

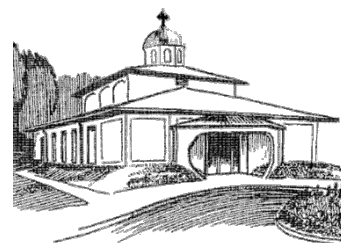


# St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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, December 1, 2024

- Sunday, Dec. 1** *23rd Sunday after Pentecost*  
9a Church School || 9:35a Hours & Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, Dec. 3** 10a Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy Meeting (*hosted at St Nicholas*)  
6:30p Choir Practice
- Thursday, Dec. 5** 4p Confession || 6p Festal Vespers with Lity
- Friday, Dec. 6** *St Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra (PATRONAL FEAST OF OUR TEMPLE)*  
9a Divine Liturgy || 10:45a Confession || 6p Book Group & Small Compline
- Saturday, Dec. 7** 3:30p Confession || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, Dec. 8** *24th Sunday after Pentecost*  
9:05a Hours || 9:30a Liturgy, Cross-Procession (*weather permitting—otherwise Moleben*),  
Play, & Potluck || 4p 30th Annual Pan-Orthodox Nativity Concert  
(@ St. Demetrios Church in Rocky River)



### ATTENDANCE & STEWARDSHIP FOR NOVEMBER 24, 2024

**Attendance:** 169 (123 adults + 41 children); **Operating:** \$3,846; **ZOE:** \$30; **Capital Maintenance:** \$60; **Diocesan Dues:** \$133; **Candles:** \$45; **Uganda:** \$25; **Parish Charities:** \$125; **City Mission:** \$130

“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 NOTES

**Giving Thanks unto God:  
Some Words from Fr Alexander Schmemmann**

*This past week we celebrated our American civic holiday of Thanksgiving. I was grateful that we were able to serve the Divine Liturgy on this day, since the service of the Eucharist is, at its heart, one of thanksgiving.*

*As some of you might know, Thanksgiving Day marked the last time that Fr Alexander Schmemmann was able to serve the Divine Liturgy before his repose. That day, Fr Alexander offered a short, written homily (usually, he preached without notes).*

*In thinking about the importance of gratitude as a critical virtue of our lives as Christians, I think that Fr Alexander's words retain a great power to move us. Today, then, I offer his remarks for our meditation:*

### THANK YOU, O LORD!

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church.

Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the “one thing needed;” Your eternal Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to worship You.

Thank You, O Lord, for this school [*in context: St Vladimir’s Seminary; one might substitute ‘this parish’ instead*], where the name of God is proclaimed.

Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise.

Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything.

Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen!



### Giving Thanks to God Before Bed: Some Remarks from John the Solitary

*It is a traditional Christian practice that, as we retire to bed each evening, we make a brief examination of conscience to go over the day. We do this so that, calling to mind those moments when we have failed to act in accord with God’s will, we might repent and so begin the next day in the peace of our Lord. But we also do this for another reason: we do this so that, by going through the day, we might realize all that we have received from God, and so end the day in gratitude to him.*

*Speaking about this practice of recounting our daily blessings, John the Solitary, a fifth century spiritual writer from the Syriac Christian tradition, says this:*

When evening comes, collect your thoughts and ponder over the entire course of the day: observe God’s providential care for you; consider the grace He has wrought in you throughout the whole span of the day; consider the rising of the moon, the joy of daylight, all the hours and moments, the divisions of time, the sight of different colors, the beautiful adornment of creation, the course of the sun, the growth of your own stature, how your own person has been protected, consider the

blowing of the winds, the ripe and varied fruits, how the elements minister to your comfort, how you have been preserved from accidents, and all the other activities of grace. When you have pondered on all this, wonder of God’s love toward you will well up within you, and gratitude for his acts of grace will bubble up inside you.

(Translated by S. Brock, in *Syriac Fathers*, pp. 94–95.)



## UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

### \* DECEMBER 6: FEAST OF ST NICHOLAS \*

This coming Friday, we celebrate the patronal feast of this holy temple: St Nicholas the Wonderworker. According to the *Typikon* (the church’s guidebook for how the services are celebrated), the patronal feast of a temple should be served with a festal vigil, which “should never be neglected.” God willing, next year we will serve Vigil for St Nicholas. For this year, however, we will keep the feast more simply: On Thursday evening, we will serve **Festal Vespers with Lity** at 6p. Then, on Friday morning, we will serve the **Divine Liturgy** at 9a. **Please plan to participate in at least one service in honor of our heavenly patron.**



### December 7: Brushstrokes and Balance

On Saturday, December 7, St Innocent Parish in Olmstead Falls is hosting a special event: “Brushstrokes and Balance.” This event will be a free opportunity for young adults aged 20 to 30 to explore “the intersection of art, faith, and mental wellness” through painting. For more information (including on how to RSVP), please see the flyer attached to last week’s bulletin.



### December 8: Continued Festivities for St Nicholas

Having feasted St Nicholas on December 6, next weekend we will continue to honor his memory as the patron and protector of our parish. And so, if the weather permits (and if the ground outside is dry enough), next Sunday at the end of the Divine Liturgy we will serve a cross-procession, going around our temple in prayer and blessing. If the weather does not permit this, we will instead serve a brief *Moleben* (prayer service) to St Nicholas inside. In either case, after the conclusion of the Liturgy, we will then gather in the hall for food, fellowship, and the play that our children have been preparing for. **Please plan to participate.**

## December 8: Christmas Concert

After the various festivities taking place in our temple on December 8, there is yet another opportunity to keep feast unto the Lord: Next Sunday afternoon, at 4pm, there is a pan-Orthodox Christmas concert. This will take place at St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Rocky River. Various parishes from the Northeast Ohio area will be singing Christmas praises in their traditions and languages. The concert will then conclude with everyone in attendance singing well-known carols together. Refreshments will follow. Admission is free, but free-will donations will be accepted by the Greater Cleveland Council of Orthodox Clergy to help in its support of local Orthodox ministries.



## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

### ZOE for Life Donations during the Nativity Fast

During the Nativity Fast, we are collecting diapers to send to ZOE House. There is a pack-and-play set up in the hall. Our goal is to fill the entire pack and play. (ZOE currently has an overflow of size two diapers. So, please refrain from buying that size. But of course, if you have some that your child has outgrown, you can donate them.) Thank you in advance for your help.



## 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 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; Carol Lehman** (Darlene Horabik's sister, wife of newly-reposed George); **Joe Dzura** (brother of Andy Dzura); **Viktor and Dominik Povozahev; Vincent** (Thomas Alexander's father); **Renee Kirouac** (goddaughter of Ruth Bede) & **Tristan Scott** (newly crowned); **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; Dana Wagner; Bob Wick; the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia; all those affected by the recent hurricanes**

**Birthdays this week:** 12/1: **Matthew Visnick**; 12/3: **Bill Butterfield, Vaughn Michael Clouse**; 12/4: **John Christani (Sr.)**; 12/7: **Alexandra Tintor**; 12/8: **Alexander Kozikov, Jean Murphy**

**Expecting Parents:** **Elizabeth & Patrick**

**Catechumens:** **Dalton Moses, Scott Salzgeber, Erin (Xenia) Dull, Joshua Peter Ticel, Christina Rausch**

**Infants Awaiting Holy Illumination:** **Gianna Denise** (daughter of **Jake & Allison**); **Michael Roman** (son of **Brian & Katya**); **Elizabeth Irene** (daughter of **TJ & Jessica**)

**Newly illumined:** **Kennedy Anne; Margaret Lee; Charlotte Xenia; Alex (John) Wittie**

**Serving in the military:** **Kenneth Hockenberry; Patrick Miller; James Chongris; Edward** (Matushka Olena's father)

**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)