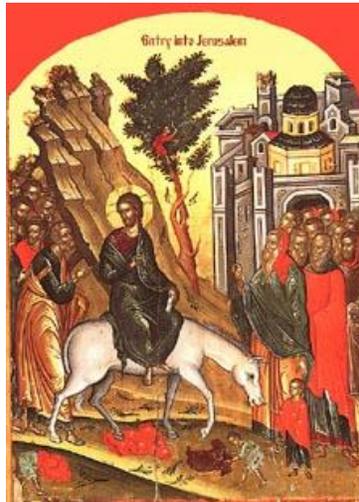


**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship
at the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

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

April 13, 2014: The Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)



Antiphon 1

*I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

*Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

(Refrain is sung after each of the following verses)

*The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

*I suffered distress and anguish, so I called on the Name of the Lord.

*I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Antiphon 2

*I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

Refrain: O Son of God, seated on the colt of an ass, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"

*What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? (R)

(Refrain is sung after each of the following verses)

*I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord. (R)

*I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. (R)

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God ...")

Antiphon 3

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Let the house of Israel say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion, You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death: “Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

(After the Entrance)

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion, You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death: “Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Tone 4 Troparion

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by your Resurrection. Now we praise You and sing: “Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

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 6 Kontakion

Sitting on Your throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing:// “Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!”

(The Trisagion is sung)

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
v: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!

Tone 1 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
v: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel: John 12:1-18

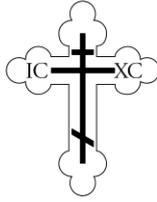
(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, singing: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!”

(Hirmos of the 9th Ode of the Kanon)

Communion Hymn

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!
God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Thought for the Week: The Holy Week services are not for the Church but for our union with Christ, without Whom we have no salvation. Sacrifice, pray, fast and make the extra effort to be at these most important worship services, not just of the year, but of our lifetime.

There can be no Resurrection without the Cross. Let each of us take up his/her cross and come follow the footsteps of the Lord as He makes His way to His Holy Passion for “propitiation (reconciliation) for our sins” and reveals His empty-tomb to be “the fountain of our own resurrection.”

Holy Week Schedule:

Monday, April 14, Bridegroom Matins, 7 pm. (*Confessions will be heard after*)

Wednesday, April 16, Holy Unction, 7 pm.

Thursday, April 17, Holy Thursday Liturgy, 9 am.

Thursday, April 17, Matins for Holy Friday with 12 Passion Gospels, 7 pm.

Friday, April 18, Holy Friday Vespers, 3 pm.

Friday, April 18, Matins of Holy Saturday, 7 pm.

Saturday, April 19, Holy Saturday Liturgy, 9 am.

Saturday, April 19, Nocturn, **Resurrection Matins & Pascha Liturgy**, 10 pm.

With blessing of eggs & food baskets with fellowship following Liturgy.

Pascha Donations:

Flowers: If you are interested, we are accepting donations towards flowers for the Tomb of our Lord and Pascha. Please indicate on your envelope if you would like to contribute towards flowers and if you would like it to be a memorial.

Eggs: Please bring red eggs to be blessed and handed out following Pascha Liturgy.

Baskets: As we did last year, please prepare and bring a food basket to Pascha Services, Saturday night, April 19, where they will be blessed at the end of Liturgy (*see the following information regarding this tradition*). Again, as we did last year, you are encouraged to share some of your favorite foods with one another when we break the fast following the Pascha Liturgy.

Pascha Invitation: Just a reminder that there is... and always will be... an open invite to the Gresh home (9135 Gans Avenue, Canton, Ohio 44721) for Pascha...invite a friend...many or few...but enjoy time with other Orthodox Christians who have completed the race. All are welcome. Bring a covered dish to offer as well as your favorite beverage to share with others. Open house begins at noon and continues through the day.No RSVP needed but welcomed. Hope to see you!

With love,

The Gresh family

PS: Pass on this email to all our Christian Family and Friends

Importance and Motivation for Confession

Archimandrite +Seraphim (Aleksiev, reposed in the Lord +1993)

We are created for God and only in Him do we find the paramount bliss for which our heart is constantly yearning. Nothing other than God can make our souls happy! Give man everything which he desires and he will enjoy it for a while, but afterwards he will become indifferent to it, because he feels that something else, much more elevated, is missing. Is it not in that way that the child, too, enjoys every new toy until it grows hungry? Then it abandons the toy and looks for food. A certain inextinguishable inner hunger for truth, joy, and peace in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17) torments our soul and does not give us peace, even among the best pleasures of life and among the most enviable achievements in the world.

This blessed hunger is a hunger for God. Blessed Augustine is right in his Confessions before God: "Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless until it repose in Thee." The only guest who can make our soul happy is God. And if God is our paramount bliss, it is clear that which obstructs the way to God must be the greatest evil for us. Such an evil is sin.

It is in vain that some unenlightened people seek the greatest evil for man somewhere else, rather than in sin. Some consider disease to be the greatest evil, others - poverty, and others - death. But neither disease, nor poverty, nor death, nor any other earthly disaster can be such a great evil for us as is sin. These earthly misfortunes do not separate us from God if we are seeking Him sincerely, but, on the contrary, they bring us closer to Him.

Disease is not the greatest evil for man, because a disease of the body endured with humility, faith, and patience can cure the soul sick with sin and bring it closer to God - the greatest good for man.

And death is not frightening for the believer, because through it, as through a door, one goes to the beloved and loving God Who hath prepared for them that love Him, things that which *eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man (1 Corinthians 2:9).*

But sin is the most wretched poverty of the heart - poverty that blocks the treasure of grace. Sin is a deadly sickness of the soul, a sickness that deprives us both of the joys of earth and the joys of heaven. Sin is a terrible and most lamentable spiritual death that separates us eternally from the joy of the heavenly inhabitants in paradise and buries us in the darkness of hell.

