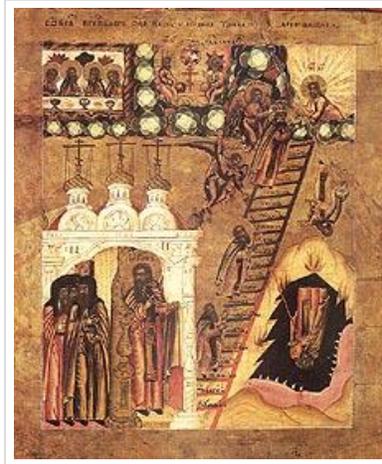


**St. Nikolai of Zica Orthodox Mission of Alliance  
820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio  
(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)  
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am**

**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 22, 2015: Fourth Sunday of Lent: St John of the Ladder**



*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 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 1 Troparion (for St John of the Ladder)**

O dweller of the wilderness and angel in the body,  
you were a wonderworker, O our God-bearing Father John.  
You received heavenly gifts through fasting, vigil and prayer,  
healing the sick and the souls of those drawn to you by faith.  
Glory to Him Who gave you strength! Glory to Him Who granted you a crown!//  
Glory to Him Who grants healing to all!

**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 (for St John of the Ladder)**

The Lord truly set you on the heights of abstinence,  
to be a guiding star, showing the way to the universe, // O our father and teacher John.

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)**

Pray and make your vows before the Lord, our God!  
v: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

**Epistle:** Hebrews 6:13-20

**Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

v :Come, let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!  
v :Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!

**Gospel:** Mark 9:17-31

**(Instead of "It is truly meet," we sing the following Hymn to the Theotokos)**

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of Angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

**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 Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to St John of the Ladder** (Climacus), the author of the work, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. The abbot of St Catherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai (6th century) stands as a witness to the violent effort needed for entrance into God's Kingdom (Mt.10: 12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is a real one, "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Eph 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, according to the Lord, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Mt.24:13).

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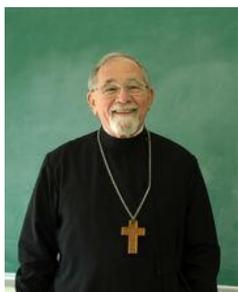
**DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.**

**The Great Feast of The Annunciation:**

Wednesday, March 25

We will have Liturgy, as is called for in the Typicon (the book of service order), in the evening at 6 pm.

Please come and celebrate the joyous beginning of God's plan for our salvation. As a side note: this feast is so great and joyous that the discipline of strict fasting is relaxed this day, as the Church evokes the celebratory nature of this universal event (sorry, no meat, however)!



The Protopresbyter Father +Thomas Hopko, Dean-emeritus, of St. Vladimir Orthodox Seminary, fell asleep in the Lord, Wednesday, March 25. Funeral services will be Saturday, Sunday and Monday at Holy Transfiguration Monastery, Elwood City, Pa.

Fr. +Tom was a prolific author of many books, educator and dynamic preacher. Many of his lectures are posted on YouTube. He offered the following practical spiritual counsel for how to live as Orthodox Christians. These maxims are worth reviewing daily as part of one's rule of life.

May his memory be eternal!

1. Be always with Christ.
2. Pray as you can, not as you want.
3. Have a keepable rule of prayer that you do by discipline.
4. Say the Lord's Prayer several times a day.
5. Have a short prayer that you constantly repeat when your mind is not occupied with other things.
6. Make some prostrations when you pray.
7. Eat good foods in moderation.
8. Keep the Church's fasting rules.
9. Spend some time in silence every day.
10. Do acts of mercy in secret.
11. Go to liturgical services regularly
12. Go to confession and communion regularly.
13. Do not engage intrusive thoughts and feelings. Cut them off at the start.
14. Reveal all your thoughts and feelings regularly to a trusted person.
15. Read the scriptures regularly.
16. Read good books a little at a time.
17. Cultivate communion with the saints.
18. Be an ordinary person.
19. Be polite with everyone.

