

**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)

September 20, 2015: 16th Sunday after Pentecost/ Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross/ Sunday after the Elevation/ Greatmartyr Eustathius Placidus, his family

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

Facebook page: 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 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.



Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy. And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

Tone 1 Troparion (Elevation of the Cross)

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!
Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries;
and by virtue of Your Cross, // preserve Your habitation!

Tone 4 Troparion (for Greatmartyr Eustathius)

Your holy martyr Eustáthius and his wife and sons, O Lord, through their sufferings have received incorruptible crowns from You, our God.
For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries, and shattered the powerless boldness of demons. // Through their intercessions, save 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 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive, for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry:

“The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!”

Tone 4 Kontakion (Elevation of the Cross)

As You were voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Your Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by your power, granting them victories over their adversaries // by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Your weapon of peace!

Tone 7 Prokeimenon

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!
v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

Epistle: Galatians 2:16-20 (Sunday after Elevation)

Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. Remember Your congregation, which You have purchased of old!

v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

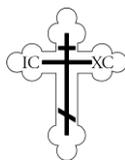
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1 (Sunday after Elevation)

(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:) Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!
You are a mystical Paradise, O Theotokos,
who, though untilled, have brought forth Christ;
through Him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth.
Now at its Elevation,
as we bow in worship before it, we magnify you.

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
The light of Your countenance has shone on us, O Lord.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Holy Great Martyr Eustathius was named Placidus before his Baptism. He was a military commander under the emperors Titus (79-81) and Trajan (98-117). Even before he came to know Christ, Placidus performed acts of charity, helping the poor and destitute. Therefore, the Lord did not leave the virtuous pagan remain in the darkness of idolatry. Once while hunting in

a forest, he saw a stag which would stop now and then to look him right in the eye. Placidus pursued it on horseback, but could not catch up. The stag leaped over a chasm and stood on the other side facing him. Placidus suddenly saw a radiant Cross between its antlers. In surprise the military commander heard a voice coming from the Cross saying, "Why do you pursue Me, Placidus?" "Who are You, Master?" asked Placidus. The Voice replied, "I am Jesus Christ, Whom you do not know, yet you honor Me by your good deeds. I have appeared here on this creature for your sake, to capture you in the net of My love for mankind. It is not fitting that one as righteous as you should worship idols and not know the truth. It was to save mankind that I came into the world."

Placidus cried out, "Lord, I believe that You are the God of Heaven and earth, the Creator of all things. Master, teach me what I should do." Again the Lord replied, "Go to the bishop of your country and receive Baptism from him, and he will instruct you." Placidus returned home and joyfully recounted everything to his wife Tatiana. She in turn told him how the evening before, in a mysterious dream, she had been told, "Tomorrow you, your husband and your sons shall come to Me and know that I am the true God. The spouses then proceeded to do as they had been bidden. They hastened to the Christian bishop, who baptized all their family, and communed them with the Holy Mysteries. Placidus was renamed Eustathius, his wife was called Theopiste, and their children, Agapius and Theopistus. On the following day, St Eustathius set out to the place of his miraculous conversion and in fervent prayer he offered up thanks to the Lord for having called him onto the path of salvation. Again St Eustathius received a miraculous revelation. The Lord Himself foretold his impending tribulations: "Eustathius, you shall suffer many misfortunes, as did Job, but in the end you will conquer the devil." Soon St Eustathius was plunged into misfortune: all his servants died of the plague and his cattle perished. Brought to ruin, but not despairing in spirit, St Eustathius and his family secretly abandoned their home, to live unknown, humble and in poverty. They went to Egypt to board a ship sailing for Jerusalem. During the voyage a new woe beset the saint. The ship owner, enchanted by Theopiste's beauty, cruelly set Eustathius and his children ashore, keeping the wife for himself. In great sorrow the saint continued on his way, and new woe beset him. Coming to a tempestuous river, he went to carry his two sons across in turn. When he had brought one across, the other was seized by a lion and carried off into the wilderness. As he turned back towards the other, a wolf dragged that child into the forest. Having lost everything, St Eustathius wept bitterly, but he realized that Divine Providence had sent him these misfortunes to test his endurance and devotion to God. In his inconsolable grief, St Eustathius went on farther, prepared for new tribulations. In the village of Badessos he found work and spent five years in unremitting toil. St Eustathius did not know then that through the mercy of God, shepherds and farmers had saved his sons, and they lived right near him. He also did not know that the impudent shipowner had been struck down with a terrible disease and died, leaving St Theopiste untouched. She lived in peace and freedom at the place where the ship landed. During this time it had become difficult for the emperor Trajan to raise an army for Rome to deal with a rebellion, for the soldiers would not go into battle without their commander Placidus. They advised Trajan to send men out to all the cities to look for him. Antiochus and Acacius, friends of Placidus, sought him in various places. Finally, they arrived in the village where St Eustathius lived. The soldiers found Eustathius, but they did not recognize him and they began to tell him of the one whom they sought, asking his help and promising a large reward. St Eustathius, immediately recognized his friends, but did not reveal his identity to them. He borrowed money from one of his friends and fed the visitors. As they looked at him, the travellers noted that he resembled their former commander. When they saw a scar on his shoulder from a deep sword-wound, they realized that it was their friend there before them. They embraced him with tears and told him why they were seeking him. St Eustathius returned to Rome with them and again became a general. Many new recruits were drafted into the army from all over the empire. He did not know that two young soldiers who served him, and whom he loved for their skill and daring, were actually his own sons. They did not know that they were serving under the command of their own father, nor that they were

