



St. Nicholas News

Monthly Bulletin of

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

Church Phone: (864) 585-5961
Website: www.stnicholasgoc.org
Reverend Father George F. Nayfa
Home Phone: (864) 579-0882

July 2026

SUNDAY

Orthros | 9:30 am
Divine Liturgy | 10:00 am

WEEKDAY

Orthros | 8:30 am
Divine Liturgy | 9:00 am

Schedule of Services

Holy Confession: Available by appointment.

Sunday of the Holy Fathers

Reading: On the Sunday that falls from the 13th to the 19th of the present month, we chant the Service to the Holy and God-bearing Fathers who came together in the Seven Ecumenical Councils, that is: the First Council, of the 318 Fathers who assembled in Nicaea in 325 to condemn Arius, who denied that the Son of God is consubstantial with the Father; the Fathers of the First Council also ordained that the whole Church should celebrate Pascha according to the same reckoning; the Second Council, of the 150 Fathers who assembled in Constantinople in 381 to condemn Macedonius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who denied the Divinity of the Holy Spirit; the Third Council, of the 200 Fathers who assembled in Ephesus in 431, to condemn Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople, who called Christ a mere man and not God incarnate; the Fourth Council, of the 630 who assembled in Chalcedon in 451, to condemn Eutyches, who taught that there was only one nature, the divine, in Christ after the Incarnation, and Dioscorus, Patriarch of Alexandria, who illegally received Eutyches back into communion and deposed Saint Flavian, Patriarch of Constantinople, who had excommunicated Eutyches; the Fifth Council in 553, of the 165 who assembled in Constantinople for the second time to condemn Origen and Theodore of Mopsuestia, the teacher of Nestorius; the Sixth Council in 680, of the 170 who assembled in Constantinople for the third time, to condemn the Monothelite heresy, which taught that there is in Christ but one will, the divine; and the Seventh Council in 787, of the 350 who assembled in Nicaea for the second time to condemn Iconoclasm.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Tone

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

You are greatly glorified, O Christ our God, who established our Fathers as luminaries upon the earth, and through them led us all to the true Faith. O Most compassionate, glory to You.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Tone

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
			1 Catechism 6 - 7 pm Fast D
5 5th Sunday of Matthew 9:30 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy	6	7	8 Making Kouran 10:00 am Catechism C 6 - 7 pm Fast D
12 6th Sunday of Matthew 9:30 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy	13	14	15 Catechism 6 - 7 pm Fast D
19 Sunday of the Holy Fathers 9:30 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy	20	21	22 Catechism 6 - 7 pm Fast D
26 8th Sunday of Matthew 9:30 Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy	27	28	29 Catechism 6 - 7 pm Fast D

- Other
- Services
- Fasting

Day	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Class	2	3	4
ay		Fast Day	
mbedes	9 Making Kourambedes 10:00 am	10	11
lass		Fast Day	
ay		Fast Day	
Class	16	17	18
ay		Fast Day	
Class	23	24	25
ay		Fast Day	
n Class	30	31	
ay			

Announcements

2026 Greek Festival | Please remember the festival is quickly approaching. September 18, 19 and 20 are just around the corner. Everyone's help is needed to make this event a success. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please contact Church Office at 585-5961.

2026 Greek Festival Cooking | We will be starting pastry cooking for the Greek Festival, starting the week of July 8th and for the next three weeks in July. The times and dates will be announced in church on the Sunday's prior to the scheduled dates.

* We are making kourambedes on July 8 and 9th at 10:00 for the festival.



The ladies are busy making cookies for the Greek Festival. We have many more pastries to bake so consider helping when we make more pastries.

Festival Dance Practice

Dance practice for the Greek Festival will begin on Sunday Aug 2nd for the Neo Kyma group (age 14 and up) and will begin on Aug 16th for all groups age 4 and up. Practices will begin following liturgy. Registration for the dance group will begin July 12th through August 16th. You can register via email to vkourlas@gmail.com (**Vasi Kourlas**)

Remember Your Church | - Please remember your Church this summer. We know that with the coming of summer many people will be on vacations, and will stop coming to church. Remember that we cannot take a vacation from God. If you are in the city come to Church, if you are in another city, find an Orthodox Church there to attend.



The Holy Unmercenary Medical Society (HUMS) is a fellowship of healthcare professionals within the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta. The Society has planned its annual retreat at the Alexios Retreat Center the weekend of September 25-27 2026. Please visit gohums.org/events.html for more information and consider attending. Contact Greg Tarasidis at gtarasidis@hotmail.com with any questions.

Our Sympathies

Eunice Selma “Trudy” Owens Baker 89 fell asleep in the Lord on Saturday, June 20th, 2026. She was the mother of Michelle Mavromatis (Pete), Grandmother of Marina Vowell, Penelope Mavromatis, Stelios Mavromatis, Yeorgios Mavromatis. A graveside service to honor Trudy’s life was held on Thursday, June 25, 2026, in Greenlawn Memorial Gardens, 1300 Fernwood-Glendale Road, Spartanburg, SC 29307.

May Her Memory Be Eternal

Dear St. Nicholas Family,

Great news! The painting crew has officially started prepping and painting the exterior of our Church and the Small Hall.

We are very excited to see the transformation beginning. This project will make our beloved church look beautiful and welcoming for the Greek Festival and for many years to come.

We are getting close to our goal, but we still need your help to complete the funding.

Please give with your heart and as soon as possible. If you have pledged but haven't sent in your donation yet, we kindly ask you to do so right away. You can hand it to any Parish Council member at the Pangari or drop it off at the church office.

I will continue to share pictures of the progress as the work moves forward.

Thank you for your continued generosity and love for St. Nicholas. Let's finish strong and make our church shine!

In Christ's love,

Mike Lydakakis President, 2026 Parish Council

Kiki Couchell Vice President, 2026 Parish Council

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church lydakismike@gmail.com (864) 384-5950



DO WHAT YOU CAN

By: REV. ANDREW DEMOTSES

I have often found myself wishfully thinking that if I ever won the lottery, I would be able to endow the church and help the needy. In my more reflective moments, however, I realize that it is a mistake to think that I would do more if only I had more money, or more time, or more talent. For most of us, this is merely an excuse for doing nothing. Instead of dreaming about what I would do if I had a million dollars, my time would be more productively spent doing the best I can with what I already possess. If we don't do our best with our present gifts, why do we think that we would do better if we had even more?

We also need to remember that how we give is also as important as what we give. It is for this reason that the gift of the widow's mite was more earnestly praised and valued by Jesus than was the gold piece of the wealthy man. It was given with greater sincerity of motive, and certainly represents far greater sacrifice. In the parable of the gold coins, moreover, Christ assures us that being faithful in "small matters" opens the door to greater opportunities.

Very few of us can give thousands of dollars to advance the work of the kingdom of God, or to send large sums of money to help feed starving children. But if every one else used that as a reason and excuse for not giving at all, then nothing good would ever happen. No matter how generous the wealthy may be, every good cause continues to depend on the small but steady stream of gifts from those who cannot give much, but are nonetheless moved to give what they can.

We also need to remember that not every gift is measured as money; perhaps your gift could be to teach a Church School class, or to sing in the choir. It is not important how much we give, as it is to be faithful in giving what we can. If you are faithful in this way, it may be that God will offer greater opportunity and capacity. Remember also that if you are not generous with a small income, you are not likely to be generous with a large one.