

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 5 pm.

Book study/Christian Education following Vespers

Parish Council meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm (open to parishioners)

9837 State Street, Louisville , Ohio 44641

Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bishop of Toledo, Orthodox Church in America

Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)

Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (OCA)

June 19, 2016: Pentecost

Website: <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com>

Facebook page: "<http://www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMission> of Alliance

Welcome to Visitors. Thank you for coming and praying with us today. In the Orthodox Church, Holy Communion is reserved only for Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession during Great Lent. We invite you to introduce yourself to Father Joe and Deacon James at the end of the Liturgy and receive a piece of the blessed bread and join us for fellowship and Christian education. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.

The First Antiphon

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The Second Antiphon

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

Refrain: O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion!

Refrain: O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans!

Refrain: O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Only-begotten Son and Word.....

The Third Antiphon

In Your strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Your salvation. You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. For You meet him with goodly blessings; You set a crown of fine gold upon his head.

Tone 8 Troparion

Blessed are You, O Christ our God;
for You have shown the fishermen to be most wise
by sending down on them the Holy Spirit
and through them catching all the world in Your net.//
Glory to You, O good God Who love mankind!

Entrance Verse

Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength! We will sing and praise Your power!

Tone 8 Troparion

Blessed are You, O Christ our God;
for You have shown the fishermen to be most wise
by sending down on them the Holy Spirit
and through them catching all the world in Your net.//
Glory to You, O good God Who love mankind!

Tone 8 Kontakion

When He came down and confused the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity.//Therefore, with one voice we glorify the most-Holy Spirit.

(Instead of the Trisagion, we sing)

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Epistle: Acts 2:1-11

Tone 8 Prokeimenon

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

v: The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Tone 1: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made; and all their host by the Spirit of His mouth.

v: The Lord looked down from heaven, and saw all the sons of men.

Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing)

Rejoice, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins!

No tongue, however sweet or fluent, is eloquent enough to praise you worthily.

Every mind is overawed by your childbearing.

Therefore, with one voice, we glorify you.

Communion Hymn

Let Your good Spirit lead me on a level path! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

St. Nikolai - **CONTEMPLATION:**

Contemplate the action of God the Holy Spirit upon the apostles:

1. How the apostles, led by the Holy Spirit, traveled throughout the world without means and without friends.
2. How they converted the rich and the poor to the Christian Faith by their words, lives and miracles alone.
3. How the small are made great by God the Holy Spirit.
4. How the fearful are made fearless by Him.

Pentecost

By: Pope St. Leo the Great ca. 400-461

For as the Apostles' story testifies: while the days of Pentecost were fulfilled and all the disciples were together in the same place, there occurred suddenly from heaven a sound as of a violent wind coming, and filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues of fire and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance Acts 2:1-4. Oh! How swift are the words of wisdom, and where God is the Master, how quickly is what is taught, learned. No interpretation is required for understanding, no practice for using, no time for studying, but the Spirit of Truth blowing where He wills, the languages peculiar to each nation become common property in the mouth of the Church. And therefore from that day the trumpet of the Gospel-preaching has sounded loud: from that day the showers of gracious gifts, the rivers of blessings, have watered every desert and all the dry land, since to renew the face of the earth the Spirit of God moved over the waters, and to drive away the old darkness flashes of new light shone forth, when by the blaze of those busy tongues was kindled the Lord's bright Word and fervent eloquence, in which to arouse the understanding, and to consume sin there lay both a capacity of enlightenment and a power of burning. (*Sermon 75.2*)

On the Coming of the Holy Spirit

By: St. Gregory the Theologian ca. 329-389

And therefore He came after Christ, that a Comforter should not be lacking unto us; but Another Comforter, that you might acknowledge His co-equality. For this word Another

marks an Alter Ego, a name of equal Lordship, not of inequality. For Another is not said, I know, of different kinds, but of things consubstantial. And He came in the form of Tongues because of His close relation to the Word. And they were of Fire, perhaps because of His purifying Power (for our Scripture knows of a purifying fire, as any one who wishes can find out), or else because of His Substance. For our God is a consuming Fire, and a Fire Hebrews 12:20 burning up the ungodly; Deuteronomy 4:24 though you may again pick a quarrel over these words, being brought into difficulty by the Consubstantiality. And the tongues were cloven, because of the diversity of Gifts; and they sat to signify His Royalty and Rest among the Saints, and because the Cherubim are the Throne of God. And it took place in an Upper Chamber (I hope I am not seeming to any one over tedious), because those who should receive it were to ascend and be raised above the earth; for also certain upper chambers are covered with Divine Waters, by which the praise of God are sung. And Jesus Himself in an Upper Chamber gave the Communion of the Sacrament to those who were being initiated into the higher Mysteries, that thereby might be shown on the one hand that God must come down to us, as I know He did of old to Moses; and on the other that we must go up to Him, and that so there should come to pass a Communion of God with men, by a coalescing of the dignity. For as long as either remains on its own footing, the One in His Glory the other in his lowliness, so long the Goodness of God cannot mingle with us, and His loving kindness is incommunicable, and there is a great gulf between, which cannot be crossed; and which separates not only the Rich Man from Lazarus and Abraham's Bosom which he longs for, but also the created and changing natures from that which is eternal and immutable. (*Oration 41.12*)

PRAYERS requested:

For The Health and Salvation of:

Julian (Georgie & Corbin's grandson)
Gloria (Fr. Joe's nephew Dan's M-I-L)
Andrea Bartol (Steve & Sandy Bozeka's daughter)
Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier's mother)
Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)
Helen (Father David's aunt)
Carl (friend of Father David)
Lisa "
Kitty "
Father David & Family
Father John Zdinak & Family
Gregory Cervo
Ann Cervo
Harper (13 yr. who just received heart transplant)
Arika (missing person) her mother Renee & sisters Ashley and Chloe.
Xavier Fox (abducted and abused child)
Emil DeSantis (Greg & Michelle's friend)

For The Repose of the Souls of the newly departed Servants:

+ Nicholas Tomich (friend of Fr. Joe)
+Subdeacon +Alexander McNeer (Antiochian Choir director, Huntington, WV)
+Carol Ritchey (Fr. Joe's cousin-in-law)

Many Years:

Wally & Debbie Borojevich, June 21.

Lana Baier, June 23.

No Coffee Hour Today. Cookout after Liturgy, at Corbin and Georgie Washington's home, 921 Fernwood Blvd. Alliance. Please bring a side dish. The main entrée will be provided by the Washington's.

Final thoughts for the day:

"However good prayer, fasting, vigil and all the other Christian practices may be, they do not constitute the aim of our Christian life. Although it is true that they serve as the indispensable means of reaching this end, **the true aim of our Christian life consists of the acquisition of the Holy Spirit of God.** As for fasts, and vigils, and prayer, and almsgiving, and every good deed done for Christ's sake, are the only means of acquiring the Holy Spirit of God. Mark my words, only good deeds done for Christ's sake brings us the fruits of the Holy Spirit. All that is not done for Christ's sake, even though it be good, brings neither reward in the future life nor the grace of God in this life. That is why our Lord Jesus Christ said: *He who does not gather with Me scatters* (Luke 11:23). Not that a good deed can be called anything but gathering, even though a deed is not done for Christ's sake, it is still considered good (but not salvific). The Scriptures say: *In every nation he who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to Him* (Acts 10:35)."

By: *Saint Seraphim of Sarov.*

"The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him."

Proverbs 20:7 (NKJV)