

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance  
820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio  
(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)  
Divine Liturgy, 9:30**

**Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
June 7, 2015/ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after PENTECOST/Sunday of All Saints**

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

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

*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 the Church fasting seasons. 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 at the Jonathan Casteel hall, directly through the alley way behind the church. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.*



**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                      (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!

**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                      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!  
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.

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## **DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.**

### **PRAYERS requested**

#### **For The Health and Salvation of:**

Mother Ana

Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)

Stefanie Waseman

Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)

The Knoll Family

Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)

Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)

Roland Augspurger

#### **For The Repose of the Souls of:**

+George Ralich (Father of Dan Ralich)

(Please update prayer requests at the beginning of each month. Names will be removed if the request is not renewed.)

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

The study group is taking a short break. Announcements for future meetings will be announced.

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

June 7th - Cervo's

June 14th - Dordea's

June 21st - no one signed up

June 28th- no one signed up

Please see Deanna and Larry Dordea if you are interested in hosting a Coffee Hour. There are plenty of dates available. Thank you to Deanna, Larry and Georgie for chairing our Coffee Hours.

## **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!!**

### **DONATIONS:**

Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission.

### **BUILDING PROJECT:**

By the grace of God and with the sacrificial donations of many, phase one of construction for our chapel began Bright Week. Equipment moved in and construction officially began on Tuesday, April 14. We are still in need of additional funding for the general building project. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution to the building fund, please see Father Joe or Deacon James.

May the Lord bless all our endeavors to glorify His Holy Name and bring others to the fullness of the truth.

**CHOIR PRACTICES:**

Choir Practice will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Gresh Home. Please see Heidi for details.

**CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITY:**

The Krupko Family and Friends will be participating in a 50 mile Bike Ride to benefit those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis. The ride will be Saturday, June 20, 2015. Proceeds benefit Multiple Sclerosis research as well as assisting families with financial assistance, emotional support, therapy and equipment. Northeast Ohio is a "Hot Spot" for Multiple Sclerosis and has a larger than usual population of people afflicted with this debilitating. If you would like to make a donation and support our bike team, please check with Cathy, Amy or Allison.

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