

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission, Divine Liturgy, 9:30**  
**Saturday Vespers, 5 pm. (4 pm. Beginning November 7)**  
**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)**  
**November 1, 2015: 22nd Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Wonderworkers and**  
**Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian**

**Mission Website** <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>  
**Facebook page:** [www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMissionOfAlliance](http://www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMissionOfAlliance)

*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 5            Troparion            (Resurrection)**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead // by His glorious Resurrection.

**Tone 8            Troparion            (Saints Cosmas and Damian)**

Holy Unmercenaries and Wonderworkers, Cosmas and Damian, heal our Infirmities! // Freely you have received; freely you give to us. on high!"

**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. Hierarchy Father Nikolai, entreat Christ our God that our souls may be saved!

**Tone 5            Kontakion            (Resurrection)**

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, // and we cry to You: “O Lord, save us!”

**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:**            Galatians 6:11-18

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

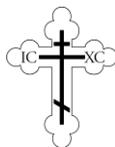
v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

**Gospel:**            Luke 8:26-39

**Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



**Spiritual writings of St. Nikolai Velimirovich: Bless My Enemies O Lord**

Enemies have driven me into your embrace more than friends have.

Friends have bound me to earth, enemies have loosed me from earth and have demolished all my aspirations in the world.

Enemies have made me a stranger in worldly realms and an extraneous inhabitant of the world. Just as a hunted animal finds safer shelter than an un hunted animal does, so have I, persecuted by enemies, found the safest sanctuary, having ensconced myself beneath your tabernacle, where neither friends nor enemies can slay my soul.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

They, rather than I, have confessed my sins before the world.

They have punished me, whenever I have hesitated to punish myself.

They have tormented me, whenever I have tried to flee torments.

They have scolded me, whenever I have flattered myself.

They have spat upon me, whenever I have filled myself with arrogance.

Bless my enemies, O Lord, Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Whenever I have made myself wise, they have called me foolish.

Whenever I have made myself mighty, they have mocked me as though I were a dwarf.

Whenever I have wanted to lead people, they have shoved me into the background.

Whenever I have rushed to enrich myself, they have prevented me with an iron hand.

Whenever I thought that I would sleep peacefully, they have wakened me from sleep.

Whenever I have tried to build a home for a long and tranquil life, they have demolished it and driven me out.

Truly, enemies have cut me loose from the world and have stretched out my hands to the hem of your garment.

Bless my enemies, O Lord. Even I bless them and do not curse them.

Bless them and multiply them; multiply them and make them even more bitterly against me:

so that my fleeing to You may have no return;

so that all hope in men may be scattered like cobwebs;

so that absolute serenity may begin to reign in my soul;

so that my heart may become the grave of my two evil twins, arrogance and anger;

so that I might amass all my treasure in heaven;

ah, so that I may for once be freed from self-deception, which has entangled me in the dreadful web of illusory life.

Enemies have taught me to know what hardly anyone knows, that a person has no enemies in the world except himself.

One hates his enemies only when he fails to realize that they are not enemies, but cruel friends.

It is truly difficult for me to say who has done me more good and who has done me more evil in the world: friends or enemies.

Therefore bless, O Lord, both my friends and enemies.

A slave curses enemies, for he does not understand. But a son blesses them, for he understands.

For a son knows that his enemies cannot touch his life.

Therefore he freely steps among them and prays to God for them.

***The Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenary Physicians Cosmas and Damian*** and their mother St Theodota were natives of Asia Minor (some sources say Mesopotamia). Their pagan father died while they were still quite small children. Their mother raised them in Christian piety. Through her own example, and by reading holy books to them, St Theodota preserved her children in purity of life according to the command of the Lord, and Cosmas and Damian grew up into righteous and virtuous men.

Trained and skilled as physicians, they received from the Holy Spirit the gift of healing people's illnesses of body and soul by the power of prayer. They even treated animals. With fervent love for both God and neighbor, they never took payment for their services. They strictly observed the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Freely have you received, freely give." (Mt. 10:8). The fame of Sts Cosmas and Damian spread throughout all the surrounding region, and people called them unmercenary physicians.

