

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday August 27th 2017
12th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 3)

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

Services This Week:

Saturday Vespers - 6:30pm

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30pm

Wednesday Akathist - 6pm

Thursday - Liturgy - 9:30am

(All Liturgies are preceded by the reading of hours - 9:10am)

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com
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 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world//great mercy.

Troparion for the Venerable Pimen - Tone 8

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. By the radiance of miracles you illuminated the whole universe! Our Father Pimen, pray to Christ God to save our souls!

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 3

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

Kontakion for the Venerable Pimen - Tone 4

The memorial of your illustrious struggles delights the souls of the devout today, // Pimen, our venerable father, wise in God.

Prokeimenon of the Resurrection in the Third Tone

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Corinthians (15:1-11)

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

The Alleluia in the Third Tone

v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame!

v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me!

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (19:16-26)

Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" "The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved? But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

The Communion Hymn for Sunday

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

VENERABLE PIMEN THE GREAT

Pimen was an Egyptian by birth and a great ascetic of Egypt. As a boy, he visited the most renowned spiritual men and, from them, gathered tangible knowledge as a bee gathers honey from flowers. Pimen once begged the elder Paul to take him to St. Paisius. Seeing Pimen, Paisius said to Paul: "This child will save many; the hand of God is with him." In time, Pimen was tonsured a monk and attracted two of his brothers to the monastic life as well. Once his mother came to see her sons but Pimen did not permit her to enter but through the door asked her: "Do you desire more to see us here or there in eternity?" The mother withdrew with joy saying: "Since I will surely see you there, then I do not desire to see you here." In the monastery of these three brothers, governed by Abba Anubis, Pimen's eldest brother, this was their Rule: at night, they spent four hours of working with their hands, four hours of sleep and four hours of reading the Psalter. During the day, from morning until noon, they spent in alternating work and prayer; from noon until Vespers they spent reading and, in the afternoon, they prepared supper for themselves the only meal in twenty-four hours and that usually consisted of some vegetables. Concerning their life, Pimen himself speaks: "We ate that which was given to us. No one ever said: 'Give me something else or I do not want that.' In this manner, we spent our entire life in silence and peace." Pimen lived a life of mortification as an ascetic in the fifth century and died peacefully at an old age.

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

The Sayings of Abba Pimen on the Struggle against Intrusive Thoughts

"Abba Anoub asked Abba Pimen about the impure thoughts which the heart of man brings forth and about vain desires. Abba Pimen said to him, 'Is the ax any use without someone to cut with it?' If you do not make use of these thoughts, they will be ineffectual too."

"Abba Isaiah questioned Abba Pimen on the subject of impure thoughts. Abba Pimen said to him, 'It is like having a chest full of clothes, if one leaves them in disorder they are spoiled in the course of time. It is the same with thoughts. If we do not do anything about them, in time they are spoiled, that is to say, they disintegrate.'"

"Abba Joseph put the same question and Abba Pimen said to him, 'If someone shuts a snake and a scorpion up in a bottle, in time they will be completely destroyed. So it is with evil thoughts: they are suggested by the demons; they disappear through patience.'"

"A brother came to see Abba Pimen and said to him, 'Abba, I have many thoughts and they put me in danger.' The Elder led him outside and said to him, 'Expand your chest and do not breathe in.' The brother replied, 'I cannot do that.' Then the Elder said to him, 'If you cannot do that, no more can you prevent thoughts from arising, but you can resist them.'"

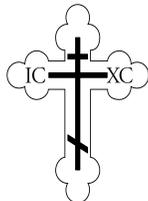
"A brother asked Abba Pimen, 'Can a man keep all his thoughts in control, and not surrender one to the enemy?' And the Elder said to him, 'There are some who receive ten thoughts and surrender one.' The same brother put the same question to Abba Sisoës who said to him, 'It is true that there are some who surrender nothing to the enemy.'"

"Abba Pimen said, 'If a man accuses himself, he is protected on all sides.'"

From The Sayings of the Desert Fathers, edited by Benedicta Ward

St. Nikolai's reflection for today:

One who crawls up a steep mountain and scrapes with both hands and feet to take one step forward, not thinking to look back, such were the great Orthodox ascetics in the difficult climb to the Kingdom of God. Their labor and their detachment is indeed for amazement: A prince wanted to see Abba Pimen but he refused. Then the prince thought of a cunning way to force the elder to meet with him; he arrested the son of Pimen's sister and said to her that he would release her son only if Pimen himself comes to speak with him. The sister went into the wilderness and, knocking at the door, begged her brother to come out and save her son. But Pimen did not come out. Then the sister began to scold and curse him. Hearing of this, the prince ordered that a letter be written to Pimen saying that if he, Pimen, would at least put in writing, (since he did not do so orally) implore the prince to release his nephew, the prince would do so. Pimen replied: "O mighty prince, command to investigate well the guilt of the young man and if the guilt is such that he deserves death, let him die, so that by temporal punishment, he will escape the torments in eternity but if the guilt does not merit the penalty of death then punish him according to the law and then release him." Reading this just and impartial judgment, the prince was greatly astonished, released the youth and his respect for Pimen increased two-fold.



Special Announcements:

**FALL KICK-OFF EVENT -
September 3rd - Next Sunday!!**

The event will take place immediately after Liturgy on Sept. 3rd at Butler-Rodman Park in Alliance. Everyone is invited; invite your friends!!

- Please bring a covered dish and a dessert to share. Use the sign-up sheet at the church or talk to Jaga or Mat. Rachel (rachelrebeccah@gmail.com) to help coordinate dishes.
- Table settings and drinks will be provided.
- If you have a game for the group (corn hole, football, etc.) bring it along.
- Have fun!!

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

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

For The Departed Soul of:

+Andy Dordea
+Pdn. Gregory
+Daniel