brothers by birth. While on campaign, the army led by Eustathius halted at a certain settlement. The soldier-brothers were talking in their tent. The elder one spoke about his life, how he had lost his mother and brother, and how in a terrifying way he had been parted from his father. The younger brother then realized that before him was his very own brother, and told him how he had been rescued from the wolf. A woman overheard the soldiers' conversation, since their tent was pitched right next to her house, and this woman realized that these were her sons. Still not identifying herself to them, but not wanting to be separated from them, she went to their commander, St Eustathius, to ask him to take her to Rome with him. She said she had been a prisoner, and wanted to go home. Then she came to recognize the commander as her husband, and with tears she told him about herself and about the two soldiers who were actually their sons. Thus, through the great mercy of the Lord, the whole family was happily reunited.

Soon thereafter the rebellion was crushed, and St Eustathius returned to Rome with honor and glory. The emperor Trajan had since died, and his successor Hadrian (117-138) wanted to celebrate the event of victory with a solemn offering of sacrifice to the gods. To the astonishment of everyone, St Eustathius did not show up at the pagan temple. By order of the emperor they searched frantically for him. "Why don't you want to worship the gods?" the emperor inquired. "You, above all others, ought to offer thanks to them. They not only preserved you in war and granted you victory, but also they helped you find your wife and children." St Eustathius replied: "I am a Christian and I glorify and give thanks to Him, and I offer sacrifice to Him. I owe my life to Him. I do not know or believe in any other god than Him." In a rage, the emperor ordered him to take off his military belt and brought him and his family before him. They did not succeed in persuading the steadfast confessors of Christ to offer sacrifice to idols. The whole family of St Eustathius was sentenced to be torn apart by wild beasts, but the beasts would not touch the holy martyrs.

Then the cruel emperor gave orders to throw them all alive into a red-hot brass bull, and St Eustathius, his wife Theopiste, and their sons Agapius and Theopistus endured a martyr's death. Before being placed in the bull, St Eustathius prayed, "Grant, O Lord, Thy grace to our relics, and grant to those who call upon us a place in Thy Kingdom. Though they call upon us when they are in danger on a river or on the sea, we entreat Thee to come to their aid." Three days later, they opened the brass bull, and the bodies of the holy martyrs were found unscathed. Not one hair on their heads was singed, and their faces shone with an unearthly beauty. Many seeing this miracle came to believe in Christ. Christians then buried the bodies of the saints.

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Mother Ana
Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)
Stefanie Waseman
The Knoll Family
Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)
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)

Father Rasko (Fr. Dragan's Kum) is gravely ill and not expected to survive. Please pray for God's grace "for a peaceful ending of his life" and for God's peace upon his wife Vicki and family.

Heightened prayers are requested for Mother Anna, abbess of Monastery Marcha, Richfield Ohio. She has been diagnosed with inoperable bladder cancer. May God comfort and strengthen her in the days and months ahead.

For The Repose of the Souls of:

Donald Barnhart (Grandfather of Laura Cotterman)
Father +Louis Mahshie, of St. George Antiochian Church, Akron

The Opening of the Doors for St. Nikolai Church is approaching fast!

We are asking members and friends to please sign up to bring appetizers on Saturday, October 17 for the festivities after the service. We also need desserts for Sunday, October 18. Please see Jaga to sign up. Many thanks if you have already signed up.

Also, please let Georgie Washington (330-635-1715) know if you are planning on attending the service on Saturday and/or Sunday. She also needs to know how many family members or guests you will be bringing.

ADULT EDUCATION:

Our weekly study group at the Gresh house is meetings at 6:00 pm on Saturdays.

COFFEE HOUR:

Sept 6	Deb and Wally Borojevich
Sept 13	Krupkos, Catanias, and Jaga
Sept 20	Washingtons
Sept 27	Cervos

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!!!!

BUILDING PROJECT:

September 17, UPDATE! By the grace of God the finishing work on our chapel continues. Finishing of the floor will begin this coming Thursday. The new Cross and restored cupola were installed and blessed this past Monday on the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross. The time capsule was implanted in the floor beneath the Holy Altar Table. The lights inside and out are currently being installed. The flooring in the Altar has been installed (special thanks to Greg Rajsich for helping Father on this project).

Tom painted red (that matches the building color) the large wooden Cross that has marked the property since it's blessing 2 years ago. Work on the Icons is progressing. We will be installing some of the ceiling Icons this coming week. We are still in need of donors for the Mystical (Last) Supper and the Resurrection. We are receiving donations for the festal wall Icons, specific feast requests are on a first come basis. For those wishing to donate an Icon, please see Fr. Joe for further information.

For updated construction pictures please visit our parish website or Facebook page.

We are also still in need of additional funding for the general building fund. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution, please see Father Joe or Deacon James.

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.

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

CHOIR PRACTICES:

We are ready to begin practices! Please check with Heidi Gresh for information on times and dates.

MEMORIAL FUND FOR GEORGE RALICH:

Several people have inquired about donations to the Mission in memory of Dan's father, +George Ralich. We will set aside any donations in +George's memory to purchase an item for the church. Thank you!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Susan Varga – 1st
Deanna Dordea – 3rd
Heidi Gresh – 19th
Josh Gresh – 30th

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Matt and Amy Catania – 5th
Deacon James and Heidi Gresh -29th

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