

# Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

*Sunday July 2nd, 2017*

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 3)*

**His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER  
Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese**

**Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector**  
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447  
**Protodeacon James Gresh, Attached**

**Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM**

**Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM**

**Liturgies on Feast Days - 9:30 AM**

*(Proceeded by 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Hours - 9:00 AM)*



## Welcome!

The entire parish family of St. Nikolai Orthodox Church welcomes you today! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and the people of our parish. We hope that you can stay for coffee hour after the service.

Please note that we invite all Baptized members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion, provided that they have refrained from food and drink since midnight, and prepared themselves through prayer and recent confession.

If you are joining us today but have not been baptized in the Orthodox Church we welcome you but kindly ask you to refrain from approaching for Holy Communion. Please feel free to approach to kiss the cross at the end of the service and to take a piece of blessed bread as a token of our love. We pray that soon all people would find their true home in the Orthodox Church so that we might, together, share in Holy Communion of Christ's undivided Body.

### **Resurrectional Troparion - Tone 3**

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.

### **Troparion for St. John of San Francisco - Tone 5**

Lo, your care for your flock in its sojourn/ prefigured the supplications/ which you do ever offer up for the whole world./ Thus do we believe, having come to know your love,/ O holy hierarch and wonderworker John./ Wholly sanctified by God through the ministry of the all-pure Mysteries,/ and thyself ever strengthened thereby,/ you did hasten to the suffering, O most gladsome healer.// Hasten now also to the aid of us who honor you with all our heart.

### **Resurrectional Kontakion - Tone 3**

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.

### **Kontakion for St. John of San Francisco - Tone 4**

Following Christ, the Chief Shepherd,/ you were shown to be most excellent among hierarchs,/ for you did save your sheep from destruction by the godless,/ arranging a tranquil refuge for them;/ and exercising unceasing care for your flock,/ you did heal the infirmities of their souls and bodies,/ Entreat Christ God now for us who fall down before your precious relics,/O father John, /// that our souls may be saved.

### **Prokeimenon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tone**

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!*

### **The Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans (6:18-23)**

And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness. For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### **The Alleluia in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tone**

*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!*

### **The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:5-13)**

Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel! And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

### **Communion Hymn**

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



### **An Excerpt from the *Life of St. John***

In 1921, during the civil war, St. John, together with his parents, his brothers, and his sister, was evacuated to Belgrade, where he and his brothers entered the University of Belgrade. While he was a student he worked for his living by selling newspapers. In 1926 Metropolitan Anthony tonsured him a monk and ordained him hierodeacon in the Milkov Monastery, giving him the name John, after Vladika's own distant relative, Saint John (Maximovitch) of Tobolsk. On November 21 of the same year Vladika was ordained hieromonk. The city of Bitol was in the diocese of Okhrida. At that time the ruling bishop of this diocese was Nikolai (Velimirovich) – a noted preacher, poet, writer, and inspirer of the popular religious movement. He, as much as Metropolitan Anthony, valued and loved the young Hieromonk John, and himself exerted a beneficial influence upon him. More than once he was heard to say, "If you wish to see a living saint, go to Bitol to Father John."

For, indeed, it began to become evident that this was an entirely extraordinary man. It was his own students who first discovered what was perhaps Vladika's greatest feat of asceticism. They noticed at first that he stayed up long after everyone else had gone to bed; he would go through the dormitories at night and pick up blankets that had fallen down and cover the unsuspecting sleepers, making the Sign of the Cross over them. Finally it was discovered that he scarcely slept at all, and never in a bed, allowing himself only an hour or two each night of uncomfortable rest in a sitting position, or bent over on the floor praying before icons.

