

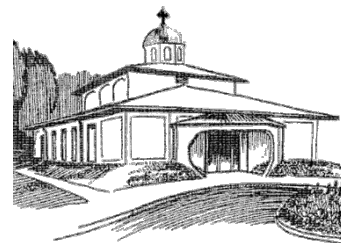


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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, June 2, 2024

- Sunday, June 2** *Fifth Sunday of Pascha: The Samaritan Woman*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Baptism, Chrismation, & Divine Liturgy
1:30p Grave Blessings @ Western Reserve Memorial Gardens
- Tuesday, June 4** *Fr Mark @ Cleveland Area Clergy Meeting @ Buna Vestire Cathedral*
- Saturday, June 8** 4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 9** *Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Man Born Blind*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Churching & Divine Liturgy
(followed by Special All-Parish Meeting)



Attendance & Stewardship for May 26, 2024

Attendance: 136; **Operating:** \$3,851; **ZOE:** \$1,000;
Capital Maintenance: \$85; **Icons:** \$50; **Diocesan Dues:** \$167; **Candles:** \$52; **Uganda:** \$105; **Parish Charities:** \$50; **Seminary:** \$10; **St Herman's:** \$105

“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

Catechetical Note on the Service of Churching a Mother and her Child

By God's grace, next Sunday (June 9) we will have the first of many rites of churching for the newly born infants in our parish. In fact, as we know, there are actually two churchings that take place after the birth of a child: The churching of the mother, and the churching of the child. Ideally, the churching of a mother takes place right around forty days after childbirth (the period of forty days being adopted by the Church in light of the precedent of the Old

Testament regulations surrounding childbirth, and also in light of the fact that the Theotokos returned to the temple forty days after giving birth to our Lord). Likewise, the Church's service books also indicate that a child should be churching forty days after birth along with his or her mother—although, in many places, the churching of the child is customarily delayed until after his or her baptism.

Starting this coming Sunday, however, it will be my standard practice to do the rite of churching for a child *before* his or her baptism (and *not* after it).

I want to explain why I am making this change. To give a bit of history here: The rites of churching as we now have them came into being at different times in the Church's history. The prayer that we use to church a child is found already in the earliest service book of our Church, which is from the eighth century (and possibly reflects a practice that is even older). The prayer used for churching a mother comes a later period. In both cases, the prayers were developed to respond to obvious pastoral needs. On the one hand, in regard to the mother: After childbirth, a mother needs time to recover and to bond with her newly born child. And so, it makes sense that the Church

would bless her to be temporarily absent from the Eucharistic assembly, and also that, when the time comes for her to return to the Eucharistic assembly, the Church would bless her return to it in a formal, liturgical manner. And then again, in the case of a child, the service of churching developed for a very practical and pastoral reason: Since the unbaptized child is born into a Christian family (and thus, with the expectation that he or she will eventually be baptized), then it makes sense to have a service to give the child a formal status within the community, and also to bless his or her first entry into the church in anticipation of full reception by baptism later on.

Critically, then: As the rite of churching a child developed historically, it was always a service intended specifically for a child who was born into a Christian household, but who was still unbaptized. This is shown clearly in the prayer said over the child during this service, which beseeches God that, in due time, he or she may be “counted worthy of holy Baptism,” and which also asks the Lord to “bless this child, together with his (her) parents and his (her) sponsors, and count him (her) worthy, in due season, of the new birth through water and the Spirit.”

And yet, despite the fact that this rite came into being specifically for the purpose of welcoming into the community an *unbaptized* child, over time it became the practice in the Russian liturgical tradition to delay the churching of the child until *after* baptism (possibly because, over time, it became customary in many communities to baptize a child *before* the period of forty days of the mother’s time to rest was complete). And so, in light of how Russian practice came to influence the liturgical tradition of the Orthodox Church in America, this way of doing the churching of a child eventually became standard in most of our parishes, even to this day.

More recently, however, some churches have opted to return to the earlier practice. In fact, there are several parishes within our deanery that have made this change already. Taking up this local precedent, then, I have chosen to return to this practice in our parish—both since it makes more sense theologically (in my view), and also since it is in better keeping with the intention of the service as it was first developed in the Church’s liturgical practice.

Of course, there might be individual cases where it is not possible to do the churching as a pre-baptismal

rite, but only after baptism. Theologically speaking, doing this is challenging since, after baptism, a child is already a full member of the Eucharistic assembly. Thus, it does not really make sense to church a child after baptism since doing so would treat the child, effectively, as being outside of the Eucharistic assembly. Still, I will work with these situations pastorally as they arise on a case-by-case basis, especially as we make this transition. But in any case, the big point is this: As our parish’s normal practice going forward, I will plan on doing the rite of churching a child before baptism in order that the newly born child’s first entrance into the assembly where he or she will eventually be baptized may be blessed by God in a formal, liturgical manner—both for his or her benefit, and also for ours as the community wherein (God willing) he or she will be raised in the ways of Christ.