There is no greater evil for man than sin. It destroys both the body and the soul. It makes both this life and eternal life bitter. It causes discord in families, quarrels among neighbors, and disagreements among relatives. It starts the fire of malice among people. It makes the soul proud and embittered. It poisons the heart with envy. It drives out holy feelings from the breast and invites the demons to settle there. It separates us from God. It extinguishes everything bright in our hearts. It teaches us to lie, to be gluttonous, and to be selfish and greedy. It makes us slander and judge our neighbors. It incites our hand to steal. It fills us with anger and rage. It whispers to us to seek revenge. It commits all outrages, debaucheries, and crimes. It causes all diseases, suffering, injustice, violence, bloodshed, and war. It has filled the souls of all of us with unbearable spiritual stench. It pours this stench into the relationships among us.

Have you asked yourself why is it so stifling in the world? Why is it hard to live? Why can we not put up with each

other? The answer is because sin has poisoned the atmosphere of life. We are all sick with sin. And if untreated body wounds emit intolerable stench, how much more terrible is the stench of sin!

But I'll Only Sin Again!

Why should I confess when I know that tomorrow I will sin again? Is there any point in such confession? I see that one should confess only if one would sin no more after that!

This objection to Confession contains: both something that is very true and something that is not. The right thing here is the desire not to sin any more after Confession. But we are feeble humans, and we cannot attain right away such a firmness that makes falling into voluntary sins impossible. If we cannot reach such steadfastness in virtue right away, should we surrender to vice? Or should we stop confessing? Which is better: to roll in the mud of the spiritual swamp, or to pick yourself up after each fall and go on with the hope that someday you may reach the solid and beautiful shore of virtue? If you do not confess, you remain in the mud. If you confess, you pick yourself up from the mud and clean yourself. "But why should I get up if tomorrow I will fall again?" you say. When you fall again, then get up again! Every day begin all over again! This is undoubtedly better than falling out of the habit of getting up.

A young monk complained to the great ascetic Abba Sisoës: "Abba, what should I do? I fell." The elder answered: "Get up!" The monk said: "I got up, and I fell again!" The elder replied: "Get up again!" But the young monk asked: "For how long should I get up when I fall?" "Until your death," answered Abba Sisoës. This wise dialogue should be remembered by all of us who want to change but, deceived by the devil, constantly return to our previous sins. Every time we fall into a transgression, we must get up. The "getting up" is Confession.

"But why should we play at falling and getting up?" ask some. It is not a game, but a struggle in which there is much sense. If we, as feeble humans, fall but get up again, there is a great probability that death will find us when we are standing. Then we are saved. But if we do not intend to get up, death will surely find us lying in the mud. Then we are lost forever!

St. John Chrysostom says: "Repentance opens the heavens for man, takes him to Paradise, overcomes the devil. Have you sinned? Do not despair! If you sin every day, then offer repentance every day! When there are rotten parts in old houses, we replace the parts with new ones, and we do not stop caring for the houses. In the same way, you should reason for yourself: if today you have defiled yourself with sin, immediately clean yourself with repentance."

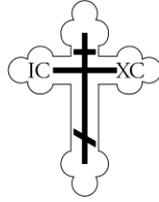
For the washing away of bodily dirtiness God has given water. And for the washing of spiritual foulness, God has given the grace of the holy Sacrament of Confession. Every man, when he dirties his hands, washes them. No one says: "I will not wash my hands anymore, because I will get them dirty again!" But why is it then that many people say, "I will not go to Confession, because I will sin again tomorrow!" It is clear that the enemy of our salvation is enticing us not to wash our souls, so that he can gain power over them.

But we must not give in to such satanic suggestions; we should confess frequently, because frequent washing produces a taste for cleanliness in us.

***Leave your house unswept, uncleaned, and unventilated for one year! Will it not turn into a pigsty? Now think about what the soul of a man is like when he has not cleaned it through Confession, not only for a year, but for twenty, forty, sixty, or seventy years... *When, on a clear autumn night, I gaze at the clear sky - sown with numberless stars, so diverse in size yet shedding a single light - then I say to myself: 'Such are the writings of the**

Fathers!' When, on a summer day, I gaze at the vast sea - covered with a multitude of diverse vessels with their unfurled sails like white swan's wings, vessels racing under a single wind to a single goal, to a single harbor - I say to myself: 'Such are the writings of the Fathers!' When I hear an harmonious, many-voiced choir, in which diverse voices - in elegant harmony - sing a single Divine song, then I say to myself: 'Such are the writings of the Fathers!

*St. Ignatius Brianchaninov**



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

LENTEN FISH DINNERS:

Friday, April 11 was our last fish dinner. Thank you to all who volunteered and worked for the benefit of our Orthodox Mission. A special thank you to Marlinton Schools for providing us with a site.

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to Dan Ralich for serving as Coffee Hour Host last week.

This Sunday, Heidi Gresh and family will host coffee hour.

Please see the announcement above regarding the meal following Pascha Liturgy.

PRAYERS:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Jacquelyn, friend of Dan and Jake Krupko who has been diagnosed with heart problems.

Prayers for the repose of Metropolitan Philip of the Antiochian Archdiocese who passed away Wednesday March 19 from a heart attack.

Prayers for the repose of the soul of Father Joe's and Bishop Mark's dear friend, +Father Alexander Atty, who passed away March 23.

Prayers for Amy and Matt Catania, as they are expecting Camryn's baby brother any day now!

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance

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