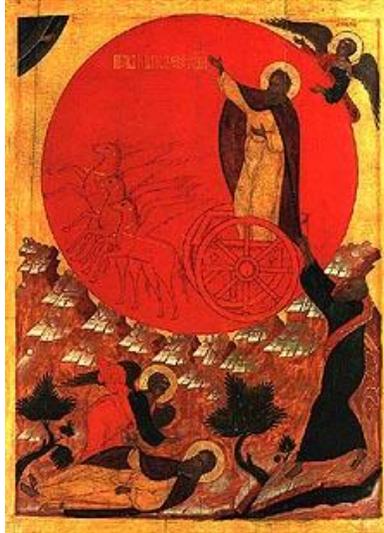


**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance**  
**University of Mt. Union Library Building - Room KHIC 003**  
**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**  
**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)**  
**JULY 20, 2014: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost/Holy Prophet Elijah**  
**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**  
**Mission Website "<http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com/>**



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            (Holy Prophet Elijah)  
An angel in the flesh and the cornerstone of the Prophets,  
the second forerunner of the coming of Christ,  
glorious Elijah sent grace from on high to Elisha,  
to dispel diseases and to cleanse lepers.//  
Therefore he pours forth healings on those who honor him.

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     (Holy Prophet Elijah)  
Prophet Elijah of great renown, seer of the mighty works of God,  
by your command you held back the rain!//  
Pray for us to the only Lover of mankind!

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!

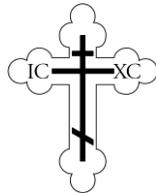
Epistle: Romans 12:6-14

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."

Tone 4  
v. Moses and Aaron were among His priests, and Samuel was among those who called on His name.

Gospel: Matthew 9\_1-8

Communion Hymns  
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!  
The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



**The Holy Prophet Elijah** is one of the greatest of the prophets and the first dedicated to virginity in the Old Testament. He was born in Tishba of Gilead into the Levite tribe 900 years before the Incarnation of the Word of God.

St Epiphanius of Cyprus gives the following account about the birth of the Prophet Elijah: "When Elijah was born, his father Sobach saw in a vision angels of God around him. They swaddled him with fire and fed him with flames." The name Elijah (the Lord's strength) given to the infant defined his whole life. From the years of his youth he dedicated himself to the One God, settled in the wilderness and spent his whole life in strict fasting, meditation and prayer. Called to prophetic service, which put him in conflict with the Israelite king Ahab, the prophet became a fiery zealot of true faith and piety. During this time the Israelite nation had fallen away from the faith of their Fathers, they abandoned the One God and worshipped pagan idols, the worship of which was introduced by the impious king Jereboam. Jezebel, the wife of king Ahab, was devoted to idol worship. She persuaded her husband to build a temple to the pagan god Baal, which led many Israelites away from the worship of the true God. Beholding the ruin of his nation, the Prophet Elijah began to denounce King Ahab for impiety, and exhorted him to repent and turn to the God of Israel. The king would not listen to him. The Prophet Elijah then declared to him, that as punishment there would be neither rain nor dew upon the ground, and the drought would cease only by his prayer. Indeed, the word of Elijah was a torch (Eccles. 48: 1) The heavens were closed for three and a half years, and there was drought and famine throughout all the land.

During this time of tribulation, the Lord sent him to a cave beyond the Jordan. There he was miraculously fed by ravens. When the stream Horath dried up, the Lord sent the Prophet Elijah to

Sarephtha to a poor widow, a Sidonian Gentile who suffered together with her children, awaiting death by starvation. At the request of the prophet, she prepared him a bread with the last measure of flour and the remainder of the oil. Through the prayer of the Prophet Elijah, flour and oil were not depleted in the home of the widow for the duration of the famine. By the power of his prayer the prophet also performed another miracle: he raised the dead son of the widow.

After the end of three years of drought the Merciful Lord sent the prophet to appear before King Ahab, and promised to send rain upon the earth. The Prophet Elijah told the king to order all of Israel to gather upon Mount Carmel, and also the priests of Baal. When the nation had gathered, the Prophet Elijah proposed that two sacrificial altars be built: one for the priests of Baal, and the other for the Prophet Elijah who served the True God.

