

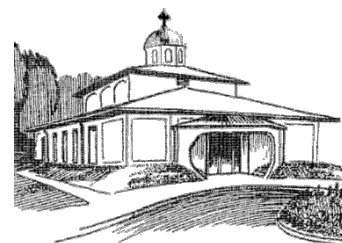


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 March 10, 2024

- Sunday, March 10** *Sunday of Meatfare, Tone 7*
(Readings: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2; Matthew 25:31-46)
9:00a Church School || 9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour
- Thursday, March 14** 6:30p Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, March 15** 6:30p Evening of Reflection on Confession/Repentance
- Saturday, March 16** *All Departed Monastics*
4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, March 17** *Sunday of Cheesefare, Tone 8*
(Romans 13:11-14:4; Matthew 6:14-21)
9:00a Church School || 9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour
5:30p Vespers, Prayers at the Beginning of the Holy Forty-Day Fast, Rite of Forgiveness



Attendance & Stewardship for March 3, 2024

Attendance: 180; **Operating:** \$5,697.75; **Maintenance:** \$95; **Diocesan Dues:** \$610.25; **Candles:** \$102; **Uganda:** \$60; **Parish Charities:** \$240; **Alms:** \$215; **Seminary:** \$10; **Flowers:** \$25

“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

This Friday: An Evening of Reflection on Confession

This coming Friday, March 15, I have scheduled a ‘Class on Confession’ on the monthly calendar. In hindsight, I realize that calling this evening a ‘class’ probably suggests that I want to do something more formal than what I intend to do. What is that exactly? In brief: I’ve scheduled this time because I want to open up a space to talk about confession and repentance. I want to do this especially in light of the

fact that everyone will need to confess in the coming Fast, and because some at this parish might not ever have confessed to another priest before. So, I scheduled this time so that I can say a few things about what I expect in the process of preparing for confession and going through the rite. And then, having said what I need to say, we can have a conversation about confession and repentance in Christian life more generally. This time, then, is meant to be low key and conversational (for those who wish to participate).



This Great Fast: Helping with St Herman’s House

In the spirit of Lenten Almsgiving (and in keeping with today’s Gospel), we would like to resurrect a former parish project for St Herman’s House—with a slight twist. During COVID we prepared chili and packed lunch bags for 100 clients. Currently, St Herman’s serves 120 dinners daily to the community. We are asking parishioners to prepare their favorite vegetarian chili recipe, package it for freezing, and bring to St Nicholas. Chili will be frozen in our kitchen freezer. Our goal is to have enough chili prepared to feed 120 people by **April 14th**. Collin Urbania

will deliver the chili to St Herman's House.

This is a project we can do all do on own time. Any amount you are able to donate will be greatly appreciated. Freezer containers are available, and there is plenty of storage room in our church freezer. We are hoping this can become a quarterly project for our parish. Since we are no longer involved with St James Soup Kitchen, this is a more flexible alternative. Please consider helping with this project.

To offer your help, please contact either: Peggy Walker (440-668-1275; pggwalker476@gmail.com) or Collin Urbania (440-479-6688; urbaniacollin@gmail.com).



Some Instructive Words on Alms

"Almsgiving is a work of mercy, performed by doing a benefit to the soul or body of anyone, having regard only to the necessities, and not to the character of him who stands in need of your alms. Now, this virtue is especially necessary for every Christian, as the Holy Scripture teaches (Tobit 12:9): 'For alms delivers from death, and shall purge away all sins: those who exercise alms and righteousness shall be filled with life.' ... almsgiving, joined with fasting, renders our prayers acceptable with God, and inclines his ears to hear us: As the Angel said unto Cornelius (Acts 10:4), 'Your prayer and your alms have ascended as a memorial before God.' **This virtue comprehends within itself all other virtues, ...**"

"[W]e are not to confine our alms to those only who apply to us for them publicly in the streets, nor yet to those only who lie sick in the public hospital, but we must also extend them to those who, through modesty, or any other impediment, cannot ask our alms. And we must be cautious, to the utmost, that these our good deeds may be as secret as possible, lest we receive our reward in the praises of men: according to the words of our Lord Christ (Matt. 6:2), 'When you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of man. Amen, I say to you, they have their reward'" (St Peter Mohyla)



Fasting & Feasting (In Moderation) This Week

As we know, today is Meat-fare: the last day that we may consume meat products until Pascha. And, of course, this coming week is Cheese-fare week. This week, then, we may eat dairy (and fish) products on all days, including Wednesday and Friday. But as we do this, we should also keep in mind that this week should already be marked by the spirit of sobriety and moderation that is typical of the Great Fast. On this point, it is important that, even though

we may eat all foods except meat this week (even on Wednesday and Friday), the Church also prescribes that we use Lenten service orders on these same days. For that reason, then, this Wednesday and Friday it is entirely appropriate to add the **Prayer of St Ephraim** to our prayers at home. Doing this will help us to keep in mind what this week is really intended for: not trying to get our fill of tasty foods before the Fast starts, but rather using up what we already have, and making a slow but steady transition into the full rigor of Forty Days.



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), **Bruce** (Kristen Moore's father), **Joseph Chuppa, Ronald** (in baptism, **Thomas**) (Collin 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); **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 members of the **Bagley family, especially Joseph, Rosemary, Isaac, Lucia, & Julian;** **Jim Barkas; Theodore Kisha** (father of Ted Kisha); **Jim Hyde** (friend of John and Valerie Christani); **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 3/10: **Dana Schlotzer;** 3/13: **Elijah Moore;** 3/16: **Bobby Wick, Naomi Sherman**

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

Catechumens: **Dalton Moses, Nick & Abrea Monda, Alex Wittie**

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), **Patricia Wilcoxson** (Rosemary Bagley's mother); **Joseph Naymik; Jay Emmer-Lovell** (friend of the Russell, Horabik & Lehman families)