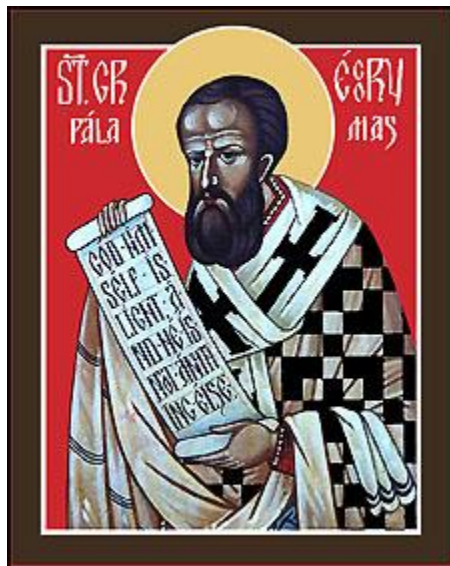


St. Nikolai of Zica Orthodox Mission of Alliance
820 South Linden Avenue, Alliance, Ohio
(at St. Theodore Romanian Byzantine Catholic Church)
Divine Liturgy, 9:30

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)
March 8, 2015: Second Sunday of Lent: St Gregory Palamas



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 6 Troparion (Resurrection)

The angelic powers were at Your tomb; the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Your grave, seeking Your most pure body.
You took captive hell, // not being tempted by it. You came to the Virgin, granting life. //
O Lord, Who rose from the dead, glory to You.

Tone 8 Troparion (St Gregory Palamas)

O light of Orthodoxy, teacher of the Church, its confirmation,
O ideal of monks and invincible champion of theologians,
O wonderworking Gregory, glory of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, //
always intercede before the Lord that our souls may be saved!

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 8 Kontakion (St Gregory Palamas)

Holy and divine instrument of wisdom, joyful trumpet of theology,
together we sing your praises, O God-inspired Gregory.
Since you now stand before the Original Mind, guide our minds to Him,
O Father, // so that we may sing to you: "Rejoice, preacher of grace!"

Tone 4 Kontakion (from the Lenten Triodion)

Now is the time for action! Judgment is at the doors! So let us rise and fast,
offering alms with tears of compunction and crying:
"Our sins are more in number than the sands of the sea;
but forgive us, O Master of all, // so that we may receive the incorruptible crowns!"

Tone 5 Prokeimenon

You, O Lord, shall protect us and preserve us from this generation forever.

v: Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly.

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Tone 5 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: I will sing of Your mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Your truth from generation to generation.

v: For You have said: "Mercy will be established forever; Your truth will be prepared in the heavens.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

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



Thought for the Day by St. Gregory Palamas: "Since illnesses are cured by their opposite remedies, as we had been put to death by the wicked counsel of the evil one, we were made alive again by the good counsel of the good Lord. The deadly counselor had at his disposal pleasure, glory and comfort, which enchanted mankind and dragged it down. So the Counselor of true life Himself led the way along the strait and narrow way which leads to life above and guided us in it. 'Strive,' He says, 'to enter in at the strait gate' (Lk. 13:24), and 'strait and narrow is the way that leads to life, for wide and broad is the way that leads to destruction' (cf. Mt. 7:13-14). Elsewhere He warns more clearly against that path, saying, 'Woe to you who are rich! Woe to you who are full! Woe to you when all men shall speak well of you' (cf. Lk. 6:24-26), thus declaring wretched all lovers of glory, pleasure and money." -- St. Gregory Palamas

Lent Is a Time For Parish Renewal and Growth

By: Bishop John (Abdalah) of New England & Editor of The Word Magazine AOCANA

Lent is not only a time for personal renewal; it is a time for parish renewal as well. The Church is reborn every time someone enters the community. This is true even when the new member comes from another Orthodox parish, or a Christian communion outside the Orthodox Church, or is baptized as an infant or adult. The community is changed to make room for the new member who will build relationships, assume responsibilities, and even need to find a place to stand and sit in the worship.

