

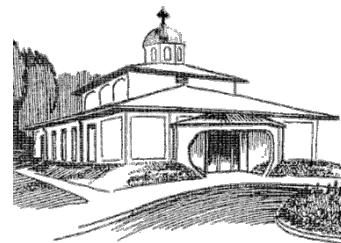


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 23, 2024

- Sunday, June 23** *The Sunday of Holy Pentecost*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Churaching of Leo and Rachel Szalay & Divine Liturgy
5:30p Vespers for Pentecost Monday (*with Kneeling Prayers*)
- Monday, June 24** *Pentecost Monday (The Day of the Holy Spirit)*
9:30a Divine Liturgy & Potluck at Holy Trinity Church in Parma
- Tuesday, June 25 &
Wednesday, June 26** *Twentieth Anniversary of the Return of the Tikhvin Icon*
Festal Services and Celebrations at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago
- Friday, June 28** 6:30p Great Vespers with Lity
- Saturday, June 29** *The Holy Glorious & All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul*
9a Divine Liturgy || 4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, June 30** *First Sunday after Pentecost: All Saints*
8:45a Third Hour || 9a Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Bread (*followed by Cook-out*)



ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR JUNE 16, 2024

Attendance: 128; Operating: \$2,611; Capital Maintenance: \$160; Diocesan Dues: \$55; Candles: \$7; Uganda: \$62.50; Parish Charities: \$112.50; 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*)



WEEKLY CATECHETICAL REFLECTION

**Do We Show Forth the Fruits of the Holy Spirit? :
Some Reflections on How to Prepare for the Feast of
Saints Peter and Paul during this Week of Pentecost**

This week includes a number of notable celebrations in the life of the Church: Today is the feast of Pentecost—what is called in the liturgical hymns the “concluding feast” and the “fulfillment of the promise of the

appointed time.” So important is this feast that the Church suspends fasting this coming week, even on Wednesday and Friday. And then, this coming Saturday, we celebrate the feast of Sts Peter and Paul.

Because of when it falls, this year’s celebration of Sts Peter and Paul is a bit unique. By way of background: As we know, in addition to the normal fasting days that the Church calls us to observe each week (namely, Wednesday and Friday), the Church also appoints four special periods for fasting throughout the year. The most intense and rigorous of these is the fast before Pascha—the Great Fast. In addition to it, the Church also appoints three other fasting periods to prepare us for several of her major feasts: The Nativity Fast before our Lord’s Nativity; the Dormition fast before our Lady’s Dormition; and then, third and finally, the Apostles’ Fast before the feast of Sts Peter and Paul.

Unlike the first three fasts, which are fixed in terms of their number of days, the length of the Apostles’ Fast varies: If Pascha falls early, it can last up to 42 days on

the Julian calendar (the calendar followed, e.g., by the Church of Jerusalem, and by other Orthodox Churches), or up to 29 days on the revised Julian calendar (this latter being the calendar that many other Orthodox Churches use, including our own). On the other hand, if Pascha falls late, it can be as few as eight days on the Julian calendar, or it may not even occur at all on the revised Julian calendar. And in fact, this is what happens this year: Because of how late Pascha was, we will not observe the Apostles' Fast at all. Still, even if we will not keep any kind of fast in preparation for the feast this year, is there anything that we can do to mark this time?

In fact, I think that there is something that we can do because, even if the typical fast is omitted this year, it is also important to keep in mind that the disposition that fasting is meant to cultivate within us—namely, the spirit of repentance—is something that should mark every aspect of our lives as Christians, regardless of the season. In trying to think about how we might use this week to embrace that spirit of repentance more deeply, then, a reading that came to my mind that is very apt to think about during this week in which we also continue to celebrate Pentecost is **Galatians 5:22–23**. Here St Paul sets forth a list of nine virtues or qualities that he refers to as the 'fruit of the Spirit': **“the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”**

In what way are our lives marked by these qualities that, according to St Paul, should be manifested in us as recipients of the Holy Spirit? Do our lives show forth these qualities on a day-to-day basis, especially in times of adversity and suffering? Or do they tend to show forth the qualities opposed to what St Paul sets forth here as the normal indicators of the Spirit's activity within us: hate instead of love; sadness and melancholy instead of joy; impatience and being hot-tempered instead of patience; unkindness and meanness instead of kindness; evil and wickedness instead of goodness; faithlessness and lack of trust instead of faithfulness; harshness and cruelty instead of gentleness; and finally lack of discipline and profligacy instead of self-control?

All of us, I think, can think of at least one item on this list where further work and more struggle is needed. And most of us, I would be willing to venture, probably find ourselves lacking in several of them. As we continue this festal week, then, and as we prepare to celebrate the great feast day of Sts Peter and Paul this coming weekend, may we pray for their help and intercession that the Holy Spirit might renew his grace in our lives so that we bear the fruits that befit his divine presence.



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

SUNDAY EVENING: Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost

This weekend we are celebrating 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, Vespers is served using a special 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 Sunday evening 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).**



THIS MONDAY: Holy Spirit Monday

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 tomorrow at 9:30a. A potluck will follow.



THIS WEEK: Celebrations with the Tikhvin Icon

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 June 25 & 26. 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/>. **Our diocesan youth are especially encouraged to participate in these events.**



NEXT SUNDAY: Cook-Out

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, 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 Church 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). A snack will be provided Monday to Thursday. Friday will begin with Divine Liturgy, followed by lunch, water games, and a final wrap-up. 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

THIS WEEK: Parking Lot Work

The parking lot will be resurfaced this week. I will put out an email when I know more about the start and estimated finishing time.



THIS WEEK: Re-Keying of the Church

The locks in our church should be re-keyed this coming Thursday morning (June 27). Once I have the time, I will email the parish. After the locks are re-keyed, I will plan to be in church for a block of time so that those who need a key may get one. For those who can't be there, there will be other opportunities. Thank you in advance for your patience with this process.



EARLY JULY: New Phone Number

Starting in early July, 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.**



Scripture Reading Groups: Any Parish Interest?

A few weeks ago, many of you will recall that our parish was visited by Khouria Kelly Wade from St Mary's Antiochian Orthodox Church in Goshen (the parish that Matushka Olena and I attended while living in Indiana). In thinking about our time at St Mary's One of the practices that I found particularly beautiful there is that parishioners would gather to read Scripture together. E.g., during the Nativity Fast, we would always we Tobit. Or as another example, if the day that we met to read fell near the feast-day of one of the prophets, we would read the book written by that prophet. Or sometimes, we would read one of the holy Gospels. Because our parish was very spread out, these gatherings would usually take place by local region. Oftentimes, they were accompanied by some other shared fellowship (e.g., some light refreshments, or even a meal).

Given the importance of Scripture in our lives as Christians (to recall St Jerome: Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ), I want to see if this practice might be something to take up here at St Nicholas. If you are interested in being part of a group—or, even better, if you would be willing to host a gathering, or if you would be willing to facilitate one in another way—please get in touch with me.



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), **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); **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 Jana, and the parishioners of St Theodosius Cathedral; Theodore Tollefson; Yeny Ramos** (mother of newly-reposed John and Isaac); **Bill Gubser; the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 6/25: Kathy Deeb; 6/26: Vitaly Schelkanov; 6/27: Nikolai Schlafer

Anniversaries this week: 6/23: Jim & Tina Capitan; 6/24: Bill & Jennifer Butterfield, Russell & Joelle Smith; 6/26: Matthew & Elizabeth Visnick

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); **John and Isaac Ramos** (sons of Yeny Ramos, a colleague of Mark Miller)