

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship
At the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

**Mission Website <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>
March 23, 2014: Third Sunday of Lent: Veneration of the Holy Cross
Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him in Sicily**



Tone 6 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body.
You took hell captive,// not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 1 Troparion *(for the Cross)*

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross,// preserve Your habitation!

Tone 7 Kontakion *(for the Cross)*

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Eden; it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross.
The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; for You, O my Savior, have come and cried to those in hell:// “Enter again into Paradise!”

(In place of the Trisagion, we sing:)

Before Your Cross, we bow down in worship, O Master, and Your holy Resurrection, we glorify.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon *(Cross)*

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!
v: *To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6

Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: *Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!*
v: *God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth!*

Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing Hymn to the Theotokos)

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child –our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace.//
Glory to you!

Communion Hymns

The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Liturgical Schedule at the Mt. Union Chapel:

Monday, March 24, Evening Liturgy for the great feast of The Annunciation, 7 pm.

Presanctified Liturgy Wednesday, March 26th, 7 pm; Wednesday April 9th at 7 pm.

Presanctified Liturgy on April 2 will be at 6:30 PM. at St. George Antiochian.

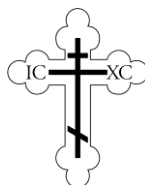
The Third Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross.

The Orthodox Church commemorates the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Services include a special veneration of the Cross, which prepares the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.

The commemoration and ceremonies of the Third Sunday of Lent are closely parallel to the feasts of the Veneration of the Cross (September 14) and the Procession of the Cross (August 1). Not only does the Sunday of the Holy Cross prepare us for commemoration of the Crucifixion, but it also reminds us that the whole of Lent is a period when we are crucified with Christ.

The feast has been placed in the middle of Great Lent for another reason. The Fast can be likened to the spring of Marah whose waters the children of Israel encountered in the wilderness. This water was undrinkable due to its bitterness but became sweet when the Holy Prophet Moses dipped the wood into its depth. Likewise, the wood of the Cross sweetens the days of the Fast, which are bitter and often grievous because of the weight of our sins. Yet Christ comforts us during our course through the desert of the Fast, guiding and leading us by His hand to the spiritual Jerusalem on high by the power of His Resurrection.

Moreover, as the Holy Cross is called the Tree of Life, it is placed in the middle of the Fast, as the ancient tree of life was placed in the middle of the garden of Eden. By this, our Holy Fathers wished to remind us of Adam's gluttony as well as the fact that through this Tree has condemnation been abolished. Therefore, if we attach ourselves to the Holy Cross, even though we all shall suffer the affects of our sins, nevertheless, through Christ's victory on the Cross, we shall inherit life eternal.



The Great Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25 each year. The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb.

It is on the Feast of the Annunciation, that Orthodox Christians commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary freely accepted the vocation offered to her. God chose to become man, and He desired to do this with the willing agreement of her whom He chose as His mother. Mary could have refused, for she was not a puppet, but an active participant with free-will, who played a positive part in God's plan for our salvation. Thus, when on this and other feasts the Orthodox Church honors the Theotokos, the Mother of God, it is not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose to follow His will.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LENTEN FISH DINNERS:

We are on for Fish Dinners! Dinners are served from 5 to 7 PM at the Marlinton Middle School. Please check the website for our flyer. We need volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up! If you can help in any way please contact Tom Baier or Jaga Radosevic in person or via the Mission email (stnikolaimission@gmail.com) Flyers will be available to hand out, pass the word!

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to Dan Ralich for serving as Coffee Hour Host last week. Dan hosted in honor of his mother's birthday.

This Sunday, March 23 our host is T.J. Cotterman.

Amy Catania is hosting on March 30, and Dan Ralich again on April 6.

PRAYERS:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Jovanka Kramanak, please pray for the repose of her soul, Jovanka passed away February 17.

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jacquelyn, friend of Dan and Jake Krupko who has been ill.

Jean Minnick Co-worker of Katie White's, whose father, Edgar Pryor passed away on March 4. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

Prayers for the repose of Metropolitan Philip of the Antiochian Archdiocese who passed away Wednesday March 19 from a heart attack.

Josephine Rose White was born on March 17, 2014 to Josh and Katie White and sister, Evelyn White. God grant you many years!!!!