

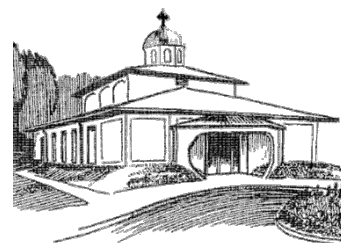


# St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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, November 3, 2024

- Sunday, Nov. 3      *19th Sunday after Pentecost*  
9a Church School || 9:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Divine Liturgy
- Thursday, Nov. 7      6p Great Vespers
- Friday, Nov. 8      *Synaxis of the Archangel Michael & All the Bodiless Powers*  
9:30a Divine Liturgy (at Archangel Michael Church in Broadview Heights)
- Saturday, Nov. 9      5:30p Great Vespers (followed by confession)
- Sunday, Nov. 10      *20th Sunday after Pentecost*  
8:35a 3rd & 6th Hours, Churching, Divine Liturgy || **After Liturgy: Annual Meeting**



### ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR OCTOBER 27, 2024

**Attendance:** 129 (55 adults + 74 children); **Operating:** \$5,301; **Capital Maintenance:** \$190; **Diocesan Dues:** \$68; **Candles:** \$48; **Uganda:** \$80; **Parish Charities:** \$175

“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

**A Good Beginning:**  
**Reflections on Repentance**  
*by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom*

*The essence of Christian life can be summed up in one word, repent—this being the first thing preached by our Lord when he begins his public ministry. At the same time, the Church also offers us the Fasts as opportunities to renew ourselves in the practice of this essential Christian task. As we prepare for the upcoming Fast, then, I think that the following remarks from Metropolitan Anthony Bloom are helpful to consider.*

Every day at Evening Prayers, we say those words written centuries ago by St. John Chrysostom, asking

the Lord to forgive us our sins and **to make a good beginning.** Each day, when the day is at an end and we are going to sleep, which is so like unto death, when we are no longer in control of ourselves but find ourselves under God’s mercy, in his hands, we say “Lord, remit us our sins, grant us to begin a new life when, as with Lazarus, You bring us out into a new day, into a new life.” This perhaps is especially pertinent to those who had spent their entire day in repentance, those who stood the entire day facing their implacable conscience and God, Who calls us to salvation and Who was Resurrected before us, but Who still carries on His risen Flesh the marks of His Crucifixion. It was a Crucifixion He endured because of the sins of mankind, wounds that will remain on His Most-pure Flesh, unhealed, as long as even one of us remains a sinner, i.e., remains guilty of His Crucifixion, remains an active crucifier of Christ. **Each of us must think about how he has spent the day—** simply put, did he consider his life, or did he rend the curtain that separates our repentant consciousness from the depths of our life?

Our sinfulness begins in the very earliest days of our existence, and manifests itself throughout our life in a wide variety of ways consistent with one’s age and the condition of his soul. What should have happened is

that everyone who prepared for Confession yesterday reflected so profoundly on his life that everything dark and unworthy came out in the open—what was in himself, in his love for the others who had given him their hearts, and in his love for God, a gift whose price was death on the Cross. Is that how we spent yesterday? In profound reflection, in such intense soul-rending contemplation of how we have betrayed ourselves, the trust our parents and our relatives had in us, and ultimately the trust God granted us at our creation, with the belief that it was not a futile endeavor, that we would receive His gift of life as something holy, and would not sully it—or if we did sully it, through repentance would return, or more precisely, would move even farther along the path to salvation. ... To repent means to begin a new life, to renounce the past with great resolve, with strength of will. However attracted to evil we might be, we must be ready to say: No, no matter what the cost, I will not sin, will not allow these thoughts, will not allow these feelings and emotions to work within me.

**Repentance is a turning point, a beginning in life. Those of you who repented and confessed, those who confessed today, those who dared Commune of the Holy Gifts, all of us, must make a good beginning, must begin a new life this very day.** Not tomorrow, not later, but immediately, we must take up the new life worthy of our calling, for we are called to belong to Christ, not only to be, as He said, His brothers and sisters, but through Communion to become participants, participants in His physical incarnation, in His human mind and feeling, and beyond that, in His Divinity. **Let us reflect upon this and make a good beginning.** To the extent possible, let us repent not only on the day we prepare for Communion, not only on the day on which we go to Confession, but day in and day out, each evening, while we read those prayers of St. John Chrysostom. And as for daytime: The new day dawns, and the Lord resurrects us like Lazarus, saying to us, “Come out of your sleep and begin a new life in a new day, one which has never been before.” Then let us make every effort to ensure that our repentance was not merely empty words, but the beginning of life, a promise to God that what is past will not happen again. Of course, we are not referring to everything that happened in the past, but everything that we have admitted, everything against which we promised in Confession to struggle, when we said, “That is evil, and I renounce it.” Renunciation is not for a minute; it is something lifelong. Through repentance, life is given to us by God, a life so full, so joyous, such a miracle of communion with God through our return, like the Prodigal Son, to our Father’s House.

*(From the February 2023 edition of “Parish Life,” published by St John the Baptist Cathedral in Washington, DC; edited slightly.)*



## 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 **next Sunday, November 10**, following the Divine Liturgy.



### 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. After the Moleben, children will light their lanterns (adults are welcome to bring lanterns as well), and while singing carols and songs, we will exit the temple and go outside for a procession. The procession will be followed by a potluck dinner and fellowship in the hall. Please consider coming to this evening celebration for this 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 Still Needed: Collection Extended Until **November 10**

We need more milk jugs to make lanterns with the children in preparation for St Martin’s Day lantern procession. 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

Thanks to everyone who has been busy cooking pulled pork for St. Herman’s House. Prepared pulled pork can still be placed in church freezer **through November 11**. Dale graciously smoked many donated pork shoulders. (Thank you, Dale!) Anyone wishing to donate non-perishable food items should leave them on shelves outside freezer. Please label them for St. Herman’s. God bless you for supporting this mission.



## 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. 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).



### WomenSafe Donations

We are currently taking donations for WomenSafe, which provides emergency shelter and support services to survivors of domestic violence throughout Northeast Ohio. We are asking the parish to donate new hats, gloves or scarves for women, boys and girls. We will be collecting these items **until November 17.** Everyone in the parish is welcomed to participate. If you keep the plastic hook that stores use to hang their merchandise with, you will be able to hang it on the wood tree. Otherwise, you can set items at the base of the tree.



### 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); Alexander (friend of Anna Kozikov) & his wife Olena; the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia; all those affected by the recent hurricanes

**Birthdays this week:** 11/5: Nora Sherman; 11/8: Luba Schelkanov

**Anniversaries this week:** 11/3: Andrew & LuAnn Dzura; 11/8: John & Valerie Christani

**Expecting Parents:** Brian & Katya; Theodore & Jessica; Elizabeth & Patrick

**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

**Serving in the military:** Kenneth Hockenberry

**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 Ursinyi's mother); Rick Wagner (Merrick and Mia's grandfather); Boris (friend of Anna Kozikov)

