

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

Temporarily at 8277 N Nickel Plate St., Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday December 31st
30th Sunday after Pentecost – Tone 5

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

Upcoming Services:

Saturday, 12/30 - Vespers, St. Nikolai's, 5pm
Sunday, 12/31 - Divine Liturgy, St. Mary's, 11am
Wednesday, 01/03 - **No Bible Study**
Friday, 1/05 - Theophany Vigil, St. Nikolai, 5pm
Saturday, 1/06 - Divine Liturgy, TBD

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxchurch.org
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 5

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,/ co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,/ born for our salvation from the Virgin,/ for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,/ to endure death,/ and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

Troparion for the Feast of Nativity - Tone 4

Thy 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 Thee,/ the Sun of righteousness,/ and to know Thee, the Orient from on high.// O Lord, glory to Thee!

Troparion for the Righteous Ones - Tone 2

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 Christ God to save our souls!

Glory . . .

Kontakion for the Righteous Ones - Tone 3

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 Thee!”

Now and ever . . .

Kontakion of the Feast - Tone 3

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.

Priest: Let us attend: Peace be unto all

Reader: And to thy spirit

Priest: Wisdom

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 5th Tone: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Congregation: *Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.*

Reader: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!

Congregation: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

Reader: Thou, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us

Congregation: From this generation forever.

Priest: Wisdom

***Reader:* The Reading is from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (1:11-19)**

Priest: Let us attend

Reader (READ SLOWLY): But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord’s brother.

Priest: *Peace be to thee that reads. Wisdom*

Reader: The Alleluia in the 5th Tone: I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: For Thou hast said: “Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the 5th tone: Remember, O Lord, David and all his meekness!

Congregation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew (2:13-23)

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the

prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Instead of "It is truly meet," we sing the Irmos and Troparion of the 9th Ode

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.

The Sunday Communion Hymn

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

The Communion Hymn for Nativity

The Lord has sent redemption to His people.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Saint Joseph the Betrothed

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, Saint 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. Saint 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. Saint Joseph reputedly died at the age of one hundred.

Special Announcements:

House Blessings

Following the Feast of Theophany (Jan. 6th) it is right that we welcome Christ into each of our homes to grant them His blessing for another year. To insure that everyone has their home blessed, please either sign up on the sheet provided at social hour or otherwise notify Fr. Mikel the best time for you to have this done.

Evening Services at St. Nikolai's

We are going to begin holding our evening services in our own building. While this is exciting, please know that it is still under construction and we will need to be VERY flexible in order not to interfere with our contractors. This may mean that for certain periods we will not be able to use the space. In this event, we will hold services at the Hill's.

When coming to St. Nikolai's, be aware that there is currently very limited lighting, no seating, equipment that can be dangerous to small children, dirt and dust on the floors, and trip hazards. We will need to remove any personal or liturgical items each time when leaving.

We will still hold all of our social events, Divine Liturgy, and Bible Study elsewhere until the building is completely finished. With that said, it is still very exciting that we will be one again filling our own temple with prayer and worship after many months of "exile."

Choir Rehearsals

For the next few weeks, anyone who wishes to help with the music for our services is strongly encouraged to attend rehearsals that will be held in the Belden Room (coffer hour room) starting at 10:15am, each Sunday morning. Mat. Rachel and Allison Krupko will be leading these rehearsals. The hope is that together we can help each other find a solution to singing the services that is both musical and prayerful for everyone.

Upcoming Events:

We will hold Vigil at St. Nikolai's on Friday, Jan. 5th for the Feast of Theophany. We hope to celebrate Divine Liturgy on Jan. 6th, but place and time are TBD.

We will meet for our monthly gathering on Jan. 12th, 6pm, at John's Bar and Grill. Please let Steve Bozeka know if you are planning to come.

Birthdays:

January 4 - Josh White

January 6 - Dan Krupko

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

Richard R.	Larissa
Richard, Tetiana, Arhem	Steve and Sandy
Fr. Joseph	Anthony
Arika, Renee,	Joan
Ashley, and Chloe.	Slavco
Valentina	Anthony
Josh W.	Thomas
The Minnick Family	Mat. Rebecca
The Gresh family	Rebecca
Kathy Jo, Michael	Thomas
Kelli	Marsha
Liz and Carla	Jackie
Kim, Dale, Helen,	Dorothy
Larissa, and Niki	Matthew
Fr. Andrew &	Paul
The Community of St. Matthew's	Mary Lou
	Katherine

The Mission Vision Corner

Goal: Viable and self-sustaining parish by 2020.

Stewardship

Offerings Last month: **\$2,858**

What we need: \$4,350

Attendance

Last Saturday: 13 adults, 4 children

Last Sunday: 32 adults, 9 children

Christmas Vigil: 17 adults, 6 children

Christmas Liturgy: 24 adults, 6 children