

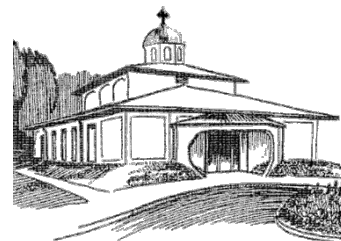


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*A Parish of the Diocese of the Midwest
of the Orthodox Church in America*

9650 Johnnycake Ridge Road, Mentor, OH 44060

<https://saintnicholas-oca.org/>



Parish Rector: Fr Mark Therrien + (252) 813-6993 + fr.mark.therrien@gmail.com



Services & Events Starting the Week of January 7, 2024

- Sunday, January 7** *31st Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday after the Theophany, Synaxis of John the Forerunner*
9:00a Church School
9:45a Third Hour
10:00a Divine Liturgy (coffee hour to follow)
- Saturday, January 13** *Saturday after the Theophany*
4:00p *Panikhida (Parastas)* for Paris Anthony (40 days after repose)
5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, January 14** *32nd Sunday after Pentecost, Apodosis (Leave-taking) of the Theophany*
9:00a Church School
9:45a Third Hour
10:00a Divine Liturgy (coffee hour to follow)
- Week of January 14** House blessings to commence (more information to come)



Stewardship for December 24

Operating: \$4,930; **Maintenance:** \$150; **Holy Day:** \$555; **Icons:** \$10; **OCA/Diocesan Dues:** \$173; **Candles:** \$74; **Uganda:** \$89; **Parish Charities:** \$90; **Flowers:** \$10; **Seminary:** \$10

*

Stewardship for December 31

Operating: \$14,975; **Maintenance:** \$20; **Holy Day:** \$400; **OCA/Diocesan Dues:** \$233; **Candles:** \$38; **Uganda:** \$205; **Parish Charities:** \$95; **Seminary:** \$10

*

“Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple . . .”

(from the final petition of the Augmented Litany)

Thank you for your generosity!

NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

It is a great joy to begin my appointment at St Nicholas during such a festal time. By way of putting a few of my thoughts about my transition to this parish into words, I have written a short pastoral letter that I have included with this week's bulletin.

Regarding Theophany House Blessings

This week, my family and I will be settling into our new dwelling and doing all of the normal tasks required after a major move. This year, therefore, I will delay beginning Theophany house blessings for a week or so. More information about them will be forthcoming soon. Thank you in advance for your patience. At the same time, if there are any imminent pastoral needs that require attention, **please do not hesitate to get in touch with me** (especially in the cases of medical emergencies or for sacramental needs such as confession, or for memorial services, etc.). My contact information is listed at the top of the bulletin.

Some Ideas for Keeping the Feast at Home throughout the Week

As usual in the Church for major feasts, during this coming week we continue to celebrate the Lord's Theophany each day, all the way until January 14.

To continue the celebration at home, chanting (or reading) the **Troparion** of the feast before meals is a good way of keeping our minds on the feast. This hymn can be found on the hymn sheet for today's Liturgy.

In many places, the prayer said after meals is replaced with the **Kontakion**. This is also found on the hymn sheet.

Another way of keeping the feast before us is to spend time with the **Scripture readings** from the festal services. This year, we did not hear most of these readings since we did not serve the Royal Hours or the Vespers Divine Liturgy at church. But during this coming week, these could be used for daily meditation. The full selection of them can be found online here: <https://www.oca.org/readings/daily/2024/01/05>.

Regardless of what it is, it is good to find these small ways of incorporating festal material into our lives and into our prayer this week so that we don't let the joy of the present celebration slip away from us too soon.



Fasting This Coming Week

Unlike after the feast of the Lord's Nativity, there is no suspension of fasting during the post-festal period after Theophany. Thus, Wednesday and Friday are fasting days (as usual throughout the year).

Why the difference? Over time, as the feast of the Lord's Nativity came to receive more attention liturgically, its celebration gradually became assimilated in a special way to the feast of Pascha (hence the forty-day fast before it, which mirrors the Great Fast). In fact, in the *Menologion* (the Church's normative list of monthly commemorations), the entry for Nativity designates this feast as "Pascha," and specifies that it is to be celebrated by resting from work for three days. For this reason, during the post-festal period after the Nativity, fasting is suspended, just as it is during Bright Week.

Events to Honor Fr Drew's Service

The last date to sign-up for the dinner celebrating the service of Father Andrew is next Sunday, January 14th. Checks should be made out to St Nicholas and mailed or handed to Evelyn Wick. Details of the dinner are posted in the foyer.

Since not everyone can attend the dinner, next Sunday (January 14th) there will also be a special coffee honoring Fr Drew.



Prayer Requests

It is one of our great privileges as baptized Christians (and perhaps our greatest responsibility) to pray to God our Father with boldness for our own needs and for the sake of others. So, if you know of someone who is in special need of prayer at the moment, please email me so that I might add the person to the prayer list (my email is given on the first page of the bulletin).

In the meantime, please remember the following in your prayers especially:

Parish Prayer List

Perry (Capitan), Julian, Sarah Crivella, Joella (LuAnn D.'s daughter), Anna Como, Barb, Cathy Ubancic, Emily Finazzo, (friends of the Rendas), David Campbell (Deb's brother), Patrick Leahy (Dave K.'s brother-in-law), Rick Wagner (Merrick and Mia's grandfather), Patricia (Rosemary Bagley's mother), the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia

Birthdays this week: 1/7: Kevyn Roth; 1/8: Tess Lannon, Stephanie Iorga, Nicolina Hoover; 1/9: Michelle Ray, Timothy Price; 1/10: Daniil (Bozhukov) Antonoff; 1/12: Iryna Gorbatenko; 1/13: Archpriest Andrew Clements, Renee Kirouac

Expecting: Greg and Grace, Jairus and Riley, Weston and Rachel, Joseph and Venessa.

Newborns: Esther (Stephen & Rebecca), Henry Jude (Peter & Caitlin).

Newly Departed: Paris Santone (Debbie Covelli's nephew), Joseph Demanski