Once, the saints were summoned to a grievously ill woman named Palladia, whom all the doctors had refused to treat because of her seemingly hopeless condition. Through faith and through the fervent prayer of the holy brothers, the Lord healed the deadly disease and Palladia got up from her bed perfectly healthy and giving praise to God. In gratitude for being healed and wishing to give them a small gift, Palladia went quietly to Damian. She presented him with three eggs and said, "Take this small gift in the Name of the Holy Life-Creating Trinity, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Hearing the Name of the Holy Trinity, the unmercenary one did not dare to refuse.

When St Cosmas learned what had happened, became very sad, for he thought that his brother had broken their strict vow. On his deathbed he gave instructions that his brother should not be buried beside him. St Damian also died shortly afterward, and everyone wondered where St Damian's grave should be. But through the will of God a miracle occurred. A camel, which the saints had treated for its wildness, spoke with a human voice saying that they should have no doubts about whether to place Damian beside Cosmas, because Damian did not accept the eggs from the woman as payment, but out of respect for the Name of God. The venerable relics of the holy brothers were buried together at Thereman (Mesopotamia).

Many miracles were worked after the death of the holy unmercenaries. There lived at Thereman, near the church of Cosmas and Damian, a certain man by the name of Malchus. One day he went on a journey, leaving his wife all alone for what would be a long time. He prayerfully entrusted her to the heavenly protection of the holy brothers. But the Enemy of the race of mankind took on the appearance of one of Malchus' friends, and planned to kill the woman. A certain time went by, and this man went to her at home and said that Malchus had sent him to bring her to him. The woman believed him and went along. He led her to a solitary place intending to kill her. The woman, seeing that disaster threatened her, called upon God with deep faith.

Two fiercesome men then appeared, and the devil let go of the woman and fled, falling off a cliff. The two men led the woman home. At her own home, bowing to them deeply she asked, " My rescuers, to whom I shall be grateful to the end of my days, what are your names?"

They replied, "We are the servants of Christ, Cosmas and Damian," and became invisible. The woman with trembling and with joy told everyone about what had happened to her. Glorifying God, she went up to the icon of the holy brothers and tearfully offered prayers of thanksgiving for her deliverance. And from that time the holy brothers were venerated as protectors of the holiness and inviolability of Christian marriage, and as givers of harmony to conjugal life. From ancient times, their veneration spread also to Russia.

The Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Asia Minor should not be confused with the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Rome (July 1), or the Unmercenary Saints Cosmas and Damian of Arabia (October 17).

---

## **DON'T FORGET TO TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR SATURDAY EVENING/SUNDAY MORNING!!**

### **PRAYERS requested**

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

Doreen Wishnok  
Stefanie Waseman  
The Knoll Family  
Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)  
Roland Augspurger  
Leslie and Tim Kocevar  
Joan Downey  
Beth Plocher  
Susan Smith Miller (Heidi' Gresh's sister)  
Brenda Grey  
Barbara Eline  
Janice Raber  
Wally and Debby Borojevich and family  
Jennifer White  
Julian Farian (Corbin and Georgie's Grandson)  
Georgie Washington  
Renee Young  
Mother Ana

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

Archpriest +Vasilije Sokolovich  
Archpriest +Rastko Trbuhovich

+ Walter Borojevich (Walley's father)  
+ Robert White (Friend of Kate White)  
+Bruce Abraham

**SATURDAY VESPERS:**

Vespers will be held Saturday evening, October 31 at 5pm  
Beginning November 7, Vespers will be held every Saturday at 4 pm until the clocks move forward in the Spring.

**ADULT EDUCATION:**

Book study/Christian Education will follow the vespers service and take place in the fellowship area at the church.

**CHOIR PRACTICE:**

Choir practice will take a 2 week break and resume on the first 3 Tuesdays of November and the first 3 Tuesdays of December to prepare for our Christmas services. We will have our practices at the church on these Tuesdays at 7 pm. The choir dates are November 3, 10, 17 and December 1, 8, 15.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

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!!!!**

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS :**

Wally Borojevich – 4th  
Matt Catania – 4th  
Cathy Krupko – 4th  
Father Joe – 5th  
Dan Ralich – 6th  
Helen (Mimi) Blebea – 10th  
Dr, John Blebea –12th  
Tom Krupko – 21st

**NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES :**

Josh and Kate White -18th

The missing crystal and silver serving plates that were missing have mysteriously returned.  
Thank you to whoever returned them!

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church  
P.O. Box 193  
Maximo, Ohio 44650