

**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)
Mission Phone # 330 768-7633**

**Mission Website <http://www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com>
May 3, 2015: 4th Sunday of PASCHA - The Sunday of the Paralytic**



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 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 3 Kontakion (from the Pentecostarion)

By Your divine intercession, O Lord, as You raised up the Paralytic of old,
so raise up my soul, paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts; so that being saved I may sing to You://“Glory to Your power,
O compassionate Christ!”

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Tone 1 Prokeimenon

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on You!
v: Rejoice in the Lord, O your righteous! Praise befits the just!

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: John 5:1-15

(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!

The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance. He shall not fear evil tidings. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Sunday of the Paralytic: On this day the Church remembers the man who lay by the Sheep's Pool in Jerusalem for thirty-eight years, waiting for someone to put him into the pool. The first one to enter the pool after an angel troubled the water would be healed of his infirmities, but someone always entered the pool before him. Seeing the man, the Lord felt compassion for him and healed him. The Kontakion for this Fourth Sunday of Pascha asks Christ to raise up our souls, "paralyzed by sins and thoughtless acts."

Archimandrite Roman Braga April 2, 1922 - April 28, 2015

Father Roman Braga was born on April 2, 1922 in Bessarabia in a village named Condrita. He was the last of the seven children of Cosma and Maria Braga. He grew up in an Orthodox environment, raised by a devout Orthodox mother and in the close proximity of the Monastery of Condrita. During his formative years, he had the living example of his mother who imprinted on her children the virtues of Christian life. Many times he remembered how his mother attended long church services at the monastery and how sleepy and tired he was, but always he was at his mother's side. These formative years laid the foundation for the strict discipline of his entire life that served him all along, up to the very last day of his life. At the age of seven he entered Grade School in his native village and at the age of twelve he was sent to the monastery near Bucharest – Caldarusani – from where he was sent to the monastic Seminary of Cernica, also near the Romanian capital. At Cernica, at the Seminary, while he was quite young, he formed life-long lasting friendships with some of the greatest future spiritual fathers of Romania. Here he met Fr. Sofian Boghiu, Fr. Felix Dubneac, Fr. Benedict Ghius, Fr. Grigore Babus, Fr. Gratian Radu; with some of them he would be in prison, and would also meet them again, years later, in the United States. In 1942 he went back to Bessarabia to the Seminary of Chisinau until 1943 when he enrolled in parallel at the Theological Institute, The School of Letters and Philosophy as well as the Pedagogic Institute in Bucharest. Graduating in 1947 with Magna cum Laude from the Theological Institute, he received the certificate of professor of Romanian Language and Theology, and in 1948 he entered the Doctoral program at the Institute of Theology in Bucharest. However, he could not continue with his studies as he was arrested in the Summer of 1948 and spent the year under interrogation, being accused of belonging to an anti-Semitic movement. He was detained in Bucharest at the Jilava prison and was also sent to Pitesti, the place where the brainwashing experiments took place. Here in Pitesti he spent time in solitary confinement. In 1951 he was sent to the labor camp in the Danube Delta and eventually released under parole in the Summer of 1953. He went to Iasi where his sister, Mother Benedicta, was a nun. He was tonsured a monk in January of 1954 and a week later he was ordained a deacon at the Iasi Metropolia where he was allowed to remain until 1959, under surveillance by the Secrete Services, however. During this time he not only served daily at the Metropolia and sang in the choir, but he also conducted theological sessions with students from the Medical School and other universities, discussing the practice of the Prayer of the Heart, and interpreting the Philokalia for them. This caused him to be arrested again in 1959 and to spend another year under interrogation. Not being sure what kind of accusations to bring against him he was accused of having been part of the Burning Bush movement along with 15 others and was sentenced to 18 years of forced labor. From 1959 to 1964 he spent time in various concentration camps in the Danube Delta. The year 1964, under pressure from the West, brought the Amnesty General decree when all political prisoners were freed. It is also the year he was ordained a priest at the Episcopate of Oradea. On January 1, 1965 he was installed as priest in a village in the Northern part of Romania; here he organized a choir of 100 children, a Sunday School, and performed all priestly duties for two years. The authorities did not look

favorably on his work so he was moved secretly to another parish. Being considered an “unwanted element” by the Communist government, the Patriarchate sent him as a missionary to Brazil. After four years in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1972 he was invited by Archbishop Valerian of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America to come to the United States. For the next five years he worked for the Episcopate by translating Romanian church music into English, he was active in the religious education program for children, belonged to the committee that translated religious Romanian text to English, as well as substituting in different parishes across the United States and Canada. From 1979 to 1982 he was occupied with the functions of a parish priest at Holy Trinity Church in Youngstown, Ohio. From Youngstown he was assigned to the St. George Cathedral in Southfield, Michigan, and from there, as priest and spiritual father to the Holy Monastery of the Transfiguration in Ellwood City, Pennsylvania. After five years in Ellwood City, in 1988, he retired to the monastery of the Dormition of the Mother of God in Rives Junction, Michigan where he remained for the rest of his life. The next 15 years at the Dormition Monastery were filled by the complete cycle of liturgical services, counseling, teaching and pastoral ministry. Up until the past two years he never missed a service, and maintained his prayer rule intact: rising at 2:00 am, reading morning prayers, preparing for church and to be in church at 5:00 am sharp. Most of the same schedule he has maintained even after he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, with the exception that, as time went by, he no longer had the strength to attend all the services. He, however, never missed a Divine Liturgy for which he always prepared in advance, regardless of how tired he was. His spiritual children were and are many and he never forgot anyone of them, even if he did not see them for many years. During the Spring Session of the Holy Synod of Bishops of the OCA, on March 17, 2015 Father Roman was awarded the order of Saint Romanos in recognition for his outstanding contribution in the field of liturgical music in the OCA’s Romanian Episcopate of America. The award was presented to him by Archbishop NATHANIEL on the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, 2015. He became bed bound only 10 days before his repose, but remained lucid and completely aware of his surroundings until the very end. **MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL!**

DAILY SCRIPTURAL READINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO READ ON OUR WEBSITE.

PARISH PATRON FEAST CELEBRATION (SLAVA):

Special thanks to Corbin & Georgie Washington for opening their home for our celebration last Sunday. Thank you to all who brought a delicious assortment of food and a great time was had by all present. Congratulations to our honored sponsors, Jaga Radosevic & Dan Ralich (and his son & stand-in, Alex) and to our designated sponsors for next year's celebration, George & Helen Blebea, who in response to our designation gave a very generous gift to our building fund.

Please, if you did not make a special donation for our parish feast, you may still do so.

We finished the day's events by going to the building site and blessing the recently completed foundation.

Through the prayers of St. Nikolai, may our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, bless our good endeavors to the Glory of His Holy Name and the building up of His Holy 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
Father Rastko Trbuhovich (Fr. Dragan's Kum)

For The Repose of the Souls of:

+Dr. Gregory Spohn, Canton Area Pediatrician and doctor to Tillman Children
Protopresbyter +Thomas Hopko
+Violet Jokola (mother of Fr. Joe's Kum Nick)

Father +Roman Braga

(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.

SAVE. SAVE SAVE!

Everything you have.

On Sat. June 13 we will have a mission rummage sale at Hartville Flea Market.

If you have any questions see Georgie or call her at 330 635 1715 Thank you !

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 beginning April 22 at the Gresh Home. Please see Heidi for details.

St. Nikolai of Zica, Orthodox Mission of Alliance

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