

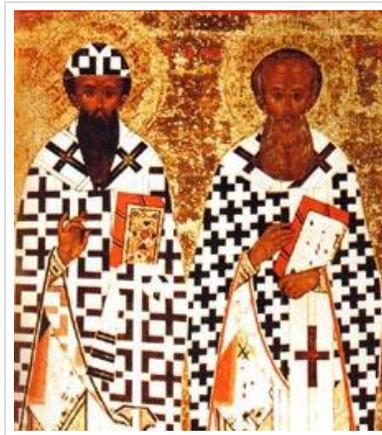
**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance 820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio  
(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)**

**Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am**

**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

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

**January 18, 2015: 32nd Sunday after Pentecost/ SS Athanasius the Great and Cyril, Archbishops of Alexandria**



**Tone 7 Troparion (Resurrection)**

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen, // granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 3 Troparion (SS Athanasius and Cyril)**

You shone forth with works of Orthodoxy and quenched all heresy,  
and became victorious trophy-bearers, hierarchs Athanasius and Cyril.  
You enriched all things with piety and greatly adorned the Church, //  
and worthily found Christ God, Who grants His great mercy to all.  
intercede before the Word, Christ our 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 7 Kontakion (Resurrection)**

The dominion of death can no longer hold mankind captive,  
for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers.  
Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: "The Savior has come to those in faith; //  
enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

**Tone 4 Kontakion (SS Athanasius and Cyril)**

Athanasius and Cyril, great hierarchs of true piety, and noble champions of the Church of Christ, Preserve all who sing: //  
"O Compassionate Lord, save those who honor You!"

**Tone 7 Prokeimenon**

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.  
v: Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

**Epistle:** 1 Timothy 1:15-17

**Tone 7 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

v: It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.  
v: To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

**Gospel:** Luke 18:35-43

**Communion Hymn**

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



**Saints Athanasius and Cyril were Archbishops of Alexandria.** These wise teachers of truth and defenders of Christ's Church share a joint Feast in recognition of their dogmatic writings which affirm the truth of the Orthodox Faith, correctly interpret the Holy Scripture, and censure the delusions of the heretics.

St Athanasius took part in the First Ecumenical Council when he was still a deacon. He surpassed everyone there in his zeal to uphold the teaching that Christ is consubstantial (homoousios) with the Father, and not merely a creature, as the Arians proclaimed.

This radiant beacon of Orthodoxy spent most of his life in exile from his See, because of the plotting of his enemies. He returned to his flock as he was approaching the end of his life. Like an evening star, he illumined the Orthodox faithful with his words for a little while, then reposed in 373. He is also commemorated on May 2 (the transfer of his holy relics).

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Sanctity of Life Sunday 2015

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

To the Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America:

Dearly beloved,

Today has been designated by the Orthodox Church in America as "Sanctity of Life Sunday," a day on which we reaffirm our faithfulness to the eternal value of human life and re-commit ourselves to the defense of the lives of the unborn, the infirm, the terminally ill and the condemned.

Our proclamation of life is offered in the context of a world in dismay at the terrorist attacks that recently shook Paris, the latest in a series of seemingly endless tragedies throughout the world that unnecessarily claim many innocent lives. Following this latest tragedy, Christians, Muslims, Jews and non-believers have engaged in discussion and debate about a range of issues, from human dignity to the responsibilities of political cartoonists, from freedom of expression to humanity's capacity for tolerance. Unfortunately, much of this debate is framed in an atmosphere of ideological violence, whether this be a "war on infidels" or "war on terrorism." In such divisive engagements, there are rarely any victors but only more victims.

As Orthodox Christians, who hold dear the revealed truth that the life of "all mankind" is sacred, we might reflect, along with St. Nikolai of Zhicha, on the paschal victory of Christ over death and corruption:

"Christ's victory is the only victory in which all humanity can rejoice, from the first-created to the last. Every other victory on earth has divided, and still divides, men from one another. When an earthly king gains the victory over another earthly king, one of them rejoices and the other laments. When a man is victorious over his neighbor, there is singing under one roof and weeping under the other. There is no joyful victory on earth that is not poisoned by malice: the ordinary, earthly victor rejoices both in his laughter and in the tears of his conquered enemy. He does not even notice how evil cuts through joy."

