

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday July 30th, 2017

8th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 7)

**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 3rd and 6th Hours - 9:00 AM)

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com
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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.

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 7

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.

Troparion for the Holy Apostles, Silas and Silvanus - Tone 3

Holy Apostles Silas and Silvanus, entreat the merciful God to grant out souls forgiveness of transgressions.

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 7

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!"

Kontakion for the Holy Apostles, Silas and Silvanus - Tone 4

You were revealed to be branches of the vine of Christ, O wise ones, bearing clusters of virtues that pour out on us the wine of salvation. Receiving it, we are filled with gladness, and we celebrate your most honored memory, apostles of the Lord, Silas and Silvanus. Therefore, intercede that great mercy and remission of sins may be granted to us.

The Prokeimenon of the Epistle - Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.
v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (1:10-18)

Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

The Alleluia - Tone 7

*v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.
v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (14:14-22)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

The Sunday Communion Hymn

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



The Apostles Silas and Silvanus

All were numbered among the Seventy Apostles. St. Silas was sent from Jerusalem to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas to settle the dispute between the faithful there regarding circumcision: namely, that it was not necessary to circumcise pagans when they convert to Christianity. "Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole Church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren" (Acts of the Apostles 15:22). After that, Silas traveled with Paul throughout Asia and Macedonia and was appointed as the bishop in Corinth, where he peacefully died. St. Silvanus assisted both of the Chief Apostles. "By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand" (1 Peter 5:12). "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, Who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea" (2 Corinthians 1:19). As the bishop of Thessalonica, Silvanus labored much and suffered much until he finally exchanged this earthly life for the heavenly life.

From the *Prologue* by St. Nikolai of Zicha and South Canaan

St. John Chrysostom on the Gospel Reading for Today

Wherefore did He look up to Heaven, and bless? It was to be believed of Him, both that He is of the Father, and that He is equal to Him. But the proofs of these things seemed to oppose one another. For while His equality was indicated by His doing all with authority, of His origin from the Father they could no otherwise be persuaded, than by His doing all with great lowliness, and with reference to Him, and invoking Him on His works. Wherefore we see that He neither did these actions only, nor those, that both might be confirmed; and now He works miracles with authority, now with prayer.

Then again, that what He did might not seem an inconsistency, in the lesser things He looks up to Heaven, but in the greater does all with authority; to teach you in the lesser also, that not as receiving power from elsewhere, but as honoring Him that begot Him, so He acts. For example: when He forgave sins, and opened paradise, and brought in the thief, and most utterly set aside the old law, and raised innumerable dead, and bridled the sea, and reproved the un-uttered thoughts of men, and created an eye—which are achievements of God only and of none else—we see Him in no instance praying; but when He provided for the loaves to multiply themselves, a far less thing than all these, then He looks up to Heaven; at once establishing these truths which I have spoken of, and instructing us not to touch a meal, until we have given thanks to Him who gives us this food.

And another thing too we learn, the self-restraint of the disciples which they practised in necessary things, and how little they accounted of food. For being twelve, they had five loaves only and two fishes; so secondary to them were the things of the body: so did they cling to the things spiritual only. And not even that little did they hold fast, but gave up even it when asked. Whereby we should be taught, that though we have but little, this too we ought to give up to them that are in need. Thus, when commanded to bring the five loaves, they say not, and whence are we to have food? Whence to appease our own hunger? but they obey at once. And besides what I have mentioned, to this end, as I at least think, He makes it out of the materials which they had, namely, that He might lead them to faith; for as yet they were rather in a weak state. Wherefore also He looks up to Heaven. For of the other miracles they had many examples, but of this none.

St. Nikolai's reflection for today:

One needs to distinguish a sinner from a penitent. If you have taken upon yourself the role to rebuke the sinner, guard yourself well, that you do not rebuke the penitent also. How dear the repentant sinner is to God, call to mind the Parable of the Prodigal Son. Therefore, let it be very dear for you, he who has become dear to God. At one time it happened that a monk succumbed to sin for which he was banished from the monastery. This monk went to St. Anthony, confessed his sin, repented and remained with Anthony for a period of time. Then Anthony sent him back again to the monastery but they did not receive him and, again, they banished him. Again, the penitent came to Anthony. Again, Anthony sent him back to the monastery with a message to the fathers of the monastery: "One boat experienced shipwreck and lost its cargo; with great difficulty did that boat arrive in the harbor and you wish to drown even that which was saved from drowning!" Hearing this wise message, the fathers received with joy the penitent brother into the monastery.

Make Disciples of All Nations

In preparation for a renewed effort to bring the truth of the Orthodox Faith to our surroundings communities, Fr. Mikel will be giving a series of brief talks in the month of August, immediately following the Divine Liturgy to provide tips for sharing our faith.

Good Stewards

Our parish council is preparing several ways to communicate to our parish community our financial health and ways that we can all be good stewards of our time, talent and treasures. In August, Fr. Mikel will be offering a brief discussion related to this effort.

Special Announcements:

We welcome Fr. Basil Stoyka - Thank you!
Vigil and Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration –
August 5th & 6th

Weekday Services start August 9th & 10th
Akathist-Wednesday nights at 6pm
Liturgy-Thursday mornings at 9:30am
Vigil and Liturgy for the Feast of Dormition
August 14th & 15th

Fall Kick-Off Event – Sept. 3rd

This will take place after Liturgy at an area park.
Details to follow but mark your calendars now.

Upcoming Gatherings:

We are hoping to resume monthly gatherings for the men and women of our community starting in September. If you have any ideas about the possibility of a Ladies Tea or Men's Breakfast, please feel free to speak to Fr. Mikel or Mat. Rachel.

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

Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.
Valentina
Josh W.
The Minnick Family
The Fromholtz Family
Kathy Jo, Michael
Kelli
Liz and Carla
Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki
Larissa
Steve and Sandy
Anthony
Joan
Slavco
Anthony
Thomas
Mat. Rebecca
Thomas
Marsha

For The Departed Soul of:

+Andy Dordea
+Pdn. Gregory
+Daniel