

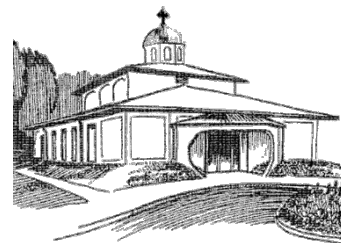


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 9, 2024

- Sunday, June 9** *Sixth Sunday of Pascha: The Man Born Blind*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Churching of Mary and Anysia Pohl & Divine Liturgy
(followed by Special All-Parish Meeting)
- Tuesday, June 11** 9a Akathist to St Luke the Physician (NB: not on the monthly calendar)
- Wednesday, June 12** *The Leave-taking of the Lord's Pascha*
6:30p Great Vespers with Lity (for the Ascension)
- Thursday, June 13** *The Ascension of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ*
9a Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, June 15** 4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 16** *Seventh Sunday of Pascha: The Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Churching of Catherine and James LaPointe & Divine Liturgy



ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 2, 2024

Attendance: 114; Operating: \$3,141; Capital Maintenance: \$213; Diocesan Dues: \$133; Candles: \$47; Uganda: \$65; Parish Charities: \$210; 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!



WEEKLY CATECHETICAL INSTRUCTION

This Week's Feasts: The Leave-Taking of Pascha & the Ascension of our Lord

This coming week, we reach a major milestone in this festal season: On Wednesday, we celebrate the *apodosis* ('leave-taking,' or 'giving back') of the great feast of feasts, the Lord's Pascha. On Wednesday, in other

words, the forty days of Pascha come to their conclusion. After Wednesday afternoon, then, we will no longer sing the Paschal Troparion during the divine services, and we will cease using the Paschal greeting ("Christ is risen!") until next year.

While I hope to have services for the Leave-taking next year, this year I have not scheduled anything at our parish. As a way of keeping the final day of the feast at home, I would invite everyone to make a special effort to use some of hymns from Pascha during your daily prayers. For example, you and your family might pray the Paschal Hour that I distributed on Pascha. Alternatively, you can pray the Paschal Canon (this is printed in many prayer books; it is also found many places online—e.g., you can find it here: <https://www.eighthdayinstitute.org/paschal-canon>).

Having 'given back' the feast of Pascha for another year, then, on **Wednesday evening** (at 6:30p) we will assemble in the holy temple to serve Great Vespers and Lity for the feast of our Lord's Ascension. The

festal Divine Liturgy will then be served on **Thursday morning at 9a**. This feast is, as we know, one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. **As such, everyone should plan on attending at least one of the divine services for this feast day.** If you cannot be present at Great Vespers or Divine Liturgy at St Nicholas, please consult the calendars of other local Orthodox parishes to find a service that you can attend.



UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS IN OUR PARISH, DEANERY, AND DIOCESE

Youth Group: June 21

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#/>



Memorial Saturday: June 22

The final Memorial Saturday of this season occurs on Saturday, June 22. We will have a service for the departed on that Saturday morning at 9a (either the Divine Liturgy with the short Lity for the departed, or the full *Panikhida*—I will decide this soon). During the service, I will once again read the names of our beloved departed. Please plan to attend. And of course, if you wish to offer bread or boiled wheat in memory of your loved ones, please bring it to place on the table before which the commemorations are done.



Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost: Evening of June 23

After the leave-taking of Pascha and the feast of our Lord's Ascension this coming week, we will very soon find ourselves celebrating the culmination of the Paschal season: the radiant feast of Pentecost.

As we know, because of the great joy of the Paschal season, kneeling is not permitted during this time. It is only after the Sunday Liturgy of Pentecost that kneeling in prayer is allowed again.

To mark this transition, the Church appoints a special service: On the evening of Pentecost Sunday, daily Vespers is served using a special festal format. During the service, extra petitions are included in the Great

Litany in preparation for our return to the practice of kneeling, an Entrance is made (as a sign of the solemnity of the day), and we sing the Great Prokeimenon: "Who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God Who workest wonders!"

