

Thank you!

We would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to all of those who contributed to the 33rd Annual Spartanburg Greek Festival. With God's grace, we were blessed with temperate weather and a fruitful festival, culminating in our most successful figures to date. This success would not have been possible without the selfless contributions of all who comprise the St. Nicholas community. We would especially like to thank Constantine Ghionis for serving as chairman of the festival, and all other committee leaders who took it upon themselves to manage and facilitate the various aspects of festival operations allocated to them. We look forward to embarking on the journey that will be the 34th Annual Spartanburg Greek Festival so that we may continue to build our church, and share our culture with the Upstate community.

Finally, we would like to ask that anyone who took yard signs return them by Sunday, so that we may put them in storage for next year's usage.

With Love in Christ,
Fr. George Nayfa

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

P.O. Box 1107
697 Asheville Highway
Spartanburg, SC 29304

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS

October 2026



Saint Demtrios October 26th

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 2nd Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 12:15 Philoptochos Meeting	5	6	7 Fast Day	8	9 Fast Day	10
11 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 11:45 GOYA fundraiser 12:30 Parish Council Meeting	12	13	14 Fast Day	15	16 Fast Day	17 Sunday School Retreat Alexios Retreat Center October 17-18
18 3rd Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy	19	20	21 Fast Day	22	23 Fast Day	24
25 6th Sunday of the Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 12:30 Festival Volunteer Luncheon	26	27	28 Fast Day	29	30 Fast Day	31
1 NOVEMBER 1st 5th Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 11:45 Stewardship Luncheon	2	3	4 Fast Day	5	6 Fast Day	

Saints Demetrios and Nestor

Taken from "Orthodox Saints" by Fr. George Poulos

The names of Demetrios and Nestor are so linked in the annals of Christianity that it would be almost sacrilegious to mention one without the other in any account of the story of these two beloved men of God, who are now as inseparable in church archives as they were in life. It was their combined defiance of early fourth-century tyranny which brought them to a martyrdom, which individually they may not have attained, but which places them on equal footing in the final judgement. While Demetrios was the better known of the two, it was the quiet courage of his friend, Nestor, added to the complete piety of Demetrios, that assured their immortality.

Demetrios was a native of the city of Thessalonike, the city founded by Alexander the Great, who named it for a sister very dear to him. In the tradition of the great thinkers of ancient Greece, Demetrios honed his keen oratorical power in the public forum, where the debates of the great minds of the day drew the spirited Christians as much as the gladiatorial games attracted the pagans. As the second leading city of the empire, Thessalonike had a reputation for providing the brightest intellectuals on the public platform and the most fearsome gladiators in the arena, strange bedfellows, indeed, and oddly enough, in both of which the power of Demetrios was to find expression.

Demetrios was in the military service as well as a devout Christian, a study in contrast that was countenanced in Thessalonike, but when it came to the attention of the Emperor Maximianus, who had come for an annual exhibition of gladiatorial prowess in the arena, the dual nature met with royal displeasure. For his part in the Christian cause, Demetrios was stripped of his military rank and cast into prison to await an uncertain fate. It was at this point that the friendship of Nestor came to light. At great personal risk Nestor visited his friend in prison regularly and sought to intercede in his behalf, a move which availed him little but the aroused suspicions of those who surrounded the emperor. This provided the setting for one of the finest displays of the power of God through the friendship of two gallant Christians.

It seems that one of the favorites of the arena, admired particularly by the emperor, was a giant man named Lyaios, a seven foot brute who destroyed every hapless gladiator he ever faced, and for whom the pagans sought an opponent who at least had the courage to walk up to Lyaios and give a good account of himself before succumbing to the inevitable.

It was during one of his visits that Nestor heard from Demetrios that the power of the Lord could be transmitted through him to any man and make him invincible against any foe in the arena. The youthful Nestor, with the spirit of the true believer welling within him, agreed to hurl a challenge to the best of the gladiators with a declaration that the power of God would, thanks to his friend, Demetrios, prevail against all comers. Buoyed by the assurance of Demetrios, he stepped into the arena and shouted his defiance in the name of the Lord.