To be deliberate about our parish renewal through this transition, the Church has appointed this Lenten time of fasting and intense prayers. We rediscover our roots with our new members as we read during the weeks of Lent from the Old Testament. We rediscover our innocence as the catechumens ask questions and express delight at the Orthodox perspectives. We regain our fervor as we see the community grow and see how God is active in the lives of the catechumens and in our own.

We can not take this process for granted. Not every Lent sees catechumens in every parish. Not every parishioner is even aware that the Church is growing and that God is calling people to Himself. Perhaps at some places and at some times,

communities don't grow simply because the community is on "vacation" or asleep when people come knocking on our doors, or even when they sit in our pews. This is a great tragedy and we will be held accountable for this on Judgment Day. We really need to be deliberate about being ready to witness and care for those whom God is calling. Some prospective members are walking into our Churches unnoticed; others are working and playing with us all day long, waiting for our invitation to share in the life God has prepared for all. If this is too abstract, let me be more concrete:

1. We should expect that people around us will be seeking God and that God will be calling them to be in the Orthodox Church. It is for this reason that Christ established His Church in the beginning, and the Orthodox Church is the Church that He established. It is that Church, without addition or subtraction. It is the contiguous community of the Apostles. It is continuous in time and space through the laying on of hands and the maintenance of the same apostolic message.
 2. We need to be friendly and willing to share in the faith to which God calls all of us, in ways that are dignified, organized and appropriate. We are not ethnic ghettos with inferior customs; we are the Church of Jesus Christ.
 3. We should pray for the building up of the Church and for those who are entering into the community. Prayer not only calls upon God to act; it changes us inside, allowing us to cooperate with God and hear His voice.
 4. We must commit ourselves to accepting that the Church is God's, and all whom God calls are welcome. This may require us to rethink what the Church is.
 5. We need to do the work of hospitality that we know so well, and it helps when we understand that even our hospitality is a gift to us from God. People who are weary from their search in this storm-tossed world need our mercy and efforts.
 6. We ought to be grateful to God for all He has done for us, and be willing to share the abundance of those gifts with those who are coming to the Church.
 7. We must build relationships with those who enter the Church. Many are leaving communities that met their social needs. They sometimes are cut off from those former folks in a way not dissimilar to those who move into the community without any family or friends. While organized Church activities are a place to meet, new members need personal relationships with older and more experienced members to mentor and love them.
- Lent is a gift of the Church to us for renewal. We can't reduce it to fasting and personal benefits. Lent is an opportunity to build the Church up, and a stronger parish will result in stronger parishioners and stronger families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.

The Stark County Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood Pan-Orthodox Pre-Sanctified Liturgy schedule for the first 3 weeks of Lent is as follows: (All services are [@ 6:30 pm](#), followed by a Lenten Dinner)

2. March 11, Holy Assumption OCA, Canton

After the clock moves forward and nightfall is later, we will schedule Wednesday Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at St. Theodore Church.

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).

For The Repose of the Souls of:

Matushka +Mildred Klutchko (friend of Frs. Joe & Dragan)

+Despina Poulos (the mother of Steve Poulos and Bishop Andonios - Greek Archdiocese Chancellor)

+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.)

(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

We have received several suggestions that we go to a simpler coffee hour. Please try to keep it to bagels, donuts, coffee cake, etc. 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:

Sessions begin Saturday, February 28. Please bring your bible and we will meet every Saturday, 5 pm in the Gresh home located at 9135 Gans Ave NE.

BUILDING PROJECT:

We are finalizing plans to 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

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES:**MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

Presbyteria Mira Filipovich – 14th

Josephine White – 17th

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance

P.O. Box 193

Maximo, Ohio 44650

Mission Phone # 330 768-7633

email: stnikolaiorthmission@gmail.com

website: www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com