Beyond these elements, this service is especially noteworthy because during it the priest will read three long prayers while all pray on bended knees. While our services are filled with all kinds of beautiful prayers, I think that these are some of the most moving of the entire liturgical year. The third prayer is especially striking: Picking up on the commemoration of the departed that we make on the Saturday before Pentecost, in this prayer we beseech the Lord with great fervor that, having descended to Hades through his Pascha, he may grant rest to all of the departed.

I highly encourage everyone to make a special effort to participate in this once-a-year, unique service, which will be served on the evening of Pentecost Sunday at 5:30p. In Slavic countries, it is traditional to come to this service holding small bouquets of flowers as a sign of the new life that God gives to us during this festal season. I think that this custom is very beautiful, and so, as another way of marking the special nature of this service, I would invite everyone to make some bouquets to bring with them (**this would be a good activity to do with the children at home as a way of preparing for it in advance**).



Holy Spirit Monday: June 24

On the Monday of Pentecost (oftentimes called 'Holy Spirit Monday'), our brothers and sisters at Holy Trinity in Parma are having a special celebration to mark sixty years of their parish's ministry. Their rector, Fr Christopher, has invited all of the local parishes to celebrate this occasion with them. Divine Liturgy will be served that morning at 9:30a. A potluck will follow. For more information, please see the flyer attached to this week's bulletin.



Celebrations with the Tikhvin Icon: 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.



Deanery Visit to Cleveland Museum of Art: July 13

Two of our local priests, Fr Aaron Rutz and Fr Brian Crivella, are coordinating a trip for their parishes to visit the Cleveland Museum of Art to see the Byzantium and Africa exhibit. They want to open this event up to the wider deanery as well. They will go on Saturday, July 13, at 11a. Tickets are regularly \$15 per adult for the special exhibit. (Children under 18 go for free.) There is a special Group rate of \$10 dollars per adult, which can be reached if one has a group of ten or more adults *from each individual parish*.

If you are interested in participating, more information is found online at the following link: <https://www.clevelandart.org/exhibitions/africa-byzantium>



St Herman's Golf Class: July 15

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.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

Help Needed This Thursday with the Divine Liturgy

This coming Thursday morning, help is needed with the Divine Liturgy: We need someone who can either direct the choir or, if that is not possible, we need someone who can lead the singing of the Divine Liturgy using a simple chant setting. **If you are able to do this, please get in touch with me.**



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 Coming Soon

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.**



Helping St Theodosius Cathedral

This past Friday morning, we served a *Moleben* (prayer service) to the Theotokos. This service is referred to as the *Paraklesis* in the Greek tradition—a word that has the double meaning of both *supplication* and *comfort* (cf. our Lord's description of the Holy Spirit as the "Comforter" in John's Gospel). During it, then, we prayed especially that the Theotokos would comfort Fr Jan and the parishioners of St Theodosius Cathedral as they face this difficult time.

As I've mentioned already, the cathedral community has a long road ahead of them. Please continue to keep them in your prayers. Also, if you have not yet made a donation, please consider giving something to help: <https://sttheodosius.org/firerestoration>.

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



Summer Book Club

Joelle Smith is organizing a summer book club for children up to age 17. For more information, please see the flyer sent with the bulletin for June 2, or please contact Joelle Smith.



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, Stiljan, & Vera (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 Fr Peter begins his new assignment); Archpriest Jan, Matushka Jan, and the parishioners of St Theodosius Cathedral; the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia

Birthdays this week: 6/9: Charles Kirouac; 6/10: Emilia Rausch; 6/11: Anastasia Kisha, Collin Moore; 6/12: Bob Wick; 6/13: Jennifer Butterfield; 6/14: Kristen Moore; 6/15: Russell Smith

Anniversaries this week: 6/9: Tom & Heidi Darrah; 6/13: Bob & Evelyn Wick

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

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, 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 Szuhay

Newly illumined: Patrick (Pax) Szuhay, Nicholas & Mary Monda

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)