

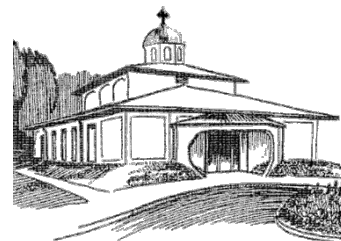


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 20, 2024

- Sunday, Oct. 20** *Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost*
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, Oct. 23** *The Holy Apostle James*
9a Akathist to the Theotokos, the Nurturer of Children
- Saturday, Oct. 26** *The Holy Great Martyr Demetrius*
10a Workshop for Readers || 3:45p Panikhida
5:30p Great Vespers (followed by confession)
- Sunday, Oct. 27** *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council*
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy



ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR OCTOBER 13, 2024

Attendance: 130 (71 adults + 59 children); **Operating:** \$2,569; **Diocesan Dues:** \$131; **Candles:** \$53; **Uganda:** \$105; **Parish Charities:** \$45; **IOCC:** \$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

SOMES NOTE ON PREPARING FOR THE UPCOMING NATIVITY FAST

The Fast in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, begins on **November 15**. Although this is still a few weeks away from us, I am starting to announce it this week since, unlike the Great Fast, there are no preparation weeks leading up to when it begins. Rather, the Fast starts immediately after the Feast of St Philip (November 14). For this reason, it is easy for this Fast to catch us unprepared.

What should we be thinking about as we begin our

preparations for this time of renewal?

Just as with all fasting periods, the Nativity Fast should be a time marked by greater sobriety in engaging the things of God, so that we may grow closer to our Lord, Jesus Christ. And how we do that is simple: During this time, we should be more serious in attending to our everyday practices of **prayer, almsgiving, and fasting**.

In terms of **almsgiving**, the pre-Christmas season will, undoubtedly, offer plenty of opportunities to give. At the same time, since this time is also a time of increased spending, we might feel an increased temptation to hold back. The best way of combatting this temptation is to prepare to face it by thinking in advance about what we will give—remembering especially here that, when these opportunities are given to us, we should be as generous as we can, since God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7).

In terms of **prayer**: During this period, we must be more attentive to our prayer rule at home. As part of that, we should start doing some self-evaluation now. In past months, have we given our rule due attention? Are we faithful to it, evening and morning (**at a minimum**)? If not, we should use this period to correct course as we prepare for the wonderful feast of our Lord’s Nativity. On the other hand, if we have done well in being faithful

to our rule, we should start thinking about what we might add to it as we transition into this period.

In terms of prayer offered within the temple: The Nativity Fast is, in my view, an especially beautiful period since it is filled with many feasts. Services for these will be found on the calendar. In addition, please note that during this time we commemorate a number of **Old Testament prophets** (Obadiah on Nov. 19; Nahum on Dec. 1; Zechariah on Dec. 3; Haggai on Dec. 16; and Daniel on Dec. 17). On these days, as a way of **engaging Scripture** more during this time, I would encourage everyone to plan to read the book authored by the prophet commemorated (or at least part of it)

Pivoting for a moment to **educational opportunities:** In order to provide a regular and fixed service/educational opportunity during this time, each Friday evening I am going to offer a **book reading group**. The book that we will read is: *A Christian Ending: A Handbook for Burial in the Ancient Christian Tradition*. Copies of this book may be purchased online. We will work on the book for an hour or so. And then, to conclude the evening, I will serve **Small Compline** for those who wish to stay, during which we will read a **Canon to the Theotokos**. Chanted simply and somberly, and with the temple illumined only by candles and the lamps, it will be a beautiful way to complete another day of grace in our Lord.

