

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

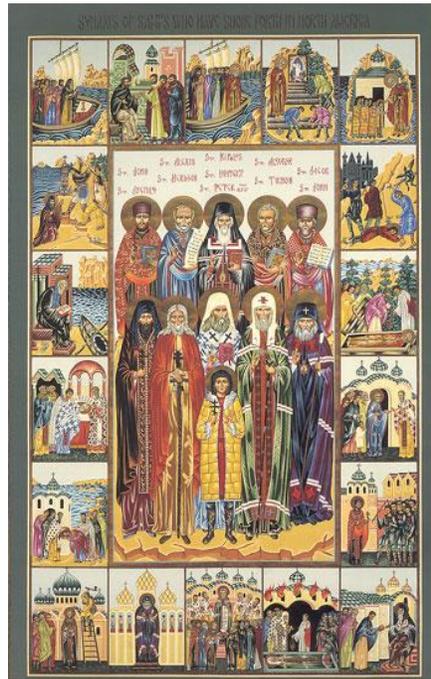
**Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bulgarian Diocese, Orthodox Church in America  
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)**

**Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)  
June 14, 2015/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after PENTECOST/All Saints of North America**

**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.*



**Tone 1                      Troparion                      (Resurrection)**

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Your most pure body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world.

The powers of heaven therefore cried to You, O Giver of Life:

“Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!

Glory to Your Kingdom!// Glory to Your dispensation, O Lover of mankind!”

**Tone 8                      Troparion                      (All Saints of North America)**

As the bountiful harvest of Your sowing of salvation, the lands of North America offer to You, O Lord, all the saints who have shone in them.

By their prayers keep the Church and our land in abiding peace through the Theotokos, O most Merciful One!



Seraphim (Samuilovich) of Uglich, missionary in Alaska and hieromartyr under the Soviets  
Tikhon Patriarch of Moscow, previously Archbishop of North America  
Varnava (Nastic), the New Confessor, born in Gary, Indiana  
Anatole (Kamensky) of Irkutsk, New Hieromartyr and Archbishop of Irkutsk

**Called by the Saints** (by OCA Chancellor, Fr. John Jillions)

The liturgical book that we began with the Matins of Pascha is called the *Pentecostarion*. This theologically rich book contains the hymnography for all the days of Pascha, and the Feasts of Ascension and Pentecost. But it does not end with the Leavetaking of Pentecost. We draw from the *Pentecostarion* one last time on the Sunday of All Saints, which we celebrated this past Sunday—June 7, 2015.

This commemoration is all-inclusive, embracing all of the men, women and children - known and unknown - who throughout the ages have been well-pleasing to God in trying honestly to fulfill the will of God in all things. If a “saint” is a holy person, then that holiness is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is not a humanly generated holiness; as it is not a matter of the “indomitable human spirit” struggling to overcome any and all adversities. A saint is the one that makes a conscious effort to cooperate with God [*synergy*], and is fully aware of his/her dependence on the grace and deifying energies of the “Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth.” Thus, the Feast of All Saints, that we celebrated this past Sunday (and the Feast of All Saints of North America, which we celebrate this Sunday) is the perfectly placed commemoration to follow the entire paschal-pentecostal season.

If there is a “road to perdition,” then there is certainly a “road to holiness.” And there is a seemingly endless number of vocations that a particular person will be able to follow on that road - straight and narrow as it may be. In the Liturgy we commemorate “those who have fallen asleep in faith: ancestors, fathers, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, preachers, evangelists, martyrs, confessors, ascetics and every righteous spirit made perfect in faith.” What are some of the consistent characteristics of the multitude of saints who bless the Church with their intercessory presence? Perhaps we can bring to mind a few of those qualities that draw forth our admiration as well as our desire for emulation.

- Following the words of the Lord, the saints love no one more than they love Christ - father, mother, son, daughter, etc. They place nothing or no one above the “one thing needful” - Christ and the fulfillment of the Gospel precepts. The primary goal of the saints is to enter the Kingdom of God.
- The saints acknowledge that they are sinners and spend their lives in an ever-deepening experience of repentance. They will thus never justify or rationalize their sins or shortcomings. But they will never despair of the boundless forgiveness and love of God. The saints realize that they are “nothing” without God.
- The saints are not concerned with worldly popularity, praise and recognition. They feel no need for “ego gratification.” They have no need to favorably compare themselves with their neighbors. They do not feel envy or jealousy when their neighbors prosper. They flee from pride as from the plague.
- The saints suffer in spirit over the suffering of others in the world. They mourn in spirit when they contemplate the sinfulness of the world. They are deeply compassionate toward all creatures. The heart of the saint expands in order to embrace the entire creation with love.
- The saints leave all judgment in the hands of God.

- The saints are ever-prepared to forgive others when they are offended or even persecuted. And they will suffer if they even inadvertently offend another. They do not hold grudges or long-standing anger towards others. Reconciliation is always their goal. They can actually “turn the other cheek.” The saints will even love their “enemies.”
- The saints struggle to overcome their fleshly and spiritual temptations. They do this through the consistent practice of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. They also do this by guarding over their “thoughts,” driving away the ones that tempt and thus the proclivity to sin. Their goal is to overcome the “passions.”
- The saints know the Scriptures “forwards and backwards.” They regularly immerse themselves in the written word of God in order to encounter the Living Word of God so as to put His teachings into practice.
- The saints will confess their sins with regularity. They will receive the Eucharist “in the fear of God, and with faith.”
- The saints will defend the Faith when it is under attack, but never harm another person in the process.

No one, beginning with the Lord, ever said it would be easy! In fact, the Lord taught us yesterday in the Gospel, “And he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me” [Matthew 10:38].

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## **DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.**

### **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:**

+George Ralich (Father of Dan Ralich)

(Please update prayer requests at the beginning of each month. Names will be removed if the request is not renewed.)

### **ADULT EDUCATION:**

The Adult Christian Ed study group is back on stream starting this coming Saturday, June 13. "We're back!"

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

June 7th - Cervo's  
 June 14th - Dordea's  
 June 21st - no one signed up  
 June 28th- no one signed up

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 and with the sacrificial donations of many, phase one of construction for our chapel began Bright Week. Equipment moved in and construction officially began on Tuesday, April 14. 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:**

The Krupko Family and Friends will be participating in a 50 mile Bike Ride to benefit those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis. The ride will be Saturday, June 20, 2015. 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 like to make a donation and support our bike team, please check with Cathy, Amy or Allison.

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