

St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am.
Worship site: Rainbow's End Nursery. 10079 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
June 30, 2013: 1ST Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints/Sts. Peter & Paul-observed



Icon of the Sunday of All Saints

The icon of the Sunday of All Saints depicts our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ seated above the throne of heaven surrounded by the Saints. The rows of Saints included the Archangel Michael and other Angels, the Theotokos and John the Baptist, the Apostles, Bishops, Great Martyrs, Ascetics and Monastics. To the side of the throne are Adam and Eve, bowing in reverence to Christ. They are joined by the Saints, who are lifting their hands in worship to the King of Glory. At the lower left of the icon is the Patriarch Abraham who has a righteous soul in his bosom, as told in the story of Lazarus and the rich man in the Gospel. At the lower center is the Good Thief who was crucified with Christ. On the lower right is the Patriarch Jacob.

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!
 You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//
 O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Tone 4 Troparion (from the Pentecostarion)

As with fine porphyry and royal purple,
 Your Church has been adorned with Your martyr's blood shed throughout all the world.
 She cries to You, O Christ God:
 "Send down Your bounties on Your people,//
 grant peace to Your habitation and great mercy to our souls!"

Tone 4 Troparion (Holy Apostles Peter and Paul)

First-enthroned of the Apostles, and teachers of the universe:
 entreat the Master of all to grant peace to the world, // and to our souls great mercy!

Tone 4 Troparion St. Nikolai

In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith, an image of humility and a teacher of abstinence; your humility exalted you; your poverty enriched you. Hierarch Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Tone 8 Kontakion *(from the Pentecostarion)*

The universe offers You the God-bearing Martyrs
as the first fruits of creation, O Lord and Creator.
By their prayers keep Your Church, Your habitation, in abiding peace//
through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!

Tone 2 Kontakion *(Holy Apostles Peter and Paul)*

O Lord, You have taken up to eternal rest and to the enjoyment of Your blessings
the two divinely inspired preachers, the leaders of the Apostles,
for You have accepted their labors and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice, //
for You alone know what lies in the hearts of men.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:33-12:2

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!
v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Saints)*

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

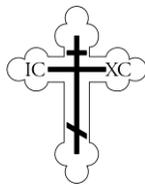
Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. The righteous cried and the Lord heard them and delivered them out of all their troubles
v. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; the Lord will deliver them out of them all.

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!
Let Your good Spirit lead me on a level path!
Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Meditation: Sunday of All The Saints

The first Sunday after the Feast of Holy Pentecost is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of All Saints. This day has been designated as a commemoration of all of the Saints, all the Righteous, the Prophets, Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Shepherds, Teachers, and Holy Monastics, and especially our most holy Lady, the Ever-virgin Theotokos Mary; both men and women alike, known and unknown, who have been added to the heavenly choirs of the Saints and shall be added, from the time of Adam until the end of the world, who have been perfected in piety and have glorified God by their holy lives.

Honoring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honorable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the Apostle Paul, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which does so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1).

This commemoration began as the Sunday of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in various ways.

Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we honor all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and helpers of mankind. Of course, we honor the known Saints especially on their own day of the year. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number increases with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, they who fulfilled the Gospel in deed the sayings of the Savior." In this celebration today, we reverently honor and call blessed all the Righteous, setting their life before us as an example of virtue, and entreating them to intercede on our behalf with God, Whose grace and boundless mercy we knowingly or unknowingly depend on every day of our life.

Donation Requests:

Land & Building Project:

In our short history, our St. Nikolai Mission has been the beneficiary of many great blessings. We have already gone in four months, "where few missions have gone before!" Surely by the Hand of the Lord, we have even been recipients of significant blessings from some non-Orthodox Christians to get where we are. Yet we are now at the brink of a far greater challenge. By divine providence we have before us, the opportunity to consummate a deal on property and construct a modest but functional building to meet our needs for the immediate and near future, to worship, gather for fellowship, to assemble for Orthodox education, and to share the tenets of Orthodoxy with those looking for the "fullness of the Christian faith". Having a stable, welcoming, and attractive home for worship and fellowship is an important step to accelerate and sustain our growth.

But to fulfill these opportunities, we need a new phase of financial support from those who have joined or want to join this "holy endeavor." In addition to our normal monthly operating fund pledges, we have already received some significant pledges toward our new construction project. In order to get bank funding and move forward, however, we need more pledges for the construction project. We ask that you pray about and discuss with your family, how you can help this cause above and beyond what you are already giving to the general mission fund. The Lord has called us to plant seeds of faith, not only for ourselves but for generations to come. Please convey your pledge decision confidentially to Father Joe or Protodeacon James as soon as possible. A timely response is critical to our aspirations!

Icon of St. Nikolai of Zica: Our mission is commissioning a handwritten icon of St. Nikolai. It will depict our mission patron saint with prominent scenes from his life and it will also house his holy "relics." We are humbly accepting donations towards the icon which will cost \$1500. If you would like to make a contribution, please make your check payable to "St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance" make a notation that it is for the Icon of St. Nikolai.

New Mission worship site items of need: We are working diligently to make the environment conducive to "the holy work of the people of God" and to make accommodations as comfortable as possible. There are some initial added expenses and items of need to accomplish this transformation from ordinary space to "holy space." Folding chairs, room size remnant carpeting, folding tables are needed. Also, in the works are items needed to make a portable Iconostas, which includes the purchase of the framework and large Icons. Any donations specially earmarked for this very important project would be greatly appreciated.

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance
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