

General Assembly Meeting - November 16, 2025

(Immediately following the Divine Liturgy)
If no quorum is present then the second meeting
will be held on **November 23, 2025**
Immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

AGENDA:

Opening Prayer
Election of Chairperson
Minutes of Last Meeting
2024 Audit Report
Financial Report 2025
2026 Preliminary Budget
Parish Improvements
Festival Update/Election of New Chairperson
Stewardship
Election of Board of Auditors
Old Business
New Business
Closing Prayer and Adjournment

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
697 Asheville Highway
P.O. Box 1107
Spartanburg, SC 29304

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2025



**THE PRESENTATION OF THE THEOTOKOS
INTO THE TEMPLE
NOVEMBER 21ST**

November 2025

Services

Fasting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 5th Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 12:30 Parish Council Meeting	3	4 Philoptochos Meeting 10 am	5 GOYA Bible Bowl Practice 5 - 6 pm	6	7	8
			Fast Day		Fast Day	
9 7th Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 11:50 Stewardship Luncheon	10	11	12 GOYA Bible Bowl Practice 5 - 6 pm	13	14	15
			Fast Day		Fast Day	Christmas Fast Starts
16 Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 12:00 General Assembly	17	18	19 GOYA Bible Bowl Practice 5 - 6 pm	20	21 Presentation of the Theotokos into the Temple 8:30 Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy	22
Christmas Fast					Fish Allowed	
23 9th Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 5:00 Parish Council Seminar in Greenville	24	25	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving!	28	29
Christmas Fast (Fish allowed on all day except for Wednesdays and Fridays)						
30 Andrew the First Called 9:45 Orthros NO Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy	1	2	3	4	5	6
Christmas Fast (Fish allowed on all day except for Wednesdays and Fridays) November 15 - December 24						

Presentation of the Virgin Mary

It stands to reason that Almighty God’s selection of the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God was not a random selection. In his wisdom, God selected not from the nobility but from the humble, thoroughly devout, daughter of equally devout parents whose names were Joachim and Anna.

Tradition has it that Anna, childless for many years, reached a point in her life when just short of despair she prayed in earnest that God grant her a child with a promise that should her wish be fulfilled she would pledge the child to his holy Temple. It did not matter to Anna that the child granted her by God was a girl and, faithful to her word, she presented her daughter, given the name of Mary, to the holy Temple at the age of three, on the 21st of November. She remained in the house of God for twelve years, emerging at the age of fifteen with a purity and wholesomeness found in no other creature of God.

By the time she had been released to her parents, the saintly Mary was not only a flawless maiden but in her twelve years had acquired the lore and religion of the deepest scholars, something usually denied a female child of those days. So much has been written of the Lord’s mother that the concern here is for a glimpse into her life as a human being.

The Virgin Mary is looked upon by Orthodoxy as “Panagia,” which translates into the all-encompassing saint. Greek Orthodox Christians need but one name and that name is “Panagia,” carrying the full impact on the Christian faith as no other name can regardless of the language.

The beginnings of Christianity were not the scattered remnants that somehow merged into a smattering of Ideologies. By divine intent the great religion of Christ stemmed from a tight circle which spread itself out as the greatest of human experiences. To begin with, the high priest entrusted with the care of Mary was Zacharias, who in turn was the father of St. John the Baptist, referred to as the prefiguration of the Messiah and the man who was to baptize Jesus Christ.

Yet in her teens the Virgin Mary, in a story that cannot be told often enough, was visited by the Archangel Gabriel, sent by the Almighty himself to be told that she, a wisp of a girl, mortal but blessed, was to become the mother of the Son of God. There is every reason to believe that as electrifying as the news was, she received it with both joy and complete serenity. A girl can get excited by being elected “Queen of May” but to be “Queen of the Universe” must have been an anticipation not of excitement but the sublimest of joy, human or otherwise.

It follows that both Joacheim and Anna, as the grandparents so to speak, of the Son of God, are also venerated as saints of the Church, so much so that they are also known as the “Patron Saints of Pious Education,” principally because of the twelve year course of study of religion of their daughter Mary. The Christian can make his own choice of his favorite among the four days of the year, which are feast days of the Virgin Mary. These are the Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8, the Presentation of the Virgin Mary on November 21, the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary on March 25, and the Dormition of the Virgin Mary on August 15. On the calendar of the Church, all four of these days are of equal importance.

The world sees the Virgin Mary much as Michaelangelo did when he carved out his famous Pieta in which a youthful looking Mary is holding the lifeless body of her crucified Son. Nowhere is she seen as an old woman, at least not at the age of a woman who is the mother of a thirty-three year old son.

