

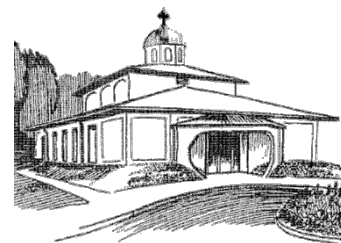


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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, October 6, 2024

- Sunday, Oct. 6 *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Glorification of St Innocent, Apostle to America*
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy
- Monday, Oct. 7–
Wednesday, Oct. 9 *Diocesan Assembly at St Nicholas Church in Mogadore*
(Fr Mark will be gone from Monday evening to the late afternoon on Wednesday)
- Saturday, Oct. 12 5:30p Great Vespers (confession to follow)
- Sunday, Oct. 13 *Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council*
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy



ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 2024

Attendance: 176 (94 adults + 62 children); **Operating:** \$3,766; **ZOE:** \$20; **Capital Maintenance:** \$165; **Holy Day:** \$30; **Diocesan Dues:** \$44; **Candles:** \$71; **Uganda:** \$40; **Parish Charities:** \$100; **Seminary:** \$150

“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

On Receiving the Holy Spirit: Instructive Words from St Innocent on Prayer

Since we keep the feast of the glorification of St Innocent this Sunday, it seemed fitting to offer some words from him. The following remarks are taken from his work, Indication of the Way into the Kingdom of Heaven, which was first written in Aleut, and subsequently translated into Russian and later into English. Over time, this text has gone through dozens of editions and reprintings. It is easily found online for free for those who want to read more from it. In the remarks given here, St Innocent reflects on how we receive the Holy Spirit (i.e., what we need to do to be prepared to have the Spirit active in our lives).

“The true and recognized means of receiving the Holy Spirit according to the teaching of Holy Scripture and the experiences of great Saints, are the following:

1. Purity of heart and chastity;
2. Humility;
3. Listening to the voice of God;
4. Prayer;
5. Daily self-denial;
6. Reading and listening to Holy Scripture;
7. The Holy Mysteries of the Church, especially Holy Communion.

[*And then, St Innocent later turns to speak about the special importance of regular prayer especially:*]

“The Holy Spirit can be received by prayer. **This is the simplest and surest means, and one which everyone can always use.** It is well known that prayer can be outward and inward; that is, whoever prays and bows with his body either at home or in church, prays exteriorly; whereas whoever turns to God with his heart and soul and tries to have Him always in his mind, prays interiorly. . . . You also know that you can pray to God at any time and in any place and even when sin overwhelms you. You can pray at work and without work, on a feast and on an ordinary day, standing, sitting and lying down. You know all that. . . .

We need to make considerable use of toil and suffering in order to be able to pray holy prayer. We cannot suddenly or quickly attain to such a state as to be able to

raise our thoughts and hearts to God. Not only with us ordinary people, but even with many who have consecrated their whole life to prayer, it happens that you go to turn your thoughts to God and you find them distracted in different directions and taken up with various matters; you want to have God in your thoughts, and something quite different comes to you, and sometimes it is even something terrible. ...

[but] pray in spite of the fact that you do not experience in prayer any consolation or pleasure but only toil – pray, and pray diligently with all possible fervor, train yourself in prayer and in conversation with God; try as far as possible to collect and control your wandering thoughts, and little by little you will feel that it is becoming easier and easier for you, and then you will experience delightful consolations. If you are sincerely in earnest, the Holy Spirit, seeing your efforts and the sincerity of your desire, will soon help you; and then He will enter within you and will teach you to pray true prayer.

It is easiest to pray in our troubles and adversities; so do not miss such opportunities, but make use of them to pour out your sorrow before God in prayer.

Jesus Christ orders us to pray without ceasing. Many say: 'How can we pray without ceasing when we are living in the world? If we spend all our time praying, when shall we do our work and attend to our business?'

Of course, we cannot pray without ceasing outwardly; that is, we cannot always be standing at prayer, because we must do other duties as well, and work. But whoever feels his inner poverty will not cease to pray even amid his occupations; whoever has an ardent desire to enter the Kingdom of Heaven will find time and occasions to pray both interiorly and outwardly. A fervent soul will find time to say a word to God and worship Him even amidst the hardest and most exacting kinds of work. ..."



UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

October 31: Feast of St John of Chicago

At the end of this month, we celebrate a local saint of our own very diocese: October 31 is the feast-day of St John Kochurov, also known as St John of Chicago. For those unfamiliar with him: St John was the first priest killed by the godless during the Russian Revolution. Before that, however, he spent a number of years in America doing mission work—most of it taking place in the Midwest. This included, among other notable moments, the building of the mother church of our diocese, Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago.

To celebrate St John, we will keep a typical round of evening and morning divine services. Please also note: in light of his importance to our diocese, I want to keep the morning services with extra festivity. To that end, in addition to the Divine Liturgy, I want to have a festal potluck afterwards (just as we had for the Dormition). Please plan to attend and to bring an item to share.



Fall Harvest Festival:

An Announcement from Meredith, Jessica, and Cindy

This year, the St Nicholas Youth Group is sponsoring a Harvest Festival. The festival will take place on **Saturday, October 19, from 2 to 4p** (*please note the updated day and time from what was posted on the monthly calendar*). In the church hall there will be games, music, and dancing, and outside there will be a fire pit, a hayride, snacks and drinks. For ages 12 and under. Older children can volunteer to help with games and with the younger kids. **What to bring:** Costumes are optional (but please, nothing ghoulish); jackets (dress for outside); camp chairs or blankets; and a snack to share (a sign-up sheet will be posted). We hope to see you there.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

An Announcement Regarding St Herman's House from Peggy Walker

With summer almost over and folks settled into a new routine, I am hoping that our St. Nicholas parishioners can once again prepare a meal for St. Herman's House. The past response was amazing! I am sure we can have a repeat performance! The menu this time will be **PULLED PORK**. I can provide a recipe or please use your own. Containers will be provided. Prepared Food can be placed in church freezer through **November 3** after which it will be delivered to St. Herman's House. Please let me know if you have any questions.



