

# Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

*Sunday July 9th, 2017*

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

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

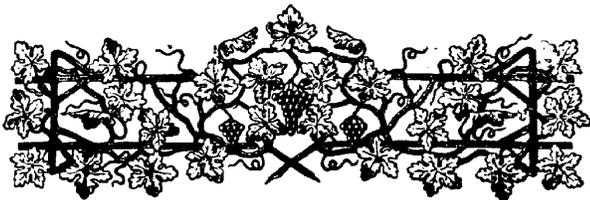
**Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector**  
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447  
**Protodeacon James Gresh, Attached**

**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.

### **Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 4**

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: "Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!"

### **Troparion for the Hieromartyr Pancratius - Tone 4**

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, you became a successor to their throne. Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. // Hieromartyr Pancratius entreat Christ God to save our souls!

### **Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 4**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

### **Kontakion for the Hieromartyr Pancratius - Tone 4**

Pancratius, you were revealed as a brilliant star for the people of Taormina. You were also shown to be a sufferer for Christ.// Since you now stand before Him, O blessed one, pray for those who honor you.

### **Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone**

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

*v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!*

### **St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans (10:1-10)**

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

### **The Alleluia in the Fourth Tone**

*v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!*

*v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.*

### **The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew (8:28-9:1)**

When He had come to the other side, to the country of the Gergesenes, there met Him two demon-possessed men, coming out of the tombs, exceedingly fierce, so that no one could pass that way. And suddenly they cried out, saying, "What have we to do with You, Jesus, You Son of God? Have You come here to torment us before the time?" Now a good way off from them there was a herd of many swine feeding. So the demons begged Him, saying, "If You cast us out, permit us to go away into the herd of swine." And He said to them, "Go." So when they had come out, they went into the herd of swine. And suddenly the whole herd of swine ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and perished in the water. Then those who kept them fled; and they went away into the city and told everything, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. And behold, the whole city came out to meet Jesus. And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region. So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

### **Sunday Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.



### **The Hiero (priestly) Martyr Pancratius, the bishop of Taormina (in Sicily)**

This saint was born in Antioch during the time when the Lord Jesus Christ walked as a man among men on earth. Hearing about the miracles of Christ, the parents of Pancratius desired to see the Lord, the miracle-worker. Together with Pancratius, they traveled to Jerusalem where they saw Jesus, heard His words and witnessed His miracles. It was in Jerusalem that Pancratius became acquainted with the Apostle Peter. After the Ascension of the Lord, both parents and Pancratius were baptized in Antioch. Pancratius withdrew to a cave in Pontus where the Apostle Peter found him and in agreement with the Apostle Paul he was appointed as the Bishop of Taormina in Sicily. In Taormina, St. Pancratius worked many miracles, destroyed the idols, baptized the unbaptized, strengthened the baptized and governed well the Church of God. A heathen commander by the name of Aquilinus heard that the entire city of Taormina became Christian and set out with an entire army against this city in order to destroy it. St. Pancratius encouraged the faithful not to be afraid and he, alone, with the clergy went outside the city carrying in his hands the invincible weapon, the Honorable Cross. When the army approached the city, darkness befell them and the soldiers were overcome with great fear. A great confusion then began among them and the attackers turned against one another and pierced and slaughtered each other with their swords. Thus Pancratius, the chosen one of God, saved the city and his flock by the power of his prayer before the Lord. In the end, Pancratius was stoned to death by envious and evil heathens and found rest in the Lord. His holy relics repose in Rome.

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

### **A Reflection of St. Nikolai**

Many ask themselves, why God takes young men, young girls and children from this life and why does He not permit them to grow old and then take them through death to the other world? That is God's plan of Dispensation and that is the holy will of His Providence. However, there are some examples in the enormous experience of the Church that sometimes God does so according to the wishes and prayers of his chosen ones in the other world or of relatives. St. Ader (in monasticism Athanasius) appeared to his wife, whom he had suddenly left with three children and entered a monastery where he died. When the wife reached a state of despair first, because of her concern for the helpless children and second, because of her concern for her husband for she did not know where he was, her husband then appeared to her from the other world in a dream with a glowing face and in a radiant white garment and said to her: "Cease to cry and to cry out against me. Behold, I will take two of the children from you to myself and you, if you want, to concern yourself with the salvation of your soul." At the same time and in the same manner, he also appeared to St. Theodosius the Stylite and said to him: "In three days an old hermitess who lives near the monastery will go to the Lord and in that cell put my wife so that she may live an ascetical life as a nun. Let the youngest child remain with her until he grows up. He will walk in my footsteps and will be the successor to the apostolic throne in Jerusalem." And in truth, all this occurred as was foretold. On the third day the old hermitess died and so also did Ader's two older children and his wife assumed the cell of the old hermitess along with the youngest son who, when he grew up, became the patriarch of Jerusalem.

### **Fall Kick-Off Event**

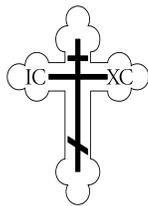
Our parish council is working to develop several programs to nurture spiritual health, education, and growth. We welcome all ideas and assistance in the following areas:

Adult Education  
Child Education  
Book & Bible Study  
Community Outreach  
Stewardship

We are planning to “kick-off” these programs by a parish-wide celebration held on Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details will follow but mark your calendars now!!

### **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.



### **Upcoming Special Events:**

Parish Council Meeting – July 12<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm  
Annual Golf Outing – July 15<sup>th</sup>  
Fr. Mikel & Mat. Rachel in Serbia – July 25<sup>th</sup> – Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Vigil and Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration –  
August 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>  
Fall Kick-Off Event – Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>

***Lock Box Combination*** – Please note that the combination for the key lock box has been changed. 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:**

Alex Ralich  
Sandy Bozeka

### **Anniversaries:**

Corbin and Georgie Washington

### **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

### ***For The Departed Souls of:***

+Andy Dordea

+Pdn. Gregory