

May 5, 2019

Very Reverend
Nicholas Wyslutzky
Rector



Christ is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Parish Contacts

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www.stnickoca.org

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 755 S. Cleveland Ave., Mogadore, OH 44260

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

Sunday May 5th AntiPascha - 2nd Sunday of Pascha. Tone 1 St. Thomas Sunday. Great Martyr Irene of Thessalonica (1st -2nd c.). St. Ephraim of Nea Makri (1426). Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Yakov (James), Abbot of Zheleznoborovsk.

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20 **Gospel:** John 20:19-31

Please Pray for the Health of:

Dn. Basil Wallace, Child Sydney Foster, Harry Mlynar, Paul Simpson, Thomas Gall, Teresa Petroski, Carol Wyhowanec, Pat Starkey, Jim Jackson, Carl Johnson, Pat Kovachick, Bob Glaston, Sara Lucas, Melissa Trace, Mark Gasparovic, Ray Malackany, Pat Marzuola & Tanya.

For the Departed

Vasily Burlingame, Barbara Rogers, Nicholas Stevens, & Eleanor Alexander.

Schedule of Services

Tuesday May 7..**St. Alexis** - Akathist to St. Alexis & Potluck.....6:00 p.m.
Saturday May 11..Great Vespers.....5:00 p.m.
Sunday May 12...**Myrrhbearing Women** - Adult Class & Church School.....8:55 a.m.
The Third Hour.....9:45 a.m.
Divine Liturgy.....10:00 a.m.

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7 **Gospel:** Mark 15:43-16:8

Liturgy Book Helps for Today

Troparia, Kontakia, Prokimena, and Alleluia Verses: Pages: 187-189

Daily Scripture Readings

Day	Epistle	Gospel
Monday	Acts 3:19-26 & Acts 4:1-10	John 2:1-11 & John 3:16-21
Tuesday	Gal. 1:11-19	John 10:1-9
Wednesday	1 John 1:1-7	John 19:25-27;21:24-25
Thursday	Acts 4:13-22 & Acts 4:23-31	John 5:17-24 & John 5:24-30
Friday	Acts 5:1-11 & 1 Cor. 4:9-16	John 5:30-6:2 & Matt. 13:54-58
Saturday	Acts 5:21-33 Heb. 7:26-8:2	John 6:14-27 & Matt. 5:14-19

Memorial Candle Offerings!

Altar Table Candles: In memory of Richard, Anne and Daniel, offered by Maryann West.

Royal Door Vigil: Many years to sister Olga on her birthday 4/27. Memory eternal to sister Mary 4/27/2004.

Standing Vigil: In honor of Theresa Stotler, offered by her friends for her faithful reading of the bulletin.

Announcements

Continue The Celebration!

The feast of Pascha is a 40 day event, not just a single Sunday! Therefore it is only right that we continue to celebrate the feast for its entire length! Everyone who prepared and participated in the sacraments of Holy Confession & Communion for the Lenten Season and Pascha are encouraged to continue the celebration by coming throughout the Paschal Season!.

Greeters Schedule

May

May 12 Garrett and Debbie Daniels
May 19 Michael and Katie D'Fantis
May 26 Cheryl Dubos

June

June 2 Cheryl Gall
June 9 Steve & Julie Gorsuch
June 16 Pat Gorsuch & Martha Slanta
June 23 Chris & Lorraine Johnson
June 30 Andrew & Abby Kochan

Food For The Soul!

Antipascha: St Thomas Sunday

Some icons depicting this event are inscribed "The Doubting Thomas." This is incorrect. In Greek, the inscription reads, "The Touching of Thomas." The Slavonic inscription is, "The Belief of Thomas." When Saint Thomas touched the Life-giving side of the Lord, he no longer had any doubts.

This day is also known as "Antipascha." This does not mean "opposed to Pascha," but "in place of Pascha." Beginning with this first Sunday after Pascha, the Church dedicates

every Sunday of the year to the Lord's Resurrection. Sunday is called "Resurrection" in Russian, and "the Lord's Day" in Greek.

Great Martyr Irene

The holy Great Martyr Irene was born in the city of Magedon in Persia during the fourth century. She was the daughter of Licinius, the pagan ruler of a certain small kingdom, and his wife Licinia, and at birth her parents named her Penelope.