Action Item for Annual Meeting: Designation of Delegate for the All-American Council

In getting ready for our annual meeting (which will take place, as the by-laws specify, on the second Sunday of November), I want to announce the following: Next summer, the Orthodox Church in America is having its 21st All-American Council. The Council will meet in Phoenix this time. In addition to myself as rector, our parish has the right to send one lay delegate. **If anyone**

is interested in taking on this role, please come and speak to me. The dates for the Council are July 14–18. (Please also note that, because the Diocesan Assembly usually meets during the Council, the person delegated for this purpose will also serve as the delegate to the Diocesan Assembly for 2025.)



Flower Ministry Reminder from Matushka Olena

Thank you so much to all who have signed up and brought flowers to beautify our temple! We are continuing this practice for the months of October, November, and December. Please consider signing up to bring flowers to our Lord and our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos. To sign up, please click on the “Flower Ministry” link under “Parish Resources” on our parish’s website: <https://saintnicholas-oca.org/parishresources>.



Thank You

Echoing the note that Darlene sent out this past week, I want to thank everyone who participated in the rummage sale last week. Thank you especially to Darlene for taking the initiative to make this event happen. As I told her: Beyond the money that it brought in, it was a good event for fellowship, and also for creating an opportunity to introduce others to our parish.



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), **Joseph Chuppa, Mary Ann Sheranko, 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, 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; James Horabik; Dolores Kessler** (friend of Suzanne Gubser); **Richard Brown** (husband of newly reposed Joan); **Carol Lehman** (Darlene Horabik’s sister, wife of newly-reposed George); **Mirela** (friend of Katie Horabik); **Joe Dzura** (brother of Andy Dzura); **Viktor and Dominik Povozaev; Vincent** (Thomas Alexander’s father); **Subdeacon Peter** (from St Theodosius); **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 10/7: Maria Kucmanic, Sue Hoffacker; 10/12: Paula Tintor, Alexi Antonoff

Anniversaries this week: 10/2: Chad & Meredith Nicoletti.

Parents Who are Expecting: Brian & Katya; Theodore & Jessica

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, Alex Wittie, Scott Salzgeber

Infants Awaiting Holy Illumination: Kennedy Anne (daughter of **Jon & Alexandra**); **Margaret Lee** (daughter of **Greg & Grace**); **Gianna Denise** (daughter of **Jake & Allison**); **Charlotte Xenia** (daughter of Subdeacon David and Michelle)

Newly illumined: Nicholas & Mary Monda; Anysia Theophana Pohl; James Lapointe; Leo Szalay

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; 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); **Priest James Bernstein; Joan Brown** (friend of Fr Mark and Matushka Olena); **Carol Wright; Paul Webb** (friend of Abby Goodell); **George** (Bim) Lehman (Darlene Horabik’s brother-in-law); **Anna Mae Sokol** (Darlene Horabik’s cousin); **Janet Evans** (friend of Ruth Bede); **Olga** (Nicholas Covelli’s mother); **Helen** (Jan Ursinyi’s mother)



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OCTOBER 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 29 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Sunday School 9:35am Hours 10:00am Liturgy	Sep 30 6:30pm Festal Vespers with Lity	1 Protection of the Theotokos 9:00am Divine Liturgy	2 Fast	3 Fast	4 Fast	5 10:00am Panikhida 4:00pm Catechetical Class 5:30pm Great Vespers (Confession to follow)
6 15th Sunday after Pentecost, St Innocent, Apostle Thomas 9:00am Sunday School 9:35am Hours 10:00am Liturgy	7 <i>Fr Mark @ Diocesan Assembly</i>	8 <i>Fr Mark @ Diocesan Assembly</i> 6:30pm Choir Practice	9 Glorification of St Tikhon, Holy Apostle James <i>Fr Mark @ Diocesan Assembly</i> Fast	10 Fast	11 Fast	12 5:30pm Great Vespers (Confession to follow)
13 16th Sunday after Pentecost, Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council 9:00am Sunday School 9:35am Hours 10:00am Liturgy	14 Fast	15 Fast	16 Fast	17 Fast	18 Apostle & Evangelist Luke Fast	19 10:00am Baptisms 2:00-4:00pm Harvest Festival 4:00pm Catechetical Class 5:30pm Great Vespers (Confession to follow)
20 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Sunday School 9:35am Hours 10:00am Liturgy	21 Fast	22 Fast	23 Holy Apostle James, the Brother of the Lord 9:00am Akathist to the Theotokos, Nurturer of Children Fast	24 Fast	25 Fast	26 Holy Great Martyr Demetrius 10:00am Workshop with Readers 3:45pm Panikhida 5:30pm Great Vespers (Confession to follow)
27 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:00am Sunday School 9:35am Hours 10:00am Liturgy	28 Fast	29 Fast	30 6:30pm Festal Vespers with Lity Fast	31 Hieromartyr John Kochurov 9:00am Divine Liturgy (followed by potluck)	Nov 1 Fast	Nov 2 4:00pm Catechetical Class 5:30pm Great Vespers (Confession to follow)

Please consult the Sunday bulletin for changes to the monthly calendar.