Finally, when it comes to **fasting:** As I said above, since this Fast begins without any preparatory weeks, it can be easy to catch us unawares. This is particularly true, I think, when it comes to the actual fasting rhythm. And so, we need to be especially attentive here to how we will keep the fast. In terms of 'the rules,' this time is, broadly speaking, a period of strict fasting: during this time, we refrain from consuming meat, dairy products, eggs, fish, alcohol, and oil (i.e., rich foods). Unlike during from the Great Fast, however, fish is allowed on a number of days during this period. These are indicated on the wall calendar. At home, everyone should try to observe the fast as best as you can, and parents should be mindful to give instruction to their kids on the importance of this period. Regardless of what you can do at home, meals/food offered at parish events must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines of the Church. And so, if you are doing coffee hour during this forty-day period, please take account of the Church's guidelines as you plan. (And of course, if you have any question about how to do this, do not hesitate to ask me.)

May God be with us as we prepare for this beautiful period of grace and renewal.

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

October 26: Workshop for Readers

This coming Saturday, I will offer a workshop on church reading. If you read in church, or if you would like to start reading in church, please plan to attend.



October 31: Feast of St John of Chicago

On October 31, we keep the feast of St John of Chicago. To celebrate, we will keep a typical round of divine services. We will also have a festal potluck after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan to attend (and to bring an item to share with).



November 10: Annual Meeting.

Per our by-laws (IV.1.d), I am announcing that the parish annual meeting will take place on Sunday, November 10, following the Divine Liturgy. I would ask that all members of the parish plan to attend, especially those who are eligible to vote. The agenda for the meeting will be sent out at least eight days in advance.



November 14: Unction Service at St Innocent

The Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy will offer the Mystery of Holy Unction ahead of the Nativity Fast. With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Daniel, Saint Innocent Parish will host this service on **Thursday, November 14, at 6p.** Receiving this holy Mystery for the healing of soul and body is a wonderful way to begin the Fast for the Lord's Nativity. And so, all parishioners of St Nicholas parish have a blessing participate and to be anointed (provided that you make a confession near to the day of the celebration).



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

An Update on the St Herman's House Project

Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me (Matthew 25:40).

Thank you to everyone who has or intends to prepare pulled pork for St. Herman's House. Please note the following options:

1. Dale Fross has agreed to prepare pulled pork for anyone who would like to provide a **pork butt**. Please have meat in the church freezer by **October 23rd**. At

that point he will take butts home, thaw them, and smoke them. Prepared pulled pork will then be stored in church freezer until delivered to St. Herman's House.

2. Alternatively, you may prepare pulled pork at your convenience in your own home. A recipe can be found on church website (or use your favorite). Aluminum pans are available at the church to store and freeze your prepared pulled pork. Once you have your pork prepared it can be placed in church freezer until delivered to St. Hermans. Please label and put on right side of freezer by signs.

Our goal is to deliver enough pulled pork to provide a meal for **160 folks**, which St. Herman's feeds on a daily basis, along with lunch. We hope to deliver the week of **November 11th**. Please consider participating in this ministry to serve folks close to home who need our help and prayers. Please don't hesitate to contact Peggy with any questions.



The Address of Archbishop Daniel at the 2024 Diocesan Assembly

As a follow-up regarding the Diocesan Assembly: For those who are interested in learning more about what is happening in the Diocese, please note that the address of His Eminence is now available on the diocesan website (go to the main page, <https://domoca.org/>, and scroll down to 'Archpastoral Messages').



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), **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); **Maria** (friend of Anna Kozikov, wife of newly-repose Boris); **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); **Carol Lehman** (Darlene Horabik's sister, wife of newly-reposed George); **Joe Dzura** (brother of Andy Dzura); **Viktor and Dominik Povozaev**; **Vincent** (Thomas Alexander's father); **Subdeacon Peter** (from St Theodosius); **Renee Kirouac** (goddaughter of Ruth Bede) & **Tristan Scott** (newly married); **Edward** (Matushka Olena's father); **Hank & Diane** (Jim Horabik's brother-in-law and sister); **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 10/22: Jim Renda; 10/23: Laura Fredericks, Meredith Nicoletti; 10/25: Maria

Anniversary this week: 10/26: Tom & Miranda Oberhausen

Expecting Parents: 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**; **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**; **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 Ursiny's mother); **Rick Wagner** (Merrick and Mia's grandfather); **Boris** (friend of Anna Kozikov)