

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship
at University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)
January 26, 2014: 31st Sunday after Pentecost/ Venerable Xenophon and his family / New martyrs and
confessors of Russia**



Tone 6 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body.
You took hell captive,// not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 4 Troparion *(New Martyrs of Russia)*

Today the Church of Russia joyfully forms a chorus, praising her new martyrs and confessors; hierarchs and priests, royal passion-bearers, right-believing princes and princesses, venerable men and women, and all Orthodox Christians. Having laid down their life for faith in Christ during the days of godless persecution, they preserved the truth by the shedding of blood.// By their protection, O long-suffering Lord, preserve our land in Orthodoxy till the end of the age.

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 6 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Tone 3 Kontakion *(New Martyrs of Russia)*

Today the new martyrs of Rus' stand in white robes before the Lamb of God, and with the angels they sing to God the hymn of victory:
“Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and praise, and honor, and power, and strength be to our God unto the ages of ages. Amen.”

Epistle: 1 Timothy 1:15-17

Tone 6 Prokeimenon

O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!
v: *To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

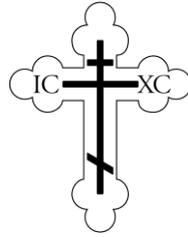
Tone 6 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: *He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the heavenly God.*
v: *He will say to the Lord: “My Protector and my Refuge; my God, in Whom I trust.”*

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Communion Hymn

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



The First Annual Mission Parish Meeting will take place after Liturgy today. Those who are eligible to vote and hold office are those who have partaken of the Holy Sacraments, are financially supporting our Mission and are not members of another Orthodox parish.

Blessing of homes:

*Because having one's home blessed is a very important Orthodox Tradition, all parishioners who recognize the importance of this practice and desire to have the spiritual benefits of such blessings should talk to Father and make an appointment.

*The blessing of the home is not merely a social event. Take it seriously, with preparation and prayer. Televisions, computers, radios and CD players must be off and family members should be present and attentive. Explain to children the meaning of this service (i.e. the priest is bringing the church to our home which confirms that our home is an extension of the church – where we pray, show love for God and one another).

*Be sure to have ready a candle, an Orthodox Icon (not a religious picture), a bowl for water and a printed or typed list of names of family members that you want the priest to pray for.

*Do not feel obligated to provide food or refreshments for the priest.

DEADLINE for home blessings: Sunday, February 23.

Coffee Hour:

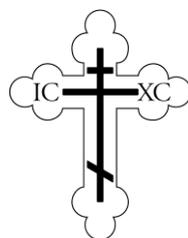
Thank you to Dan Ralich for hosting coffee hour on January 19th.

The Gresh Family will be providing coffee hour on January 26th.

Wally and Debby Borojevich will be providing coffee hour on February 2nd.

We need volunteers for February 9, February 16, February 23 (Meatfare Sunday), March 2 (Cheesefare Sunday) and March 9. The list will be available after Liturgy on Sunday.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity!!!! and for all of the delicious treats!!!



THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Metropolitan Tikhon, Primate

January 19, 2014

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

I greet each of you with the love offered us by our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ on this Sunday dedicated to the sanctity of life. Having just celebrated the glorious feasts of the Nativity and the Theophany of Christ, we have been given a unique perspective from which to reflect on the meaning of our life as baptized Orthodox Christians, and on what it means to be a human being striving to live a Christ-like life. As Saint Athanasius tells us, "by the Word made Man, death has been destroyed and life raised up anew." And it is in this spirit that we celebrate today the sanctity of our renewed life.

Saint Irenaeus of Lyons reminds us that "the glory of God is a living human being." Today, as we celebrate the sanctity of life given by and lived in Christ, we are called to remember that all life is an expression and reflection of the glory of God. Life is a sacred gift from God -- a gift that is given at the very moment of conception.

Proclaiming and upholding the sanctity and miracle of life is a sacred calling, one that lies at the heart of who we are as Orthodox Christians. Indeed, it is our ability to feed, clothe, visit, and minister to all of human life which will provide our defense at the dreadful and awesome second coming of our Lord. It is a calling that involves obligations and responsibilities for the common good of all mankind, beginning with the lowest, least and weakest amongst us. And, at the very heart of this calling is the challenge to share, in "truth and love," the reality that human beings -- in the womb, beyond the tomb, and at every point in between -- reflect the glory of God. Hence, we strive not only to work to change laws that are contrary to the teaching of our Lord, or that treat life as just another "expendable commodity," but to purify hearts and minds to embrace the God Who is Love, Life and Existence Itself and Who invites us to become partakers of His divine nature.

Dear brothers and sisters! It is our prophetic task to call a divided and polarized world to live in Christ, to live lives worthy of the glory of God, and to discern His presence and image in all with whom He shares His life and for whom He gave His life. Please join me in remembering, not only today but every day, that the God-given gift of life is the very reflection of His presence in our midst, and that all human life is called to embrace the sanctification and glory of our Creator!

With love in the Lord,

†Tikhon

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada

St. Nikolai of Zica
Orthodox Mission of Alliance
P.O. Box 193
Maximo, Ohio 44650