

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance in conjunction with Orthodox Campus Fellowship,
University of Mt. 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)

Mission Phone # 330 768-7633

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

October 26, 2014

20th Sunday after Pentecost/Holy and Glorious Great Martyr Demetrius of Thessalonica



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 3 Troparion (Great Martyr Demetrius)

The world has found you to be a great defense against tribulation
and a vanquisher of heathens, O Passion-bearer.
As you bolstered the courage of Nestor,
who then humbled the arrogance of Lyaïos in battle,//
Holy Demetrius, entreat Christ God to grant us great mercy.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Resurrection)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,
leading us from the gates of death.
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Tone 2 Kontakion (Great Martyr Demetrius)

God, Who has given you invincible might,
has tinged the Church with streams of your blood, Demetrius.
He preserves your city from harm,//for you are its foundation.

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Tone 7 Prokeimenon (Great Martyr Demetrius)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord, and shall hope in Him.

Epistles: Galatians 1:11-19 (20th Sunday A.P.); 2 Timothy 2:1-10 (St. Demetrius)

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: O God, You have cast us off, You have scattered us.

v: You have made the earth to tremble, You have broken it; heal its breaches, for it has been shaken!

v: The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Gospels: Luke 16:19-31 (20th Sunday A.P.); John 15:17-16:2 (St. Demetrius)

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!



The Great Martyr Demetrius the Myrrh-gusher of Thessalonica was the son of a Roman proconsul in Thessalonica. Three centuries had elapsed and Roman paganism, spiritually shattered and defeated by the multitude of martyrs and confessors of the Savior, intensified its persecutions. The parents of St Demetrius were secretly Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home,

By the time Demetrius had reached maturity and his father had died, the emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrius' education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessalonica district. The main tasks of this young commander were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply, "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrius he had provided a way for him to lead many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrius returned to Thessalonica and immediately confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the city and to overthrow pagan customs and idolatry. The compiler of his Life, St Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessalonica, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" once founded at this city the first community of believers (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined St Demetrius to follow the holy Apostle Paul as a martyr. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to

Christianity, the rage of the emperor know no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the Black Sea region, the emperor decided to lead his army through Thessalonica, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, St Demetrius ordered his faithful servant Lupus to distribute his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

When the emperor came into the city, he summoned Demetrius, who boldly confessed himself a Christian and denounced the falsehood and futility of Roman polytheism. Maximian gave orders to lock up the confessor in prison. An angel appeared to him, comforting and encouraging him.

Meanwhile the emperor amused himself by staging games in the circus. His champion was a German by the name of Lyaeos. He challenged Christians to wrestle with him on a platform built over the upturned spears of the victorious soldiers. A brave Christian named Nestor went to the prison to his advisor Demetrius and requested a blessing to fight the barbarian. With the blessing and prayers of Demetrius, Nestor prevailed over the fierce German and hurled him from the platform onto the spears of the soldiers, just as the murderous pagan would have done with the Christian. The enraged commander ordered the execution of the holy Martyr Nestor (October 27) and sent a guard to the prison to kill St Demetrius.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, St Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of St Demetrius, and he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctified by the blood of St Demetrius, St Lupus began to heal the infirm. The emperor issued orders to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrius was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of St Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of St Demetrius. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrius, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher."

Several times, those venerating the holy wonderworker tried to bring his holy relics, or a part of them, to Constantinople. Invariably, St Demetrius made it clear that he would not permit anyone to remove even a portion of his relics.

It is interesting that among the barbarians threatening the Romans, Slavs occupied an important place, in particular those settling upon the Thessalonian peninsula. Some even believe that the parents of St Demetrius were of Slavic descent. While advancing towards the city, pagan Slavs were repeatedly turned away by the apparition of a threatening radiant youth, going around on the walls and inspiring terror in the enemy soldiers. Perhaps this is why the name of St Demetrius was particularly venerated among the Slavic nations after they were enlightened by the Gospel.

St Demetrius is regarded as a protector of the young, and is also invoked by those struggling with lustful temptations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jim (Cousin of Fr. David)

George Borojevich (brother of Wally and Debby)

Ava Cooper (infant who is undergoing surgery for heart defects)

Mother Ana

Nanci Stradley (Pancreatic Cancer)

Dawn Shaheen

Sharon Budd (Teacher from Perry, injured when rock thrown from overpass)

Patricia Kosivich, friend of and helper to Mother Ana

Father Joe Cervo

Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)

George Ralich, (Dan's father who is in Cleveland Clinic following emergency surgery)

Katie (Granddaughter of Father Stevo Rocknage, St. Sava Church in McKeesport, who is battling a rare genetic disease)

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+D-Na Cracium (Friend of Corbin and Georgie Washington)

+Mark Bolan

+ Sara (cousin of Father Joe, who just died from cancer)

+Sylvia (Kumovi of Father Joe)

COFFEE HOUR:

Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 26 is being provided by the Gresh Family. Thank you!!!

November 2 - The Krupko and Catania Families

November 9 - Dan Ralich

November 16 -

November 23 - Wally and Debby Borojevich

November 30 - The Gresh Family

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to sign up for Coffee Hour. November 16 and December 28 are the only dates to fill for 2014! 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:

We are finalizing plans to 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 at the Gresh Home on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Please join us.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS:

Tom Krupko - 27th

Amy Catania - 30th

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance

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