

St. Nikolai Orthodox Church, Divine Liturgy, 9:30 / Saturday Vespers, 5 pm.

Book study/Christian Education following Vespers

Parish Council meetings 2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm (open to parishioners)

9837 State Street, Louisville , Ohio 44641

Right Rev. Bishop Alexander, Bishop of Toledo, Orthodox Church in America

Very Reverend Father Joseph Cervo, Archpriest (AOCANA-retired)

Rev. Protodeacon James Gresh, Mission Administrator (OCA)

May 15, 2016: 3 Sunday of Pascha 16

Website: <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com>

Facebook page: "<http://www.facebook.com/SaintNikolaiOrthodoxMission> of Alliance

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 Great Lent. 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. We look forward to seeing you again and encourage you to learn more about the Orthodox Faith.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Priest: Blessed is the Kingdom.....

Choir: Amen

Priest: “Christ is risen from the dead ...” (1 time)

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead ...” (2 times)

(The Divine Liturgy is begun in this manner until the Leavetaking of Pascha.)

Tone 2 Troparion (Resurrection)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,

You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.

And when from the depths You raised the dead,

all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Tone 2 Troparion (from the Pentecostarion)

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb.

But You rose on the third day, O Lord,// granting the world great mercy.

Tone 2 Troparion (from the Pentecostarion)

The Angel came to the Myrrhbearing Women at the tomb and said:

“Myrrh is fitting for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!

So proclaim: ‘The Lord is risen,// granting 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 2 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.

By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.

You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles:// “The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (Pascha)

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God, proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing
Women, granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Tone 6 Prokeimenon (Resurrection)

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!
v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Tone 8 Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

v: O Lord, You have been gracious to Your land; You have turned back the captivity of
Jacob.
v: Mercy and truth have met, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

(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.

Priest: “In the fear of God ...”

Choir: “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord ... “

Priest: “O Lord, save Your people ... “

Choir: “Christ is risen from the dead ... “ (*sung once, instead of “We have
seen the True Light ...)*

Priest: “Always, now and ever ...”

Choir: ”Let our mouths be filled ...”

*(At the Dismissal, the Priest says: “Glory to You, O Christ....,” and the choir sings
“Christ is risen from the dead....” (thrice).*

And unto us He has given eternal life.
Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day.

On the third Sunday of Pascha, the Church celebrates the first witnesses of the Lord's Resurrection — the women who came to anoint His body with fragrant oils, the "Myrrhbearers" — and the men who buried Him, St. Joseph of Arimathea & St. Nicodemus.

Jesus Christ was crucified on Friday — the day before the Sabbath (Saturday) and the day before the Old Testament Passover feast. When He died, it was imperative that He be buried before the Sabbath, because it was against the Law to work on the Sabbath. SS. Joseph & Nicodemus took His Body down from the cross, hastily anointed the Lord with aloe and myrrh, and wrapped Him in a sheer strip of linen. They placed Him in the newly-completed tomb — dug out of solid rock! — that was intended for the wealthy St. Joseph when he died, and sealed the tomb with a massive stone.

While St. Peter and the other male disciples slept, the women disciples of the Lord bought more expensive, fragrant oils and myrrh. They went to the tomb as soon as the Sabbath-day ended — in the middle of the night — to anoint His body properly. As they walked, they discussed how they could even get into the tomb, sealed by the huge stone that was too big for them to move.

When they arrived, the tomb was open, and He was gone! They made several trips back and forth to Jerusalem, telling the disciples the good news, leading them back to the tomb, and searching for His Body to confirm the Resurrection the angels proclaimed.

