

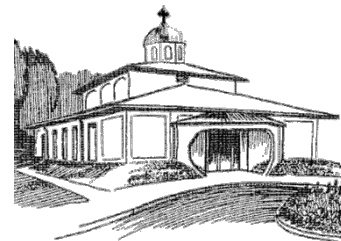


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 + (216) 678-8181 + fr.mark.therrien@gmail.com



Services & Events Beginning Sunday, August 4, 2024

- Sunday, August 4** *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost*
8:50a Third Hour & Divine Liturgy
- Monday, August 5** 4:30p Confession || 6:30p Festal Vespers with Lity
- Tuesday, August 6** *The Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ*
9a Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Fruit
- Thursday, August 8** 9a Moleben to the Theotokos (*Paraklesis*) || Confession to follow
- Friday, August 9** *Afterfeast of Transfiguration & Glorification of St Herman*
6:30a Akathist to St Herman (*Note: time changed from what is on the monthly calendar*)
- Saturday, August 10** *Afterfeast of Transfiguration*
9a Moleben to the Theotokos (*Paraklesis*) || 10a Server and Sacristan Workshop
3:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, August 11** *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost & Afterfeast of the Transfiguration*
8:50a Third Hour & Divine Liturgy (Confession available after Liturgy)
6-9p Youth Group (7th Grade and Up, 12+) Meeting at Visnick House



ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR JULY 28, 2024

Attendance: 120; Operating: \$3,671; Capital
Maintenance: \$39; Diocesan Dues: \$104; Candles:
\$74; Uganda: \$72.50; Parish Charities: \$32.50

“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

“Above Him Stood the Seraphim”:
A Catechesis on the Liturgical Fans

Recently, a couple of beautiful liturgical items have been
donated to our temple. First of all, a number of weeks
ago we finally received the chalice that had been ordered

from Ukraine (after a fairly extensive ordeal to find it,
pay for it, and get it shipped). More recently, last week,
we began to use a pair of liturgical fans during the
celebration of the Divine Liturgy.

For those unfamiliar with this practice, here is a bit of
background: Historically speaking, liturgical fans (also
called *exapteryga* or *ripidia*) originally came into use for
a very practical reason: At a time when temples were
more open to the outside world than they tend to be in
many places today, the deacons would use the fans in
order to wave away anything unwanted that might come
into contact with the holy Gifts (e.g., insects). For this
reason, even today at the ordination of a deacon, the
bishop hands the newly ordained deacon a fan, which he
then uses over the holy Gifts.

Over time, however, as with many things in the liturgy,
what first developed as a practical measure gradually
took on a more symbolic meaning. In terms of the

evolution of the fans, an important transformation took place when they started to be adorned with images of the six-winged seraphim. What exactly are the seraphim? According to the traditional view that goes back to the fathers, the various angelic beings are divided into nine different ranks. Within that system, the seraphim are ranked at the very top (thus giving them especially close access to God). The foundations of this understanding go back to Scripture. For example, in the vision of God's throne-room that is narrated for us in chapter six of the prophecy of Isaiah, we read the following: "...I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and his train filled the temple. *Above him stood the seraphim*; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory'" (Isa 6:1-3 [RSV]).

Because of how the seraphim are associated with this special manifestation of God, over time the fans came to be used during the high points of the divine services presided over a bishop to mark the solemnity of the liturgical action taking place. For example, deacons would carry the fans during the Small Entrance (when the Gospel book is processed from and back into the altar) in order to make it manifest that, in the holy Gospel, Christ reveals himself to us (just as he revealed himself to the prophet in that throne-room vision recounted in Isaiah 6). The fans would also be held during the reading of the holy Gospel (for the same reason). Or again, during the Great Entrance of a hierarchical service (this is the part of the Liturgy when the bread and wine are processed to the altar), the fans are carried over the unconsecrated gifts in order to indicate that they are being taken into the heavenly place in order to be consecrated into the body and blood of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. Or, as one final example, when a new temple is consecrated, the fans are used to accompany and protect the relics as they are brought into the Church to be sealed within the holy table (thus denoting that, in the sufferings of the martyrs, Christ is made present to us).

In light of the beautiful symbolic meaning of the fans, over time it has become customary in our contemporary practice to use them during services presided over by a priest (and not only during the services presided over by a bishop). I think that this development makes sense since, after all, the dignity of the Gospel and the holy Gifts is determined not by the rank of the celebrant, but simply because of what they are. For this reason, as long as we have enough servers, it will now be our practice to

use the fans at Divine Liturgy at the Entrances and during the Gospel, as well as at other particularly important liturgical moments when Lord's presence is being revealed in special ways (e.g., to accompany the Burial Shroud of our Lord during Holy Week, to accompany the Holy Cross of our Lord when it is processed forth for veneration, etc.)



UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

Divine Services This Week

This week we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. On this feast, we celebrate that event in which, in order to prepare Peter, James, and John for his impending passion, our Lord takes them to a high mountain to reveal the splendor of his divinity "as far as they could bear it." This is one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. And so, there is a relaxation of the Dormition Fast on this day: We are allowed not only oil and wine, but also fish.

To celebrate this feast in our temple, we will celebrate two divine services. On Monday evening, at **6:30p**, we will celebrate Festal Vespers with Lity. And then, on Tuesday morning, we will serve the Divine Liturgy at **9a**. As is customary, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we will bless fruit. In the Greek practice, the original prayer used for this purpose is a prayer to bless grapes (since, in Greece, grapes come into season around this feast day). In later years, the Churches of Rus' took up the practice of blessing apples on this day (since, in Slavic lands, the seasonal fruit would be apples). In our contemporary practice, it is customary in many places to bless whatever fruit is available. So, I will read a number of prayers to cover everything. In any case, please bring some fruit to bless so that you can take it to home to extend the festal celebration.