Among the Holy Land’s most sacred shrines is the one at the base of the Garden of Gethesemane, the site of the agony of Christ. This shrine is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and her parents. After a descent down a cement stairway of about fifty steps, the tomb of Joachim is on the left and on the right of the tomb of his wife Anna. Some fifty steps below this is the empty tomb of the Virgin Mary since, like the Son of God, she ascended into heaven. Stories abound about the Virgin Mary but the truthful one that clings and shall do so forever is that in being the mother of the Son of God, she is the mother of the world. For this reason November 21 is one of Christianity’s holiest feast days.

From: Orthodox Saints
By: Fr. George Poulos



St. Nicholas News Monthly Bulletin of

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
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Reverend Father George F. Nayfa
Home Phone: (864) 579-0882
Website: www.stnicholasgoc.org

November 2025

SUNDAY	WEEKDAY
Orthros 9:45 am	Orthros 8:30 am
Sunday School 9:45 am	Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
Divine Liturgy 10:15 am	

Schedule of Services

Holy Confession: Available by appointment.

Weekday Services

Friday, November 21 | The Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

OFFICIAL

You are hereby notified that nominations for the up-coming election process for the 2026 Parish Council are now being accepted by the Nominating/Election committee under the aegis of Mrs. Genie Becknell, Mr. Tasso Ghionis and Mr. Niko Gilman. Nominations will be open until

SATURDAY, November 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

No names for nomination will be accepted after this date and time.

In accordance with the guidelines of our holy Archdiocese of America as published in the 1993 edition of The Special Regulations and Uniform Parish Regulations, a nominee to the Parish

1. Sacramentally sound with the Orthodox Church (Article V, Section 6);
2. Financially sound with his/her Parish (Article V, Section 1); and
3. Current in his/her Stewardship pledge, or, if using the envelope system, current in his/her donation as of the Sunday preceding the election (Article V, Section 7).

Additionally, a candidate must bear in mind that:

“All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the Priest prior to the election at which the Priest shall discuss the Uniform Parish Regulations and explain them to the candidates, particularly the Oath of Office. At the conclusion of the seminar, all candidates will acknowledge by signing a statement that they understand the Uniform Parish Regulations and, if elected, will abide by them and the Oath of Office. If a candidate for the Parish Council refused to attend the seminar and sign the declaration, his/her name shall be deleted from the list of eligible candidates.” (Article IX, Section 3).

In adherence to the above, we have scheduled a

**Parish Council Seminar to be held on Sunday, November 23rd
at 5:00 p.m. in Greenville, SC (small hall)**

Candidates must attend this meeting or arrange with Fr. George if there is a conflict.

The list of those who are sacramentally and financially eligible for a position on the Parish Council for 2026 is posted in the Parish Hall for your kind consideration. Please give these names your utmost attention. The election will take place on

Sunday, December 7th at the Church from 12:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.

We will be electing **6 new members**. Absentee ballots will be available by calling the church office. If you should have any questions regarding your financial good standing with the Parish, please contact the Parish Council Treasurer at once.

Stewardship 2025

*The following is a list of stewards who have pledged or paid for 2025. REMEMBER:
In order to run for the Parish Council or participate in the General Assembly meetings you
must be Baptized or Confirmed member of the Greek Orthodox Church,
and be Ecclesiastically in good standing. If your name is not on the list, please contact Mr. Ron Dill.*

