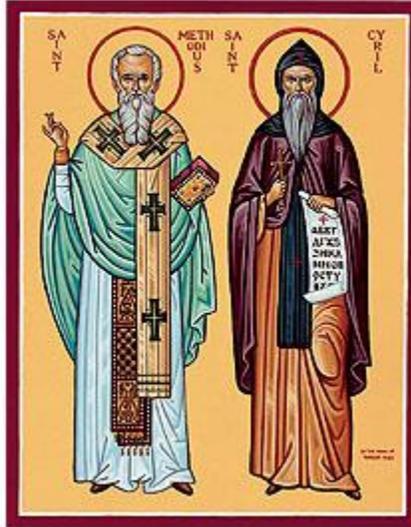


St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship  
at the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)  
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
May 11, 2014: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha: Paralytic/Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles  
Cyril & Methodius.

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

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

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!**



**Tone 3                      Troparion                      *(Resurrection)***

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.

He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world // great mercy.

**Tone 4                      Troparion                      *(SS Cyril and Methodius)***

Cyril and Methodius, inspired by God, you became Equals-to-the-Apostles by your life.  
As you were teachers of the Slavs, intercede with the Master of all,  
that He may strengthen all Orthodox peoples in the true faith; that He may grant peace to  
the world //  
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 3                      Kontakion                      *(SS Cyril and Methodius)***

Let us praise the two godly priests who enlightened the Church;  
by translating the Scriptures they pour out a fountain of the knowledge of God!  
Cyril and Methodius, abundant learning has been drawn from this work.  
We exalt you as you now stand before the Most High, // fervently interceding for the  
salvation of our souls.

**Tone 3                    Kontakion                    (from the Pentecostarion)**

By Your divine intercession, O Lord, as You raised up the Paralytic of old,  
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing  
to You://  
“Glory to Your power, O compassionate Christ!”

**Epistle:** Acts 9:32-42

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 your righteous! Praise befits the just!*

**Tone 5                    Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from  
generation to generation.*  
*v: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be  
prepared in the heavens.”*

**Gospel:** John 5:1-15

*(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)*

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice,  
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem!

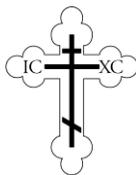
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

**Communion Hymns**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the Fountain of immortality!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil  
tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



**Relocation of our Mission**

Starting next Sunday, May 18, Liturgy at 9 am. Because of scheduling conflicts in the chapel during the summer months, the University of Mt. Union is moving us to room **KHIC 003**, which is in the basement of the Library building that is directly east of the chapel. Enter the lobby and go to the elevator and press **B**. when you exit, the first room down the hallway is our designated summer worship site.

## **The Greek who led the struggle for an independent Bulgarian Orthodox Church**

The ecclesiastical-national struggle of the Bulgarians against the Greek clergy during the Renaissance was one of the most difficult and important battles faced by enslaved people on the way to their freedom. Since the Bulgarian population led the longest and hardest struggle with the Constantinople church in the Balkans, setting up many Bulgarian schools and cultural centers, it marked the greatest cultural progress during the Renaissance in the Balkan region. The restoration of the independent Bulgarian church became a cause for the Bulgarian population at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, when Patriarch Gregory obliged clergymen to spread Hellenism (Greek culture, language and religious practices) among the Orthodox population of the Ottoman Empire. Gradually the Greek language was imposed not only in church matters, but also in literature and the everyday economic life of the Bulgarians, and the higher clergy began to openly tolerate Greek communities and protect their cultural, educational and economic interests. However, amid these events, one of the representatives of the Greek clergy - Paisius of Plovdiv managed to shine forth.

Paisius of Plovdiv is an Orthodox cleric who is determined by Bulgarian Patriarch Kirill, also a Metropolitan of Plovdiv, as "a great spirit, who was born in the spiritual homeland of Hellenism, but who managed to overcome its historical weakness. However, above all, he is the pride of the Bulgarian people "because of his contribution to the ecclesiastical-national struggle of the Bulgarians. He was born in 1810 in the city of Ioannina, where, after graduating from the University of Athens with a degree in theology, he became a deacon and coadjutor to Ioannina Bishop Joachim, who later became Ecumenical Patriarch.

In 1853, Paisius was consecrated bishop and appointed bishop of Smyrna (now Izmir, Turkey), but four years later he was appointed bishop in the Bulgarian city of Plovdiv. At that time, the Bulgarian community in the city asked the Patriarchate for the appointment of a Bulgarian bishop, but their request was not granted. Once settled in Plovdiv, Bishop Paisius travelled around the bishopric and to the surprise of the Bulgarian population, collected bishop taxes which were less than the conventional ones, leaving part of the same revenues to municipalities. During his service in Plovdiv, he did not oppose liturgies in Bulgarian and made personal donations to individual Bulgarian schools. In 1859, he promoted Bulgarian Apostle of Freedom Vasil Levski to hierodeacon.

At that time, Plovdiv and Plovdiv bishopric played an important role in the ecclesiastical-national struggle of the Bulgarians against the Greek clergy. Precisely in "St. Mary's" church on December 25, 1859 Paisius and the chief priest of the church, Zlatan, said mass on the day of the Nativity in Church-Slavonic and not in Greek. This was the first major achievement of the Bulgarians in the struggle for independence of the church in the city. Later, in 1861, in the same church it was officially declared that the city and the bishopric did not recognize the authority of the Patriarch. Bishop Paisius protected the right of Bulgarian people for church independence as their bishop and therefore renounced the Patriarchate of Constantinople, and took the side of the Bulgarians in their struggle for gaining national church independence. For this reason, in the same year, he was sent into exile by the patriarchate of Mount Athos to Asia Minor until 1868.

During the exile of Bishop Paisius of Plovdiv, he remained undisputed Metropolitan of Plovdiv, who was recognized by the entire bishopric. The diocesan council also decided not to recognize another bishop sent by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, since this would have meant recognizing the patriarchal power over Plovdiv bishopric and proceeding with the vow of separation from the Patriarchate.

After Bishop Paisius returned from exile, he became an active participant in the struggle for church independence of the Bulgarians and was included in the Temporary Exarchate Council in 1870. At the first ecclesiastical-national council in Constantinople in 1871 he declared: "Plovdiv bishopric never ceased to comfort and support me... I have fought for justice and will never stop fighting; I will not give up the clergy and people." He was one of the nominees for the Exarch (local church head) in the recently-won Bulgarian Exarchate (self-ruling diocese), but died in May of 1871 during the establishment of the Exarchate. According to Prof. Nikolay Genchev, "Since he took the side of the Bulgarians, Bishop Paisius had to bear his cross and prove that his life was a deeply thought- position which left his name in Bulgarian national history and in the history of the Bulgarian church forever."

**PRAYERS are requested for:**

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jacquelyn, friend of Dan and Jake Krupko who has been diagnosed with heart problems.

Nell Janik and her husband, George.

**CONGRATULATIONS:**

To TJ Cotterman on his graduation from Kent State University, School of Nursing.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

There will be no coffee hour this Sunday. Happy Mother's Day to all, enjoy a blessed day with your families!!!

We need coffee hour hosts. No one has signed up for May 18 – please see Cathy or Tom Baier

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance  
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