

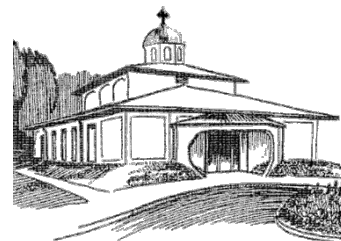


# St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 18, 2024

- 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
- Tuesday, February 20** 6:30p Choir Practice
- Thursday, February 22** 6:30p Akathist at St Nicholas Parish in Mogadore (*Tikhvin icon*)
- Friday, February 23** 9:00a Divine Liturgy and Molieben at St Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland (*Tikhvin icon*)  
9:30a Home-school co-op (at our parish, as usual)  
7:00p Class with Catechumens (*open to everyone*)
- Saturday, February 24** Youth Group 3:00-5:30p || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, February 25** *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Tone 5*  
**The Beginning of the Period of the Triodion**  
(Readings: 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14)  
9:00a Church School  
9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour



### Stewardship for February 11, 2024

Operating: \$2,888; ZOE: \$23; Maintenance: \$40;  
Icons: \$35; Diocesan Dues: \$213; Candles: \$57;  
Uganda: \$64; Parish Charities: \$25; 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

### Catechesis This Coming Friday

This coming Friday, February 23, I will meet with our catechumens for the first class in which we are covering content. Our topic will be: *Creation & Fall: The Call to*

*Deification & the Story of De-creation.* The class will look at Genesis 1:1-3:24 read in tandem with some patristic texts. *Although specifically intended as part of the formation for our catechumens, this class is open to all who wish to attend.*



### As Many As Have Been Baptized...: A Liturgical Catechesis on Today's Baptismal Procession

By God's grace, this Sunday we celebrate the baptism of the child of God, Esther. As you will notice, the order of our service today varies a bit from what this parish has done in the past. The reason is that, although historically speaking baptism was always supposed to be done in close connection to the Divine Liturgy (as the rubrics going back to the earliest manuscript of the Liturgy indicate), the practice of having baptism *within* the Divine Liturgy is fairly new, and so there is not yet a standard way of doing

a Baptismal Divine Liturgy across the wider Church. For this reason, Archbishop Daniel asked me to consult the editions of the service that have been blessed for use by other Orthodox Churches, and to base our order on those.

Most of these changes are fairly minor. But one that is more noticeable is this: Instead of doing the baptism at the front of the Church, we are doing it towards the narthex area in the back. Why? Traditionally, the narthex is the area in which the non-baptized would stand for the liturgy. This is why, for example, we enroll catechumens in the narthex. (In some places the traditional practice is still observed of having catechumens remain in the narthex during the Liturgy, and to dismiss them at the proper time.) For this reason, following one of the orders that I consulted, we are celebrating the baptism there. Then, after Esther is baptized and anointed with chrism, she will be led into the nave of the Church while we sing of *As many as have been baptized into Christ...*, thus marking her official entrance into the body of baptized believers—the nave being the place where those who are baptized, and who are not under canonical discipline of any kind, are supposed to stand.

The symbolic importance of this action is particularly fitting in light of our temple's architecture: Since the area of the narthex where we are baptizing Esther has a lower ceiling, her entrance into the nave (which has a higher ceiling) intimates a kind of ascending motion, which, very beautifully, leads up the image of our Lord in the temple's dome. This is a very fitting way of expressing the reality of what Christian life is about: It is only through entering the Church that we are made able to make our ascent to Christ our God since, as Christians, we are only saved as members of His Body. And of course, this is a good reminder for all of us to ask ourselves: In seeing her make her first ascent to God, where are we on our baptismal journeys? Are we still on that same trajectory towards Christ? And if not, what might we start doing to repent and get back on it?



### Doings in the Deanery

This coming week, a copy of the Tikhvin icon will be hosted by the Cleveland Deanery. This icon has a special relationship to our diocese—so much so that, in October of last year, the Mother of God of Tikhvin was proclaimed as the patroness of our diocese (his decree may be found online here: <https://domoca.org/archpastoral-decree-proclaiming-the-mother-of-god-of-tikhvin-as-sovereign-lady-queen-and-protectress-of-the-diocese-of-chicago-and-the-midwest/>). In honor of the Mother of God of Tikhvin, two services will be held this week in our deanery. On Thursday, February 22, at 6:30p, an Akathist will be served at St Nicholas Church in Mogadore. Then on Friday, February 23, Divine Liturgy and a Moleben (prayer

service) will be served at St Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland. I encourage everyone to attend at least one of these services to offer your prayers to the Mother of God for the good of our deanery, and for the good of all of our people in this God-protected diocese. *For more information, please see the flyer with this week's bulletin.*

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/>.



### 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), **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 residents of St Herman's House**, as well as those who serve them; our seminarian, **Cole (Paul) Schlafer**, and his family members: **Sarah, Simon, Michael, & Nikolai**; **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

**Birthdays this week:** 2/18: **Debbie Clements; Anna Dombrowskaya;** 2/21: **Alexander Walker; Ron Sieloff;** 2/22: **Valerie Christani;** 2/23: **Juliana Kingsbury;** **Christian Rausch;** 2/24: **Dianne Patton**

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

**Newly-illuminated:** **Esther Hoffacker**, and her sponsors: **Leonard Heim IV & Laura Fredericks**

**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)