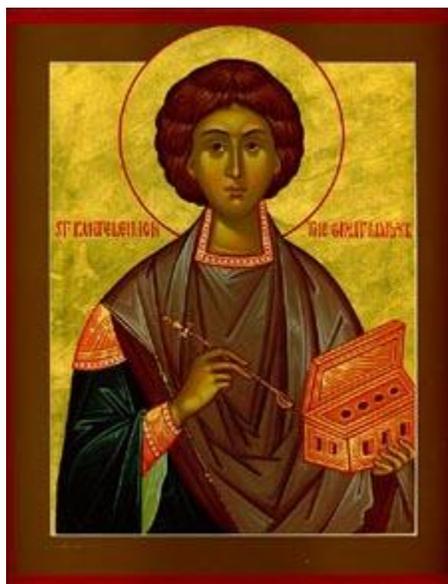


St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance
University of Mt. Union Library Building - Room KHIC 003
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
JULY 27, 2014: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost/Great Martyr Panteleimon
Divine Liturgy begins at 9:00 am
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633
Mission Website "<http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>



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 3 Troparion (Greatmartyr Panteleimon)

Holy Passion-bearer and healer Panteleimon, entreat the merciful God, //
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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 5 Kontakion (Greatmartyr Panteleimon)

You emulated the Merciful One, and received from Him the grace of healing,
Passion-bearer and healer Panteleimon; by your prayers, heal our spiritual diseases
and continually drive away the temptations of the Enemy //
from those who cry out in faith: "Save us, O Lord!"

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7

Tone 6 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.

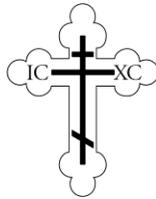
v: He will say to the Lord: "My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust."

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps 148:1)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Fast of the Dormition of the Theotokos, August 1 until August 14.

Why a Fast for Dormition?

(2008 Word Magazine)

It would be a gross understatement to say that much has been written about the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. Yet very little has been written about the fast that precedes it.

Every Orthodox Christian is aware and generally knows the reason behind the fasts for Pascha and Christmas. But while they may know of the Dormition Fast, few follow it and more than a few question why it is there, neither knowing its purpose. First, given the pervasive misunderstanding of the purpose of fasting itself, a refresher on its purpose is always a good idea. There is a perception that we should fast when we want something, as though the act of fasting somehow appeases God, and seeing us "suffer" gets Him to grant our request. Nothing can be further from the truth. It is not our fasting that pleases God, it is the fruits of our fast (provided we fast in the proper mind set, and do not merely diet) that please Him. We fast, not to get what we want, but to prepare ourselves to receive what God wants to give us. The purpose of fasting is to bring us more in line with another Mary, the sister of Lazarus, and away from their sister Martha, who in the famous passage was "anxious and troubled about many things." Fasting is intended to bring us to the realization of "the one thing needful." It is to help us put God first and our own desires second, if not last. As such it serves to prepare us to be instruments of God's will, as with Moses in his flight from Egypt and on Mt. Sinai, as well as our Lord's fast in the wilderness. Fasting turns us away from ourselves and toward God. In essence it helps us become like the Theotokos, an obedient servant of God, who heard His word and kept it better than anyone else has or could.

So why do we fast before Dormition? In a close-knit family, word that its matriarch is on her deathbed brings normal life to a halt. Otherwise important things (parties, TV, luxuries, personal desires) become unimportant; life comes to revolve around the dying matriarch. It is the same with the Orthodox family; word that our matriarch is on her deathbed, could not (or at least should not) have any different effect than the one just mentioned. The Church gives us the opportunity to come to that deathbed and eulogize and entreat the woman who bore God, the vessel of our salvation and our chief advocate at His divine throne. And as, in the earthly family, daily routines and the indulgence in personal wants should come to a halt. Fasting, in its full sense (abstaining from food and desires) accomplishes this. Less time in leisure or other pursuits leaves more time for prayer and reflection on she who gave us Christ, and became the first and greatest Christian. In reflecting on her and her incomparable life, we see a model Christian life, embodying Christ's retort to the woman who stated that Mary was blessed because she bore Him: blessed rather are those who hear His word and keep it. Mary did this better than anyone. As Father Thomas Hopko (retired Dean of St. Vladimir's Seminary) has stated, she heard the word of God and kept it so well, that she of all women in history was chosen not only to hear His Word but give birth to it (Him). So while we fast in contemplation of her life, we are simultaneously preparing ourselves to live a life in imitation of her. That is the purpose of the Dormition Fast.

When the assumption of thine undefiled body was being prepared, the Apostles gazed on thy bed, viewing thee with trembling. Some contemplated thy body and were dazzled, but Peter cried out to thee in tears, saying, I see thee clearly, O Virgin, stretched out, O life of all, and I am astonished. O thou undefiled one, in whom the bliss of future life dwelt, beseech thy Son and God to preserve thy people unimpaired. (Sticheron from Matins for the Dormition).

PRAYERS are requested for:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jim, Cousin of Fr. David

George Borojevich, brother of Wally and Debby

Ava Cooper, infant who is undergoing surgery for heart defects

Mother Ana

+Archimadrite Theodor (Micka)

+Nell Janik

Nanci Stradley, Pancreatic Cancer

Emily Waseman, Brain Tumor

Dawn Shaheen

Sharon Budd, Teacher from Perry, injured when rock thrown from overpass

Father Joe Cervo

Announcements:

Allison Krupko – riding in MS150 (a 150 mile bike ride to Cedar Point and back) August 2 & 3, raising money for Multiple Sclerosis. If interested in sponsor/donating please see Allison.

Congratulations to Josh Gresh on his new job as Assistant Sports Information Director at Wake Forest!!!

COFFEE HOUR:

Coffee Hour Sunday, July 20 was provided by Dan Ralich. Thank you!!

Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 27 will be provided by the Gresh Family.

Coffee Hour on Sunday, August 3 will be provided by the Krupko/Catania Families.

Coffee Hour for the summer needs to be very simple (i.e. coffee, donuts, juice) due to facility constrictions.

Any leftovers will need to go home with the host.

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to help.

GOLF OUTING:

Saturday, July 19 was our first golf outing! The weather was a challenge, but it is safe to say that everyone involved had a great time! Pictures are posted on Facebook and will be up on our Website. The outing proceeds will be added to our Building Fund! Thank you and may God Bless everyone who helped, participated, sponsored, and donated to our Mission Golf Outing!!!!!!

JULY BIRTHDAYS:

Alex Ralich 7/10

Kim Krajci 7/22

JULY ANNIVERSARIES:

None

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