Conrad Allen	Constantine Ghionis	Debi Lydakis	Sami Rishmawi
Matthew Angelakis	Anne-Harrison Ghionis	Mike Lydakis	Angela Ross
Alena Apanovich	Doris Ghionis	Taylor Lydakis	Tollie Ross
Mikhail Apanovich	Elena Ghionis	Pam Manatis	Melissa Ross
Raisa Apanovich	Tasso Ghionis	Lee Manatis	Richard Ross
Donna Ayyad	Amanda Gilman	Lea Manatis	Themis Rubio
Fouad Ayyad	Niko Gilman	Rajai Marzouca	Theodoro Rubio
Isis Ayyad	Anna Nayfa Gilman	Donna Mavroftas	Manuel Savvakis
Ramzi Ayyad	Peter Gilman	Nick Mavroftas	Mrs. Manuel Savvakis
Samia Ayyad	Christos Goungoudis	Michelle Mavromatis	Donnie Settle
Britt Becknell	Makrina Nayfa Gray	Pete Mavromatis	Eleni O. Settle
Genie Becknell	Matthew Gray	Sandra Meredith	Jon Shaklo
Andrew Boukidis	Edward Griffin	Helen Michael	Litsa Sinclair
Chris Bourland	Mrs. Edward Griffin	Leon Michael	Robert Sinclair
Claire Bourland	Logan Griffith	Lynn Michael	Andrea Slaugh
Mihaela Brinzea	Nick Harakas	Mircea Mihai	Nick Small
Helen Campbell	Erin Harden	Mrs. Mircea Mihai	Maria Small
Sam Carros	Hady Hayek	Glenn Miller	Nikolitsa Stamatopoulou
Mrs Sam Carros	Isabell Hayek	Nicholas Miller	Anne Stathakis
Matthew Cash	Antoinette Heberlig	Melissa Miller	Harry Stathakis
Nicholas Cash	Ray Heberlig	Patricia Miller	Mrs. Harry Stathakis
Toula Chininis	Brian Howell	Stephan Miller	John Stathakis
Kiki Chulkas	Holly Howell	John Miraziz	Laura Stathakis
Thomas Chulkas	Ramona Hrysikos	Laila Miraziz	Theodore Stathakis
Joseph Cocchiarelli	Jessica Inglee	Evan Mulch	George Stojanovic
Loula Copses	Preston Inglee	Jennifer Mulch	Eva Strickland
John P. Copses	Dominic Ivanovich	Basima Namouz	Jimmy Taleff
Theresa Copses	Lucia Ivanovich	Zuhhair Namouz	Mark Taleff
Chris Couchell	Lina Jung	Aristotelis Nayfa	Basheer Tarazi
Erin Couchell	David Jung	Gladys Nayfa	Maha Tarazi
Jon Couchell	Kostas Kakouras	Fr. George Nayfa	Suhaila Tarazi
Kiki Couchell	Marina Kakouras	Pres. Ellada Nayfa	Sylvia Tarazi
Helen Diamaduros	Christos Kakouras	Halina Palukoshka	Angeliki Thalassinis
Sam Diamaduros	John Kapousidis	Viktar Palukoshka	Pete Thalassinis
Mrs. Sam Diamaduros	Voula Kapousidis	Bessie Papadis	Teresa Thalassinis
Helen Dill	Marika Kekas	James Pappas	Dean Trakas
Ronald Dill	Pitsa Kerhoulas	Mrs. James Pappas	Anna Tsabunieris
Phillip Dorroll	Sam Kerhoulas	John Paradeses	John Tsambouneris
Frances Drouzos	Mrs. Sam Kerhulas	Toni Paradeses	Maria Tsoulos
Jan Esakov	Gina Klock	Aristidis Pardalakis	John Volianitis
Mike Esakov	Nick Klock	Mrs. Aristidis Pardalakis	Stella Volianitis
Debbie Flegas	Mike Kranidiotis	John Perez	Tommy Volianitis
Chris Flegas	Mia Kranidiotis	Melina Perez	Kosta Voukidis
George Fotinios	Allaksandr Kubrak	Martha Nayfa Poulos	Anna Voukidis
Dimitrios Gazos	Jeff Kusumi	Ian-Paul Poulos	Kontilo Voukidis
Vaya Gazos	Evangeline LaMore	Catherine Poulos	Elizabeth Weimer
Teresa Georgas	Terry LaMore	Maria Poulos	Christina Nayfa Wildman
Persa Georgeopoulos	Nick Laskas	Pete Poulos	Reid Wildman
Theodoros Georgopoulos	G. Legnos	David Price	
Bogdan Gheorghiu	Bill Leonard	Joanna Price	
Roxanne Gheorghiu	Diane Leonard	Nicole Pruitt	
		Dosa Psilnakis	

Your Personal Stewardship Inventory

1. Does God come FIRST in my giving?
2. Do I give God what is left over at the end of the week or month, or only what I do not need?
3. Am I proud of what I am pledged, and give to God.
4. Would I be ashamed for others to know the amount that I pledged, and eventually give?
5. Do I believe God is proud of what I pledged and give?
6. Do I give humbly, and with a cheerful heart? Or ashamedly?
7. Do I really make sacrifices of my time, talent and money for the Church?
8. Do I make it difficult for someone to secure my pledge or amounts that I have committed?
9. Does the person who calls on me go away cheerful and glad to have spoken with me?
10. Do I feel love for God, and my fellow man, when I give generously to my Church?
11. Do I plan and set aside in advance the amount that I give?
12. Do I and can I increase my pledge, or am I worried about being asked to increase my pledge?
13. Am I trying to do all that I can do to support St. Nicholas, its ministries and community?
14. Am I making any effort to tithe my income? Or even to give half a tithe? Or even make an increase?
15. Do I believe that my giving can make a difference in the future of St. Nicholas or my community? Or My Life?

