

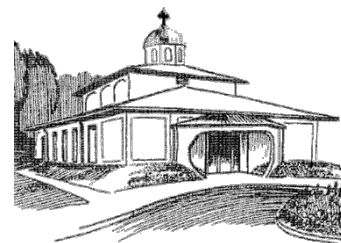


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 Beginning Sunday, May 26, 2024

- Sunday, May 26 *Fourth Sunday of Pascha: The Paralytic*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Baptism & Divine Liturgy
- Monday, May 27 5–7p Serving Dinner at St Herman's House
- Tuesday, May 28 5:30p Vespers for Mid-Pentecost
- Wednesday, May 29 *Feast of Mid-Pentecost*
9:00a Divine Liturgy & Lesser Blessing of Waters
- Saturday, June 1 1p Cleaning Day at St Vladimir's Camp
5p Prayers at the Making of a Catechumen & Office of Reception into the Church
5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 2 *Fifth Sunday of Pascha*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Baptism, Chrismation, & Divine Liturgy
1:30p Grave Blessing



Attendance & Stewardship for May 19, 2024

Attendance: 123; Operating: \$3,011; Diocesan Dues: \$28; Candles: \$17; Uganda: \$30; Parish Charities: \$20; 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

This Week: The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

As the Paschal season continues, this week we come to a major milestone: On Wednesday, we celebrate the Feast of Mid-Pentecost. As the name suggests, this feast marks the middle point of the season that began on Pascha and that is leading us, gradually, to the great feast of Pentecost (which is, actually, the goal of this

entire period, since Jesus rises from the dead precisely so that he may give the Holy Spirit to his Church). To quote from the instructive words found at the beginning of one English translation of the *Pentecostarion* (this is the service book that contains the hymns that we chant in the Church during this festal season): “The Fathers teach us that this feast stands in the middle of the fifty-day period from Pascha to Pentecost as a mighty flowing river of divine grace which has these two great feasts as its source. It is as if the grace of the two auspicious feasts of Pascha and Pentecost are united at Mid-Pentecost.”

To celebrate this feast day, on Tuesday evening we will serve Vespers at 5:30p (please note the earlier time). Then, on Wednesday morning, we will serve the Divine Liturgy at 9:00a. Towards the end of Divine Liturgy, we will also serve the Lesser Blessing of Waters—a tradition associated with this feast-day in light of how many of the service texts speak of our Lord's teaching as being for us the “waters of piety.”

To note here: This is not the same blessing service that is celebrated for the feast of Theophany. This service is used, instead, whenever there is a need to bless water throughout the rest of the year. According to the liturgical tradition of our Church, this service of the Lesser Blessing of Waters is also customarily celebrated on three specific occasions: The First Day of August (in conjunction with the Feast of the Procession of the Cross of our Lord), Friday of Bright Week (in connection with the feast of the Life-giving Spring), and on the Feast of Mid-Pentecost. The beginning of the service is especially beautiful: It consists of a series of short hymns to the Theotokos, praising her for her role in bringing about the incarnation of Christ, and asking for her prayer and intercession for us as we try to follow him.

As a way of continuing the great joy and radiance of this festive season, please make a good effort to participate in at least one of the services for this upcoming feast.



Joe Asks for Some Help

As noted last week: With Joe's ramp now installed, he has more mobility and so can come to services more regularly. But he will need some help with rides to make this happen. If you are able to help him with this, please get in touch with me (preferably [via email](#)). Also: Joe's mobility, while now improved, is still limited. If possible, he needs a little help with the upkeep of his yard (which is relatively small). If you are interested in helping, please get in touch with me.



A Short Report on the Clergy Convocation

This past week, we had a fruitful and enjoyable diocesan clergy convocation. Besides the opportunity for prayer and fellowship, the convocation was also educational in its focus. This year, talks were given by Fr Dcn Vitaly Permiakov, professor of liturgy at St Vladimir's Seminary. Fr Vitaly gave three lectures on the historical, theological, and canonical matters relating to the reception of converts into the Church. The topic is timely, and so Fr Vitaly's informative presentations were very helpful.

Apart from the educational sessions, I had the opportunity to converse and have fellowship with fellow priests. Among them, I had a good talk with Fr

Herman Kincaid, who will be the new chancellor of our diocese (starting July 1). During it, I invited him to visit our parish as soon as he has the opportunity to be in the Cleveland deanery. In the meantime, I would ask everyone to remember him in your prayers as he embarks upon this important (and, at times, very taxing) ministry in service to our diocese.

