

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 pm.**

**Book study/Christian Education following Vespers**

**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)**

**February 21, 2016: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee/**

**Beginning of the Lenten Triodion/Ven Timothy of Symbola**

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

**Facebook page: "<http://www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMission> of Alliance**

*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 5      Troparion      (Resurrection)***

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.

***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 4      Kontakion      (from the Lenten Triodion)***

Let us flee from the pride of the Pharisee! Let us learn humility from the Publican's tears!

Let us cry to our Savior: “Have mercy on us, // O only merciful One!”

***Tone 5 Prokeimenon***

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

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

***Epistle:*** 2 Timothy 3:10-15

***Tone 5 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!***

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: “Mercy will be established forever; My truth will be prepared in the heavens.”

***Gospel:*** Luke 18:10-14

***Communion Hymn***

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**The Sunday after the Sunday of Zacchaeus is devoted to the Publican and the Pharisee.** At Vespers the night before, the TRIODION (the liturgical book used in the services of Great Lent) begins. Two men went to the Temple to pray. One was a Pharisee who scrupulously observed the requirements of religion: he prayed, fasted, and contributed money to the Temple. These are very good things, and should be imitated by anyone who loves God. We who may not fulfill these requirements as well as the Pharisee did should not feel entitled to criticize him for being faithful. His sin was in looking down on the Publican and feeling justified because of his external religious observances. The second man was a Publican, a tax-collector who was despised by the people. He, however, displayed humility, and this humility justified him before God (Luke 18:14). The lesson to be learned is that we possess neither the Pharisee’s religious piety, nor the Publican’s repentance, through which we can be saved. We are called to see ourselves as we really are in the light of Christ’s teaching, asking Him to be merciful to us, deliver us from sin, and to lead us on the path of salvation.

**St. Nikolai Velimirovich concerning the Publican & Pharisee-True and False Prayer**

The proud, whose eyes are constantly raised heavenward while their hearts cleave to the earth, are not pleasing to God; it is the humble and meek, whose eyes are cast down earthward while their hearts are filled with heaven, who please Him. The Creator of mankind prefers men to count over their sins to Him rather than their good works. For God is a physician, who comes up to the bed on which each one of us is lying, and asks: “Where is the pain?” The man who makes use of the physician’s presence to tell him about all his pain and weakness is wise, and the man who, concealing his pain, boasts of his health to the physician, is a fool. As though a physician visits men because of their health, and not their sickness! “It is evil to sin,” says the wise John Chrysostom, “though here help can be given; but to sin, and not to admit it—there is no help there.”

Imagine now that we are patients in this hospital of the world. The sickness that every one of us is suffering from has the same name—unrighteousness. This word includes all the passions, all lusts, all sins—all the weaknesses and enervation of our souls, our hearts and our minds. But such are the characteristics of these illnesses of the inner man that only those who are healed are aware of the terrible sickness from which they had been suffering. The sickest are the least aware of their illness. Ponder, then, on all this. If you protest: “I am righteous; this applies to the sinners around me,” then this means that your illness has reached its peak. If, though, you beat your breast in repentance and reply: “It’s true; I am sick and need a doctor,” then this means you are on the way to healing. Do not, then, be afraid; you will get well.

*Two men went up into the temple to pray...*

*Contemplation of St. Nikolai:*

**Contemplate how the Lord Jesus as the vigilant Watchman over His Church**  
(*Matthew 28:20*).

1. How He watches over the entire created world and especially His Church acquired by His Blood.
2. How He watches over every baptized soul, as a gardener watches over his plantings.
3. How He leads His Church through tranquility and through tempest, leading her to ultimate victory.
4. How He also watches over my life, that it may grow and be built into His Eternal Kingdom.

**The Church of Christ** is One, Holy, Universal and Apostolic. She is herself a single spiritual body, whose head is Christ, and who has the one Holy Spirit abiding in her. The local parts of the Church are members of a single body of the Universal Church, and they, like branches of a single tree, are nourished by one and same sap from a single root. She is called holy because she is sanctified by the holy word, deeds, sacrifice and suffering of her founder, Jesus Christ, to which end He came in order to save human beings and lead them to holiness. The Church is called universal because she is not confined by place, not by time, nor by nation nor language. She communicates with all humanity. The Orthodox Church is called apostolic because the spirit, teaching and labors of the Apostles of Christ are entirely preserved in her. (*St. Nikolai, catechesis*)

*The prayer list is revised monthly. If you wish to list someone please advise Father.*

**PRAYERS requested:**

**For The Health and Salvation of;**

Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier’s mother)

Father John and Cindy Zdinak & Family

Olympia Tillman (Father David’s mother)

Helen (Father David's aunt)  
Carl (friend of Father David)  
Lisa “  
Bruce “  
Kitty “  
Paul “  
Father David and Family  
Doreen Wishnok  
Stefanie Waseman  
The Knoll Family  
Roland Augspurger  
Leslie and Tim Kocevar  
Beth Plocher  
Renee Young  
Larry Gainer  
James Rickard and Family  
Gregory Cervo  
Ann Cervo  
Letitia (Lynette Baier's mother)  
Julian (Georgie & Corbin's grandson)

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

+Joshua Zdinak  
+Michael Horney (Ann Cervo's brother)

**Many Years!**

Jake Krupko, February 24 - Birthday

**Today, February 21: Celebration of our parish 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary.  
After Liturgy, we will have a parish covered dish dinner.**

**COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:**

There is a sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning. 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 clean the church. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

*(please note that we need individuals to sign up for coffee hour following this week's parish anniversary celebration)*

**Stewardship:** Please pray, contemplate and complete the parish pledge form and return to the Priest or Deacon, as soon as possible. May the Lord direct you and bless you for returning some of your possessions to further the work of His holy Church.

**Save Your Stuff.** Once again our parish is going to have a rummage sale at the Hartville Flea Market, this spring. Please contact Georgie Washington for details.

### **Blessing of Homes**

The Blessing of homes is a long honored Tradition of Orthodoxy. The Holy Water which is blessed in the Church for the Feast of Theophany is taken by the priest to bless and sanctify the homes of the faithful. By this we are reminded that our homes are to be an extension of the Church; a place where we pray and celebrate the many blessings of life. Through this special blessing we reinforce our connection to God and His Church and we ask for the Lord's protection and guidance in our daily activities. We should be mindful that even if we have had this blessing in past years, we should nevertheless, want to repeat our prayer that the Lord will "keep safe from harm those who dwell here; grant to them Your Blessing, purification and health of body..."

To schedule a day and time for your home to be blessed, please see or contact Father (330) 284-8353 or email: frjcervo@sbcglobal.net

When you want to direct someone toward the good, first put him at peace bodily and honor him with words of love. For nothing inclines such a man to shame and induces him to cast of his vice and be changed for the better as do bodily goods and honor, which he sees in you. Then, with love tell him a word or two, and do not be inflamed with anger toward him. Do not let him see any cause of enmity toward you. For love does not know how to lose its temper.

*(St. Isaac the Syrian, Homilies, 85,57).*