Our world is so full of these joyless and dark victories that we might despair of being able to put forward the hope and light of the Gospel message. We would do well to heed the words of St. Nikolai and keep our hearts and minds focused on our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, in Whom alone can solace, hope and joy be found in any meaningful and lasting way.

Indeed, Christ did not say: “I offer one of many complimentary paths”; He said: *I am the Way*. Christ did not say: “I hold to the correct philosophical principles;” He said: *I am the Truth*. Christ did not say: “I subscribe to the only viable political agenda;” He said: *I am the Life*.

It is only possible to attain to this *Way*, this *Truth* and this *Life* through Christ and through the light that He bestows to those who strive to allow even a small beam of that light to enter their hearts and illumine their path. As St. Nikolai writes: “Christ’s victory alone is like a sun that sheds bright rays on all that are beneath it. Christ’s victory alone fills all the souls of men with invincible joy. It alone is without malice or evil.”

Let us therefore make every effort to offer this “victory of light and life” to those who are surrounded by darkness and death. Let us be bold in our adding our Orthodox voices in support of the value of every human person, born or unborn; let us offer consolation to the mothers who have undergone abortions and offer our prayers to them and to all who have been affected by this tragedy; let us affirm our Orthodox understanding of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God and yet in need of healing in Christ.

Let us, together with St. Nikolai, proclaim the great victory of Christ:

A mysterious victory, you will say? It is; but it is at the same time revealed to the whole human race, the living and the dead.

A generous victory, you will say? It is, and more than generous. Is not a mother more than generous when she, not once or twice, saves her children from snakes but, in order to save them for all time, goes bravely into the snakes’ very nest and burns them out?

A healing victory, you will say? It is, healing and saving for ever and ever. This gentle victory saves men from every evil and makes them sinless and immortal. Immortality without sinlessness would mean only the extending of evil’s reign, and of that of malice and wickedness, but immortality with sinlessness gives birth to unconfined joy, and makes men the brethren of God’s resplendent angels.”

With love in the Lord,

**+TIKHON**

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **PRAYERS requested**

#### **For The Health and Salvation of:**

Mother Ana

Nanci Stradley (Pancreatic Cancer)

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)

Joe Novak

Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko’s who has cancer)

Despina Poulos (mother of Steve Poulos)

The Knoll Family  
Margaret (Deacon James' Mother)

**For The Repose of the Souls of:**

Deacon +Basil Frenchek (a deacon from within our diocese) – 01/15  
+Violet (Father Joe's Godmother who passed away this week)

(Please update prayer requests at the beginning of each month. We will remove names if the request is not renewed.)

**2<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST. NIKOLAI OF ZICA, ORTHODOX MISSION OF ALLIANCE**

We will be celebrating our Mission's second anniversary on Sunday, February 15, 2015. Deanna Dordea will be taking care of sign ups for dinner donations. Please make sure you check with her. More details will be forthcoming.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

January 4	-	No Coffee Hour
January 11	-	Helen and George Blebea
January 18	-	Jaga Radosevic
January 25	-	The Gresh Family

We have received several suggestions that we go to a simpler coffee hour. Please try to keep it to bagels, donuts, coffee cake, etc. As of now we have no one signed up in February.

Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to sign up for Coffee Hour. 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.

**DECEMBER DONATIONS:**

We have received the following special donations during December:  
From: Jaga Radosevic                      For: Health of Family in "Old Country"

**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. We are currently trying to establish a time better for all members, please give opinions to Heidi

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:**

None in January

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:**

Noah Walentik - 12<sup>th</sup>  
Georgie Washington – 20<sup>th</sup>

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