

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance in conjunction with Orthodox Campus Ministry
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/>

**September 7, 2014:13th Sunday after Pentecost/The Nativity of the Theotokos (*observed*)/Sunday
before the Elevation of the Cross /Martyr Sozon**



Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles:
“Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 4 Troparion (Nativity of Theotokos)

Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!
The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos.
By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing.//
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Tone 4 Troparion (Martyr Sozón)

Your holy martyr Sozón, O Lord, through his suffering has received an incorruptible crown from You, our God.
For having Your strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through his 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 4 Kontakion (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb
and delivered the earth-born from their chains.
He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

Tone 4 Kontakion (Nativity of Theotokos)

By your nativity, most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,
Adam and Eve -- from the corruption of death.
And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you://
“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

Tone 2 Kontakion (Martyr Sozón)

Let us gather today and together sing to Sozón, the true and divinely wise martyr,
an expert fighter for the faith, the mystical seer of divine grace,
a generous provider of healing, // who prays to Christ God for us all.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Tone 3 Prokeimenon (Song of the Theotokos)

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed.

Epistles: Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday before the Elevation)
 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
 Philippians 2:5-11

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. I have exalted one chosen out of My people.

v: For My hand shall defend him, and My arm shall strengthen him.

v: Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear!

v: The rich among the people shall pray before Your face.

Gospels: John 3:13-17 (Sunday before the Elevation)

 Matthew 21:33-42

 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28(Nativity of Theotokos)

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

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers;

childbearing is strange for virgins.

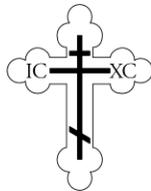
But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished./

Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify you.

Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary:

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple. Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast-days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor to her Son and a Mother to whom we offer devotion and have recourse as in a dynamic child/parent relationship.

PRAYERS are requested for:

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 (Father Joe will have a heart catheterization on Friday, September 5)

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

+Emily Waseman (with Parents and family)

+Zora Penovich (with Bob and family)

+Bertha (Friend of Jaga Radosevic)

+Proto Milan Zubenitsa (newly departed Kum of Father Dragan)

+Helen Mieloff (Friend of Jaga Radosevic)

COFFEE HOUR:

Coffee Hour Sunday, August 31 was provided by by Tom and Lana Baier. Thank you!!

Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 7 will be provided Dan Ralich.

Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 14 will be provided by The Gresh Family.

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to help.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1 – Susan Varga

19 – Heidi Gresh

30 – Josh Gresh

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

29 – Deacon James and Heidi Gresh

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