

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, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
March 27, 2016: Second Sunday of Lent / St Gregory Palamas
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 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. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

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!”

Tone 8 Troparion (St Gregory Palamas)

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation,
O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace,//
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors!
So let us rise and fast, offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:
“Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea; but forgive us, O Master of all,//
so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (St Gregory Palamas)

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology,
together we sing your praises, O God-inspired Gregory.
Since you now stand before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him,

O Father, // so that we may sing to you: "Rejoice, preacher of grace!"

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Tone 2 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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!

Tone 2 (Triodion)

v: The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom, and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing the following 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

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Writings of St. Gregory Palamas: "What can I say to those people who, in the Church, neither stand in silence, nor join in the singing, but instead meet one another and mix our reasonable worship of God with worldly chatter? They do not listen themselves to the divinely inspired words, and prevent others who want to listen from doing so. 'How long do you halt between two opinions?' as Elijah the Tishbite would say (I Kgs. 18:21). You want simultaneously to come together for prayer and for worldly, ill-timed words. Of course you succeed in neither purpose, because you destroy the one with the other, or rather, they destroy each other. How long before you stop talking idly in this place? You make this house of prayer into a place of business or impassioned speech (cf. Lk. 19:46). In this house the words of eternal life are both spoken and heard, on the one hand by us, as we beseech God for eternal life with unashamed hope, and on the other hand by God, as He gives eternal life to those who ask with their whole heart and mind. But He will not give it to those who do not even apply their whole tongue, as it were, to asking."

St Nikolai Reflection on St. Gregory Palamas: St. Gregory Palamas learned much through heavenly revelations. After he had spent three years in stillness in a cell of the Great Lavra monastery, it was necessary for him to go out among men and benefit them with his accumulated knowledge and experience. God revealed this necessity to him through an extraordinary vision: One day, as though in a light sleep, Gregory saw himself holding a vessel in his hand full to overflowing with milk. Gradually, the milk turned into wine which likewise spilled over the rim, and drenched his hands and garments. Then a radiant youth appeared and said: “Why would you not give others of this wonderful drink that you are wasting so carelessly, or are you not aware that this is the gift of God’s grace?” To this Gregory replied: “But if there is no one in our time who feels the need for such a drink, to whom shall I give it?” Then the youth said: “Whether there are some or whether there are none thirsty for such a drink, you are obligated to fulfill your debt and not neglect the gift of God.” Gregory interpreted the milk as the common knowledge of the masses of moral life and conduct, and the wine as dogmatic teaching. The second time Gregory secluded himself in a monastery he was writing his *Principles of Orthodoxy*. On the eve of the Feast of St. Anthony the Great, the monks summoned him to go to the all-night vigil service, but he remained at his work in the cell while all the brethren went to church. St. Anthony suddenly appeared to him and said: “Perfect stillness is good, but sometimes it is necessary to be with the brethren.” Convinced by this revelation, Gregory immediately went into the church to the joy of all the monks.

Confession

Every Orthodox Christian, who is in active Communion with the Church, is required to participate in the Sacrament of Penance (confession) during Great Lent. Confessions are heard regularly after Saturday evening Vespers or by special arrangement with the priest. Confessions will not be heard during Holy Week except for extenuating circumstances.

Contemplation by St. Nikolai Velimirovich:

Contemplate the wondrous creation of light (Genesis 1):

1. How there was darkness everywhere over the formless earth;
2. How *God said, Let there be light, and there was light;*
3. How God separated the light from the darkness, and there was day and there was night.

LENTEN SCHEDULE (dates in bold are services at St. Nikolai Church)

- > **Friday, March 25**, Great Feast of Annunciation, Vespers Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, March 30, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm Holy Assumption Canton
- > **Friday, April 1**, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, April 6, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm St. George (Serb) N Canton
- > **Friday, April 8**, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, April 13, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm Holy Trinity Canton
- > **Friday, April 15**, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, April 20, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm St. George (Ant) Canton
- > **Saturday, April 23**, Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

There will be a full Holy Week schedule, April 25-29 (every evening at 6:30) as we celebrated last year..