In 1934 it was decided to raise Hieromonk John to the rank of bishop. As for Vladika himself, nothing was farther from his mind. A lady who knew him relates how she met him at this time on a streetcar in Belgrade. He told her that he was in town by mistake, having been sent for in place of some other Hieromonk John who was to be consecrated bishop! When she saw him the next day he informed her that the situation was worse than he had thought: it was him they wished to make bishop! When he had protested that this was out of the question, since he had a speech defect and could not enunciate clearly, he had only been told that the Prophet Moses had the same difficulty. The consecration occurred on May 28, 1934 by Metropolitan Anthony. The high esteem in which Metropolitan Anthony held the new bishop is indicated in a letter which he sent to Archbishop Dimitry in the Far East. He wrote, "In place of myself, as my soul, as my heart, I am sending you Bishop John. This little, frail man, looking almost like a child, is in actuality a miracle of ascetic firmness and strictness in our time of total spiritual enfeeblement." St. John was assigned to the Diocese of Shanghai, China and later to San Francisco, USA.

### **A Sermon on Humility and Struggle by St. John of San Francisco**

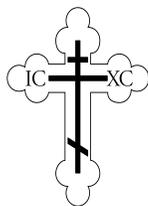
**G**od's grace always assists a struggler, but this does not mean that a struggler is always in the position of a victor; sometimes the beasts did not touch the righteous ones, but by no means did they not touch them always. What is important is not victory or the position of a victor, but rather the labor of striving towards God and devotion to Him. Great is the Apostle Paul, but he asks the Lord many times ("thrice" means not once, but many times) that the messenger of Satan depart from him, for he "buffets" him, making some sort of attacks that are difficult and averse to his spirit. But the Lord leaves him in such a position: *"My grace is sufficient for thee"* (2 Cor. 12:7-9) – enough assistance of grace and gifts are provided for him. The Lord wants from the apostle the striving which cleanses his soul. What is important is the state of the soul, the striving towards God, and not the stature of a victor. *"Strength is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Cor. 12:9). Though a man may be found in a weak state, that does not at all mean that he has been abandoned by God. The Lord Jesus Christ, according to the worldly view, was in trouble, but when the sinful world considered Him to be completely destroyed, in actuality He was victorious over death and hades. The Lord did not promise us positions as victors as a reward for righteousness, but told us, *"In the world we shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"* (Jn. 16:33). The power of God is effective when a person asks for the help of God, acknowledging the weakness and sinfulness of his nature. This is why humility and the striving towards God are the fundamental virtues of a Christian.



## A Reflection by St. Nikolai for Today

Every device of which man boasts as an invention of his mind is revealed by Divine Providence and every invented device has its two-fold significance one physical, the other spiritual. Even the clock is a wonderful device but it was not invented merely to tell us the time of day and night but also to remind us of death. This is its spiritual significance. When the small hand completes its rounds of seconds and minutes then the large hand arrives at the ordered hour and the clock strikes. So will the clock of our life strike when the days, months and years of our life are numbered. That is why St. Tikhon of Zadonsk counsels every Christian to reflect:

1. How the time of our life continually passes;
2. How it is impossible to bring back time that is past;
3. How the past and future times are not in our control but only that time in which we are now living;
4. How the end of our life is unknown;
5. How we must be prepared for death every day, every hour and every minute;
6. How because of that we must always be in the state of continual repentance;
7. How we must be repentant in every hour and spiritually disposed as we would wish to be at the hour of our death.



## Upcoming Special Events:

Annual Golf Outing – July 15<sup>th</sup>

Fr. Mikel & Mat. Rachel in Serbia – July 25<sup>th</sup>—Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>

Akathist/Liturgy – Wed. evening/Thurs. morning –  
*Starts August 9<sup>th</sup>*

Feast of Dormition – August 15<sup>th</sup>

Fall Kick-Off Event – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>

*Details to follow*

**Lock Box Combination** – Please note that the combination for the key lock box will be changing in **July!** This will occur periodically for security measures. Please see Fr. Mikel if you are in need of a key.

## **Coffee Hour and Trash removal:**

*Please sign up today! ☺*

**Cleaning the Church** – Please sign up on a monthly basis for cleaning the church.

## Birthdays:

## Anniversaries:

**Today we are especially praying for  
the Health and Salvation of:**

Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.

Valentina

Josh

The Minnick Family

Kathy Jo, Michael

Kelli

Liz, Carla

Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki

Larissa

Steve and Sandy

Anthony

Joan

Slavco

Anthony

**For The Departed Soul of:**

+Andy Dordea