

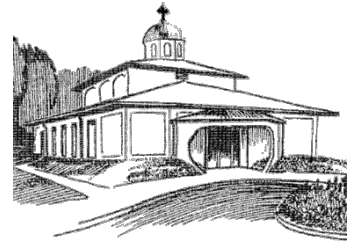


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 February 11, 2024

- Sunday, February 11** *36th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 3, Hieromartyr (Bishop-Martyr) Blaise*
(Readings: 1 Timothy 1:15-17; Matthew 15:21-28)
9:00a Church School
9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour
- Tuesday, February 13** *Fr Mark at Deanery Meeting at St Michael's Church in Broadview Heights*
- Thursday, February 15** 6:30p Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, February 16** 9:30a Homeschool co-op
- Saturday, February 17** 4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, February 18** *37th Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 4, Holy Father Leo the Great, Pope of Rome*
(Readings: 1 Timothy 4:9-15 & Romans 6:1-11; Luke 19:1-10 & Matthew 28:16-20)
9:00a Church School || 9:30a Third Hour
9:45a Prayers at the Making of a Catechumen
10:00a Baptism & Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour



Attendance & Stewardship for February 4, 2024

Attendance: 149; Operating: \$3,495; Maintenance: \$185; Holy Day: \$25; Icons: \$10; Diocesan Dues: \$854.75; Candles: \$73; Uganda: \$75; Parish Charities: \$130

“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

**Next Sunday's Gospel:
Easing into the Great Fast**

In next Sunday's Gospel, we will read the narrative about the Lord's encounter with **Zacchaeus** (Luke 19:1-10). This Gospel is, interestingly, actually the Gospel appointed for

the 32nd Sunday after Pentecost (and not the 37th Sunday after Pentecost, which is next Sunday). According to the practice of many Orthodox Churches, however (including our own), the reading of the Gospel about Zacchaeus is delayed so that it will be read on the very last Sunday of the year before we begin our series of weeks to prepare us for the Great Fast and Pascha.

In this way, then, even though next Sunday is not yet part of the *Triodion* (the period of the year that includes the weeks before the Great Fast, the Fast itself, and Holy Week), still, next Sunday's commemoration of Zacchaeus marks a kind of 'soft opening' for the time of preparation for Pascha. And so, as we prepare for next Sunday's Divine Liturgy, we should use the occasion to start thinking about coming Fast so that we might be better prepared to celebrate and participate in our Lord's saving Pascha from death unto life. *How will we make use of our time during this year's Fast? What might we read for spiritual profit? What might we do for the sake of others? How might we give alms?* Let us start thinking about these questions now so that the beginning of the Fast does not catch us unawares.



Investing One's Ecclesial Talents: An Example from a Recent Commemoration

As I said in my sermon last Sunday in speaking about the parable of the talents, one of the points to take away from the Lord's teaching is that everyone in the Church is given at least one spiritual gift to use for the sake of building up the body of Christ. In discerning what this looks like in the practice, a number of recent saints in the *Menaion* (the Church's book of monthly commemorations) offer us good examples to meditate upon.

Among them, this coming week we celebrate a saint who invested his ecclesial talents in especially wise ways: **St Cyril, the equal-to-the-apostles and the teacher of the Slavs**. Having received an excellent education, St Cyril later accepted ordination to the rank of presbyter. Together with his brother, St Methodius, St Cyril is responsible for beginning the evangelization of the Slavic peoples—something that impacts us directly at St Nicholas parish, of course, in light of the history of the founding of the Orthodox Church in America. Eventually, St Cyril died in Rome and was buried at the Basilica di San Clemente. As evidence of the success of his missionary work, we have only to look at St Cyril's resting place: On the occasion of the millennium anniversary of the Christianization of the Rus' in 1988, a number of plaques were put on the wall near his tomb, in which members of different Slavic nations express their gratitude to him for his missionary efforts. A picture of these moving inscriptions can be found here: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Saint_Cyril_to_mb_in_San_Clemente_%282%29.jpg.

By the prayers of this great missionary saint, may God give us the grace to invest our ecclesial talents just as he did.



Doings in the Deanery & Wider Cleveland Area

On Saturday, March 9, there will be an evening celebration at St Michael's in Broadview Heights in connection with the educational ministry of St Tikhon's Seminary. For information, please see: <https://allthegood.stots.edu/>.

On Sunday, March 24, there will be a joint celebration of local Churches for the Sunday of Orthodoxy (the first Sunday of the Great Fast). For this occasion, a collection will be taken to send to International Orthodox Christian Charities for humanitarian relief in Gaza. I encourage everyone to think about donating. *For more information, see also letter attached to this week's bulletin.*



Catechesis Beginning Soon

This coming Tuesday, February 12, I will meet with our new catechumens for our first catechetical session together. After this meeting, once we have figured out some regular meeting times (God willing), I hope to open up this class to the wider parish for all who might be interested. More details will follow in the coming weeks.



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), **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]), **Kevin, Declan, and Teagon** (husband and children of the newly-reposed Kristen), **Christina** (Mike Brzozowski's sister), **Alan, LuAnn Dzura, Rich Cook** (Cindy Renda's brother), **Elizabeth** (Denise Busch's aunt), **Bruno Christani, Daniel Conger** (friend of Jim Renda), **Kathy Thomas** (Fr Mark's aunt), **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Special note: Rosemary has been told that her mother Patricia only has a month or two to live. Please be praying for her, and for Rosemary, especially fervently right now.

Birthdays this week: 2/12: Adam Woodruff; 2/13: George Tintor; 2/14: Pamela Roth; 2/17: Laura Abernathy, Evangeline Kingsbury

Expecting: Greg & Grace, Jairus & Riley, Weston & Rachel, Joseph & Venessa, Jon & Alexandra, Patrick & Katherine, Jake & Allison Szendrey

Newborn: Esther (Stephen & Rebecca) (to be received into the Church by baptism next Sunday)

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, Nick & Abrea Monda

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), Kristen (Michelle Hoover's cousin), Jane Hunt (great grandmother of Sofia Kiernan)

Anniversary of Repose: Sharon Blake (Ruth Bede's sister [40th anniversary of repose])