

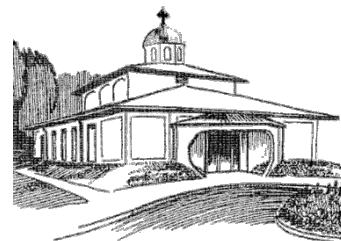


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 17, 2024

- Sunday, March 17** *Sunday of Cheesefare (Sunday of Forgiveness, Sunday of the Expulsion)*
(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
- Monday, March 18** *Clean Monday*
6:30a Morning Service (Hours) || 6:30p Great Compline with Great Canon of St Andrew
- Tuesday, March 19** *Clean Tuesday*
9:00a Morning Service (Matins) || 6:30p Great Compline with Great Canon of St Andrew
- Wednesday, March 20** *Clean Wednesday*
6:30p Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Thursday, March 21** *Clean Thursday*
9:00a Morning Service (Matins) || 6:30p Great Compline with Great Canon of St Andrew
- Friday, March 22** 9:30a Home-school co-op
- Saturday, March 23** *First Saturday of the Great Fast: The Commemoration of St Theodore*
4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, March 24** *First Sunday of the Great Fast: The Triumph of Orthodoxy*
(Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2; John 1:43-51)
9:00a Church School || 9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour
4:00p Great Vespers with Lity and Procession (at St Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland)
5:30p Great Vespers with Lity for the Annunciation (at St Nicholas in Mentor)



Attendance & Stewardship for March 10, 2024

Attendance: 114; Operating: \$2,319; Maintenance: \$50; Diocesan Dues: \$223; Candles: \$30; Uganda: \$69; Parish Charities: \$20; Alms: \$80; 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

A Pastoral Letter for the Beginning of the Fast

On the occasion of the beginning of the Great Fast, I have written a pastoral letter. It is included with this week's bulletin.



A Brief Instruction on this Week's Services

To mark the spirit of sobriety and vigilance that we should be inculcating during the forty days of the Great Fast, this coming week we have an especially intense

schedule of liturgical services in our church.

The Beginning of the Great Fast: This Sunday Evening

This Sunday evening, we will serve Vespers. The Great Fast begins at this service when, after the Great Prokeimenon, the holy doors are closed, vestments are changed from light to dark, and we start using somber melodies for the litanies. Vespers will end in the manner typical for a Sunday evening of the Great Fast, which includes the Prayer of St Ephraim. Then, after Vespers concludes, two Prayers at the Beginning of the Holy Forty-Day Fast will be read from the *Book of Needs* (the church's book containing occasional services). Finally, after these prayers have been read, we will have the Rite of Forgiveness (this is originally a monastic ritual from Compline that has been taken up into parochial use).

Morning Services This Week

On Monday morning, we will serve Lenten 3rd and 6th Hours at 6:30a. This service will be simple and somber: it consists almost entirely of Psalms chanted by a reader. During the 6th Hour, we will also read the first prophetic reading of the Great Fast: **Isaiah 1:1–20**.

Then, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we will serve Lenten Matins at 9:00a. This service will be, again, fairly simple: It consists mostly of Psalms and Canticles from Scripture. During it, the beautiful penitential canons from the *Triodion* will be read. As with the Hours, the chanting of this service will be simple and somber.

Evening Services This Week

On Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings, we will serve an abridged version of Great Compline. Each night, at the beginning of the service, we will also sing one quarter of the Great Penitential Canon of St Andrew of Crete—a text that recounts, in a truly breathtaking way, the entirety of God's interaction with humanity from the beginning of time until Christ. During the canon, each time that the choir sings the refrain "Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me," all who are able should make a prostration.

And then, since we cannot serve the full Divine Liturgy on weekdays of the Great Fast, on Wednesday evening we will serve the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. In the cathedral practice, this liturgy was once served every week-day evening during the Fast. Over time, however, its celebration became limited to Wednesday and Friday evening (although there are parishes that continue the practice of serving it every evening). The service begins as Lenten Vespers, and then

transitions into a kind of service for the distribution of the holy Gifts that have been reserved from the Divine Liturgy of the previous Sunday.

Please make every effort to be at as many services as you can, because there is no better way of getting into the spirit of repentance that marks this part of the year than engaging seriously in the prayers of the Church. And, if you cannot attend services at St Nicholas, but if you live or work or study near another Orthodox parish, please consult its calendar and go to what you can there.



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); **John & Delphine Kiernan** (parents of Sean Kiernan); **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 3/22: James Pahoulis

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)