

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church
Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 pm.
9837 State Street, Louisville , Ohio 44641

Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)

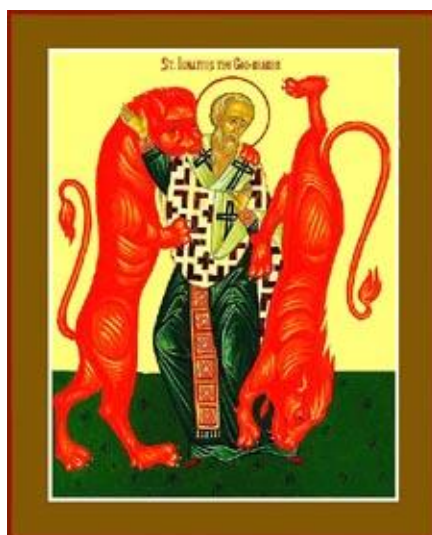
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)

December 20, 2015: 29th Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ
/ Sunday before the Nativity of Christ / Hieromartyr Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch

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. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.



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 2 Troparion (Fathers)

Great are the accomplishments of faith, for the three Holy Youths rejoice in the fountain of
flames as though in the waters of rest;
and the Prophet Daniel appeared a shepherd to the lions as though they were sheep. //
So by their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

Tone 4 Troparion of the Forefeast

Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all!
Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave!
Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the Divine Fruit;
if we eat of it, we shall live forever and not die like Adam. //
Christ comes to restore the image which He made in the beginning.

Tone 4 Troparion of Saint Ignatius

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / you became a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, you found the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of truth without error, you defended the Faith, even to the shedding of your blood. / Hieromartyr Ignatius, entreat Christ God to 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 1 Kontakion (Fathers)

Rejoice, O Bethlehem! Prepare yourself, O Ephratha!
The Lamb is on her way to give birth to the Chief Shepherd she carries in her womb.
The God-bearing Forefathers will rejoice, beholding Him,
and with the shepherds, they will glorify the Virgin nursing Him.

Tone 3 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Today the Virgin comes to the cave
to give birth to the Eternal Word.
Hear the glad tidings and rejoice, O universe!
Glorify with the Angels and the shepherds
the Eternal God, Who is willing to appear as a little child!

Tone 4 Prokeimenon (Song of the Fathers)

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever! (Song of the three Holy Youths, v. 2)
v: For You are just in all that You have done to us. (v. 3)

Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 (Sunday before Nativity)

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: We have heard with our ears, O God, for our fathers have told us.

v: For You have saved us from them that oppose us, and have put to shame them that hate us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25 (Sunday before the Nativity)

Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Forefeast of the Nativity of the Lord begins on December 20. From now on, most of the liturgical hymns will be concerned with the birth of the Savior. Many of the Church's hymns of this period are slightly modified versions of the hymns of Holy Week. From the 20th to the 23rd we sing the Troparion (Tone 4) "Prepare, O Bethlehem, for Eden has been opened to all. Adorn yourself, O Ephratha, for the Tree of Life blossoms forth from the Virgin in the cave. Her womb is a spiritual paradise planted with the fruit divine; if we

eat of it we shall live forever and not die like Adam. Christ is coming to restore the image which He made in the beginning.”

We also sing the Kontakion (Tone 3) “Today the Virgin comes to the cave where she will give birth past understanding to the Word from all eternity. Rejoice, O universe, when the tidings are proclaimed. Glorify, with the angels and shepherds, the one Who chose to be manifest as a newborn Child, while remaining the eternal God.”

At Vespers on this first day of the prefeast we sing, “Let us celebrate, O people, the prefeast of Christ’s Nativity; let us raise our minds on high, in spirit going up to Bethlehem....”

Counsel of St. Nikolai: “Absolutely nothing will help us if we are not lenient toward the weaknesses of men and forgive them. For how can we hope that God will forgive us if we do not forgive others?” + St. Nikolai Velimirovich,



Thursday, December 24: Christmas Small Compline & Matins 6 pm, immediately followed by Christmas Liturgy (beginning approximately between 7 to 7:15 pm).

Please note, there are no services Christmas morning, since the Festal Liturgy is done the night before.

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Doreen Wishnok
Stefanie Waseman
The Knoll Family
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)
Brenda Grey
Wally and Debby Borojevich and family
Jennifer White
J. P. Cervo
Renee Young
Julian Farian
Larry Gainer
Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)
Carl, friend of Father David
Lisa, friend of Father David
Father David and Family
James Rickard and Family

For The Repose of the Souls of the newly departed Servants:

+Mildred “Peggy” Borojevich (Wally's mother)
+John Tillman
+Abbi Moyer (Friend of Tammy Rininger)
+Mother Ana

SATURDAY VESPERS:

Vespers will be held every Saturday at 4 pm until the clocks move forward in the Spring.

ADULT EDUCATION:

Book study/Christian Education will follow the vespers service and take place in the fellowship area at the church.

CHOIR PRACTICE:

Choir practice will take place on Tuesday to prepare for our Christmas services. We will have our practice at the church at 7 pm. The next choir practice date is December 22.

CAROLING:

The Choir is planning on Christmas Caroling. Please see Helen Blebea to schedule a stop at your home! Please note that Heidi sent an email with information regarding caroling to the parish, so check your emails.

FLOWER FUND:

Donations are gratefully accepted for poinsettias to decorate the church for the Nativity. If you wish to donate, please mark your envelope or check directing your donation to the Flower Fund.

COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:

There are/will be sign-up sheets posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning on a quarterly basis. If you have any questions please see Father Joe or Deacon James. We are asking for individuals, families or groups to sign up on a monthly basis to maintain the church. November is covered. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

December 20 – Dan Ralich

December 24 – Parish Members

December 27 – Wally and Debby Borojevich

There will be a sign up sheet for Christmas Eve this weekend and next weekend. We are asking for hors d'ouerves, desserts, drinks.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOURS!!!!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

J.P. Cervo – 17th

Camryn Catania–20th

Jaga Radosevic–25th

Katie White – 28th

Helen “Oney” Baier–30th

Father Dragan Filipovich–30th

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Matt and Amy Catania – 29th

