

The Holy Great Martyr Niketas (Niké́tas) was a Goth (a Germanic tribe). He was born and lived on the banks of the Danube River, suffering for Christ in the year 372. The Christian Faith was already spreading throughout the territory of the Goths at that time. Saint Niketas believed in Christ and was baptized by the Gothic bishop Theophilus, who participated in the First Ecumenical Council. Pagan Goths started to oppose the spread of Christianity, which resulted in a civil war. After Fritigern, at the head of a Christian army, defeated the pagan Athanaric, the Christian Faith continued to spread among the Goths. The Arian bishop Ulfilas, the successor to Bishop Theophilus, created a Gothic alphabet and translated many spiritual books into the Gothic language, including the Holy Scriptures. Saint Niketas worked tirelessly among his fellow Goths to teach them about Christ. Through his personal example and inspired words, he brought many of them to the Christian Faith.

After his defeat, however, Athanaric managed to regroup his forces. He returned to his own country and regained his former power. Since he remained a pagan, he continued to hate the Christians and persecuted them, seeking revenge for the humiliation he had endured at their hands. Saint Niketas had to contend against both visible and invisible enemies. In opposing these invisible enemies, he converted many pagans to Christ, and strengthened the faithful for the contest of martyrdom. Filled with zeal for God, the Saint denounced the persecutor Athanaric for his cruelty and impiety, because he subjected the Christians to severe torments.

Saint Niketas prevailed against both of these enemies. He trampled the devil underfoot, and defeated Athanaric in battle. The cruel tormentor was troubled because he was unable to convert Saint Niketas to his own impiety, and so he resolved to capture the Saint and put him to death. Saint Niketas endured many tortures, and then he was thrown into a fire. Although his body was not burnt by the fire, he surrendered his soul to God, and his relics were illumined by a radiant light. By night, a Christian named Marianus, took the body of Saint Niketas, and buried it in Cilicia. Afterward, it was transferred to Constantinople. Part of the relics of the Great Martyr Niketas were later given to the monastery of Vysokie Dechani in Serbia. Thus Saint Niketas received an unfading crown of glory from Christ on September 15, 372. We pray to Saint Niketas for the preservation of children from birth defects.

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

2220 Reeves Road NE

Warren, OH 44483

www.stjohnswarren.org

Friend of the Bridegroom: "He must increase, but I must decrease."(John 3:30)



Sunday, Sept 15th, 2024

Greatmartyr Niketas the Goth

Fr. Brian Crivella, Rector.....330-372-3895 / BrianCrivella@gmail.com

Dn. John Tutoki, Hall Coordinator 330-720-3541

Nina, Prayer List Coordinator.....treasurerstjohnsorthodoxchurch@gmail.com

Sunday, Sept 15th 12th Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 3/ Greatmartyr Niketas the Goth
9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

Wednesday, Sept 18th Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross
5:00 pm AA Meeting

Friday, Sept 20th Greatmartyr Eustáthios & Martyrs Theopistes, Agapius & Theopistus
6:00 pm Akathist followed by Catechumen class at 7:00 pm

Saturday, Sept 21st Leavetaking of the Elevation of the Cross
5:00 pm Great Vespers followed by Confessions

Sunday, Sept 22nd 13th Sunday after PNTCST/Tone 4/ Hieromartyr Phocas
9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by coffee hour

Attendance/Stewardship September 8th

Attendance: 71 Adults and 13 children 84 total

Prayer Corner

Fr. Emil (Fr. Brian's friend)	Sbdcn Joseph (Clyde)
Sbdcon George Kaschack	Fr. Dcn. John
Sarah Crivella	Barb Datish
Mark (Cheryl's goddaughter's brother)	Patty DiGiacobbe
James Livermore	Rinehart Family
David Campbell	Barb Leis
Daniel (Mat. Deb's son)	Alan (Mat. Deb's brother-in-law)
Emily, Luke & Kiley (Jacob's family, Carrie Brown's Friends)	
Jean Miller	
The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy	
The Suffering Christians in Ukraine, Russia, & the Middle East	

Newly Illumined: Asher Tutoki

Newborn: Gianna Denise and parents Allison and Jacob (Daria's niece)

Catechumens: Lucian & Lilianna Vasil, Thomas Sacca, Kelly, Carter, Emma, & Bennett Worley, Kayla, Alexander, & Cesar Ventura, Kayla, Donald, Elizabeth, Rebecca, Robert, Timothy, Melissa, Ian, Christopher, & William Cunningham, Matthew Rose, Nicky Lewis, & Alexander Mackey

Newly Departed: Victor Chuka (8/31), June Bagby (8/20) & also Mary Kay Crawford [Adrienne Vasil's step mom] (8/10) & Jacob Spletzer (8/20) [Carrie Brown's friend]

Birthdays: John Tutoki Jr (15th), Marge Petty (17th), Vincent Rinehart (19th)
Lauren Roscoe (20th) & Mark Roscoe (21st)

Anniversaries: Vadim & Kathy Stehnach (15th)

Candle Commemorations

Theotokos	For Ann Angle
Altar	For the Health of Vadim & Kathy
Christ	For the Memory of George Tarchick

Announcements

Benefit Concert for Saint Theodosius Cathedral

Will be held *today* at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma at 3pm. See the flier for more details!

Agape Cannister Program

There is a collection canister located at the church bookstore from The Orthodox Christian Mission Center. This agape canister program is dedicated to meeting the needs of poverty-stricken children, families, and communities throughout the world.

Sacred Alaska

A showing of the Orthodox movie Sacred Alaska will be held at Saint Nicholas in Mogadore on the 23rd at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10.37 (all proceeds going to help the Diocese of Alaska) and can be found online by searching "Sacred Alaska" in Mogadore at <https://www.eventbrite.com/>

Chairty of the Month: Northern Uganda Self Sufficiency Project

Fr. Simon's Northern Uganda Self Sufficiency Project seeks to help his people in Northern Uganda after a devastating 20 year civil war. You can learn more at <https://nussp.org/>

Support our Seminarians!

Through the month of September we will pray for seminarians and those discerning a vocation in service to The Church. During Liturgy on September 22nd a special collection will be held to help raise money for our Diocese seminarians, in order to assist them and their families.