

St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance, as part of Orthodox Campus Fellowship
at the University of Mount Union, Dewald Chapel. Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)
Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (Bulgarian Diocese OCA)

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March 2, 2014: Sunday of Cheesefare-Forgiveness /
The Expulsion of Adam from Paradise / Hieromartyr Theodotus



Tone 3 Troparion (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death.

He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to 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 6 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

O Master, Teacher of wisdom, Bestower of virtue, Who teaches the thoughtless and protects 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!"

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

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.

Tone 6 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

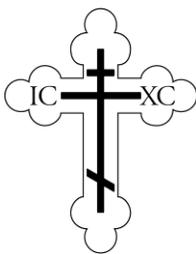
v. to declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21

Communion Hymn

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Presanctified Liturgy Schedule at the Mt. Union Chapel:

March 5th; March 12th; March 26th; April 9th

All services at 7 PM.

THE LITURGY OF THE PRESANCTIFIED GIFTS

Because the Divine Liturgy is the "Banquet of Christ", a festive, triumphant celebration, the ancient discipline of the Church came to regard it as out of harmony with the penitential climate of Great Lent. Yet to provide the faithful with the "food of immortality", the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, that is, with the Eucharistic Gifts consecrated beforehand, at the Liturgy of the previous Sunday, came into use early on. (It is attested as the approved tradition at the Council of 692.)

The Presanctified Gifts were offered to the faithful, after the ninth hour, about 3:00 p.m., usually at the end of a day of fasting, in what is

actually an elaborated Office of Vespers with Holy Communion. The Presanctified Liturgies may be conducted

1. On Wednesday and Friday of the first six weeks of Lent.
2. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of Holy Week.

The Sacrificial (or Resurrection) Liturgy is celebrated only on Saturdays and Sundays in Lent, on the Feast of the Annunciation, on whatever day it falls, and on Holy Thursday. (Good Friday is non-eucharistic liturgical day.)

PARTICULARITIES OF THE PRESANCTIFIED

On the preceding Sunday, at the Prothesis (the service of preparation of the Holy Gifts), after dedicating the principal "Lamb", to be distributed in Holy Communion that day, the priest prepares as many additional "Lambs" as there will be Liturgies of the Presanctified during that week, saying for each the same prayers as for the first.

However, at the Consecration of the Gifts all the "Lambs" are presented as one, for Christ is One. Similarly, at the elevation, all the "Lambs" are elevated together when the priest proclaims, "Holy Things are for the Holy." At the fraction of the Lamb, the Priest breaks only that one which he dedicated first at the Prothesis. As for the others, he takes them one by one and pours a small amount of the Holy and Precious Blood of the Lord on the underside then places them in a special tabernacle.

Readings from the Psalms are an important element of the Presanctified Liturgy.

SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE: EXPLUSION 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...."

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to Dan Ralich for hosting coffee hour and for the delicious breakfast of bacon, eggs and cevaps!
What a treat.

Our hostess this Sunday will be Linda Cervo.

Our hostess on March 9 is Jaga Radosevic.

PRAYERS:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

Jovanka Kramanak (please pray for the repose of her soul, Jovanka passed away February 17).

Memorial prayers for Otto and Florence Baier and Star requested by Oney Baier.

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

EMAIL:

Please note that we have changed our email a little to:

stnikolaimission@gmail.com

emails from the other email address will be forwarded for the time being.

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