

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday September 17th
15th Sunday after Holy Pentecost (Tone 6)

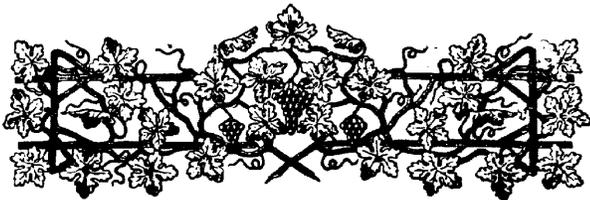
His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER
Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447
Protodeacon James Gresh, Attached

Upcoming Services:

Sat., Sept. 16th - Hill's - Vespers, 5pm
Sun., Sept. 17th St. Mary's - Liturgy, 11am
Wed., Sept. 20th - Krupko's - Bible Study, 6pm
Wed., Sept. 20th - Krupko's - Council, 7pm
Sat., Sept. 23rd - Union UMC - Vespers, 5pm

Please visit our website:
www.stnikolaiorthodoxmission.com
Or Like us on FaceBook



Welcome!

The entire parish family of St. Nikolai Orthodox Church welcomes you today! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and the people of our parish. We hope that you can stay for coffee hour after the service.

Please note that we invite all Baptized members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion, provided that they have refrained from food and drink since midnight, and prepared themselves through prayer and recent confession.

If you are joining us today but have not been baptized in the Orthodox Church we welcome you but kindly ask you to refrain from approaching for Holy Communion. Please feel free to approach to kiss the cross at the end of the service and to take a piece of blessed bread as a token of our love. We pray that soon all people would find their true home in the Orthodox Church so that we might, together, share in Holy Communion of Christ's undivided Body.

Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 6

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb; the guards became as dead men. Mary stood by Thy grave, seeking Thy most pure body. Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it. Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.// O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Cross - Tone 1

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance! Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians over their adversaries; and by virtue of Thy Cross,// preserve Thy habitation!

Troparion for Martyr Sophia and Her Daughters

Thou didst blossom in the courts of the Lord as a fruitful olive tree, holy martyr Sophia; in thy contest thou didst offer to Christ the sweet fruit of thy womb, thy daughters Faith, Hope, and Love.// Together with them intercede for us all!

Kontakion of the Resurrection - Tone 6

When Christ God the Giver of Life, raised all of the dead from the valleys of misery with His mighty hand, He bestowed resurrection on the human race.// He is the Savior of all, the Resurrection, the Life, and the God of all.

Kontakion for the Martyr Sophia and Her Daughters - Tone 1

The holy branches of noble Sophia, Faith, Hope, and Love, confounded Greek sophistry through Grace. They struggled and won the victory and have been granted an incorruptible crown by Christ the Master of all.

Kontakion of the Cross - Tone 4

As Thou wast voluntarily raised upon the Cross for our sake, grant mercy to those who are called by Thy Name, O Christ God; make all Orthodox Christians glad by thy pow'r, granting them victories over their adversaries// by bestowing on them the invincible trophy, Thy weapon of peace!

The Prokeimenon in the Seventh Tone (for the Cross)

Extol the Lord our God: worship at His footstool for He is holy!

v: The Lord reigns, let the people tremble!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians (2:16-20)

knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

2 Corinthians 4:6-15

For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So then death is working in us, but life in you. And since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed and therefore I spoke," we also believe and therefore speak, knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus, and will present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

The Alleluia in the First Tone

v. Remember Thy congregation, which Thou hast gotten of old!

v: God is our King before the ages; He has worked salvation in the midst of the

The Holy Gospel According to Saint Mark (8:34-9:1)

When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He

comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.” And He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power.”

Matthew 22:35-46

Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?” And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Instead of “It is truly meet ...,” we sing the Megalyrnarion from the Canon for the Exultation of the Cross - Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the most precious Cross of the Lord!

O Theotokos, Thou art a mystical Paradise, who untilled, hast brought forth Christ; He has planted upon earth the life-giving tree of the Cross: therefore at its Exultation on this day, we worship Him, and thee do we magnify.

The Communion Hymn for Sunday

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!