Apart from informal conversations, Archbishop Daniel also met more formally with diocesan clergy to discuss the question of how to receive converts properly, and how best to approach the pastoral challenges that we sometimes face in this area. These discussions also branched out to consider other practical matters of parish life. As part of this, we received instructions regarding a number of liturgical matters where greater unity in practice across the diocese is desired. In the future, I will be catechizing about how we will be implementing some of those instructions in our own parish. In the meantime, I want to express my gratitude to everyone who prayed for my safe travels this past week. It was good to spend time with everyone at the convocation, but it is also very good to be back at St Nicholas.



June 9: Special Parish Meeting (Second Announcement)

In accord with our parish by-laws (IV.1.d), I am again announcing the calling of a special meeting for the entire parish, which will take place (provided that we have a quorum) on the morning of **June 9**. The meeting will take place in the parish hall, immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

This special meeting will consider **one matter only**: the need to fund a major repair of our parking lot. By way of further explanation: Our parking lot is in poor shape at this time. The lot is beyond just seal coating, which would last a year and not actually fix the problems. To correctly repair the lot for years of use, a total resurfacing is required.

The Parish Council has obtained four different quotes on repairing the lot. It has narrowed them down to two local companies: Titan Asphalt and Paving, and North Coast Asphalt. Information about the specifics of each proposal may be found in the bulletin distributed for last Sunday (May 19).



Anniversary of the Return of the Tikhvin Icon: Events in Chicago on June 25 & 26

To mark the twentieth anniversary of the return of the Tikhvin icon from our God-protected diocese to its original home, there will be a number of celebrations at Holy Trinity Cathedral in connection with the feast-day of the Appearance of the Tikhvin Icon of the Mother of God: On Tuesday, June 25, All-Night Vigil will be celebrated at the cathedral at 6:00p. Then, on June 26, there will be a Primatial Divine Liturgy at 9:30a, served by His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon, and concelebrated by other hierarchs of our Church. A cross-procession through the streets from Holy Trinity Cathedral to St George Cathedral will then take place, followed by a festal banquet.

If you are interested in participating in this event, more information is found online: <https://domoca.org/20th-anniversary-of-the-tikhvin-icon/>. In particular, our diocesan youth are encouraged to consider participating in this event (both as a way of meeting one another, and also for the sake of taking the opportunity to make a small pilgrimage to the mother church of our diocese).



June 1: Cleaning Day at St Vladimir's Camp

St Vladimir's Camp will be doing a major cleaning day on Saturday, June 1. The camp is asking local parishes to help with this. Especially if you or your children have benefited from their experience at the camp in the past, please consider offering your time.



Parish Prayer List

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), Andrew 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; Delphine (mother of Sean Kiernan, husband of newly-posed John); Jennifer, Gani & Stilja (friends of Katie Horabik); Dana (Merrick and Mia Wagner's step-mother); Stacey and Ian (friends of Katie Horabik); Janice (Laurie Alexander's mother); Miriam Kuhl (Sue Hoffacker's sister); Boris & Maria (friends of Anna Kozikov); Michael (cousin of Anna Kozikov); Amy Wagner; Katarina (relative of Natalie Antonoff); Aleksey Byltsov (son of Natalie Antonoff); Willie Gomer (in baptism: Alexander); Priest James Bernstein; the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia

Birthdays this week: 5/26: Christina Lebedev; 5/29: Amy Wagner; 5/31: Peter Georges; 6/1: Shawn Cunningham, Christopher Alusheff, Nina Chongris, Elizabeth Visnick

Anniversary this week: 5/26: David & Maria Kucmanic; Aaron & Abby Goodell; 5/29: George & Jaimie Hasenohrl

Expecting: Greg & Grace, Jake & Allison Szendrey, Subdeacon David (Jeffrey) & Michelle, Brian & Katya; Theodore & Jessica

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, Nick & Abrea Monda (*who are soon to be illumined*), Alex Wittie

Newly born: Anysia Theophana (Joseph & Venessa); Leo (Weston & Rachel); Kennedy Anne (Jon & Alexandra); James (Patrick & Katherine)

Newly crowned: Elizabeth & Patrick

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); Theodore Kisha (father of Ted Kisha); Daniel (infant son of Fr Peter and Matushka Sophie Ries); John (father of Sean Kiernan)