After Tuesday's feast-day, we will have a few more services later in the week. First, as announced in last week's bulletin, we will offer the *Paraklesis (Moleben)* a few times during the Dormition Fast. This coming week, we will serve it on the morning of Thursday, August 8 (at **9a**), and again on the morning of Saturday, August 10 (also at **9a**). If you come, please bring the names of those who are living whom you wish to pray for.

Finally, on Friday, August 9, we celebrate the glorification of St Herman of Alaska. Since some have asked about returning to the practice of having an early morning service, on this day we will serve an Akathist to

St Herman at **6:30a** (please note the updated time).



August 10: Altar Server & Sacristan Workshop

Next Saturday, August 10, there will be a workshop for altar servers and sacristans. We will start at 10am and finish by noon. Those boys and men who participate in these ministries (or who are interested in doing them) should plan to participate. (Thank you in advance to parents for bringing the boys and teens!)



Teen Youth Group Meeting

The youth group for teens (those in 7th grade and up, or who are 12+ in age) will have a meeting next Sunday, August 11, from 6 to 9p. It will meet at the Visnick house. For more information, please see Subdeacon Daniel or Matthew Visnick.



August 20: Fundraiser for the Uganda Children's Fund

Please remember: A Good Night for a Good Cause in Support of the St Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund will take place on Tuesday, August 20 from 6:30–8:30pm (with bidding ends at 8:00pm). You can participate in a silent auction of over 60 baskets/items, purchase handmade Ugandan Crafts, and listen to a short presentation about the St Nicholas Uganda Children's Fund. The funds raised help to provide what is necessary for the education, health and welfare of Ugandan children, teens, and young adults who are otherwise unable to receive an education. We hope that you can attend this enjoyable evening to support such a wonderful cause! (Light refreshments will be served.)



August 24: Parish Clean-Out

As noted in the bulletin for several weeks now, we will do a large-scale clean-out of our temple and hall on Saturday, August 24. A sign-up sheet to assist with this has now been placed in the foyer. Please sign up to help with this project, which will help contribute to the ongoing beautification of our temple.

The last time that I checked, no one had yet signed up to help. Especially if you have an interest in any of the items that have accumulated in our storage areas, please consider helping with this. We are going to be thorough when we do this so that we can clean up the temple and make some much-needed space.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

New Treasurer Needed Soon

With thanks to Jared LeMaster for his services as our treasurer, it is time to start thinking about who next will take on this critical role in our parish ahead of the election of the new parish council. If you are able to perform this vital work, please see Jared, Nick, or me.



Flower Ministry Sign-Up

There are still slots to sign up to bring flowers for August and September. If you would like to donate two small bouquets for the tetrapod for an upcoming week, please use the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445A8AD2DA3F58-50363602-flowers#/>



A Note of Gratitude

Thank you to all of those who worked to make the Vacation Church School a success. It was wonderful to see so many of the children gather to pray together and to learn about our most blessed Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary. As announced, this year's program was the first part of a larger program that will extend over the coming years. May God continue to bless this wonderful endeavor.



PARISH PRAYER LIST

If you know of someone who is in special need of prayer at the moment, please email me so that I might add the person to the prayer list. Please also email me to make changes to this list (e.g., to remove a name).

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); Nancy (Leah Woodruff's mother); Archpriest Jan, Matushka Jana, and the parishioners of St Theodosius Cathedral; Theodore Tollefson; Yeny Ramos (mother of newly-reposed John and Isaac); Bill Gubser; Charlie Deeb; James Horabik; Dolores Kessler (friend of Suzanne Gubser); Richard Brown (husband of newly reposed Joan); the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia

Birthdays this week: 8/4: Janet Ursinyi; 8/5: Theodora Oberhausen; 8/6: Iya Nemastil; 8/8: Sarah Schlafer

Anniversaries this week: 8/4: Mike & Mary Valko

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

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, Alex Wittie

Infants Awaiting Holy Illumination: Leo (son of Weston & Rachel); Kennedy Anne (daughter of Jon & Alexandra); James (son of Patrick & Katherine); Margaret Lee (daughter of Greg & Grace)

Newly illumined: Nicholas & Mary Monda; Anysia Theophana Pohl

Departed: 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); Priest James Bernstein; Joan Brown (friend of Fr Mark and Matushka Olena); Carol Wright



Teachings from the Fathers on Almsgiving

St Cyprian: "Be earnest in righteous works, by which sins may be purged. Frequently apply yourself to almsgiving, by which souls are freed from death."

St Clement of Alexandria: "Sins are purged by alms and acts of faith."

St. Basil the Great: "The bread you do not use is the bread of the hungry. The garment hanging in your wardrobe is the garment of the person who is naked. The shoes you do not wear are the shoes of the one who is barefoot. The money you keep locked away is the money of the poor. The acts of charity you do not perform are the injustices you commit."

St Leo the Great: "There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will, but also with the gift of peace."

"The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts."

St Maximus the Confessor: "He who gives alms in imitation of God does not discriminate between the wicked and the virtuous, the just and the unjust, when providing for men's bodily needs."

St. John of Kronstadt: "Almsgiving is good and salutary when to it is united the amendment of the heart from pride, malice, envy, slothfulness, indolence, gluttony, fornication, falsehood, deceitfulness, and other sins. But if the man is not careful to amend his heart, trusting only his alms, then he will obtain but little benefit from them, for he builds with one hand and destroys with the other."

(Source of compilation of quotes: Ancient Faith Radio.)

