

ST. NICHOLAS

NEWS

May 2026



Sts. Constantine & Helen
Equal to the Apostles - May 21



St. Nicholas News

Monthly Bulletin of

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
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May 2026

SUNDAY

Orthros | 9:45 am
Sunday School | 9:45 am
Divine Liturgy | 10:15 am

WEEKDAY

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

Schedule of Services

Holy Confession: Available by appointment.

Weekday Services

Thursday, May 21st | Ascension & Sts. Constantine and Helen
May 30th | Saturday of Souls

Sts. Constantine and Helen, Equal to the Apostles

As we long since perceived that religious liberty should not be denied, but that it should be granted to each one to perform divine duties according to his own determination, we had given orders, that each one, and the Christians among the rest, 'have the liberty to observe the religion of his choice, and his peculiar mode of worship.. . Therefore, we have decreed the following ordinance, as our will, with a salutary and most correct intention, that no freedom at all shall be refused to Christians to follow or to keep their observances of worship ... And this we further decree with respect to the Christians, that the places in which they were formerly accustomed to assemble ... these shall restore them to the Christians.

If the language of the above excerpts from an imperial edict seems a little confusing to us today, it was most clear to the ancient Christians who heard the order read to them. How joyously they received the message and its content! The above edict which was decreed by Emperor Constantine the Great in Milan in A.D. 311, proclaimed the granting of toleration to the Christian religion, and, therefore, the cessation of all persecutions.

Constantine--the son of Constantios Chloros--emperor of the Western territories of the Roman Empire, having succeeded his father as emperor, thought the time was ripe to give the Christian Church legal status. So, together with Licinius, emperor of the Eastern territories, he issued the above edict. Later, when Licinius turned against Constantine, the armies of the two heads of state met at Adrianople where Licinius was totally defeated.

The defeat of Licinius left Constantine as the sole emperor of the empire. Alone, he could now proceed as he pleased. He made administrative reforms, lavished Rome and other cities with public works, and on the site of Byzantium, he built a new capital which he named New Rome. Later, his people named it the City of Constantine (Constantinopolis) Constantinople in order to honor him.

It was the Church, however, that really benefited during his reign. Christian priests now enjoyed the same privileges as their pagan counterparts and witchcraft was outlawed. Christians were not obliged to participate in pagan festivals. Sunday was declared a day of rest, and the Church could now build its own houses of worship.

At the same time, his pious mother Helena directed excavations in Jerusalem with the hope of finding the Cross of Jesus. She did find it, and, together with her son, saw to it that churches would be built in Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Constantinople and Rome.

Constantine postponed his baptism--as was customary in his day--until he lay on his deathbed. Although he remained technically a pagan until just prior to the end of his life, he did not hesitate to grant the Church and her people legal status and privileges hitherto nonexistent. Why? Because in his superb judgment, he had correctly recognized that Christ was the only true God and Savior. Moreover, his conferring of legal status on the Church put an end to the senseless persecutions that for two and half centuries had been periling the Church.

He died at his summer palace at Nicomedia. With honors never hitherto shown to a previous ruling monarch, his body was brought to Constantinople where it was laid to rest in the church of the Holy Apostles.

In recognition of all that he did for the Church and its peoples, Constantine and his mother were canonized, and are known as "Isapostoloi," that is, "Equal to the Apostles."

By: Rev. Dennis Michelis From: "The Champions of the Church"



EFFECTIVE PARISH ASSESSMENT



Your Voice, Our Future: 10 Minutes to a Stronger Parish

As a member of our parish family, your voice matters. The Effective Parish Assessment is a short, confidential survey designed to help parish leadership understand how to improve parish life, identify priorities, and strengthen our health and effectiveness.

CONFIDENTIAL

Your responses are 100% anonymous so please share honestly.

QUICK & EASY

The assessment takes only 10–15 minutes.

DEFINE THE FUTURE

Your feedback helps parish leaders improve what matters most.