The Prophet Elijah told them to call on their gods to consume the sacrificial animals with fire, and he would call on his. Whichever was first to send fire on the sacrifice would be acknowledged as the true God. The prophets of Baal called out to their idol from morning till evening, but the heavens were silent. Towards evening the holy Prophet Elijah built his sacrificial altar from twelve stones, the number of the tribes of Israel. He placed the sacrifice upon the wood, gave orders to dig a ditch around the altar and commanded that the sacrifice and the wood be soaked with water. When the ditch had filled with water, the prophet turned to God in prayer. Through the prayer of the prophet fire came down from heaven and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, and even the water. The people fell down to the ground, crying out: "Truly, the Lord is God!" Then the Prophet Elijah had all the pagan-priests of Baal put to death, and he began to pray for rain. Through his prayer the heavens opened and an abundant rain fell, soaking the parched earth.

King Ahab acknowledged his error and repented of his sins, but his wife Jezebel threatened to kill the prophet of God. The Prophet Elijah fled into the Kingdom of Judea and, grieving over his failure to eradicate idol worship, he asked God to let him die. An angel of the Lord came before him, strengthened him with food and commanded him to go upon a long journey. The Prophet Elijah traveled for forty days and nights and, having arrived at Mount Horeb, he settled in a cave.

The Lord told him that the next day Elijah would stand in His presence. There was a strong wind that crushed the rocks of the mountain, then an earthquake, and a fire, but the Lord was not in them. The Lord was in "a gentle breeze" (3 Kings 19: 12). He revealed to the prophet, that He would preserve seven thousand faithful servants who had not worshipped Baal.

Later, the Lord commanded Elijah to anoint Elisha into prophetic service. Because of his fiery zeal for the Glory of God the Prophet Elijah was taken up alive into Heaven in a fiery chariot. The Prophet Elisha received Elijah's mantle, and a double portion of his prophetic spirit.

According to the Tradition of Holy Church, the Prophet Elijah will be the Forerunner of the Dread Second Coming of Christ. He will proclaim the truth of Christ, urge all to repentance, and will be slain by the Antichrist. This will be a sign of the end of the world.

The life of the holy Prophet Elijah is recorded in the Old Testament books (3 Kings; 4 Kings; Sirach/Ecclesiastes 48: 1-15; 1 Maccabees 2: 58). At the time of the Transfiguration, the Prophet Elijah conversed with the Savior upon Mount Tabor (Mt. 17: 3; Mark 9: 4; Luke. 9: 30).

Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries.

The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism St Olga (July 14) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in his native region, at the village of Vibuta.

In iconography the Prophet Elijah is depicted ascending to Heaven in a fiery chariot, surrounded with flames, and harnessed to four winged horses. We pray to him for deliverance from drought, and to ask for seasonable weather.

---

**PRAYERS are requested for:**

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)  
Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)  
Jim, Cousin of Fr. David  
George Borojevich, brother of Wally and Debby  
Ava Cooper, infant who is undergoing surgery for heart defects  
Mother Ana  
+Archimadrite Theodor (Micka)  
+Nell Janik

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Coffee Hour Sunday, July 13 was provided by Jaga Radosevic. Thank you!!  
Coffee Hour on Sunday, July 20 will be provided by Dan Ralich.  
We need coffee hour hosts. July 27 is available. (The Krupko's will be absent, so food needs that morning are small! ☺) Coffee Hour for the summer needs to be very simple (i.e. coffee, donuts, juice) due to facility constrictions. Any leftovers will need to go home with the host.  
Please see Cathy or Tom Baier if you would like to help.

**GOLF OUTING:**

Saturday, July 19 is our first golf outing! If you are able to help and have not contacted Tom Krupko, please do! Our needs are minimal and we hope to have some fun! There will be a get together at the Krupko home following golf and the dinner for golfers and mission members!

**JULY BIRTHDAYS:**

Alex Ralich 7/10  
Kim Krajci 7/22

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES:**

None

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance  
P.O. Box 193  
Maximo, Ohio 44650  
email: [stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com](mailto:stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com)  
website: [www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com](http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com)