Joe Still Needs Some Help with Rides to Church

As noted over the last two weeks: 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. **Joe has now reached out to me several times asking for help. So, if you can help him, please tell me.**



June 9: Special Parish Meeting (Third Announcement)

In accord with our parish by-laws (IV.1.d), for the third time I am announcing the calling of a special meeting for the entire parish. Provided that we have a quorum, this will happen on **Sunday, June 9**. The meeting will take place in the parish hall, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. **Please plan to attend.**

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 is found in the bulletin for 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, priests, and deacons of our Church. After Divine Liturgy, 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 at this link: <https://domoca.org/20th-anniversary-of-the-tikhvin-icon/>. **In particular, our diocesan youth are being asked participate 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).

If you are interested in attending the events associated with this feast—especially if you would be interested in coordinating parish participation in it—please be in touch with me.



Another Opportunity to Help St Herman's House

Thank you to everyone who helped at St Herman's House this past Monday.

In light of the good work that our parish is doing for St Herman's already, I want to draw everyone's attention to a benefit event that is coming up soon: St Herman's will soon have its annual Golf Classic. This event is their ministry's largest fundraiser each year. By way of helping to ensure its success, St Herman's is asking people to consider either playing in the outing, or becoming benefactors, or offering some other sponsorship (for example, if you own a business, you can sponsor a hole). St Herman's will also need

several volunteers to help with the outing, which will take place on **July 15th**.

If you can support this event in any way, please get in touch with the Director of St Herman's House, Kirk Ries: golfsthermans@focusna.org, or 216.973.9391.

Please prayerfully consider contributing to this event to benefit St Herman's. For more information, see the flyer attached to the bulletin.



Please Help with Preparing for the Hall Floor Waxing

This coming week on Friday (June 14), our hall will be buffed and coated with a fresh layer of wax. To facilitate this, we need some able-bodied people to help break down the tables and chairs this Sunday after the Liturgy so the hall is cleared for cleaning. Please stay to help with this if you are able. Many hands make for light work...



Re-Keying of the Church

Please note that, as a way of stepping up our current security, the locks in the church will be re-keyed later this June. After we do this, there will be a sign-out sheet for all who need a key to the church to take care of their various ministries. Thank you in advance for your patience with this process.



New Phone Number

Over the next few weeks, I will transition to using a new phone number for parish-related matters: **(216) 678-8181**. Please make note of this new number now as I transition from using my personal line to this new one. I will announce it when I start using it officially.



Donations for St Theodosius Cathedral

As we all know, in the midst of the joy of the feast of mid-Pentecost this past week, our brothers and sisters at St Theodosius cathedral were struck by a sudden tragedy when a fire that started on their roof ended up causing devastating damage to their historic temple.

The cathedral community has a long journey ahead of them as their temple is restored. I ask everyone to

keep Fr Jan, Matushka Jana, and the parishioners of the cathedral in your prayers especially during this difficult time. This effort will necessarily go beyond the bounds of St Theodosius as a parish to include not only our local deanery, but also the entire diocese as well. Archbishop Daniel has started to encourage this effort in the letter that he wrote after returning from his visit to Cleveland this past week. A synopsis of this letter (with a link to the full text) is found here: <https://domoca.org/archbishop-addresses-diocese-concerning-cleveland-cathedral-fire/>.

In terms of helping St Theodosius' restoration efforts, donations to the recovery work are welcome. These may be given online through a special website that has been set up: <https://sttheodosius.org/firerestoration>.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity in helping to rebuild the cathedral.



Youth Group Meeting

On Friday, June 21, the Rendas are hosting a youth group meeting at their home. It will be an outdoor pool party. The sign-up is available online at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BA9A92BA1FC1-49883783-youth>.



Summer Book Club

Joelle Smith is organizing a summer book club for children up to age 17. For more information, please see the flyer attached to this week's bulletin.



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 Ursiny'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-reposed 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); Katarina (relative of Natalie Antonoff); Aleksey Byltsov (son of Natalie Antonoff); Willie Gomer (in baptism: Alexander); Priest James Bernstein; Nancy (Leah Woodruff's mother); Priest Peter & Matushka Sophie (as they travel to take up their new parish assignment); the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia

Birthdays this week: 6/2: John Clements; 6/5: James Oberhausen; 6/6: Alex Visnick

Expecting: 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); Margaret Lee (Greg & Grace)

Newly crowned: Elizabeth & Patrick

Newly illumined: Patrick (Pax)

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)