

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday June 25th, 2017

3rd Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 2)

**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

3rd and 6th Hours – 9:00 AM

Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Liturgies on Feast Days - 9:30 AM

**Visit our website: stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com
Or Like us on FaceBook**

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 will stay for coffee hour and a brief adult Christian education discussion after the service. Feel free to ask any questions about our worship, the chapel, or anything the Lord puts in your heart to ask. Again, welcome! We invite all Baptized and Chrismated members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion. This assumes that all taking Holy Communion have prepared with prayer, confession, and fasting according to the discipline of your home parish. If you are not taking Holy Communion today, please accept a piece of blessed bread. Although it is not Holy Communion it is a token of our welcome and love! We long for the day when we can all take Holy Communion together!



Resurrection Troparion – Tone 2

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal, You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead. And when from the depths You raised the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Troparion for the Nativity of St. John the Baptist – Tone 4

Prophet and Forerunner of the coming of Christ, although we cannot praise you worthily, we honor you in love at your nativity, for by it you ended your father’s silence and your mother’s barrenness,// proclaiming to the world the incarnation of the Son of God!

Troparion for the Virgin Martyr Febronia – Tone 4

Your lamb Febronia calls out to You, O Jesus, in a loud voice: “I love You, my Bridegroom, and in seeking You I endure suffering. In baptism I was crucified so that I might reign in You, and I died so that I might live with You. Accept me as a pure sacrifice, for I have offered myself in love.” Through her prayers save our souls, since You are merciful!

Resurrection Kontakia – Tone 2

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You, // and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

Kontakion for the Nativity of St John the Baptist – Tone 3

Today the formerly barren woman gives birth to Christ's Forerunner, who is the fulfillment of every prophecy; for in the Jordan, when he laid his hand on the One foretold by the Prophets, // he was revealed as Prophet, Herald, and Forerunner of God the Word.

Prokeimenon in the 2nd tone

The Lord is my strength and my song // He has become my salvation.

v: The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

Epistle Reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans (5: 1-10)

Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope. Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

The Alleluia in the 2nd Tone

v: May the Lord hear you in the day of trouble! May the name of the God of Jacob protect you!

v: Save the King, O Lord, and hear us on the day we call!

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (6:22-33)

The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor

spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Communion Hymn (Resurrection)

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



The Venerable Martyr Febronia of Rome (+310)

Febronia was the daughter of Prosporus, a senator from Rome. In order to avoid marriage with a mortal man, Febronia betrothed herself to Christ and was tonsured a nun in the east, in the country of Assyria, in a convent where her aunt Bryaena was abbess. Lysimachus, the son of a nobleman, desired to wed Febronia but since Emperor Diocletian suspected him to be a secret Christian, he sent Lysimachus to the east with his uncle Silenus to apprehend and kill Christians. Silenus was as cruel as a beast and exterminated Christians everywhere without mercy. Lysimachus, on the contrary, spared the Christians wherever he could and hid them from his beast-like uncle. Making Palmyra a wasteland of Christians, Silenus came to the town of Nisibis close to which was a convent with fifty ascetics among whom was Febronia. Even though she was only twenty years old, Febronia was respected in the convent and in the town because of her great meekness, wisdom and restraint. In this convent the rule of the former abbess Blessed Platonida was adhered to in that every Friday be spent only in prayer and the reading of the sacred books without any other type of work. Bryaena had designated Febronia to read the sacred books to the sisters hidden behind a curtain so that no one would be distracted and captivated by the beauty of her face. Hearing about Febronia, Silenus ordered that Febronia be brought to him. But, when the holy virgin refused to deny Christ and to agree to enter into marriage with a mortal man, Silenus ordered her to be whipped, and after that to knock out her teeth, cut off her hands, breasts then legs and finally to slay her with a sword. However, a horrible punishment from God befell the torturer the same day. A rage entered into him and he was overcome by a deadly horror. In this horror he struck his head against a marble pillar and fell dead. Lysimachus ordered that Febronia's body be gathered and brought to the convent where it was honorably buried and he, with many other soldiers, were baptized. Many healings have occurred from the relics of St. Febronia and she appeared on the day of her feast and stood in her usual place among the sisters and all the sisters looked upon her with fear and rejoicing. St. Febronia suffered and took up habitation in eternal blessedness in the year 310 A.D. In the year 363 A.D., her relics were translated to Constantinople.

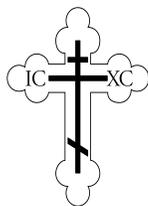
From the *Prologue*, compiled by St. Nikolai of Zicha and South Canaan



A Reflection by St. Nikolai

St. Mark the ascetic said: "Whoever desires to eliminate future tribulations must bear the present tribulations with joy." Men consider slander as a great tribulation and there are few men who bear this tribulation without grumbling. O beautiful is the fruit of kindly endured tribulation!

Tribulation is given to us for good spiritual commerce and we are missing the opportunity thus remaining empty-handed at the market place. Behold, even Athanasius, Basil, Chrysostom, Macarius, Sisoes and thousands of other followers of the Most-slandered One were themselves slandered. But God, Who orders all things for our salvation, had so ordered that on the thorn of slander would sprout fragrant roses of glory for all those who are slandered for His Name. Had Stephen not been slandered would he have seen the heavens opened and seen the glory of God in the heavens? And the slander against Joseph the Chaste One, did it not serve to his greater glory?



Special Announcements:

Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

This coming Thursday, June 29th at 9:30

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:

June 23-Lana Baier

Anniversaries:

June 21- Wally and Debbie Borojevich

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

Cervo Family

Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.

Valentina

Josh W.

Minnick Family

Kathy Jo, Michael, and Family.

Kelli

Liz, Carla Michalik

Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki

Larissa Freude

Steve and Sandy B.

Anthony B.

Joan

Slavco

Jake K.

Anthony Freude

Katia G.

For The Departed Soul of:

+Andy Dordea