

DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST - ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER ORTHODOX PARISH

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“Who is so Great a god as our God!”

*“We bow down before Thine all-pure Icon, O Good One, asking forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God; for Thou wast well pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh of Thine own will, that Thou mightest save what Thou hadst created from slavery to the enemy. Wherefore, we cry out to Thee in thanksgiving: Thou hast filled all things with joy, O our Savior, Who hast come to save the world.
(Troparion of the Holy Icon Not Made with Hands)*

On August 28/15, A.D. 2012 and on the eve of the “Not Made with Hands” Icon Feast Day (August 29/16 according to Julian Church calendar), an Icon of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, of the same type, begun weeping at the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church in Columbus, OH.

This miracle was witnessed by fr. Miroljub and a dozen parishioners who attended the Akathist service on Tuesday evening.

Weeping and Myrrh-streaming Icons of the Most Holy EverVirgin Theotokos are not uncommon. However, Weeping Icons of Christ are far less widespread.

The Weeping Icon at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church clearly shows moisture developed around the left eye of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



On Tuesday, August 28th, one tear has flown down and stopped just above the upper lip. On Wednesday, August 29th, during the Thanksgiving Akathist to Our Lord, another tear drop welled up around the lower lip. The tear drops are of watery consistency, like human tears.

Is our Lord trying to convey something to us, unworthy and wretched ones? ***“Having eyes, see ye not? And having ears, hear ye not? And do ye not remember?”*** (Mk. 8:18)

What occurred on August 28/15, A.D. 2012 and the following day at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church is a great mystery. As someone already commented: all attempts to explain what happened must be considered provisional at best, and perhaps impious at worst.

Undoubtedly, this is an Act of Divine Activity that encompasses both Grace and warning, and should be received as such.

God cares for us! This recent spiritual phenomenon and miraculous occurrence at our Church is a sign of His Divine care. Perchance we have forgotten St. Isaac of Syria admonishment: ***“This life has been given to you for repentance; do not waste it in vain pursuits!”***

May this miracle arouse in us more sincere and heartfelt genuine repentance! Let us also pray that the purifying tears of our Lord may confirm us all in the unshakable and steadfast confession and tradition of our True, Salvific and Holy Orthodox Faith!

In the words of the late Archbishop Averky of blessed memory: *“Tradition is that which is entrusted to you, not what you’ve found; tradition is what you have received, not what you made up on your own; tradition is a matter of learning, not reasoning; tradition is that what came to you, not what you’ve discovered on your own; you should comport yourself toward tradition not as one who found it, but one who keeps it, not as a founder, but as a follower, not a leader, but as guided.*

Safeguarding the Holy Orthodox Tradition – it means protecting received Talant¹ of the Universal Salvific Faith whole and unharmed. You’ve received the Pure Gold; Pure Gold give in return. Therefore do not be planting rudely something else instead; lead instead of gold, or delusion – bronze. Nothing illusory, but Real and Pure Gold.”²

One thing is for certain: we **cannot remain** in the status quo!

As a result of this spiritually sobering and extraordinary event that has set apart our Parish Church and spiritual community, in addition to our parish etiquette, fr. Miroljub is announcing the following decisions/ changes pertaining to Orthopraxia, i.e. our parish daily spiritual life and behavior in our Church or on the Parish’s property.

1. Talent
2. Fr. Miroljub’s translation

