

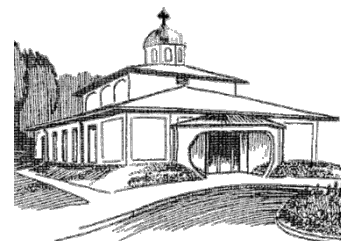


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 31, 2024

Sunday, March 31	<i>Second Sunday of the Great Fast: St Gregory Palamas</i> (Hebrews 1:10-2:3; Mark 2:1-12) 9:00a Church School 9:45a Third Hour 10:00a Divine Liturgy Coffee hour
Tuesday, April 2	9:00a Morning Service (<i>Matins or Hours</i>) 6:30p Catechism Class (<i>open to all</i>)
Wednesday, April 3	4:00p Confessions 6:30p Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Thursday, April 4	6:30a Morning Service (<i>Matins or Hours</i>)
Saturday, April 6	<i>Third Saturday of the Great Fast: Third Saturday of the Departed</i> 4:00p Confessions 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday, April 7	<i>Third Sunday of the Great Fast: The Holy Cross</i> (Hebrews 4:14-5:6; Mark 8:34-9:1) 9:00a Church School 9:45a Third Hour 10:00a Divine Liturgy Coffee hour



Stewardship for March 24, 2024

Operating: \$3,906; ZOE: \$50; Maintenance: \$25; Holy Day: \$125; Diocesan Dues: \$140; Candles: \$51; Uganda: \$112; Parish Charities: \$42; Alms: \$527; Flowers: \$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 Reminder about Planning for Confession

There was very good participation in the sacrament of Confession during the past week. If you have not yet started to plan your confession, please do so soon. I know that we are only at the end of the second week of the Fast, but especially once we get to the week of the Cross, things will pick up and, before we know it, Holy Week will be upon us. If you were not at the class that I gave on confession a few weeks ago, here are some pointers:

1. Before we confess, we must prepare adequately. As part of this, we should review a good examination of conscience. (I sent out several of these. If you need me to send it to you again, email me.) Also, we should pray Psalm 50 (51) beforehand: “Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy...”
2. When we confess, we should focus on the actual sinful deeds that *we ourselves* committed, and the actual sinful thoughts that *we ourselves* have thought. As much as possible, we should refrain from discussing the sins and deeds of others.
3. When we confess, we should not use general terms or speak about general patterns of behavior. Rather, we should be specific.
4. When we confess, we should be direct about naming what we did; we should not talk around it. To echo the advice of Metropolitan Anthony Bloom: In confession, we should never use a nice word instead of a nasty one (because there is spiritual power in naming sins by name; doing this helps to break the power that sin can hold over us).
5. When we confess, we should not usually get into too many details about the circumstances of the sin.

Besides these specific pointers, there are two other big-picture principles to keep in mind:

First: When we confess, we should keep in mind that what we should bring to confession are those matters that the priest can absolve for. More specifically: By virtue of ordination, the priest receives the power to absolve *sins* in the name of Christ. And so, even if sometimes we may have to say something about what is going on in our life to help contextualize our confession, the sacrament is not the place to discuss what is going on in one's life more generally (because that's not what a priest can absolve). This is, again, why we should focus on particular sins. For this reason, if you need to talk about something going on in life more generally, we can find a time to do that, and I will offer whatever help I can insofar as it is appropriate for me. But, to echo the clergy guidelines of our Holy Synod of Bishops, the proper context for general pastoral counseling is outside of confession and not during the sacrament.

Second: It is critical to keep in mind that, even if what we confess are *past* sins and misdeeds, the primary orientation of the sacrament is *the future*: It is about preparing to live a more intense and fruitful life in Christ going forward. As we prepare for confession by making an honest review of our life, then, we should consider the following questions especially: *After I go to confession, what am I going to do, sincerely and honestly before God, to live a different kind of life than what I lived before? What concrete changes will I make?* And, if those changes must be serious: *What small steps can I take to move in the right direction?*



Sign-Up for Church Greeters: A Second Request

As announced last week, we want to start having a rotation of greeters to welcome people to church. Unfortunately, no one has yet signed up to help. I have been told that, in part, this is because the duties are too extensive for some to commit to doing it. If you do have some interest, but if the duties as specified are too much, please be in touch with me. Perhaps we might break up the duties for this ministry to spread out the labor.



Church Cleaning before Pascha

Please note: We will do a thorough cleaning of the church on the morning of **Saturday, April 13 at 9:30am**. Please plan to participate, especially since (as the saying goes) many hands make light work.



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 & John** (Mike Brzozowski's sister and brother), **Alan, LuAnn Dzura, Rich Cook** (Cindy Renda's brother), **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); **Jennifer** (Katie Horabik's friend); **Dana** (Merrick and Mia Wagner's step-mother); **Stacey and Ian** (friends of Katie Horabik); **Michael** (grandson of Christine Brzozowski); **Brzozowski and Mattia families** (for safe travels); **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 4/1: Mikayla Janek; Olivia Butterfield; 4/4: Lucia Bagley

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); **Pauline Demanski; Elizabeth** (Denise Busch's aunt)