The prayer list revised this week. *If you wish to list someone please advise Father*

PRAYERS requested:

For The Health and Salvation of;

Andrea Bartol & new born Bohdan (Steve & Sandy Bozeka' daughter & grandson)

Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier's mother)

Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)

Helen (Father David's aunt)

Carl (friend of Father David)

Lisa “

Bruce “

Kitty “

Paul “

Father David and Family

Doreen Wishnok

Stefanie Waseman

The Knoll Family

Roland Augspurger

Leslie and Tim Kocevar

Beth Plocher

Renee Young

Larry Gainer

James Rickard and Family

Mary Lou Suitca

Ken Mabry

Malaik (Allison pre-school child)

Edward (Allison pre-school child)

Arika (missing person)

Gregory Cervo

Ann Cervo

Diane Evangelista (Fr. Joe's niece)

Andrea Rudek (Fr. Joe's niece)

Letitia (Lynette Baier's mother)

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

+John Horny (Ann Cervo's nephew)

+Edna Stamatoff (Popadija Linda (Fr. Basil) Shaheen's mother)

+Elena Stora (friend of Jenny Codrea)

Many Years!

Evelyn White – April 2

Coffee Hour Today: Helen & George Blebea

March 27-Dan Ralich; April 3-Tom & Lana Baier; April 10-Larry & Deanna Dordea.
Sponsors needed for remaining Lenten Sunday's.

If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

Donors requested: We are seeking individuals to donate the following items:

3 Wood carved stands to set icons on for veneration, \$200 each.

1 Case of Sacramental Altar Wine, \$150.

Chapel Windows-Sun Block, \$2467.

\$125 is needed for the Mentoring Program that we are supporting through Georgie Washington. The monies are for clothing and supplies as part of the dress for success program.

IOCC: As part of our Lenten regiment, in accord with the Gospel, we are called to help needy and suffering people, in America and around the world. Please put aside money (that we are to save by curbing expenditures of unnecessary purchases, luxuries, entertainment and sumptuous food) and turn it in by Palm Sunday. In turn we will send one check to the International Orthodox Christian Charities, which was organized 25 years ago by the Orthodox Bishops of America. For every dollar we donate, IOCC is able to get an additional seven dollars from the government and foundations. 92% of the money donated goes directly to assisting people in need.

\$220 was collected at our Presanctified Liturgy for the feast of St. Nikolai

IOCC SPIRITUAL REFLECTIONS FOR GREAT LENT

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: Rev. Angelo Pappas, IOCC Frontliner

On the Second Sunday of Great Lent, a Sunday when we remember St. Gregory Palamas, we need to examine ourselves as to who we are within the spiritual realm of our existence. It seems in today's world, society and culture, we continue to revert back to our primitive state of hatred, contempt and distrust. Not looking to our Savior Jesus Christ for peace in our soul, and to offer love and compassion to our brothers in need. To show Christ's mercy and forgiveness to those who have wronged, not only us personally, but on a larger scale, whatever that scale may be.

In our self-examination during the Lenten Season, we need to turn away from the errors of the world, to turn closer to Christ, and ask for His intervention in the crisis that exists globally. But how can the world change if we haven't changed? Again, through our internal prayer, or as St. Gregory Palamas has taught us, through the integration of hesychasm, or silent prayer. This allows us, as Father John Meyendorff wrote in his book on St. Gregory Palamas, "the positive element in spirituality, acquisition of grace and of the life in Jesus Christ, is based on the uninterrupted monological prayer." This prayer is a memory of God, a conscious activity of the human being, when the Apostle Paul recommended 'to pray continually' (1 Thess. 5:17).

As we grow spiritually in our faith, so will our inner change of heart grow as well. That neighbor that was annoying may not be so annoying after all. Friends who can sometimes be overbearing may need to be seen in a different light. Our spouses or children or relatives may act troubling towards us, because we fail to understand how they love us. Our enemies may not understand us, therefore hate us, but have we tried to get into their mind set or offer an "olive branch" of peace to them? These are critical questions with critical answers.

As Pascha quickly draws near, let our love and joy in the Resurrection of our Lord shine, not briefly flicker on that day alone, but let it glow brightly everyday of our life. May the words of the Evangelist Luke resonate in our souls, *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you and pray for them who persecute you and say evil of you falsely."* (Luke 6:27)

Stewardship: Please pray, contemplate and complete the parish pledge form and return to the Priest or Deacon, as soon as possible. May the Lord direct you and bless you for returning some of your possessions to further the work of His holy Church.

Save Your Stuff. Once again our parish is going to have a rummage sale at the Hartville Flea Market, Memorial Day weekend. Please contact Georgie Washington for details.