Penelope was very beautiful, and her father kept her isolated in a high tower from the time she was six so that she would not be exposed to Christianity. He also placed thirteen young maidens in the tower with her. An old tutor by the name of Apellian was appointed to give her the best possible education. Apellian was a Christian, and during her lessons, he told the girl about Christ the Savior and taught her about the Christian Faith and Christian virtues.

When Penelope reached adolescence, her parents began to think about her marriage. One night Penelope beheld the following vision: a dove entered the tower with an olive branch in its beak, depositing it on the table. An eagle also flew in carrying a wreath of flowers, and left it on the table. Then a raven flew in through another window and dropped a snake on the table. In the morning Penelope woke up and wondered about the meaning of the things she had seen. She related them to her tutor Apellian and he explained that the dove symbolized her superior education, and that the olive branch represented the grace of God which is received in Baptism. The eagle and the olive branch indicated success in her future life. The snake signified that she would experience suffering and sorrow.

At the end of the conversation Apellian said that the Lord wished to betroth her to Himself and

that Penelope would undergo much suffering for her heavenly Bridegroom. After this Penelope refused marriage, was baptized by the priest Timothy, and he named her Irene (peace). She even urged her own parents to become Christians. Shortly after being baptized, she smashed all her father's idols to pieces.

Since Saint Irene had dedicated herself to Christ, she refused to marry any of the suitors her father had chosen for her. When Licinius learned that his daughter refused to worship the pagan gods, he was furious. He attempted to turn her from Christ by having her tortured. She was tied up and thrown beneath the hooves of wild horses so that they might trample her to death, but the horses remained motionless. Instead of harming the saint, one of the horses charged Licinius, seized his right hand and tore it from his arm. Then it knocked Licinius down and began to trample him to death. This caused a great deal of confusion among the people there but Irene consoled them with the words of Christ: "All things are possible to the one who believes" (Mark 9: 23). And indeed, with wondrous faith, she prayed and through her prayers Licinius rose unharmed in the presence of many eyewitnesses with his hand intact. Then, Licinius and his wife were baptized as Christians, along with almost 3000 others who turned away from the worship of inanimate idols. Licinius abandoned his domain and lived in the tower he had built for his daughter. There he spent the rest of his life in repentance.

Saint Irene lived in the house of her teacher Apellian, and she began to preach Christ among the pagans, leading them to the path of salvation.

When Sedekias (Yesdegerd), the new prefect of the city, heard of the miracles performed by the saint, he summoned Apellian and questioned him about Irene's manner of life. Apellian replied that Irene, like other Christians, lived in strict temperance, devoting herself to constant prayer and reading holy books. Sedekias summoned the saint to him and urged her to stop preaching about Christ. He also attempted to force her to sacrifice to the

idols. Saint Irene staunchly confessed her faith before the prefect, not fearing his wrath, and prepared to undergo suffering for Christ. By order of Sedekias she was thrown into a pit filled with vipers and serpents. The saint spent ten days in the pit and remained unharmed, for an angel of the Lord protected her and brought her food. Sedekias ascribed this miracle to sorcery, and he subjected Saint Irene to many other tortures, but she remained unharmed. Under the influence of her preaching and miracles even more people were converted to Christ, and turned away from the worship of inanimate idols.

Sedekias was deposed by his son Sapor, who persecuted Christians with an even greater zeal than his father had done. Saint Irene went to her home town of Magedon in Persia to meet Sapor and his army, and ask him to end the persecution. When he refused, Saint Irene prayed and his entire army was blinded. She prayed again and they received their sight once more. In spite of this, Sapor refused to recognize the power of God. Because of his insolence, he was struck and killed by a bolt of lightning.

After this, Saint Irene walked into the city and performed many miracles. She returned to the tower built by her father, accompanied by the priest Timothy. Through her teaching, she converted five thousand people to Christ.

Next, the saint went to the city of Callinicus, or Callinicum (possibly on the Euphrates River in Syria). The ruler of that place was King Numerian, the son of Sebastian. When she began to teach about Christ, she was arrested and tortured by the pagan authorities. They enclosed her inside three bronze oxen, one after another, which were heated until they were red-hot. When the Great Martyr was placed within the third ox, it began to walk about, and then it split asunder. Saint Irene emerged from it as if from the fires of hell. This resulted in thousands of souls converting to the faith of Christ.

Sensing the approach of death, Numerian instructed his eparch Babdonus to continue torturing the saint in order to force her to sacrifice to idols. Once again, the tortures were ineffective, and many people turned to Christ.

