

St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship at Mount Union University,
Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
December, 28, 2014: 29th Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday after the Nativity of Christ / Holy Righteous Ones:
Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, and James, the Brother of the Lord/The 14,000 Holy Innocents slain by
Herod.

CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!



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 of the Feast

Your Nativity, O Christ our God, has shone to the world the light of wisdom!
For by it, those who worshipped the stars, were taught by a star to adore You,
the Sun of righteousness, and to know You, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to You!

Tone 2 Troparion (of the Righteous Ones)

Proclaim the wonder, O Joseph, to David, the ancestor of God; you saw a Virgin great with child; you gave glory with
the shepherds;
you worshipped with the Magi; you received the news from the Angel. Pray to Chris tGod 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 3 Kontakion (of the Righteous Ones)

Today godly David is filled with joy; Joseph and James offer praise.
The glorious crown of their kinship with Christ fills them with great joy.
They sing praises to the One ineffably born on earth, and they cry out: “O Compassionate One, save those who honor
You!”

Tone 3 Kontakion of the Feast

Today the Virgin gives birth to the Transcendent One, and the earth offers a cave to the Unapproachable One.
Angels with shepherds glorify Him; the Wise Men journey with the star, // since for our sake the eternal God was born as
a little Child!

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-19 *(Sunday after the Nativity)*

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

v. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

Tone 4 v: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-23 (*Sunday after the Nativity*)

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

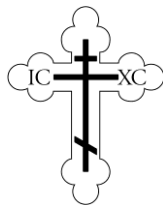
Magnify, O my soul, the most-pure Virgin Theotokos, more honorable and more glorious than the heavenly hosts. I behold a strange, most glorious mystery: heaven—the cave; the cherubic throne—the Virgin; the manger—the place where Christ lay—the uncontainable God, Whom we magnify in song.

Communion Hymns

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

The Lord has sent redemption to His people.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Sunday, January 11, At the end of Divine Liturgy we will have the Great Blessing of Water. Please give thought to when you wish to have Father come and bless your home and advise him so that an appointment can be made.

Saint Joseph the Betrothed was of the lineage of King David. In his first marriage, he had four sons and two daughters. After he became a widower, St Joseph led a life of strict temperance. He was chosen to be the husband and guardian of the Most Holy Theotokos, who had taken a vow of virginity.

An angel told him of the Incarnation of the Son of God through her. St Joseph was present when the shepherds and the Magi worshiped the new-born divine Infant. On the orders of the angel, he fled into Egypt with the Mother of God and the Infant Jesus, saving them from the wrath of King Herod. He lived in Egypt with the Virgin Mary and the divine Child, working as a carpenter. St Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

St Joseph is commemorated on the Sunday after the Nativity.

The Importance of understanding the Ever-virginity of Mary: In Gospel of Matthew 1:25) it says that "Joseph did not know her (Mary) until she had brought forth her firstborn Son." The verse itself does not confirm that Joseph did know Mary after the birth of Jesus, and all the Greek speaking Fathers who read Matthew in the original Greek understood that the intention of Matthew for writing this verse was to exclude any notion that Joseph had relations with Mary before the birth of Jesus, not to positively teach the reverse. The prevailing protestant thinking goes: If Joseph did not "know" Mary until she gave birth to Jesus, then clearly he "knew" her afterwards. It is important, first of all, to keep in mind again, that the Bible was not written in English, and that not all Greek idioms convey the same meaning in English as they were originally intended. This is one that does not. In English, the word "until" (or "till" or "unto") indicates a particular status up to a point in time, while implying a different status after that point. In the original language, "until" (Greek: eos) does not necessarily imply a change of status.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Jim (Cousin of Fr. David)

George Borojevich (brother of Wally and Debby)

Mother Ana

Nanci Stradley (Pancreatic Cancer)

Dawn Shaheen

Patricia Kosivich, friend of and helper to Mother Ana
Father Joe Cervo
Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)
George Ralich, (Dan's father)
Katie (Granddaughter of Father Stevo Rocknage, St. Sava Church in McKeesport, who is battling a rare genetic disease)
Stefanie Waseman
Metodija Damljanovic (4 year old child who fell ill suddenly and grandson of Prota Vasko Sokolovic)
Roland Augspurger (friend of the Krupko's who is battling cancer)
Jenny Codrea (friend of the Blebea's)
Joe Novak
Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)
Fr. Basil Duesenberry
Despina Poulos (mother of Steve Poulos)

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+Max

(Please give us any updates to the prayer request list at the beginning of each month)

COFFEE HOUR:

December 7	-	Larry and Deanna Dordea
December 14	-	Corbin and Georgie Washington
December 21	-	The Krupko and Catania Families
December 24	-	Father Joe and Linda Cervo
December 28	-	The Novak Family
January 4	-	Jaga Radosevic
January 11	-	
January 18	-	Jaga Radosevic
January 25	-	The Gresh Family

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to sign up for Coffee Hour. We are already signing up for 2015 Coffee Hours. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!! If anyone is interested in chairing Coffee Hour sign ups, please let us know.

DONATIONS:

Please note, any special donations will be added directly to our building fund unless otherwise specified by the donor. God bless all who have generously donated to and support our mission.

CHRISTMAS GIVING:

We collected \$1000.00 for the family we sponsored for Christmas. The food and gifts were delivered Christmas Eve. Denise, (the mother of the family) cried when the gifts were delivered. God bless all of you for your generosity!

BUILDING PROJECT:

We are finalizing plans to begin phase one construction of our mission building project. If you have not made a commitment and would like to, please discuss this with either Father Joe or Deacon James by email or phone and/or by making your check payable to St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance. May God Bless all donors for their support of our Mission and purpose in celebrating Orthodoxy.

CHOIR PRACTICES:

Choir Practice will be held at the Gresh Home on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm. Please join us.

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

Amy and Matthew Catania – 29th

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

Kate White – 28th

Helen (Oney) Baier – 30th

Father Dragan Filipovic – 30th

(We are preparing the 2015 calendar and need birthdays and anniversaries for anyone not currently on our calendar)

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