)

The Knoll Family

For The Repose of the Souls of:

(Please update prayer requests at the beginning of each month. We will remove names if the request is not renewed.)

COFFEE HOUR:

January 4 - No Coffee Hour
January 11 - Helen and George Blebea
January 18 - Jaga Radosevic
January 25 - The Gresh Family

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to sign up for Coffee Hour. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!! If anyone is interested in chairing Coffee Hour sign ups, please let us know.

DONATIONS:

Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission.

DECEMBER DONATIONS:

We have received the following special donations during December:

From: Jaga Radosevic For: Health of Family in "Old Country"

BUILDING PROJECT:

We are finalizing plans to begin phase one construction of our mission building project. If you have not made a commitment and would like to, please discuss this with either Father Joe or Deacon James by email or phone and/or by making your check payable to St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance. May God Bless all donors for their support of our Mission and purpose in celebrating Orthodoxy.

CHOIR PRACTICES:

Choir Practice will be held at the Gresh Home on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. We are currently trying to establish a time better for all members, please give opinions to Heidi

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

None in January

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Josh White – 4th
Dan Krupko – 6th
Katia Gresh – 11th
Noah Walentik - 12th
Georgie Washington – 20th

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