

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 4 pm.
Book study/Christian Education following Vespers
Parish Council meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm (*open to parishioners*)
9837 State Street, Louisville , Ohio 44641
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)
March 13, 2016: Sunday of Cheesefare: The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise
Website: <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com>
Facebook page: "<http://www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMission> of Alliance

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. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.

Tone 8 Troparion (Resurrection)

You descended from on high, O Merciful One!

You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!//

O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

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 (from the Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue,

Who teach the thoughtless and protect the poor, strengthen and enlighten my heart!

O Word of the Father, let me not restrain my mouth from crying to You:

“Have mercy on me, a transgressor,//O merciful Lord!”

Tone 8 Prokimenon

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!

v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Tone 6 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v. It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.

v. to declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Communion Hymn

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

Sunday of Cheesefare: Expulsion of Adam from Paradise

As we begin the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen. 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendents became heirs of death and corruption.

Let us consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Today we are invited to cleanse ourselves of evil through fasting and obedience to God. Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, to participate in church services, and partake of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

At Forgiveness Vespers we sing: "Let us begin the time of fasting in light, preparing ourselves for spiritual efforts. Let us purify our soul, let us purify our body. As we abstain from food, let us abstain from all passion and enjoy the virtues of the spirit...."

Cheesefare Sunday (Forgiveness Sunday) "O Lord, we were estranged before from paradise, because of eating from the tree. Therefore, lead us into it again by Thy Cross and by Thy Passion, my Savior and my God. Fortify us therein that we may fulfill our fast with becoming purity, and worship Thy divine Resurrection and Passover of salvation, by the intercessions of Thy Mother. -- from Matins, Tone 2

For those honoring and observing the Lenten Fast, Cheese-Fare Sunday is the last day on which eggs and dairy are eaten before Pascha.

On Cheese-Fare Sunday, we also commemorate the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, entering into the Lenten fast in remembrance of mankind's separation from God through disobeying his commandment to fast from the fruit of the tree. Furthermore, many faithful attend Forgiveness Vespers on Sunday evening, asking forgiveness from each other in accordance with the Lord's words: *If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses* (Matt. 6:14).

Thoughts for the Day:

"When fasting is understood in a true, Christian sense and not in a legalistic, pharisaical way, then the forgiving of insults and abstaining from covetousness are a fast, and this the most important fast, or, if you wish, the greatest fruit of fasting. For indeed, there is very little value in abstaining from food without abstinence from the returning of insult

for insult and the illusion of earthly riches." – (St. Nikolai of Zica on *The Forgiveness Sunday Gospel, Matthew. 6:14-21*)

“When you want to direct someone toward the good, first put him at peace bodily and honor him with words of love. For nothing inclines such a man to shame and induces him to cast of his vice and be changed for the better as do bodily goods and honor, which he sees in you. Then, with love tell him a word or two, and do not be inflamed with anger toward him. Do not let him see any cause of enmity toward you. For love does not know how to lose its temper.” (St. Isaac the Syrian)

Feast of St. Nikolai: We will celebrate Pre-sanctified Liturgy, Thursday evening, March 17, at 6:30 pm. Members of the Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood of Stark County have been invited to share the Holy Eucharist with us and honor our parish patron saint (who passed from this life, March 18, 1957 at St. Tikhon Seminary/Monastery). We will have a (strict fast) Lenten covered dish meal following Liturgy. Please advise Jaga Radosevic what you are bringing.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

- > **Wednesday, March 16**, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm St George Massillon
- > **Thursday, March 17**, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, feast of St. Nikolai, 6:30 pm
- > **Saturday, March 19**, St. Theodore-Soul Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am
- > Wednesday, March 23, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm St Haralambos Canton
- > Friday, March 25, Great Feast of Annunciation, Vesperal Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, March 30, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm Holy Assumption Canton
- > Friday, April 1, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, April 6, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm Holy Trinity Canton
- > Friday, April 8, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, April 13, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm St. George (Serb) N Canton
- > Friday, April 15, Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm
- > Wednesday, April 20, Pan-Orthodox Pre-sanctified Liturgy, 6:30 pm St. George (Ant) Canton
- > Saturday, April 23, Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy, 9:30 am

There will be a full Holy Week schedule, April 25-29 (every evening at 6:30) as we celebrated last year at St. Theodore Church.

The prayer list will be revised this week. *If you wish to list someone please advise Father*

TIME REMINDER: Remember to turn the clock forward 1 hour when going to bed this Saturday night.

Also, beginning Saturday, March 19, Vespers will now be at 5 pm (until November).

PRAYERS requested:

For The Health and Salvation of;

Bohdan Bartol (new born grandson of Steve & Sandy Bozeka)

Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier's mother)

Father John and Cindy Zdinak & Family

Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)

Helen (Father David's aunt)

Carl (friend of Father David)
Lisa “
Bruce “
Kitty “
Paul “
Father David and Family
Doreen Wishnok
Stefanie Waseman
The Knoll Family
Roland Augspurger
Leslie and Tim Kocevar
Beth Plocher
Renee Young
Larry Gainer
James Rickard and Family
Gregory Cervo
Ann Cervo
Letitia (Lynette Baier’s mother)
Arika (missing person)
Ken Mabry
Malaik (Allison pre-school child)
Edward (Allison pre-school child)

For The Repose of the Souls of the newly departed Servants:

+John Horny (Ann Cervo’s nephew)
+Edna Stamatoff (Popadija Linda (Fr. Basil) Shaheen’s mother)
+Yolanda (friend of Lynnette)
+Elena Stora (friend of Jenny Codrea)

Coffee Hour Today: Dan Ralich

March 20-Helen Blebea; March 27-Dan Ralich. Sponsors needed for remaining Lenten Sunday’s.

COFFEE HOUR AND CHURCH CLEANING:

There is a sign-up sheet posted in the fellowship room for coffee hour and church cleaning. If you have any questions please see Father Joe or Deacon James. If we do not have anyone signed up for coffee hour on any week, we will simply have coffee during fellowship.

Donors requested: We are seeking individuals to donate the following items:

3 Wood carved stands to set icons on for veneration, \$200 each.
1 Case of Sacramental Altar Wine, \$150.
Incense, \$60.
Chapel Windows-Sun Block, \$2467.

Parish Finances:

January and February 2016

Income \$ 10,019.61

Expenses 8,921.78

Stewardship: Please pray, contemplate and complete the parish pledge form and return to the Priest or Deacon, as soon as possible. May the Lord direct you and bless you for returning some of your possessions to further the work of His holy Church.

Save Your Stuff. Once again our parish is going to have a rummage sale at the Hartville Flea Market, Memorial Day weekend. Please contact Georgie Washington for details.