

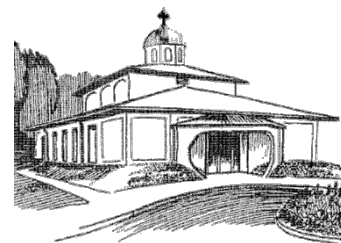


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 27, 2024

- Sunday, Oct. 27 *Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost*
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, Oct. 30 6:30p Festal Vespers with Lity
- Thursday, Oct. 31 *The Priest-martyr John Kochurov (St John of Chicago)*
9a Divine Liturgy (followed by potluck)
- Saturday, Nov. 2 4p Catechism Class || 5:30p Great Vespers (followed by confession)
- Sunday, Nov. 3 *19th Sunday after Pentecost*
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy



ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR OCTOBER 20, 2024

Attendance: 136 (75 adults + 61 children); **Operating:** \$4,123; **ZOE:** \$100; **Capital Maintenance:** \$145; **Diocesan Dues:** \$53; **Candles:** \$78; **Uganda:** \$105; **Parish Charities:** \$110; **IOCC:** \$20

“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 Almsgiving & Forgiveness of Sins *Reflections of St Cyprian of Carthage*

Last week, in preaching on the parable of the rich man and Lazarus, I spoke about the importance of being generous to the poor. I will pick up the theme again this week in talking about the Gospel and Epistle Readings. To accompany my remarks, here are some thoughts for reflection from St Cyprian of Carthage:

The Holy Spirit speaks in the Scriptures, saying: ‘By alms and by faith sins are cleansed’ (cf. Prov 16:1). Surely not those sins which had been contracted before, for

they are purged by the blood and sanctification of Christ. Likewise again he says: ‘As water quenches fire, so do alms quench sin’ (cf. Eccl 3:33). Here also it is shown and proved that just as with laver of the waters of salvation the fire of Gehenna is extinguished, so by almsgiving and good works the flame of sins is quenched. And because the remission of sins is once granted in baptism, constant and continuous labor acting in the manner of baptism again bestows the indulgences of God. [*In other words, St Cyprian is saying: To give alms—to give mercy, in other words—is to live in accord with our baptismal identity of having put on Christ. And so, when we do this—when we are merciful as our Lord is merciful—we receive the forgiveness of our sins through the grace of that baptism.*]

... The remedies for propitiating God have been given in the words of God himself; ... in Solomon we read: ‘Shut up alms in the heart of the poor, and it shall obtain help for thee against all evil’ (Eccl 29:15), And again: ‘He that stoppeth his ears lest he hear the weak, shall himself call upon God, but there will be none to hear him’ (Prov 21:13). For he will not be able to merit the mercy of God who himself has not been merciful, nor will gain any request from the divine love by his prayers, who has not been humane toward the prayer of the poor.

This likewise the Holy Spirit declares in the Psalms and proves, saying: 'Blessed is he who thinks of the needy and the poor; the Lord will save him in the evil day' (Ps 40:2) Mindful of these precepts Daniel, when king Nebuchodonosor being frightened by an unfavorable dream was worried, gave a remedy for averting evils by obtaining divine help, saying: 'Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to thee, and redeem thy sins with alms, and thy iniquities with works of mercy to the poor, and God will be patient with thy sins' (Dan 4:24). When the king did not obey him, he suffered the misfortunes and trouble which he had seen, which he might have escaped and avoided, if he had redeemed his sins by alms-giving. The angel Raphael also testifies likewise, and urges that alms-giving be practiced freely and generously, saying: 'Prayer is good with fasting and alms, for alms delivereth from death and itself purges away sins' (Top 12:8,9). He shows that our prayers and fastings are of less avail, unless they are aided by almsgiving, that entreaties alone are able to obtain little, unless they are made sufficient by the addition of deeds and works. The angel reveals and makes manifest and confirms that our petitions are made efficacious by almsgiving; that by almsgiving life is redeemed from dangers; that by almsgiving souls are freed from death. [And then, St Cyprian continues like this for page after page, quoting verse after verse where this same point is made...]

(From "Works and Almsgiving." Found in *St Cyprian: Treatises*, trans. Roy J. Deferrari, pp. 227, 231–232.)



Christian Life as Death to Self-Will: Instruction from Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

As we approach the coming Nativity Fast, we should remember that the spiritual discipline of fasting is given to us above all as a way to inculcate in ourselves death to self-will. Why is this necessary? Elder Thaddeus explains...

We must be prepared to accept the will of God. The Lord permits all sorts of things to happen to us contrary to our will, for if we always have it our way, we will not be prepared for the Kingdom of Heaven. Neither heaven nor earth will receive those who are self-willed. God has a Divine plan for each one of us, and we must submit to His plan. We must accept life as it is given to us, without asking, "Why me?" We must know that nothing on earth or in heaven ever happens without the will of God or His permission. We must not become too engrossed with our hardships but concentrate on preserving our inner peace. Even when we are praying for something, we are trying to force our will instead of accepting God's.

All hardships and sorrows that God sends us are necessary for us, but we do not understand this when we are young. When we are older, then we understand that this is the way God shows His love for us.



UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

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 11: Celebration of St Martin (With procession and potluck)

On Monday, November 11, at 6p, we have a celebration for St Martin the Merciful, bishop of Tours. A very brief Moleben (prayer service) will be served, asking for St Martin's prayer and heavenly aid. We will then sing a carol about St Martin. While singing, we will then exit the temple and go outside for a procession with the lanterns that we will make. The procession will be followed by a potluck dinner and fellowship in the hall. Please consider coming to this feast of a truly marvelous saint. Please sign up to bring a dish to share here: <https://tinyurl.com/murp42mc>.

One of the carols we will be singing can be listened to here: <https://tinyurl.com/ew6c8w2j>



Empty Milk Jugs Needed by Sunday, November 3

In preparation for St Martin's Day lantern procession, we need a number of milk jugs to make lanterns with the children. If you are able, please, save a plastic milk jug, wash it, and bring it to the hall. You can leave them on the table at the very back of the hall. Thank you!



Pulled Pork for St Herman's House Project

Thank you to everyone who has already donated pulled pork for St Herman's, or who donated the pork that Dale smoked this past week. We are still taking donations of cooked pork. 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.



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

Congratulations to Julia Fender & Dan Muresan

This Saturday, October 26, our parishioner, Julia Fender, was crowned in holy matrimony to Dan Muresan. The service took place at St Mary Romanian Orthodox Cathedral. May God keep you as you begin your life together. Many years – *многие лета* – *mulți ani!*



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 crowned); **Edward** (Matushka Olena's father); **Hank & Diane** (Jim Horabik's brother-in-law and sister); **Gail** (friend of Maureen Medakovich); **Julia & Dan** (newly crowned); **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 10/31: Emmett Fredericks

Expecting Parents: Brian & Katya; Theodore & Jessica

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, Alex Wittie, Scott Salzgeber

Infants Awaiting Holy Illumination: Gianna Denise (daughter of **Jake & Allison**); **Charlotte Xenia** (daughter of **Subdeacon David & Michelle**)

Newly illumined: Nicholas & Mary Monda; Anysia Theophana Pohl; James Lapointe; Leo Szalay; Kennedy Anne; Margaret Lee

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)