

**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 4, 2015: 30th Sunday after Pentecost/Sunday before the Theophany / Forefeast of the Theophany /
Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles/Venerable Theoctistus**



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, coeternal 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 of the Forefeast

Prepare, O Zebulon; and adorn yourself, O Naphtali!
River Jordan, cease flowing and receive with joy the Master coming to be baptized!
Adam, rejoice with our First Mother and do not hide yourself as you did of old in Paradise; for having seen you naked,
He has appeared to clothe you with the first garment.
Christ has appeared to renew all creation.

Tone 3 Troparion (for the Apostles)

Holy Apostles of the Seventy entreat the merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

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 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)

You descended into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty,
resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death.
You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man, //
and we cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"

Tone 2 Kontakion (for the Apostles)

O faithful, let us praise with hymns the choir of the seventy disciples of Christ.
They have taught us all to worship the undivided Trinity,
for they are divine lamps of the faith.

Tone 4 Kontakion (of the Forefeast)

Today the Lord enters the Jordan and cries out to John:
"Do not be afraid to baptize me.// For I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man."

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Sunday before Theophany)

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!

Epistle: 2 Timothy 4:5-8 (Sunday before Theophany)

Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

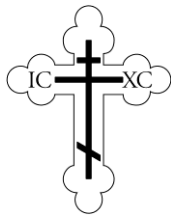
v: O God, be bountiful to us and bless us, show the light of Your countenance upon us, and have mercy on us!

v: That we may know Your way upon the earth, and Your salvation among all nations.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8 (Sunday before Theophany)

Communion Hymn

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



The Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles was established by the Orthodox Church to indicate the equal honor of each of the Seventy. They were sent two by two by the Lord Jesus Christ to go before Him into the cities He would visit (Luke 10:1). Besides the celebration of the Synaxis of the Holy Disciples, the Church celebrates the memory of each of them during the course of the year: St James the Brother of the Lord (October 23); Mark the Evangelist (April 25); Luke the Evangelist (October 18); Cleopas (October 30), brother of St Joseph the Betrothed, and Simeon his son (April 27); Barnabas (June 11); Joses, or Joseph, named Barsabas or Justus (October 30); Thaddeus (August 21); Ananias (October 1); Protomartyr Stephen the Archdeacon (December 27); Philip the Deacon (October 11); Prochorus the Deacon (28 July); Nicanor the Deacon (July 28 and December 28); Timon the Deacon (July 28 and December 30); Parmenas the Deacon (July 28); Timothy (January 22); Titus (August 25); Philemon (November 22 and February 19); Onesimus (February 15); Epaphras and Archippus (November 22 and February 19); Silas, Silvanus, Crescens or Criscus (July 30); Crispus and Epaenetus (July 30); Andronicus (May 17 and July 30); Stachys, Amplias, Urban, Narcissus, Apelles (October 31); Aristobulus (October 31 and March 16); Herodion or Rodion (April 8 and November 10); Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon (April 8); Hermas (November 5, November 30 and May 31); Patrobas (November 5); Hermes (April 8); Linus, Gaius, Philologus (November 5); Lucius (September 10); Jason (April 28); Sosipater (April 28 and November 10); Olympas or Olympanus (November 10); Tertius (October 30 and November 10); Erastos (November 30), Quartus (November 10); Euodius (September 7); Onesiphorus (September 7 and December 8); Clement (November 25); Sosthenes (December 8); Apollos (March 30 and December 8); Tychicus, Epaphroditus (December 8); Carpus (May 26); Quadratus (September 21); Mark (September 27), called John, Zeno (September 27); Aristarchus (April 15 and September 27); Pudens and Trophimus (April 15); Mark nephew of Barnabas, Artemas (October 30); Aquila (July 14); Fortunatus (June 15) and Achaicus (January 4). With the Descent of the Holy Spirit the Seventy Apostles preached in various lands. Some accompanied the Twelve Apostles, like the holy Evangelists Mark and Luke, or St Paul's companion Timothy, or Prochorus, the disciple of the holy Evangelist John the Theologian, and others. Many of them were thrown into prison for Christ, and many received the crown of martyrdom. There are two more Apostles of the Seventy: St Cephas, to whom the Lord appeared after the Resurrection (1 Cor. 15:5-6), and Simeon, called Niger (Acts 13:1). They also were glorified by apostolic preaching. There are discrepancies and errors in some lists of the Seventy Apostles. In a list

attributed to St Dorotheus of Tyre (June 5) some names are repeated (Rodion, or Herodion, Apollos, Tychicus, Aristarchus), while others are omitted (Timothy, Titus, Epaphras, Archippus, Aquila, Olympas). St Demetrius of Rostov consulted the Holy Scripture, the traditions passed down by the Fathers, and the accounts of trustworthy historians when he attempted to correct the mistakes and uncertainties in the list in compiling his collection of Lives of the Saints. The Church in particular venerates and praises the Seventy Apostles because they taught us to honor the Trinity One in Essence and Undivided. In the ninth century St Joseph the Hymnographer composed the Canon for the Synaxis of the Seventy Apostles of Christ.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, January 5 (Strict Fast Day): Theophany (Epiphany) Matins, 5:15 pm. Festal Liturgy 6:30 pm. at St. George Antiochian Church, 1118 Cherry Avenue in Canton. Our mission choir has been invited to sing responses.

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)

The Knoll Family

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+Max

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

COFFEE HOUR:

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| January 4 | - | No Coffee Hour |
| January 11 | - | Helen and George Blebea |
| 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. 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. Please join us.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

None in January

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Josh White – 4th

Dan Krupko – 6th

Katia Gresh – 11th

Noah Walentik - 12th

Georgie Washington – 20th

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

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