

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 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 6, 2016: Sunday of Meatfare/Sunday of the Last Judgment**  
**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 7      Troparion      (Resurrection)***

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world 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 1      Kontakion      (from the Lenten Triodion)***

When You, O God, shall come to earth with glory, all things shall tremble, and the river of fire shall flow before Your judgment seat; the books shall be opened, and the hidden things disclosed; then deliver me from the unquenchable fire, // and make me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O Righteous Judge!

***Tone 3      Prokeimenon***

Great is our Lord, and abundant in power, His understanding is beyond measure.  
v: Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God!

***Epistle:***      1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

***Tone 8      Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

v: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!  
v: For the Lord is a great God and a great King over all the earth.

***Gospel:***      Matthew 25:31-46

### ***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!

**Today's Gospel reading** (Matthew 25:31-46) is the **parable of the Last Judgment**. It reminds us that while trusting in Christ's love and mercy, we must not forget His righteous judgment when He comes again in glory. If our hearts remain hardened and unrepentant, we should not expect the Lord to overlook our transgressions simply because He is a good and loving God. Although He does not desire the death of a sinner, He also expects us to turn from our wickedness and live (Ezek. 33:11). This same idea is expressed in the prayer read by the priest after the penitent has confessed his or her sins. The time for repentance and forgiveness is now, in the present life. At the Second Coming, Christ will appear as the righteous Judge, Who will render to every man according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:6). Then the time for entreating God's mercy and forgiveness will have passed.

As Father +Alexander Schmemmann, of blessed memory, reminded us in his book GREAT LENT (Ch. 1:4), sin is the absence of love, it is separation and isolation. When Christ comes to judge the world, His criterion for judgment will be love. Christian love entails seeing Christ in other people, our family, our friends, and everyone else we may encounter in our lives. We shall be judged on whether we have loved, or not loved, our neighbor. We show Christian love when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit those who are sick or in prison. If we did such things for the least of Christ's brethren, then we also did them for Christ (Mt.25:40). If we did not do such things for the least of the brethren, neither did we do them for Christ (Mt.25:45).

Today is the last day for eating meat and meat products until Pascha, though eggs and dairy products are permitted every day during the coming week. This limited fasting prepares us gradually for the more intense fasting of Great Lent.

**St. Nikolai Velimirovich, Homily on the Last Judgment:** "One, and only one has spoken to us clearly and definitely about all that will come to pass at the end of time: the Lord Jesus Christ... For human understanding and logic, however great they may be, are too puny to reach to the world's beginning and its end. Understanding is useless where vision is needed. We need a seer, who sees as clearly as we see the sun – to see the whole world, from its beginning to end...their has only been one such: the Lord Jesus Christ..."

### ***Contemplation of St. Nikolai:***

#### **Contemplate the Lord Jesus at the Mystical Supper:**

1. How He washed the feet of His disciples, and how by this act He especially taught them humility and love for one another.
2. How Peter, one of the most faithful, was ashamed and forbade the Lord to wash his feet.

3. How Judas, the unbeliever and traitor, was not ashamed and did not forbid the Lord to wash his feet.
4. How today also, the faithful receive countless blessings from God with embarrassment and shame, but the faithless receive the same without embarrassment or shame, and even murmur against God.

**The prayer list is revised monthly. If you wish to list someone please advise Father.**

**PRAYERS requested:**

**For The Health and Salvation of;**

Bohdan Bartol (new born grandson of Steve & Sandy Bozeka)

Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier's mother)

Father John and Cindy Zdinak & Family

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

Gregory Cervo

Ann Cervo

Letitia (Lynette Baier's mother)

Julian (Georgie & Corbin's grandson)

Arika (missing person)

**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)

+Yolanda (friend of Lynette)

+Elena Stora (friend of Jenny Codrea)

**Coffee Hour Today: Steve & Sandy Bozeka**

Coffee hour sponsors needed for Lenten Sunday's.

### **COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:**

There is a sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning. If you have any questions please see Father Joe or Deacon James. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

**Feast of St. Nikolai:** We will celebrate Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Thursday evening, March 17, at 6:30 pm. Members of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Stark County have been invited to share the Holy Eucharist with us and honor our parish patron saint (who passed from this life, March 18, 1957 at St. Tikhon Seminary/Monastery). We will have a (strict fast) Lenten covered dish meal following Liturgy. Please advise Jaga Radosevic what you are bringing.

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

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

1 Censor with bells, \$100.

1 Case of Sacramental Altar Wine, \$150.

Incense, \$60.

**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, this spring. Please contact Georgie Washington for details.

### **Blessing of Homes (*Last week to schedule*)**

The Blessing of homes is a long honored Tradition of Orthodoxy. The Holy Water which is blessed in the Church for the Feast of Theophany is taken by the priest to bless and sanctify the homes of the faithful. By this we are reminded that our homes are to be an extension of the Church; a place where we pray and celebrate the many blessings of life. Through this special blessing we reinforce our connection to God and His Church and we ask for the Lord's protection and guidance in our daily activities. We should be mindful that even if we have had this blessing in past years, we should nevertheless, want to repeat our prayer that the Lord will "keep safe from harm those who dwell here; grant to them Your Blessing, purification and health of body..."

To schedule, please see or contact Father (330) 284-8353 or email:  
frjcervo@sbcglobal.net