

**St. Nikolai 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)**

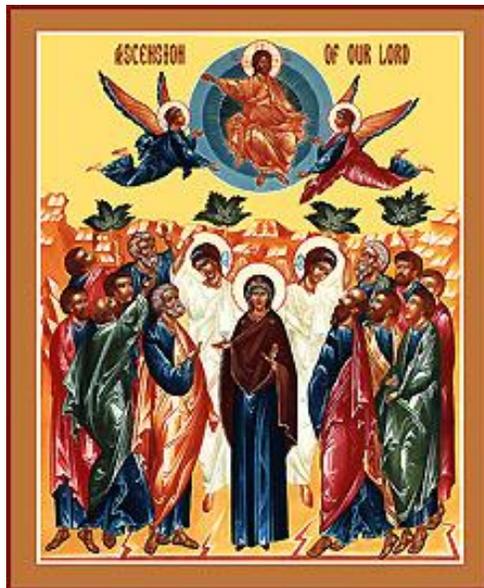
**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
May 24, 2015 Sunday after Ascension**

**Sunday of the Fathers of the first Ecumenical Council**

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

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

*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.*



### ***The First Antiphon***

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

For the Lord, the Most High is terrible; a great God over all the earth.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

He subdued peoples under us, and nations under our feet.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

### ***The Second Antiphon***

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God.

**Refrain:** O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

Mount Zion in the far north, is the city of the Great King.

**Refrain:** O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

Within her citadels God is known when He defends her.

**Refrain:** O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

For lo, the kings assembled; they came on together.

**Refrain:** O Son of God, Who ascended in glory, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Only-begotten Son

### ***The Third Antiphon***

Hear this, all peoples! Give ear, all inhabitants of the world!  
The earth-born and the sons of men, rich and poor together.  
My mouth shall speak wisdom; the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.  
I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will solve my riddle in psalmody.

#### ***Tone 4 Troparion***

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God,  
granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured  
that You are the Son of God, //  
the Redeemer of the world.

#### ***Entrance Verse***

God has gone up with a shout; the Lord with the sound of a trumpet!

#### **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 captive hell, // not being tempted by it. You  
came to the Virgin, granting life. // O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

#### **Tone 4                      Troparion      *(Ascension)***

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, granting joy to Your Disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.  
Through the blessing, they were assured, that You are the Son of God, // the Redeemer of the world!

#### **Tone 8                      Troparion      *(Fathers)***

You are most glorious, O Christ our God! You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.  
Through them You have guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

**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 8            Kontakion            (Fathers)**

The Apostles' preaching and the Fathers' doctrines have established one Faith for the Church. Adorned with the robe of truth, woven from heavenly theology, // It defines and glorifies the great mystery of piety.

**Tone 6            Kontakion            (Ascension)**

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united earth to heaven,  
You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love You,  
but remaining with them and crying: // "I am with you, and there is no one against you!"

**Epistle:** Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

**Tone 4            Prokeimenon**

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever!  
*v: For You are just in all that You have done for us!*

**Tone 1            Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*v: The Lord, the God of gods, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
v: Gather to Me, My venerable ones, who made a covenant with Me by sacrifice!*

**Gospel:** John 17:1-13

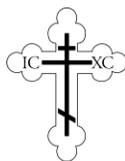
**(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)**

Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of Life, Who has ascended from earth to heaven!  
We magnify you, the Mother of God, who beyond reason and understanding gave birth in time to the Timeless One.

**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!

**(Instead of "We have seen the True Light," we sing the Troparion of Ascension)**



**On the seventh Sunday of Pascha, we commemorate the holy God-bearing Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council.**

The Commemoration of the First Ecumenical Council has been celebrated by the Church of Christ from ancient times. The Lord Jesus Christ left the Church a great promise, "I will build My Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Mt. 16:18). Although the Church of Christ on earth will pass through difficult struggles with the Enemy of salvation, it will emerge victorious. The holy martyrs bore witness to the truth of the Savior's words, enduring suffering and death for confessing Christ, but the persecutor's sword is shattered by the Cross of Christ.

Persecution of Christians ceased during the fourth century, but heresies arose within the Church itself. One of the most harmful of these heresies was Arianism. Arius, a priest of Alexandria, was a man of immense pride and ambition. In denying the divine nature of Jesus Christ and His equality with God the Father, Arius

falsely taught that the Savior is not consubstantial (one in essence) with the Father, but is only a created being.

A local Council, convened with Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria presiding, condemned the false teachings of Arius. However, Arius would not submit to the authority of the Church. He wrote to many bishops, denouncing the decrees of the local Council. He spread his false teaching throughout the East, receiving support from certain Eastern bishops.

