

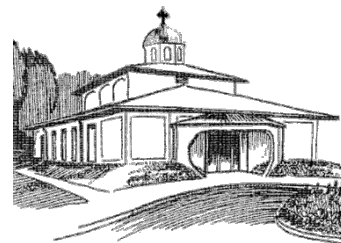


# St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 16, 2024

- 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 LePointe & Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, June 19** 6:30p Choir Practice
- Thursday, June 20** 9a Divine Liturgy at St Herman's House (served by Fr Mark)  
6:30p Parish Council Meeting
- Friday, June 21** 4:30p Youth Group Pool Party (at the Rendas)
- Saturday, June 22** *Memorial Saturday*  
9a Divine Liturgy with Short Lity for the Departed  
4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers with Lity
- Sunday, June 23** *The Sunday of Holy Pentecost*  
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Churching of Leo and Rachel Szalay & Divine Liturgy  
5:30p Vespers for Pentecost Monday (with Kneeling Prayers)



## ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 9, 2024

**Attendance:** 148; **Operating:** \$2,855.75; **Capital Maintenance:** \$247; **Diocesan Dues:** \$97.25; **Candles:** \$153; **Uganda:** \$159; **Parish Charities:** \$140

“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 REFLECTIONS

### On Keeping the Christian Rhythm During the Summer

This year, as we have been transitioning into the summer months, it is noteworthy that, because Pascha fell so late this year, many of the great feasts that occur during this period are happening right as many of us are adjusting

our schedules and figuring out our summer rhythms.

I think that this is a good thing, because it offers us a good opportunity to reflect on the fact that, even as we plan for how we will take time off so that we can rest and be with our families more during these months, there is no time off from the things of God and from the Church. In preparing for our summer vacations, then, we should be mindful: Even if we travel over the weekend, we cannot forget that Sunday is the Lord's Day, and that the Divine Liturgy may be missed only for truly exceptional reasons blessed by the Church.

Will it sometimes be inconvenient for us to plan to attend the Divine Liturgy on a travel day? Undoubtedly, yes. But this is the very nature of worship: It is a sacrifice—it is *making something holy*. Sacrifice, in other words, is the act of setting apart something that might otherwise be useful for us in some earthly way and offering it back to the Lord instead out of our realization that, ultimately, it belongs to him in the first place.

To that end, the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox

Bishops have a convenient tool for looking for a parish to attend. It is found online at the link given below. (And please remember: if do you find a parish that you can go to, and if you plan to commune, check with the priest who serves the parish before approaching the chalice.)

[https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/directories/parishes?gad\\_source=1](https://www.assemblyofbishops.org/directories/parishes?gad_source=1).

If you can visit a parish, for the time that you are there, try to integrate yourself into it as much as you can: Pray as they pray; sing as they sing; stay for fellowship if they have something after the service. Use the opportunity to see how our brothers and sisters live their Christian identity in another place. And if you experience something that might bring spiritual profit to our parish life here, come back and share it.

But what about situations where it is simply not possible to attend the Divine Liturgy, such as in a situation where there is no parish near where we are travelling? In that case, I would advise this: When we are preparing for our trip, we should remember to bring a few icons and a cross with us. And then, whenever we get to where we are staying, we should remember (once again) the things of God first and foremost. To that end, we should bring the holy items into our short-term dwelling, and then say a short prayer of thanksgiving that we have arrived safely. And then, if we cannot make it to a church for a divine service, we should plan to set apart—i.e., *make holy*—the same time that we would be in church by praying and reading the Scriptures together as a family. To that end, the daily Scripture readings are found on the website of the OCA, and we can read prayers from your prayerbook. According to another venerable custom, those who cannot go to church for the Divine Liturgy can pray the Service of *Typika* together. Many versions of this service can be found online; I am also happy to provide you with a PDF that can be printed. (As a very last resort, you can watch a service online.)

Beyond making sure that we set apart Sunday as the Lord's Day, we should also keep in mind that, even if our rhythm is necessarily different as we travel, we are not exempt from any of the normal activities of being a Christian. Prayer, fasting, almsgiving—we must do these activities, regardless of where we find ourselves. As we travel, then, even if we cannot keep the normal Wednesday and Friday fast with the same kind of rigor that we would keep it at home, we should still be intentional about keeping it to the degree that we can. And especially in light of how travelling will necessarily bring us into contact with people whom we would not otherwise meet, we should remember to use our time

away from home to seek out how we might do good deeds to others—being mindful here especially that we were created for good works (Eph 2:10), and that almsgiving delivers us from death (Tobit 12:9).



### A Note on Confession

Having celebrated the leave-taking of Pascha this last week, at this point it is important to say: If you did not make a confession during the Great Fast or in the period of Pascha (either to me or, with my blessing, to another priest), you must do so in the near future. **If I can help you in preparing for the holy sacrament, I am glad to meet with you beforehand so that we can talk about how to prepare, or to work through an examination of conscience together.** Also, if the times that I have scheduled for confession do not work for you, I am glad to work with you to find a time.



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

#### Youth Group: June 21

This Friday, the Rendas are hosting a youth group 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. During the service, we will once again read the names of our beloved departed. Please attend if you can. If you wish to offer bread or boiled wheat in memory of your loved ones, please bring it to the service.



#### Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost: Evening of June 23

Next weekend we will celebrate the culmination of this season: the feast of Pentecost. As we know, because of the 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.



#### **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. 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.



#### **Cook-Out: June 30**

Sunday, June 30th will be the Church School end of year picnic along with the graduate recognition. Hot dogs and hamburgers and trimmings will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer for side dishes. Please use the sign-up sheet so we will have an estimate of the number of people attending. Also, it will help with planning if you can choose a side dish or paper product to donate that is comfortable for you to make or buy, along with the number of children who will be attending. The picnic is open to the entire parish, and we would love to see everyone there. We will be using the pavilion for the picnic, weather permitting. If you have any questions, please see Debbie Clements.



#### **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: <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. 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](mailto: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.



### Vacation Bible School: July 22-26

Vacation Church School will once again be offered to our parish children this summer during the week of July 22-26. The theme will be "The Twelve Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church." God willing, this curriculum will be offered for three summers. This year we will be focusing on the four feasts of the Theotokos. The VCS will be held from 9:30a to 12p daily (ages 5-13). An email sign up will be sent to all parents of children within the age group. If you can help in any way or if you have any questions, please contact Debbie Clements or Juliana Kingsbury.



### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

#### Re-Keying of the Church

As a way of stepping up our current security, we will soon schedule a date for the locks in the church to be re-keyed. After we do this, there will be a sign-out sheet for all who need a key to the church. 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.



### 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, 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-reposed 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: 6/16: Lea Hoffacker; 6/17: Nichole Zadd (Wick); 6/19: Bruno Christiani; 6/21: Laurie Alexander, Kathy Chongris; 6/22: James Horabik, Dave Kucmanic

Anniversaries this week: 6/18: Collin & Kristen Moore; 6/19: Don & Dianne Patton; 6/20: Suzanne & Bill Gubsner; 6/21: Greg & Grace Walker

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

Newly illumined: Patrick (Pax), 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), Ronald (in baptism, Thomas) (Collin Moore's father)