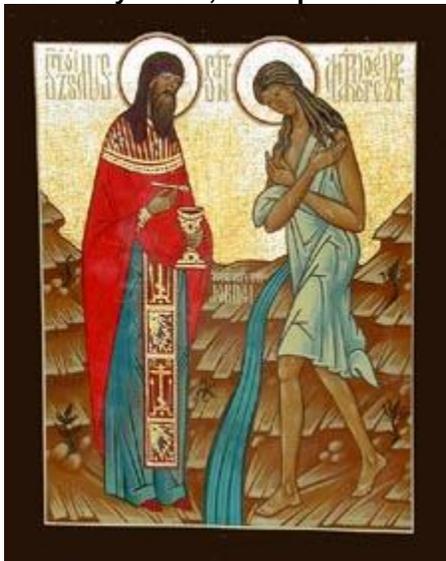


**St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance
820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio
(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)
Divine Liturgy, 9:30**

**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)
March 29, 2015: Fifth Sunday of Lent: St Mary of Egypt /
Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa**



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.

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure ^body,
You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:
"Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Your ^Kingdom!!! Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!"

Tone 8 Troparion (St Mary of Egypt)

The image of God was truly preserved in you, O Mother,
for you took up the Cross and followed Christ.
By so doing, you taught us to disregard the flesh for it passes away;
but to care instead for the soul, for it is immortal.//
Therefore your spirit, O holy Mother Mary, rejoices with the angels.

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 3 Kontakion (St Mary of Egypt)

Having been a sinful woman, you became through repentance a bride of Christ.
Having attained angelic life, you defeated demons with the weapon of the Cross.//
Therefore O most glorious Mary, you are a bride of the Kingdom.

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just!

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me..

v: :He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

(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!

St. Mary of Egypt began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from the men that she copulated with, instead living by begging and spinning flax. One day, however, she met a group of young men heading toward the sea to sail to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along for the ride, seducing the men as they traveled for the fun of it. But when the group reached Jerusalem and actually went towards the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three such attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross; afterwards, she promised, she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her. After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts—mad desires and passions." After these years of temptation, however, she overcame the passions and was led by the Theotokos in all things. Following 47 years in solitude, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with great humility while also demonstrating her gift of clairvoyance; she knew who Zosima was and his life story despite never having met him before. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan. Zosima did exactly this, though he began to doubt his experience as the sun began to go that night. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan; crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima. When he attempted to bow, she rebuked him, saying that as a priest he was far superior, and furthermore, he was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan after giving Zosima instructions about his monastery and that he should return to where they first met exactly a year later. When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial and revealing that she had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported to the spot where she now lay). So Zosima, amazed, began to dig, but soon tired; then a lion approached and began to help him, that is, after Zosima had recovered from his fear of the creature. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried. Zosima returned to the monastery, told all he had seen, and improved the faults of the monks and abbot there. He died at almost a hundred years old in the same monastery.

Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

Hieromartyr Mark, Bishop of Arethusa, suffered for his faith in Christ under the emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363). By order of the emperor Constantine (May 21), St Mark had once destroyed a pagan temple and built a Christian church. When Julian came to the throne, he persecuted Christians and tried to restore paganism. Some citizens of Arethusa renounced Christianity and became pagans. Then St Mark's enemies decided to take revenge on him. The old bishop hid himself from the persecutors at first, but then gave himself up when he learned that the pagans had tortured many people in their search for him. The holy Elder was led through the city and given over to torture. They tore out his hair, slashed his body, dragged him along the street, dumped him in a swamp, tied him up, and cut him with knives. The pagans demanded that the holy bishop pay them a large sum of money to rebuild the pagan temple, and he refused to do so. The

persecutors invented several new torments: they squeezed the Elder in a foot-press, and they cut off his ears with linen cords. Finally, they smeared the holy martyr's body with honey and grease, then hung him up in a basket in the hot mid-day sun to be eaten by bees, wasps, and hornets. St Mark did not seem to notice the pain, and this irritated the tormentor all the more. The pagans kept lowering the price he had to pay for their temple, but St Mark refused to give them a single coin. Admiring him for his courage and endurance, the pagans stopped asking him for money and set him free. Many of them returned to Christ after hearing his talks. St Gregory the Theologian describes the sufferings of St Mark in his First Oration against Julian. Theodoritus of Cyrrhus also mentions him in his church history (Book 3, Ch. 6).

Lazarus Saturday Liturgy (April 4) will begin at 11 am. to allow time for the Byzantine Catholics to celebrate their Holy Saturday Liturgy at 9 am. We will have a general Memorial Service at the end of Liturgy, please bring a typed (or clearly printed) list of your departed loved ones and give them to Father before the Liturgy for him to commemorate them in the Holy Oblation (Communion offering).

DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.

Pan-Orthodox Presanctified Liturgy
Wednesday, April 1 at 6:30 pm.
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, 4705 Fairhaven Ave. in Canton

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Mother Ana
Father Joe Cervo
Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)
George Ralich, (Dan's father)
Stefanie Waseman
Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)
The Knoll Family
Mildred (Peggy) and Walter Borojevich (Wally's Parents)
Stephanie (Father David's Cousin), who suffered a mild heart attack
Mara (Jaga's Sister)
Father Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)
Andre Dordea
Bonnie Smith (Friend of Jaga Radosevic)
Niki – Father David's first cousin facing surgery
Janet - an elderly work colleague of Father David's with serious health issues

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+Dr. Gregory Spohn, Canton Area Pediatrician and doctor to Tillman Children
+James Kannam (St. George Antiochian Church)
+Candi (Friend of John and Lynette Baier)
+Mary Daymut (Christ the Savior Church, Byesville, Oh.)
+Gloria Lijoi (friend of the Krupkos)
Protopresbyter +Thomas Hopko

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

PASCHA FLOWERS:

Please make a donation for the purchase of flowers to decorate Christ's tomb.
Write 'flowers' on your checks or add a note with your cash donation. If you have any questions, please see Lana Baier.

SAVE. SAVE SAVE!

Everything you have.
On Sat. June 13 we will have a mission rummage sale at Hartville Flea Market.
If you have any questions see Georgie or call her at 330 635 1715 Thank you !

COFFEE HOUR:

March 1 - Jaga Radosevic
March 8 - Tom and Lana Baier
March 15 - Dan Ralich
March 22 - Gresh Family
March 29 - Dan Ralich

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.

SPECIAL DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY FROM:

Jaga Radosevic for the health of her sister Mara
Corsalea Family honoring the anniversary of Helen and George Blebea
Helen and George Blebea for the health of the members of the mission

ADULT EDUCATION:

Please bring your bible and we are meeting every Saturday, 5 pm in the Gresh home located at 9135 Gans Ave NE

BUILDING PROJECT:

We are getting ready to break ground and begin phase one construction of our mission building project. If you have not made a commitment and would like to, please discuss this with either Father Joe or Deacon James by email or phone and/or by making your check payable to St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance. May God Bless all donors for their support of our Mission and purpose in celebrating Orthodoxy.

CHOIR PRACTICES:

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

ST. THEODORE ROMANIAN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH:

The Mission is most thankful to Bishop John Michael and the Romanian Byzantine Catholic Diocese for graciously providing us with a home until our building is complete. As a gesture of gratitude the Mission is giving a gift of \$250.00 per month. The money is being used to pay for meals for those in need.

UNITED WOMEN:

Recently, Helen (Mimi) Blebea attended the United Women group representing the Mission. Their next meeting is April 10 at 1:00 pm. If any women are interested in attending the meeting next month, please See Helen.

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