Investigating these dissensions, the holy emperor Constantine (May 21) consulted Bishop Hosius of Cordova (Aug. 27), who assured him that the heresy of Arius was directed against the most fundamental dogma of Christ's Church, and so he decided to convene an Ecumenical Council. In 325, 318 bishops representing Christian Churches from various lands gathered together at Nicea.

Among the assembled bishops were many confessors who had suffered during the persecutions, and who bore the marks of torture upon their bodies. Also participating in the Council were several great luminaries of the Church: St Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia (December 6 and May 9), St Spyridon, Bishop of Tremithos (December 12), and others venerated by the Church as holy Fathers.

With Patriarch Alexander of Alexandria came his deacon, Athanasius (who later became Patriarch of Alexandria (May 2 and January 18). He is called "the Great," for he was a zealous champion for the purity of Orthodoxy. In the Sixth Ode of the Canon for today's Feast, he is referred to as "the thirteenth Apostle." The emperor Constantine presided over the sessions of the Council. In his speech, responding to the welcome by Bishop Eusebius of Caesarea, he said, ***"God has helped me cast down the impious might of the persecutors, but more distressful for me than any blood spilled in battle is for a soldier, is the internal strife in the Church of God, for it is more ruinous."***

Arius, with seventeen bishops among his supporters, remained arrogant, but his teaching was repudiated and he was excommunicated from the Church. In his speech, the holy deacon Athanasius conclusively refuted the blasphemous opinions of Arius. The heretic Arius is depicted in iconography sitting on Satan's knees, or in the mouth of the Beast of the Deep (Rev. 13).

The Fathers of the Council declined to accept a flawed statement of faith proposed by the Arians. Instead, they affirmed the Orthodox Symbol of Faith (Creed). St Constantine asked the Council to insert into the text of the Symbol of Faith the word "consubstantial," which he had heard in the speeches of the bishops. The Fathers of the Council unanimously accepted this suggestion.

In the Nicene Creed, the holy Fathers set forth and confirmed the Apostolic teachings about Christ's divine nature. The heresy of Arius was exposed and repudiated as an error of self-aggrandizing reason. After resolving this chief dogmatic question, the Council also issued Twelve Canons on questions of churchly administration and discipline. Also decided was the date for the celebration of Holy Pascha. By decision of the Council, Holy Pascha should not be celebrated by Christians on the same day with the Jewish Passover, but on the first Sunday after the first full moon of the vernal equinox (which occurred on March 22 in 325).

---

**DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.**

## **PRAYERS requested**

### **For The Health and Salvation of:**

Mother Ana  
Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)  
Stefanie Waseman  
Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)  
The Knoll Family  
Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)  
Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)

### **For The Repose of the Souls of:**

+Violet Jokola (mother of Fr. Joe's Kum Nick)  
Archimandrite +Roman Braga  
+Helen Shaheen (St. George Antiochian Church)  
+Sally Michael (St. George Antiochian Church)

Our heartfelt condolences to Dan Ralich and family on the passing from this life, this past Wednesday, of his father +George. May his memory be eternal! And may the Lord strengthen and comfort his loved ones.

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

## **ADULT EDUCATION:**

The study group is taking a short break. Announcements for future meetings will be announced.

## **COFFEE HOUR:**

|        |                               |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| May 3  | Jaga Radosevic                |
| May 10 | Gresh Family                  |
| May 17 | Georgie and Corbin Washington |
| May 24 | Helen Blebea                  |
| May 31 | 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.

## **BUILDING PROJECT:**

By the grace of God and with the sacrificial donations of many, phase one of construction for our chapel began Bright Week. Equipment moved in and construction officially began on Tuesday, April 14. We are still in need of additional funding for the general building project. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution to the building fund, please see Father Joe or Deacon James.

May the Lord bless all our endeavors to glorify His Holy Name and bring others to the fullness of the truth.

## **CHOIR PRACTICES:**

Choir Practice will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Gresh Home. Please see Heidi for details. The next practice will be Wednesday, June 3.

## **CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITY:**

The Krupko Family and Friends will be participating in a 50 mile Bike Ride to benefit those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis. The ride will be Saturday, June 20, 2015. Proceeds benefit Multiple Sclerosis research as well as assisting families with financial assistance, emotional support, therapy and equipment. Northeast Ohio is a "Hot Spot" for Multiple Sclerosis and has a larger than usual population of people afflicted with this debilitating. If you would like to make a donation and support our bike team, please check with Cathy, Amy or Allison.



**ST. NIKOLAI ORTHODOX MISSION  
HARTVILLE FLEA MARKET  
Rummage Sale**

**May 23 and May 25  
7:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAN THE TABLES SATURDAY AND MONDAY  
ALL DAY.**

Please call Georgie at 330-635-1715

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance  
P.O. Box 193  
Maximo, Ohio 44650  
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633  
email: [stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com](mailto:stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com)  
website: [www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com](http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com)