**TAKE THE PARISH SURVEY
MAY 24, 2026**

**We will have the QR code and survey link in the pangari and as a handout flyer starting May 24, 2026*

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- **Direct Impact**: Your unique experience provides insights that parish leadership cannot gain any other way to shape our future.
- **Strength in Numbers**: Every single confidential response increases the accuracy of our results, helping us build a healthier, stronger parish for tomorrow.

Thank you for taking the time to help our parish

Announcements

Special Thanks | As Pastor I would like to thank all those who assisted me or the Church in making this Easter period the pleasant experience that it was, and continues to be. We thank those who gave flowers, those who chanted or sang, those who cooked, those who prepared the Easter eggs, those who gave food or drinks. What we want to say is Thank You to everyone in the community and may God continue to Bless you and your good works in the Church.

High School and College Graduates | On **Sunday, May 24th**, we will be honoring our graduates. If you have someone graduating from High School or College please let the church office know so that they can be honored.

Last Day of Sunday School | **Sunday, May 24th**, a picnic will be hosted during coffee hour to celebrate a wonderful school year! Thank you to all of the parents and children for attending and we look forward to our next school year!

Vacation Bible School | We will be hosting Vacation Bible School **June 1-5th** from **12:30 pm-4:30 pm**. All kids are welcome from ages 4 and up. Please see Anna Gilman to register your child or sign up to volunteer.

Parish Survey | As a member of our parish, your voice matters. The Effective Parish Assessment is a short 10-15 minute survey to improve parish life, identify priorities and strengthen our health & effectiveness, Take the Parish Survey on May 24, 2026. We have a QR code and flyers in Pangari.

Catechism Classes: Fr. George will lead weekly classes starting **Wednesday, May 13th** from **6:00-7:00 pm** in the small hall.

Chrismation | Melissa (Faith) Ross was accepted into the Orthodox Church by Chrismation on Saturday, April 4, 2026. The Godparents are Debi & Chris Flegas. Congratulations!

NA SAS ZISEI!

Our Sympathies

The Parish wishes to extend its sympathies to Norma Harakas, and her family on the falling asleep in the Lord of her husband, Dr. Andrew Peter Harakas on April 17, 2026. He was a beloved father, grandfather, brother and husband. He will truly be missed.

The Parish wishes to extend its sympathies to Rich Ross, and his family on the falling asleep in the Lord of his grandmother, Dorothy Vess on April 16, 2026. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, sister, and wife. She will truly be missed.

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Schedule

May 2026

3	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo Mike Lydakis
	Pangari Mike Lydakis, Logan Griffith
10	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo Dr. Lina Miraziz Jung
	Pangari David Jung, Conrad Allen
17	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo Mrs. Lula Copses
	Pangari Mike Lydakis, Maria Tsoulos
21	Prosporo Mrs. Persa Georgeopoulos
24	Coffee Hour Sunday School Picnic
	Prosporo Mrs. Persa Georgeopoulos
	Pangari Elena Ghionis, Ramzi Ayyad
30	Prosporo Mrs. Vaya Gazos
31	Coffee Hour TBA
	Prosporo Mrs. Donna Mavroftas
	Pangari Elena Ghionis, Kiki Couchell
Pangari members should arrive no later than 9:30 am	

SAVE THE DATE!

2026 SPARTANBURG Greek Festival

FAITH • FAMILY • FOOD • CULTURE • COMMUNITY



SEPTEMBER
18-20, 2026

Mark your
calendars!



COME EXPERIENCE THE FLAVORS OF GREECE,
LIVELY MUSIC, TRADITIONAL DANCING, AND WARM HOSPITALITY.

It's a celebration you won't want to miss!



WE ARE LOOKING FOR A KITCHEN CHAIRPERSON

TO HELP LEAD ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF THE FESTIVAL!



SERVE OUR
CHURCH AND
COMMUNITY



HELP CONTINUE
A CHERISHED
TRADITION



RESTAURANT EXPERIENCE IS REQUIRED.

We need
YOU!



Contact Constantine Ghionis at
(864)619-2023