20. Maintain cleanliness and order in your home.
21. Have a healthy, wholesome hobby.
22. Exercise regularly.
23. Live a day, and a part of a day, at a time.
24. Be totally honest, first of all, with yourself.
25. Be faithful in little things.
26. Do your work, and then forget it.
27. Do the most difficult and painful things first.
28. Face reality.
29. Be grateful in all things.
30. Be cheerful.
31. Be simple, hidden, quiet and small.
32. Never bring attention to yourself.
33. Listen when people talk to you.
34. Be awake and be attentive.
35. Think and talk about things no more than necessary.
36. When we speak, speak simply, clearly, firmly and directly.
37. Flee imagination, analysis, figuring things out.
38. Flee carnal, sexual things at their first appearance.
39. Don't complain, mumble, murmur or whine.
40. Don't compare yourself with anyone.
41. Don't seek or expect praise or pity from anyone.
42. We don't judge anyone for anything.
43. Don't try to convince anyone of anything.
44. Don't defend or justify yourself.
45. Be defined and bound by God alone.
46. Accept criticism gratefully but test it critically.
47. Give advice to others only when asked or obligated to do so.
48. Do nothing for anyone that they can and should do for themselves.
49. Have a daily schedule of activities, avoiding whim and caprice.
50. Be merciful with yourself and with others.
51. Have no expectations except to be fiercely tempted to your last breath.
52. Focus exclusively on God and light, not on sin and darkness.
53. Endure the trial of yourself and your own faults and sins peacefully, serenely, because you know that God's mercy is greater than your wretchedness.
54. When we fall, get up immediately and start over.
55. Get help when you need it, without fear and without shame.

### **PRAYERS requested**

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

Mother Ana

Father Joe Cervo

Doreen Wishnok (friend of the Krupko's who is battling breast cancer)

George Ralich, (Dan's father)

Stefanie Waseman

Kerri Baugher (friend of the Krupko's who has cancer)

The Knoll Family

Mildred (Peggy) and Walter Borojevich (Wally's Parents)

Stephanie (Father David's Cousin), who suffered a mild heart attack

Mara (Jaga's Sister)

Father Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)

Andre Dordea

Bonnie Smith (Friend of Jaga Radosevic)

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

+Mary Rossi (parishioner of Christ the Savior OCA Church, Byesville, Oh.)

+Dr. Gregory Spohn, Canton Area Pediatrician and doctor to Tillman Children

+Raymond Corbin (father of Fr. Michael Corbin, St. George Antiochian Church)  
+James Kannam (St. George Antiochian Church)  
+Candi (Friend of John and Lynette Baier)  
+Mary Daymut (Christ the Savior Church, Byesville, Oh.)  
+Gloria Lijoi (friend of the Krupkos)  
Protopresbyter +Thomas Hopko

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

**COFFEE HOUR:**

March 1 - Jaga Radosevic  
March 8 - Tom and Lana Baier  
March 15 - Dan Ralich  
March 22 - Gresh Family  
March 29 - Dan Ralich

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.

**SPECIAL DONATIONS WERE RECEIVED IN FEBRUARY FROM:**

Jaga Radosevic for the health of her sister Mara  
Corsalea Family honoring the anniversary of Helen and George Blebea  
Helen and George Blebea for the health of the members of the mission

**ADULT EDUCATION:**

Please bring your bible and we are meeting every Saturday, 5 pm in the Gresh home located at 9135 Gans Ave NE

**BUILDING PROJECT:**

We are getting ready to break ground and 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 on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm at the Gresh Home. Please see Heidi for details.

**ST. THEODORE ROMANIAN BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH:**

The Mission is most thankful to Bishop John Michael and the Romanian Byzantine Catholic Diocese for graciously providing us with a home until our building is complete. As a gesture of gratitude the Mission is giving a gift of \$250.00 per month. The money is being used to pay for meals for those in need.

**UNITED WOMEN:**

Recently, Helen (Mimi) Blebea attended the United Women group representing the Mission. Their next meeting is April 10 at 1:00 pm. If any women are interested in attending the meeting next month, please See Helen.

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