

**St. Nikolai 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)
May 10, 2015: Fifth Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman**

Mission Phone: 330 768-7633

Mission Website: [St Nikolai of Zica Orthodox Mission of Alliance](#)



Icon of the Mid-Feast between Pascha & Pentecost

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.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

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 8 Troparion (Midfeast)

In the middle of the feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as You cried to all: "If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!" //
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, 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 8 Kontakion (Pentecostarion)

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;
she saw You, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly. //
She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Tone 4 **Kontakion** *(Midfeast)*

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law: “Come and draw the water of immortality!” We fall before You and faithfully cry://
“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

Tone 3 **Prokeimenon**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Tone 4 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth!
v: For You love righteousness, and hate iniquity.

Gospel: John 4:5-42

(Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing:)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace: “Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
With Himself He has raised all the dead.’” Rejoice, O ye people!
Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you!
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of your Son!

Communion Hymns

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!
Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva, Kyriake; Nero’s daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob’s Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, St Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to St Victor, “I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret.”

St Victor replied, “I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother.” Sebastian said, “O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother.” Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, “The God of the Christians is the only true God.” St Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, “Because Christ is calling me.” Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. St Sebastian’s servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, “Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished.” The Lord said to St Victor, “From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me.” The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage St Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to St Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs’ finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and St Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskeva and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. St Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her. Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Sts Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified. Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized. In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from St Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of St Photina also suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to cut off their breasts and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for St Photis: they tied her by the feet to the tops of two bent-over trees. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. St Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days. After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?" Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God.

DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.

A BLESSED & HAPPY MOTHERS DAY TO ALL GOD FEARING & CHRIST LOVING MOTHERS.

GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!



GOD GRANT BLESSED REPOSE TO ALL OUR DEPARTED GOD FEARING & CHRIST LOVING MOTHERS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US IN THE HOPE OF RESURRECTION UNTO LIFE-ETERNAL; MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE ETERNAL!

PRAYERS requested

For The Health and Salvation of:

Mother Ana
 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
 Archpriest Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+Violet Jokola (mother of Fr. Joe's Kum Nick)
 Archimandrite +Roman Braga
 +Helen Shaheen (St. George Antiochian Church)
 +Sally Michael (St. George Antiochian Church)

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

ADULT EDUCATION:

The study group is meeting on Saturdays 5 pm in the Gresh home located at 9135 Gans Ave NE. The group has decided to continue with the current book – Victory in the Unseen Warfare – until we finish the book.

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.

COFFEE HOUR:

May 3	Jaga Radosevic
May 10	Gresh's
May 17	Open
May 24	Open
May 31	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.

BUILDING PROJECT:

By the grace of God and with the sacrificial donations of many, phase one of construction for our chapel began Bright Week. Equipment moved in and construction officially began on Tuesday, April 14. We are still in need of additional funding for the general building project. If you are able to make an initial or additional contribution to the building fund, please see Father Joe or Deacon James.

May the Lord bless all our endeavors to glorify His Holy Name and bring others to the fullness of the truth.

CHOIR PRACTICES:

Choir Practice will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm at the Gresh Home. Please see Heidi for details. There will be no practice this Wednesday, May 13.

CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITY:

The Krupko Family and Friends will be participating in a 50 mile Bike Ride to benefit those afflicted with Multiple Sclerosis. The ride will be Saturday, June 20, 2015. Proceeds benefit Multiple Sclerosis research as well as assisting families with financial assistance, emotional support, therapy and equipment. Northeast Ohio is a “Hot Spot” for Multiple Sclerosis and has a larger than usual population of people afflicted with this debilitating. If you would like to make a donation and support our bike team, please check with Cathy, Amy or Allison.

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



**ST. NIKOLAI ORTHODOX MISSION
HARTVILLE FLEA MARKET
Rummage Sale - Change of Date !!!**

**New Dates: May 23 and May 25
7:00 am to 4:00 pm**

Please bring your sale items to Georgie Washington's house
anytime between now and Thursday the 21st.

Large items can be delivered to Hartville Flea Market the day of sale or
contact Georgie for pick up arrangements
(Please make sure all items are in good condition , clean and pressed if necessary!)

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- 11 tables and 4 chairs
- One rack for hanging clothes
- One large truck for storage from Saturday evening to Monday morning
- Two pick-up trucks for taking the items to Hartville on Saturday morning

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAN THE TABLES SATURDAY AND MONDAY
ALL DAY.**

For more information - please call Georgie at 330-635-1715