

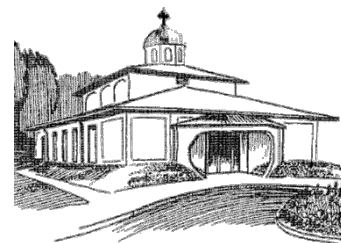


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 for the Week Starting January 21, 2024

- Sunday, January 21** *33rd Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 8, Our Venerable Father Maximus the Confessor*
(Readings: Colossians 1:12-18; Matthew 22:1-14)
9:00a Church School
9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour
- Thursday, January 25** 6:30p Choir Practice
- Friday, January 26** 9:30a Home School Co-op || Family Game Night (Time TBA)
- Saturday, January 27** 4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, January 28** *34th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 1, Our Venerable Father Ephraim the Syrian*
(Readings: Colossians 3:4-11; Matthew 22:35-46)
9:00a Church School
9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour



Attendance & Stewardship for January 14, 2024

Attendance: 143; Operating: \$4,552 Maintenance: \$100; Holy Day: \$100; OCA/Diocesan Dues: \$492.50; Candles: \$90; Uganda: \$114; Parish Charities: \$65; IOCC: \$40.50; 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

Regarding House Blessings

This past week I started to bless houses. As I've mentioned, this process will take a bit longer this year since I am learning the area. As such, there is still time to sign up; the sign-up sheets will be left in the foyer for this purpose. As a reminder: for the blessing, please

prepare a list with the names of the living members of your household to be prayed for as part of the service.

Today's Commemoration of St Maximus

One of the saints whom we commemorate today in the Church is St Maximus the Confessor. During the first part of his life, Maximus wrote many works on ascetic and spiritual life. During the latter part, he wrote many works on Christ. St Maximus eventually earned the epithet 'the Confessor' because, against the demands of the powers of his day, he professed Orthodox (right) belief in Jesus Christ in opposition to views that compromised the faith. Because of this, Maximus was mutilated: His right hand was cut off, and his tongue was removed. Eventually he died while in exile.

What was it that Maximus said that led to such a brutal treatment? The issue was that, at Maximus' time, there were some who were speaking about Christ in ways that diminished his full humanity. Against their errant views, Maximus refused to remain silent. Rather, he boldly confessed the central teaching of the Gospel: Jesus Christ is both fully God *and* fully man. Jesus' humanity

was not a seeming humanity, nor was it so transformed by its union with divinity that it lost some of its natural properties. Rather, being true God, in the incarnation the Word also took upon himself the whole of our humanity, with all of its natural faculties—including a real soul, a real mind, a real will, and a real activity.

As we commemorate him today, may St Maximus intercede for us that we may be as bold and unflinching in our profession of Jesus Christ as he was, regardless of the personal cost to us.



St Herman's House: A Call for Help

This past Thursday morning, I was asked to serve the Divine Liturgy at St Herman's House in Cleveland. Taking this opportunity as a way of strengthening our parish's relationship to St Herman's House, I was glad to do so (with the blessing of Archbishop Daniel).

In thinking about the future, the director of St Herman's House, Kirk Ries, has asked me about our parish's potential interest in increasing its involvement with their work. Especially in thinking about the Lord's teaching (e.g., Matthew 25), I think that this is a good request to consider as a parish community.

As we consider what form this involvement might take, I am in need of help: I need someone who might serve as a point-person at St Nicholas to coordinate with St Herman's House. *If you might be interested in doing this, please be in touch with me.*



"Sanctify Those Who Love the Beauty of Your House"

As our parish moves from its first fifty years of ministry into its next fifty, I want to continue the beautification of our temple and our services. One of our immediate needs is to acquire some new metalware for our church. For example, given our number of communicants, we are very much in need of a **new chalice** that has about twice the capacity of our current largest chalice.

There are a number of other items that I have noted down as needed. If you are interested in purchasing one for the parish in memory of someone who has reposed in our Lord, please be in touch with me. Especially considering the frequency with which these holy objects are used in the services, it is a good way to keep the memory of the person alive in the Church. (Holy objects can also be dedicated in honor of the living.)



Parish Prayer List

If you know of someone who is in special need of prayer, please email me so that I might add the person to the prayer list. In the meantime, please remember especially:

Perry (Capitan), **Julian**, **Sarah Crivella**, **Joella** (LuAnn Dzura's daughter), **Anna Como**, **Barb**, **Emily Finazzo**, (friend of the Rendas), **David Campbell** (Debbie Clements' brother), **Patrick Leahy** (Dave K.'s brother-in-law), **Rick Wagner** (Merrick and Mia's grandfather), **Patricia** (Rosemary Bagley's mother), **Bruce** (Kristen Moore's father), **Joseph Chuppa**, **Ronald** (in baptism, **Thomas**) (Collin Moore's father), **Bruce** (Kristen Moore's father), **Mary Ann Sheranko**, **Helen** (Jan Ursinyi's mother, in hospice), **Kristen** (Michelle Hoover's cousin, suffering from cancer), **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 1/22: **Mara Kucmanic**; 1/23: **Ron Ray**; 1/26: **Kaite D'Fantis** (Alexander)

Anniversaries this week: 1/23: **Ron & Mary Ray**

Expecting: **Greg & Grace**, **Jairus & Riley**, **Weston & Rachel**, **Joseph & Venessa**, **Jon & Alexandra**

Newborn: **Esther** (Stephen & Rebecca)

Name-day today: **James** (Maximus) Iubelt

Newly departed: **Paris Anthony Santone** (Debbie Covelli's nephew), **Joseph Demanski**, **Cathy Ubancic** (friend of the Rendas), **Patricia** (Michael Abernathy's grandmother), **Nun Elizabeth** (of Holy Transfiguration Monastery)



Sanctity of Life Sunday

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, has designated today as Sanctity of Life Sunday. For this occasion, special petitions will be added to the Augmented Litany today, and a special prayer will be read at the end of liturgy. I am including His Beatitude's letter for this occasion with this week's parish email.

Today's commemoration serves as a good reminder that, in addition to promoting life in other ways, we must especially do all that we can to support those in unexpected or crisis pregnancies. If you know of someone in such a position, there are resources to support them, in confidence and without judgment (e.g., ZOE House and ZOE Women's Center in Parma). *If you know of someone who is in need, be in touch with me.*