

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

Temporarily at 8277 N Nickel Plate St., Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday October 8th
18th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 1)

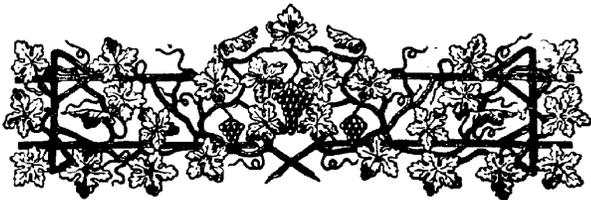
His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER
Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447
Protodeacon James Gresh, Attached

Upcoming Services:

Sat. Oct. 7th -Hartville Flea Market-Benefit Sale
Sat. Oct. 7th - Union UMC - Vespers, 5pm
Sun. Oct. 8th - St. Mary's - Liturgy, 11am
Wed., Oct. 4th -Blebea's - Bible Study, 6pm
Wed., Oct. 11th - Blebea's - Parish Council, 7pm

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxchurch.org
Or Like us on FaceBook



Welcome!

The entire parish family of St. Nikolai Orthodox Church welcomes you today! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and the people of our parish. We hope that you can stay for coffee hour after the service.

Please note that we invite all Baptized members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion, provided that they have refrained from food and drink since midnight, and prepared themselves through prayer and recent confession.

If you are joining us today but have not been baptized in the Orthodox Church we welcome you but kindly ask you to refrain from approaching for Holy Communion. Please feel free to approach to kiss the cross at the end of the service and to take a piece of blessed bread as a token of our love. We pray that soon all people would find their true home in the Orthodox Church so that we might, together, share in Holy Communion of Christ's undivided Body.

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews/ while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body/ Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world./ The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:/ "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!/ Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O thou who lovest of mankind!"

Troparion for the Venerable Pelagia - Tone 8

The image of God was truly preserved in thee, O Mother, for thou didst take up the Cross and follow Christ./ By so doing thou didst teach us to disregard the flesh for it passes away/ but to care instead for the soul, since it is immortal!// Therefore thy spirit, venerable Pelagía, rejoices with the angels.

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 1

As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory/ raising the world with Thyself./ Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has vanished. Adam exults, O Master!/ Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to Thee:// "Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!"

Kontakion for the Venerable Pelagia - Tone 2

Thou didst wear out thy body through fasting, vigils, and prayer,/ beseeching the Creator to forgive thy deeds completely./ Thou didst achieve this, O holy Mother Pelagia,// thereby showing up the way to repentance.

Prokeimenon of the Resurrection - Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on Thee!

v: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous! Praise befits the just! (Ps 32/33:1)

The Alleluia - Tone 1

v: God gives vengeance unto me, and subdues people under me.

v: He magnifies the salvation of the King and deals mercifully with David, His anointed, and his seed forever.

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (II Cor. 9:6-11)

But this I say: "He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever." Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God.

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke (7:11-16)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

The Sunday Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Our Holy Mother, Pelagia

A repentant sinner, she was born a pagan in Antioch and endowed by God with great physical beauty, but she used this beauty to destroy her own soul and those of others, acquiring great wealth from her prostitution. One day, walking past the church of the holy martyr Julian, where Bishop Nonnus was preaching, she turned into the church and listened to the sermon, which was about the Dreadful Judgement and the punishment of sinners. These words so shook her, and wrought so great a change in her, that she was of a sudden filled with self-loathing and fear of God, and, repenting of all her filthy sins, fell down before St Nonnus, begging him to baptize her: 'Holy father, be merciful to me, a sinner; baptize me, and teach me repentance. I am a sea of iniquity, an abyss of destruction, a net and weapon of the devil.' Thus this penitent implored Christ's hierarch with tears. And he baptized her. Blessed Romana, a deaconess of that church, stood sponsor to her at her baptism and, after that, as her spiritual mother, grounded her well in the Christian faith. But Pelagia was not content just to be baptized. Feeling the weight of her many sins and the pricking of her conscience, she decided on a great asceticism. She gave away to the poor the enormous wealth she had amassed by her immorality and went secretly to Jerusalem, where, under a man's name as the monk Pelagius, she shut herself in a cell on the Mount of Olives and there began a strict asceticism of fasting, prayer and vigils. Three years later, St Nonnus's deacon, James, visited her and found her still alive, but when he went to her again a few days later, he found her dead body and gave it burial. St Pelagia entered into rest in about 461. Thus that sometime great sinner, by repentance and striving, received the mercy of God, the forgiveness of her sins and sanctification, and her purified and sanctified soul was made worthy of the Kingdom of God.