The Communion Hymn for the Exultation of the Cross

The light of Thy countenance has been signed upon us, O Lord.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

THE HOLY MARTYRS-SOPHIA, FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

They lived and suffered in Rome in the time of the Emperor Hadrian. The wise Sophia was left a widow and, as a Christian, steeped herself and her daughters in the Christian faith. At the time that Hadrian's persecuting hand stretched out over the virtuous house of Sophia, Faith was twelve, Hope ten and Love nine. The four of them were brought before the Emperor, with their arms entwined 'like a woven wreath', humbly but firmly confessing their faith in Christ the Lord and refusing to offer sacrifice to the goddess Artemis. At the moment of their passion, the mother urged her valiant daughters to endure to the end: 'Your heavenly Lover, Jesus Christ, is eternal health, inexpressible beauty and life eternal. When your bodies are slain by torture, He will clothe you in incorruption and the wounds on your bodies will shine in heaven like the stars.' The torturers inflicted harsh torture on Faith, Hope and Love one by one. They beat them, stabbed them and threw them into fire and boiling pitch, and finally beheaded them one after the other. Sophia took the dead bodies of her daughters out of the town and buried them, and stayed by their grave in prayer for three days and nights, then gave her soul to God, hastening to the heavenly company where the blessed souls of her daughters awaited her.



On the Exultation of the Cross:

About 326 A.D., the holy Empress Helena decided to look for the Precious Cross of the Lord. An old Jew called Judah was the only person who knew the whereabouts of the Cross, and, under pressure from the Empress, he revealed that the Cross was buried under the Temple of Venus that the Emperor Hadrian had built on Golgotha. The Empress ordered that this idolatrous temple be pulled down, and then, digging deep below it, she found three crosses. While the Empress was in uncertainty about how to recognize which cross was the Lord's, a funeral procession passed by. Then Patriarch Macarius told them to place the crosses one by one on the dead man. When they placed the first and second on him, the dead man remained unchanged, but when they placed the third on him, he was restored to life. By this, they knew that this was the Precious and life-giving Cross of Christ. After that, they placed it on a sick woman, and she recovered. Then the Patriarch raised the Cross aloft for all to see, and the people sang with tears: 'Lord, have mercy!' The Empress Helena had a silver casing made, and placed the precious Cross in it.

In 614, King Chozroes of Persia conquered Jerusalem, took the people into slavery and carried the Lord's Cross off to Persia, where it remained for fourteen years. In 628, the Greek Emperor Heraclius was victorious over Chozroes and brought the Cross back to Jerusalem with great ceremony. Entering the city, Heraclius was carrying the Cross on his back, but suddenly the aged Emperor was unable to take another step. Patriarch Zacharias saw an angel directing the Emperor to take off his imperial robes and walk beneath the Cross along the way that Christ had walked, barefoot and humiliated as He had been. He passed this vision on to the Emperor, who stripped himself of his raiment and, in poor clothing and barefoot, took up the Cross, carried it to Golgotha and placed it in the Church of the Resurrection, to the joy and consolation of the whole Christian world.

Special Announcements:

Parish Council-This Wednesday at 7pm

- All are invited to stay after Bible Study

We have been graciously offered the use of Union Ave. United Methodist on the campus of Mount Union University. We will be begin meeting at this location starting next week (9/23) for Vespers at 5pm, followed by snacks and a group discussion on various themes. This is a great evening to invite those that might be interested in learning about the Orthodox Faith.

We will not have Bible Study on Wed. 9/27. Fr. Mikel will be attending our Diocese' Annual Clergy Retreat at Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, MI.

Please mark your calendars for October 15th. We will join our bishop, His Eminence ALEXANDER, at St. Elias' in Akron for Divine Liturgy and an opportunity to seek his council regarding our community.

Today we are especially praying for *the Health and Salvation of:*

Richard R.

Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.

Valentina

Josh W.

The Minnick Family

Kathy Jo, Michael

Kelli

Liz and Carla

Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki

Larissa

Steve and Sandy

Anthony

Joan

Slavco

Anthony

Thomas

Mat. Rebecca

Thomas

Marsha

Jackie

Dorothy

For The Departed Soul of:

+Daniel