

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 9, 2014: First Sunday of Lent/Sunday of Orthodoxy/ 40 Martyrs of Sebaste/ Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great



Tone 4 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the women Disciples of the Lord learned from the Angel the joyous message of the Resurrection, they cast away the ancestral curse and elatedly told the Apostles: “Death is overthrown! Christ God is risen,//granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 2 Troparion (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One; and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God. Of Your good will You were pleased to ascend the cross in the flesh and deliver Your creatures from bondage to the Enemy.

Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to You: “You have filled all with joy, O our Savior,//for You alone have come to save the world.”

Tone 1 Troparion (for Forty Martyrs of Sebaste)

Through the sufferings which Your holy Forty Martyrs endured for Your sake, O Lord, we beseech You, O Lover of ↑mankind://“Heal all of our infirmities!”

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 (Resurrection)

My Savior and Redeemer as God rose from the tomb and delivered the earth-born from their chains. He has shattered the gates of hell, and as Master,// He has risen on the third day!

Tone 6 Kontakion (Forty Martyrs of Sebaste)

You abandoned all earthly armies, cleaving to the heavenly Master, O Forty Martyrs of the Lord. Having passed through fire and water, O blessed Ones,// you have fittingly received heavenly glory and many crowns.

Tone 8 Kontakion *(from the Lenten Triodion)*

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,
and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty.// We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2

Tone 4 Prokeimenon *(Song of the Fathers)*

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever!
v: For You are just in all that You have done for us!

Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.
v: They called to the Lord and He answered them.*

Gospel: John 1:43-51

(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!
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Presanctified Liturgy Schedule at the Mt. Union Chapel: March 12th ;March 26th ;April 9th.
All services at 7 PM.**

The Sunday of the Triumph of Orthodoxy is celebrated on the first Sunday of Great Lent. It is the celebration of the victory of the icon proponents over the iconoclasts by the decision of the Seventh Ecumenical Council. Therefore, the service is to commemorate the restoration of icons for use in services and private devotional life of Christians.

Services often include the clergy or the faithful triumphantly processing around the church, holding icons of their patron or parish saints. In areas where multiple jurisdictions exist (such as the United States), Pan-Orthodox services are also usually celebrated.

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. In the course of Church history, almost each Lenten Sunday has obtained a second theme, a historical theme. Originally the Lenten fast was the time for catechumens to prepare for baptism and entry into the Church. The Sunday spiritual themes were part of the early Christian catechesis.

The theme of the day is victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 John 5:4). Also, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Gen. 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image. The connection of the victory over iconoclasm with Lent is purely historical; the first *Triumph of Orthodoxy* took place on this particular Sunday.

The first Sunday of Great Lent originally commemorated the Prophets such as Moses, Aaron, and Samuel. The Liturgy's alleluia verses and scripture readings appointed for the Sunday of Orthodoxy reflect this older usage. The Epistle reading is a compilation of Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2. The yet-to-be-baptized catechumens of the

early church heard the Epistle about the Old Testament men who lived by their faith in a promise whose fulfillment they did not see. After the righteous of the Old Testament are mentioned, the Epistle says: *And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.*

The Gospel lesson is John 1:43-51, and it ends with an explanation of the *something better* of the Epistle: "You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man." The catechumens of the early church, and the faithful preparing for Pascha today, are told that, with faith, they will see the inauguration of the new age, the fulfillment of all promises, and the manifestation of the Kingdom, through the Incarnation, in the Church.

LENTEN FISH FRY:

We are on for Fish Fry. Dinners will be served from 5 to 7 PM at the Marlinton Middle School. Please check the website for our flyer. Dinners will begin on Friday, March 14. We need volunteers to help cook, serve and clean up! If you can help in any way please contact Tom Baier or Jaga Radosevic in person or via the Mission email (stnikolaimission@gmail.com) Pass the word!

COFFEE HOUR:

Thank you to Linda Cervo for serving as Coffee Hour Hostess last week.

This Sunday, March 9 our hostess is Jaga Radosevic, followed by Dan Ralich on March 16 and TJ Cotterman on March 23, and Dan Ralich again on April 6.

We need volunteers for March 30 and April 13 (Palm Sunday)

PRAYERS:

Candi (friend of John and Lynette Baier)

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

Wendy (friend of Lana Baier)

Gus, 1st Grade Student of Katie White, who had extensive and unexpected surgery

Jean Minnick Co-worker of Katie White's, whose father, Edgar Pryor passed away on March 4. Please pray for the repose of his soul.

Katie White - Kate and Josh are expecting a sister for Evey within the next few weeks.