

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

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

Sunday September 24th
16th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 7)

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., Sept. 23rd - Union UMC - Vespers, 5pm

Sun., Sept. 24th - St. Mary's - Liturgy, 11am

Wed., Sept. 27th - NO BIBLE STUDY

Sat., Sept. 30th - Union UMC - Vespers, **6pm**

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 7

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death. To the thief Thou didst open Paradise. For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy, and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God, to proclaim that Thou art risen,// granting the world great mercy..

Troparion for Saint Silouan of Athos - Tone 4

On the path of humility, / by your prayers you received Christ as your Master. / In your heart the Holy Spirit witnessed to your salvation. / Therefore all people called to live in hope rejoice and celebrate your memory! / Holy Father Silouan, pray to Christ God to save our souls.

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 7

The dominion of death can no longer hold men 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!"

Glory . . .

Kontakion for Saint Silouan of Athos - Tone 8

During your life on earth you served Christ and followed His path; / now in Heaven you contemplate Him Whom you have loved! / Since you dwell with Him as He promised to His elect, holy Father Silouan, / instruct us now in the path that you have traveled.

Now and ever . . . Steadfast Protectress . . .

Sunday Prokeimenon - Tone 7

v: The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

v: *Offer to the Lord, O ye sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord.*

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (6:1-10)

We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard You, and in the day of salvation I have helped You." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

The Alleluia in the Seventh Tone

v: *It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Thy Name, O Most High. (Ps 91/92:1)*

v: *To declare Thy mercy in the morning, and Thy truth by night.*

(Ps 91/92:2)

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Luke (5:1-11)

So it was, as the multitude pressed about Him to hear the word of God, that He stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, and saw two boats standing by the lake; but the fishermen had gone from them and were washing their nets. Then He got into one of the boats, which was Simon's, and asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the multitudes from the boat. When He had stopped speaking, He said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. So they signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!" For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." So when they had brought their boats to land, they forsook all and followed Him.

The Sunday Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps 148:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



An Excerpt from the Life of Saint Silouan of Athos

Saint Silouan (1866-1938), that citizen of the heavenly Jerusalem, was born of pious parents in the land of Russia in the village of Shovsk in the diocese of the Metropolitan of Tambov. He came into the world in the year of our Lord 1866, and from a young man was called to repentance by the All-Praised Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary.

Simeon [the Saint's baptismal name] was a normal human being. He lived a normal life full of gaiety, temptations and sin [in his youth]. He loved drinking, eating, playing concertina and showing off before girls. He had almost killed one young man, as he was showing off before the girls of the village.

One day, Simeon woke up disgusted from dreaming that a snake was crawling down his throat, and he was troubled from hearing a sweet voice saying: "Just as you find it loathsome to swallow a snake in your dream, so I find your ways ugly to look upon."...the simple minded Simeon attributed it to his unworthiness and his sins. He said: "Now I see how sorry the Lord and His Mother are for people. He attributed this to his impurity, and since then he started to repent, and his resolve to enter a monastery, once he [is] released from the army, returned with double force.

When he had reached his twenty-seventh year, he renounced the things of this life, and, with the prayers of Saint John of Kronstadt to speed him on his way, he set forth for Greece and the illustrious Holy Mountain. Here, in the cloister of the Holy Great Martyr and Physician Panteleimon, he took upon him the yoke of the monastic life.

Thus he gave himself to God with all his soul, and in a brief while he not only received the gift of unceasing prayer from the Most Holy Mother of God, but was also granted ineffably to see the living Christ in the chapel of the Holy Prophet Elijah that was next to the monastery's flour mill.

Sitting in his cell before vespers, he thought, 'God will not hear me!' He felt utterly forsaken, his soul plunged in the darkness of despondency. Sick at heart, he remained in this black hell for about an hour.

That same day, during vespers in the Church of the Holy Prophet Elijah (adjoining the mill), to the right of the Royal Doors, by the ikon of the Saviour, he beheld the living Christ.

In a manner passing all understanding the Lord appeared to the young novice whose whole being was filled with the fire of the grace of the Holy Spirit - that fire which the Lord brought down to earth with His coming.

The vision drained Simeon of all his strength, and the Lord vanished.

But this first grace was taken away, and the saint was constrained by anguish and great grief, and with God's permission for fifteen years he was given over to manifold temptations of spiritual foes, and so he followed in the footsteps of Christ, having offered up prayers and strong supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save him from death (Heb. 5:7), being taught by God through a voice from above that gave him this commandment: "Keep thy mind in hell, and despair not."

Saint Silouan was a great friend of Bishop Nikolai Velimirović (see his reflections on the following page)

He was recognized as a saint in 1987

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 on October 14th, (6pm) 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!

We will **not** have Bible Study on Wed. 9/27. Fr. Mikel will be attending our Diocese' Annual Clergy Retreat at Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, MI.

Next Saturday, September 30th, we will hold Vespers **at 6pm** (not 5pm) at Union Ave. UMC. Fr. Mikel will be returning from Rives Junction and can not make it by 5pm.

The Community of St. Nikolai will hold a Benefit Sale on October 7th, at the Hartville Flea Market from 7am-2pm. We need help collecting items, transportation, sales, etc. Please see Georgie Washington or Cathy Krupko to see how you can help.

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.
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

For The Departed Soul of:

+Daniel

Saint Nikolai on his relationship to Saint Silouan

Elder Silouan was my teacher. Once I asked him: "Father Silouan, perhaps these many people bring disturbance to your mind and your prayer? Would it not be better for you to go to a hermitage and live there in peace, or live in a remote cave like Fr. George?" Fr. Silouan responded to me: "I live in a cave. My body is a cave for my soul and my soul is a cave for the Holy Spirit. And I love the people of God and minister to them, without coming out of my cave."

Important is an other expression: "Love is higher than knowledge (epistemology)." This is the daily and fundamental teaching of St. Silouan. With his love, which was tied together with his tears in prayer, he forgave the sins of sinners, upheld the weak, corrected those who did evil works, healed the sick, and pacified the winds. In the monastery he did backbreaking work. He had the warehouse with the heavy objects.

Once I told him that the Russian monks were in great turmoil, because of the tyranny of the Bolsheviks in the Russian Church of God. He then replied: "I also in the beginning had turmoil over this issue. However, after much prayer the following thoughts came to me: the Lord loves all inexpressibly. He knows everyone's plans and the time of each. The Lord allowed the persecution of the Russian people for some future good. I cannot understand it nor stop it. I am left only with prayer and love. I say these things to the brothers who have turmoil: You can only help Russia with prayer and love. Anger and cries against the atheists will not correct things."