Christ's holy martyr then traveled to the city of

Constantina, forty miles northeast of Edessa. By 330, the Persian king Sapor II (309-379) had heard of Saint Irene's great miracles. To prevent her from winning more people to Christ, she was arrested, beheaded, and then buried. However, God sent an angel to raise her up again, and she went into the city of Mesembria. After seeing her alive and hearing her preach, the local king was baptized with many of his subjects.

Wishing to convert even more pagans to Christianity, Saint Irene went to Ephesus, where she taught the people and performed many miracles. The Lord revealed to her that the end of her life was approaching. Then Saint Irene left the city accompanied by six people, including her former teacher Apellian. On the outskirts of the town, she found a new tomb in which no one had ever been buried. After making the Sign of the Cross, she went inside, directing her companions to seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone, which they did. She also told them that that no one should move the stone until four days had passed.

Apellian returned after only two days, and found that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. There are conflicting accounts about her holy relics being taken to Constantinople and other places, including Patras, Samos, and Patmos. According to the Western Martyrologies, Saint Irene was martyred in Thessaloniki after being thrown into the fire, while according to the MENOLOGION of Emperor Basil II. Saint Irene completed her martyric contest by being beheaded.

Saint Irene led thousands of people to Christ through her preaching, and by her example. The Church continues to honor her memory and to seek her heavenly intercession. She is invoked by those wishing to effect a swift and happy marriage. In Greece, she is also the patron saint of policemen. Saint Irene is also one of the twelve Virgin Martyrs who appeared to Saint Seraphim of Sarov (January 2) and the Diveyevo nun Eupraxia on the Feast of the Annunciation in 1831. By her holy prayers, may the Lord have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

Facts & Figures - Week of April 28, 2019

Attendance	212
General Offerings	\$4,250.00
General Offerings Loose & Children's	\$1,320.66
Candles	\$802.50
Pascha Offering	\$4,985.00
Annual Project	\$35.00
Total	\$11,393.16

This Week

Collected	Required for Budget	Short /Surplus	Per Envelope
\$9,270.00	\$5,288.46	\$3,981.54	\$30.63

Based On 160 Envelopes: Budgeted Amount Per Envelope Per Week: \$40.68

Year To Date

Collected	Required for Budget	Short/Surplus	Per Envelope
\$83,937.85	\$84,615.38	-\$677.53	-\$5.21

Blessings in a Backpack

School Year 2018-2019

September brings the beginning of a new season and the beginning of a new school year. It also is the start of another year for Blessings in a Backpack (outreach program at Mogadore School District) for St. Nicholas.

We are waiting to hear from Mogadore School as to how many children we will be helping this year at OH Sommers Elementary. In the meantime we can begin bringing in the following:

- Individual boxes of cereal
- Juice boxes, Capri Sun, Kool-Aid jammers, Little Hugs
- Microwave popcorn
- Microwave packages of macaroni and cheese (not cups)
- Fruit cups
- Boxes of raisins
- Chef Boyardee microwave containers or cans / Spaghetios
- Granola bars
- Individual packs of cookies
- Individual bags of pretzels, Pringles, goldfish, animal crackers, etc.
- Individual hot chocolate packets
- Instant oatmeal packets
- Individual packages of crackers
- Crackers and cheese dip
- Cans of soup (prefer chicken & rice, chicken & stars or chicken noodle)
- Ramen noodle soup packages
- Pop tarts
- Individual jello, pudding or applesauce cups
- Fruit chews, fruit roll ups or fruit snacks
- Rice Krispie treats
- Slim jims
- Ziploc gallon bags
- Anything else that is individually wrapped!

Please be cognizant of the expiration dates.

Drop the food off in the baskets in the coat room. This will be an ongoing project until the end of May 2019. This program has been extremely successful the past several school years due to your participation and we pray you will keep this momentum going.

Don't forget you can also use your Spiritual Outreach envelope and mark it "Blessings in a Back Pack" and we will do the shopping for you.

Thank you for your participation. The children will appreciate your generosity.

St. Nicholas Society

RBO # 204

REVERSE RAFFLE

(Ladies & Gentleman Event)

Sunday July 21, 2019

4:00 P.M.

Tickets \$25.00

(Food & Beverage Included)

For tickets or information

Contact

Ken Kramer Chairman at 330-690-4886