Taking Care of Number One

By: Rev. Andrew Demotses

The life of one of the greatest fathers of the Judeo-Christian tradition, Abraham, demonstrated an attitude of Christ like unselfishness. When it became necessary for Abraham and his nephew Lot to go their separate ways, Abraham graciously yielded his position of respect and authority and let his nephew choose the land that he preferred. Abraham said, "If you take the left, then I will go to the right; or, if you go to the right, then I will go to the left." (Gen. 13:9).

Most of the time, however, people tend toward selfishness and ignore St. Paul's admonition which says "Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others." (Phil. 2:4). To prove this we need only to review with honesty our own private thoughts, ambitions, and actions. The wider society around us reflects our attitudes and operates on the principle of selfishness. The person who lets others go first is not regarded as virtuous, but is considered weak.

We need to be mindful of the examples which, while they are the exception to the rule, nonetheless call us to a higher standard of attitude and behavior. One such example was offered by Joseph Turner, the famous landscape painter. A young artist submitted one of his paintings to be hung in a prestigious art exhibit, but the selection committee, of which Turner was a member, rejected it. Turner insisted that the young man's work be included, but the others denied his pleas, saying that there simply was no room for it. Turner said no more but quietly removed one of his own paintings, replacing it with one by the young artist so that his work would be seen by a wide audience.

Every day, we are each presented with many opportunities to obey St. Paul's admonition through acts of kindness, by treating others the way we want to be treated, and by putting them first, and ourselves last. That doesn't mean we neglect our own needs, but that we make the effort to meet the needs of others as well. We "each esteem others better than ourselves." (Phil. 2:3). This kind of attitude will not turn us into losers, but into winners of a great spiritual reward.

Announcements

Annual Christmas Card | The Parish Council will be collecting names **Nov 2 - Dec 7** for the annual community Christmas card which is sent to all parishioners. If you would like your name included, please contact **John Tollie Ross at (706) 936-8877**. The cost is \$20.00 per family listing.

Stewardship | As you know, moving forward with spreading the Lord’s Word in our St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Parish, we need financial assistance! When our Church’s Financial Team, tries to balance costs, expenses, and income, it is difficult to do without information from our Parishioners. So PLEASE, fill out a PLEDGE OFFERING card to help. These cards can be picked up at the Pangari every Sunday and given to a Parish Council member.

Stewardship Luncheon | All are welcome to join us for lunch in the Hellenic Center on Sunday, **November 9** after Liturgy. This is offered at no cost to you - see you there!

Sunday School

Sunday School for the 2025-2026 school year is proceeding on schedule. We would like to see every child in the community participate in this important aspect of Christian Education. If your child has not yet attended, please make every effort to bring them. Please note that classes begin each Sunday at 9:45 a.m., in the Parish House or the Small Hall. It is important for each child to be there on time to receive the full benefit of the program. At 10:25 a.m. the classes end, and the students then go to church to sit with their parents.

Gingerbread Churches | The annual making of gingerbread houses will be held during St. Nicholas Luncheon in the large hall on **December 7th**. This is a FUN event!

Christmas Children Program | Practice for the Christmas Program will begin during Sunday School. November 2nd. Please make every effort to bring the children, to ensure a successful program. We will probably have to practice during coffee hour as well. November 30 - There will be no Sunday School the Sunday after Thanksgiving.

November 2025
2 - Christmas Practice begins in SS
9 - Christmas Practice in Sunday School
16 - Christmas Practice in Sunday School
23 - Christmas Practice in Sunday School
30 - NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 2025
7 - Christmas program practice resumes Making gingerbread churches
13 - Final Christmas program practice
14 - Christmas Program, immediately following Divine Liturgy, and luncheon.
21, 28 - No Sunday School Happy and Christ-filled Holidays!
Jan 4 - No Sunday School

Schedule

NOVEMBER 2025

2	Coffee Hour Theresa Georgas
	Prosporo Dr. Lina Miraziz Jung
	Pangari Ramzi Ayyad, Logan Griffith
9	Coffee Hour Stewardship Luncheon
	Prosporo TBA
	Pangari Logan Griffith, Ed Griffin
16	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo Presbyteria Ellada Nayfa
	Pangari David Jung, Conrad Allen
21	Prosporo Presbyteria Ellada Nayfa
23	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo Mrs. Persa Georgiopoulos
	Pangari Mike Lydakis, Conrad Allen
30	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo TBA
	Pangari David Jung, Ramzi Ayyad