

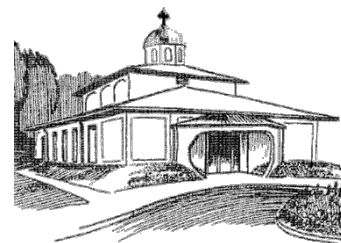


St Nicholas Orthodox Church

*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 + (252) 813-6993 + fr.mark.therrien@gmail.com



Services & Events for the Week Starting February 25, 2024

- Sunday, February 25 *Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, Tone 5*
The Beginning of the Period of the Triodion
(Readings: 2 Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14)
9:00a Church School
9:45a Third Hour || 10:00a Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour
- Thursday, February 29 4:00p Class with Catechumens (*open to everyone*)
- Friday, March 1 9:30a Home-school co-op
- Saturday, March 2 4:30p Confessions || 5:30p Great Vespers
- Sunday, March 3 *Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Tone 6*
(1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32)
9:00a Church School || 9:45a Third Hour
10:00a Prayers at the Making of a Catechumen & Divine Liturgy || Coffee hour



Stewardship for February 18, 2024

Operating: \$5,893; ZOE: \$95; Maintenance: \$175;
Holy Day: \$100; Icons: \$35; Diocesan Dues: \$557.50;
Candles: \$140; Uganda: \$45; Parish Charities: \$85;
Seminary: \$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)

Thank you for your generosity!



NOTES FROM THE RECTOR

Next Sunday: The Making of a New Catechumen
(*And a Brief Instruction on the status of
Being a Catechumen*)

By God’s grace, next Sunday we will enroll another person as a catechumen to prepare to be received into Christ’s holy Church by baptism: Alex Wittie. This is, of

course, a very important step in his life. It is also very important moment in the life of the entire Church. On this point, it is important to remember something critical about what it means to be a catechumen: Even before being received into the Church formally, the Church considers catechumens as if being among her own. For this reason, the Church has the long-standing practice of giving a full Christian burial to those who were made catechumens, but who repose in the Lord unexpectedly before being received. This is also why the Church requires that, if a catechumen was previously a member of a non-Orthodox Christian body, he or she must formally end that affiliation upon being made a catechumen.

As Alex prepares for this major step in his journey towards Christ and his holy Church—and as we in the Church prepare to welcome him into the number of our catechumens—let us pray for him especially fervently this coming week.



No Fasting This Week

Because this is the week of the Publican and Pharisee, on Wednesday and Friday we do not have to fast from meat, dairy, wine, and oil (as we do on most weeks of the year). Rather, we are allowed all foods. To note: this relaxation is not a license to eat more than is necessary for us. Rather, echoing the Lord's teaching in the Gospel today, this relaxation is to remind us that fasting is not an end in itself—because, when we treat it in that way, we inevitably take our success in it as a reason to become puffed up (as did the Publican). This week, then, is not about taking a week off from our normal ascetic labors. Rather, we should use it to start our preparation for the Fast by giving serious attention to the danger of pride that we will face in the coming weeks.

In that vein, it is Providential that we commemorate a great ascetic saint this week, **St John Cassian** (more commonly known as **St Cassian the Roman** in the Christian East). St John is one of the most important figures in bringing the teaching of the great ascetic fathers of the Greek-speaking East over to the Latin-speaking West. His writings are filled with much wisdom. But taking into account his commemoration during this week, I think that some of his remarks about pride are worthwhile to meditate upon (these are found in a Greek translation of his work, *On the Eight Vices*, which is included in the *Philokalia*): "Just as a deadly plague destroys not just one member of the body, but the whole of it, so pride corrupts the whole soul, not just part of it. Each of the other passions that trouble the soul attacks and tries to overcome the single virtue which is opposed to it, and so it darkens and troubles the soul only partially. But the passion of pride darkens the soul completely and leads to its utter downfall." *Through the prayers of our venerable father Cassian the Roman, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, take pity on us and save us. Amen.*



Visitors Next Sunday

Next Sunday, March 3, our parish will have special guests: Fr Dn Peter Ries, a son of St Innocent Church and a third-year seminarian, will be coming to serve the Divine Liturgy with me, accompanied by his wife, Matushka Sophie. Fr Dn Peter is finishing his MDiv at St Vladimir's Seminary this semester, and, God willing, will be coming back to serve in our diocese. Please make them welcome while they are here with us. And please pray for him and for his family as he finishes his studies and awaits his assignment.



Doings in the Deanery

On Saturday, March 9, there will be an evening celebration

at St Michael's in Broadview Heights in connection with the educational ministry of St Tikhon's Seminary. For information, please see: <https://allthegood.stots.edu/>.



Parish Prayer List

If you know of someone who is in special need of prayer, please email me so that I might add the person to the prayer list. In the meantime, please remember especially:

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), **Bruce** (Kristen Moore's father), **Joseph Chuppa, Ronald** (in baptism, **Thomas**) (Collin Moore's father), **Bruce** (Kristen Moore's father), **Mary Ann Sheranko, Helen** (Jan Ursyni's mother), **Kevin, Declan, and Teagon** (husband and children of the newly-reposed Kristen), **Christina** (Mike Brzozowski's sister), **Alan, LuAnn Dzura, Rich Cook** (Cindy Renda's brother), **Elizabeth** (Denise Busch's aunt), **Bruno Christani, Daniel Conger** (friend of Jim Renda), **Kathy Thomas** (Fr Mark's aunt); **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, & Julian**; **Jim Barkas**; **the suffering Christians of Ukraine, the Middle East, and Armenia**

Birthdays this week: 2/25: Tina Capitan, Don Patton

Anniversaries this week: 2/25: Nicholas & Debbie Covelli

Expecting: Greg & Grace, Jairus & Riley, Weston & Rachel, Joseph & Venessa, Jon & Alexandra, Patrick & Katherine, Jake & Allison Szendrey

Catechumens: Dalton Moses, Nick & Abrea Monda

Newly departed: Paris Anthony Santone (Debbie Covelli's nephew), **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)



Catechesis This Coming Thursday

This coming Thursday, February 29, I will meet with our catechumens again. Our topic will be Christian life as a journey to God. The class will look at Genesis 11–22 read in tandem with some patristic texts. *Although part of the formation for our catechumens, this class is open to everyone.*