

**St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance**  
**820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio**  
**(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)**  
**Divine Liturgy, 9:30**

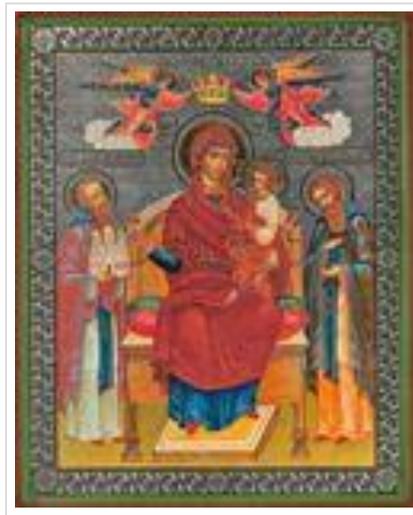
**Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America**  
**Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)**  
**July 5, 2015/ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after PENTECOST**

**Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

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

*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 at the Jonathan Casteel hall, directly through the alley way behind the church. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.*



**The Economissa Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos**

**Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)**

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles:  
“Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen, // granting the world great mercy!”

**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 (Resurrection)**

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb  
and delivered the earth-born from their chains.

He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master, // He has risen on the third day!

**Tone 4****Prokeimenon**

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all.

v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!

**Epistle:** Romans 10:1-10

**Tone 4** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

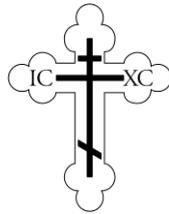
v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!

v. For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

**Gospel:** Matthew 8:28-9:1

**Communion Hymn**

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



**The Economissa (or Stewardess) Icon of the Most Holy Theotokos** depicts the Mother of God seated on a throne, with Her Son on her left knee. St Athanasius of Mt Athos (July 5) stands on her right, holding a model of the Great Lavra. On her left is St Michael of Synnada (May 23). Two angels hold a crown above her head.

The Mother of God has been considered the Stewardess of the Holy Mountain ever since the tenth century when the Great Lavra was being built. St Athanasius of Mt Athos was abandoned by his monks because there was a shortage of food and money. He also left the half-built Lavra, and began walking toward Karyes, intending to ask for advice about whether or not to beg the emperor for the funds needed to complete the building. After about two hours, he saw a beautiful woman standing before him wearing a long blue veil.

“I know your sorrow,” She said, “and I would like to help. Where are you going?”

St Athanasius explained everything that had happened, and She asked, “Have you deserted your monastery for a morsel of bread? Go back! You will have everything you need in abundance, if you do not abandon your monastery.”

“Who are you?” the astonished saint inquired.

“I am the Mother of your Lord,” She replied.

St Athanasius hesitated to believe Her, afraid of being deceived by the Evil One. Then he asked Her how he could be sure that Her words were true.

“Do you see this rock?” she asked, pointing to the side of the path. “Strike it with your staff in the name of the Holy Trinity, and you will know who is speaking to you. Do not appoint a steward at any time, for from this time forward, I shall be the Stewardess of your monastery.”

St Athanasius did as he was told, and the rock split open. A stream of water began to flow out of the crack. When he turned to face the Mother of God and to ask forgiveness for his doubt, She had disappeared.

Returning to the monastery, St Athanasius found all the storerooms filled to capacity with food, wine, and oil. The building was completed, and soon the Lavra was filled with monks once again.

To this day, the Lavra does not have a steward. There is, however, a monk who serves as an assistant steward to the Mother of God. The Economissa Icon rests on a throne in the narthex of the main church, and She remains the Stewardess of the Lavra. Pilgrims venerate the Icon before entering the side chapel with the saint's tomb.

The spring of St Athanasius still flows with healing water.

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### **PRAYERS requested**

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

Mother Ana  
Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)  
Stefanie Waseman  
Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)  
The Knoll Family  
Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)  
Ann Cervo (Fr. Joe's sister-in-law, diagnosed with optical melanoma)  
Roland Augspurger

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

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

The Adult Christian Ed study group is taking a short summer break and will resume Saturday, July 25.

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

July 5<sup>th</sup> - Open  
July 12th Dan Ralich  
July 19th Open  
July 26th Open

Please see Deanna and Larry Dordea if you are interested in hosting a Coffee Hour. There are plenty of dates available. Thank you to Deanna, Larry and Georgie for chairing our Coffee Hours.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE HOSTED COFFEE HOUR!!!!**

### **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.

### **BUILDING PROJECT:**

By the grace of God construction of our chapel is well under way. Roof trusses were put in place this past week and roof sheathing is scheduled to be put up this coming week. Please check updated construction pictures on our parish website.

We are still in need of additional funding for the general building project. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution to the building fund, please see Father Joe or Deacon James.

**May the Lord bless all our endeavors to glorify His Holy Name and bring others to the fullness of the truth.**

**CHOIR PRACTICES:**

We will be taking a break for the Summer. Practices will resume in the Fall.

**CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITY:**

There is still time to donate!

The 50 mile Bike Ride to benefit those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis took place last weekend. Proceeds benefit Multiple Sclerosis research as well as assisting families with financial assistance, emotional support, therapy and equipment. Northeast Ohio is a "Hot Spot" for Multiple Sclerosis and has a larger than usual population of people afflicted with this debilitating. If you would still like to make a donation, please check with Cathy or Allison.

**MEMORIAL FUND FOR GEORGE RALICH:**

Several people have inquired about donations to the Mission in memory of Dan's father, +George Ralich. We will set aside any donations in +George's memory to purchase an item for the church. Thank you!

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