The faithful women who visited the tomb of Jesus Christ on the morning of the Resurrection included:

Mary Magdalene, from whom the Lord cast out seven devils — she was the first witness to the Resurrection
the **Theotokos**, referred to as "Mary the mother of Jesus" (Jesus was one of the sons of St. Joseph the Betrothed by his first wife; Mary was his step-mother)
Joanna, the wife of Chouza, the steward/administrator of King Herod Antipas
Salome, a daughter of St. Joseph the Betrothed by his first wife, who was also the wife of Zebedee and the mother of the Apostles James and John

After the Resurrection, St. Mary Magdalene went to Rome. Tradition teaches that when Mary first met the Roman emperor, Tiberius Caesar, she held a plain egg in her hand and greeted him with the words, "Christ is risen!" Tiberius exclaimed: "How can someone rise from the dead? This is hard to believe. It is just as likely that Christ rose from the dead as it is that the egg you are holding will turn red." Even as he spoke, the egg turned a brilliant red! She then preached the good news of Jesus Christ to the emperor and the imperial household.

Mary Magdalene told Tiberius all that Pontius Pilate and the leaders of the Jews had done to the Savior. Her testimony was enough to condemn them to death.

St. Mary Magdalene left Rome for the city of Ephesus, where she died and was buried by the Bishop there, the Apostle John (the Theologian)! Emperor Leo the Wise later moved her relics to Constantinople.

Why do you seek the living One among the dead? (St. Luke 24:5)

The angel of God asks the Myrrh-bearing women as though in astonishment: “Why do you seek the living One among the dead?” As though the perceiver of the mystery of God and God’s power wanted to say: “How could you have thought for a moment that He is the hostage of death? Do you not know that He is the principal source of life? Do you not know that all life is through Him and that not one living thing can borrow not even a drop of life from any other source? Did He not fully reveal to you His authority over life and death on earth? Who gave life to the lifeless Lazarus? Who took away the life of the barren fig tree?”

O my brethren, let us also cease to look for the living among the dead. If there are some of us who are still seeking Christ among the dead, let them desist from this soul-destroying effort. This is the vain effort of the Jews, pagans and non-Christians. We know that the Lord and Giver of life is not in the tomb but on the Throne of Glory in the heavens. The spirit, not darkened by sin, looks up into heaven and does not see the tomb; and the spirit, darkened by sin, looks into the tomb and does not see heaven. Sin and virtue govern the spiritual vision of man and reveals to each man its own world at cross-purposes with one another. Sin overthrows the vision of the spirit to the earth and reveals to it the corruption of the world. Virtue uplifts the spirit to heaven and reveals to it the eternal world and the resurrected Christ as the King in that world.

O my brethren, let us not seek life among creation, but from the Creator. Let us not commit an even graver sin i.e., let us not seek the Creator in the tomb of creation nor the Illuminating, Immortal One in the darkness of death.

O Lord Jesus, Victor over death, we cry out to You: resurrect us also into life eternal from the corruption and darkness of death.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.

From: *The Prologue from Ohrid: Lives of Saints* by St. Nikolai Velimirovič for April 7/20.

CONTEMPLATION by St. Nikolai (Velimirovich)

Contemplate the resurrection of the Lord Jesus:

1. How the myrrh-bearing women, with myrrh and aloes, approached the tomb to anoint the One Who is the sweet-smelling savor of heaven and earth.
2. How the angel announces the Resurrection of our Lord to them with the words: “*Why seek ye the living among the death?* (Luke 24:5).

If you wish to list someone on the parish prayer list, you must advise Father. The list was revised this week.

PRAYERS requested:

For The Health and Salvation of:

Andrea Bartol (Steve & Sandy Bozeka's daughter)

Letitia Bella (Lynette Baier's mother)

Olympia Tillman (Father David's mother)

Helen (Father David's aunt)

Carl (friend of Father David)

Lisa “

Kitty “

Father David & Family

Father John Zdinak & Family

Gregory Cervo

Ann Cervo

Harper (13 yr. old waiting for heart transplant)

Arika (missing person) & her family

For The Repose of the Souls of the newly departed Servants:

+Paul (friend of Fr. David)

+Bruce “ “ “

Many Years to:

Johnny Baier May 17

Father David May 20

Parish rummage sale at the Hartville Flea Market, Saturday, May 28.

Please collect items that still have resale value. Direct any questions to Georgie Washington at 330 635-1715