Our Holy Mother, Thais

A repentant sinner, she was an Egyptian by birth. Like St Pelagia, Thais spent her youth in prostitution being set on the way of evil living by her shameless mother. But God the merciful, who desires not that sinners should perish but that they should be saved, found a way in His wonderful providence to save the sinful Thais. One of the disciples of St Antony the Great, Paphnutius the Sindonite, heard of Thais, of her sinful life and the spiritual poison with which she was poisoning the souls of many, and he decided, with God's help, to save her. Holy Paphnutius, therefore, dressed himself in ordinary clothes, took a gold piece and went to the town. He found Thais and gave her the coin. Thais, thinking that the man had given her the gold piece with evil intent, took Paphnutius off to her room. Then Paphnutius opened his blessed lips and denounced Thais sin, calling her to repentance. Thais soul and conscience were roused, and she gave herself to tears of heartfelt repentance. Giving away all her goods to the needy, she went to a monastery of virgins, near to Paphnutius's hermitage, and stayed there for about three years, shut in a cell and living only on bread and water. Just before her death, St Paphnutius visited her, and made her leave her cell against her will. She quickly fell ill and, after a short illness, gave her purified and sanctified soul to God. St Paul the Simple, another disciple of St Antony, saw in a vision in Paradise a most beautiful dwelling prepared for the penitent Thais. This holy soul entered into rest in about 340.

From the Prologue, by St. Nikolai of Zicha and South Canaan



A Reflection of St. Nikolai for Today

Oh, if only we would invest as much effort in our souls as we invest in our bodies! Oh, if only we could become as desirous of adorning ourselves with virtue before God and His glorious angels, as we do with the vain, transitory, external displays of appearances! At first, both Pelagia and Thais were only aware of their bodies while their souls were slaves bound in the prison of the body. Both were adorned with nothing but vanity; clothed in vanity; arrayed with vanity, surrounded by vanity, and flattered by vanity. But what a sudden change! What a divine turn of events in their lives! More wondrous than if a wild apple were to be grafted and begin to bring forth sweet fruits; or if a turgid, fetid swamp were suddenly to become clear, pure water. But when Bishop Nonnus first saw the sinner Pelagia in her in her outward splendour—clothed in the most expensive garments, adorned and bedecked with rings, necklaces, perfumed and surrounded by slaves—Bishop Nonnus began to weep, and said to his companions, “In truth, I have learned much from this woman. The Lord will set her before His Dread Judgement and will rebuke us through her. How many hours does this woman spend in her room bathing herself, clothing herself, adorning herself, and looking at herself in the mirror—and for what? Only to appear more beautiful to men. And we, who have the immortal Bridegroom in heaven, do not strive to adorn our souls with repentance; we do not hasten to bathe them with the tears of repentance and clothe them in the beauty of virtues, that they might appear more beautiful before the eyes of God!”

Special Announcements:

We have been graciously offered the use of Union Ave. United Methodist on the campus of Mount Union University for our Saturday Vespers (5pm). Beginning in November, we will begin our Fall Lecture Series: Lectures and Discussion on themes related to the interaction between Orthodox Christianity and other faith traditions. A great event to invite your friends!

Parish Council will meet immediately after Bible Study, October 11th

Please mark your calendars for October 15th. We will join our bishop, His Eminence ALEXANDER, at St. Elias' in Akron for Divine Liturgy and an opportunity to seek his council regarding our community.

**Today we are especially praying for
*the Health and Salvation of:***

Richard R.
Fr. Joseph
Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.
Valentina
Josh W.
The Minnick Family
Kathy Jo, Michael
Kelli
Liz and Carla
Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki
Larissa
Steve and Sandy
Anthony
Joan
Slavco
Anthony
Thomas
Mat. Rebecca
Thomas
Marsha
Jackie
Dorothy
Matthew

For The Departed Soul of:

+Daniel