The pagan crowd, thinking this some practical joke, roared with laughter, but when Nestor strode to the royal box where Maximinus had looked on with amusement and heard the young man invoke the name of Demetrios and the awesome power of God, his smile turned to a snarl and the audience joined him in derision, whereupon the scowling Lyaios was brought into the pit. The crowd settled back to witness the anticipated cat and mouse match, which the giant would conclude when it pleased him. But they were brought to their feet in disbelief when the supposed victim withstood the withering attack of the gladiator who had never tasted defeat, and, in due course, turned the tables and soundly defeated the greatest of the gladiators. Nestor scorned the thumbs down signal of the mob who now screamed for death, and the young Christian walked away from his prostrated foe.

The frustrated emperor now ordered the deaths of both Christian companions, and they were executed without delay by the Roman soldiers. Not all who left the arena that day remained pagans.



St. Nicholas News

Monthly Bulletin of

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
697 Asheville Highway
P.O. Box 1107
Spartanburg, SC 29303

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

October 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

For every minute you are angry, you lose sixty seconds of happiness.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

I dreamt that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels.

My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, “This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.”

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, “This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them.”

I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. “This is the Acknowledgment Section,” my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed. “How is it that? There’s no work going on here?” I asked.

“So sad,” the angel sighed. “After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments.

“How does one acknowledge God’s blessings?” I asked.

“Simple,” the angel answered. “Just say, “Thank you, Lord.”

“What blessings should they acknowledge?” I asked.

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 pledge, and give to God.
4. Would I be ashamed for others to know the amount that I pledge, and eventually give?
5. Do I believe God is proud of what I pledge 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, it’s 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?



Thank you to our 2026 Sponsors!

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In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Theo Constan
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"If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world. "If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

has "And if you get this on your own computer, you are part of the 1% in the world who that opportunity."

Also

"If you woke up this morning with more health than illness you are more blessed than the many who will not even survive this day.

"If you have never experienced the fear in battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 700 million people in the world.

"If you can attend a church meeting without t fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death ... you are envied by, and more blessed than, three billion people in the world.

"If your parents are still alive and still married .. you are very rare.

If you can hold your head up and smile, you are not the norm, you are unique to all those in doubt and despair."

Ok, what now? How can I start?

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you as very special and you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Have a good day, count your blessings, and if you want, pass this along to remind everyone else how blessed we all are.

Attn: Acknowledge Dept.: Thank You Lord!

"Thank you Lord, for giving me the ability to share this message and for giving me so many wonderful people to share it with."

Announcements

2026 Pledges | We are coming to the end of 2026. If you have not turned in your pledge card for the year, we ask that you do so. Remember that in order to vote at the General Assembly or for the new parish council you must be in good standing.

Sunday School | Sunday School has begun for the 2026-2027 year and 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. Registration is still open, and your child can be placed in the proper class.

Please note that classes begin every Sunday at 9:45 a.m. It is important that each child be there on time to receive the full benefits of the program. At 10:25 a.m. the classes end, and the children then go to church to sit with their parents. If you cannot bring your child, please car pool so that the children can be there every Sunday.

Sunday School Retreat | We’re heading back to the Alexios Retreat Center for our annual Sunday School Retreat!. October 17-18th. \$75 a person. Includes 1 night stay in a cabin and 3 meals. Please contact Anna Gilman (864) 804-3412 to sign up. We look forward to a wonderful weekend of fellowship and fun together!

GOYA Fundraiser - OCTOBER 11th | Join us for a delicious Hot Dog Fundraiser to help raise money for the 2026 Winter Youth Rally! Enjoy your favorite HOT DOGS along with all the tasty sides.

Stewardship Luncheon | All are welcome to join us for lunch in the Hellenic Center on Sunday, **November 1st** after Liturgy. This is offered at no cost to you - see you there!

Spartanburg Greek Festival Volunteer Luncheon | October 25th

A Special Thank You to Our Volunteers! We would like to invite everyone who generously volunteered their time and talents at this year’s Spartanburg Greek Festival to join us for a special Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. Your hard work, dedication, and support helped make the festival a success, and we want to take this opportunity to say thank you! Luncheon is free for all festival volunteers.

Please join us for a delicious meal, fellowship, and a celebration of everyone who gave their time to make our Greek Festival possible. We look forward to seeing you there! With gratitude and appreciation, The Spartanburg Greek Festival Committee

Church Schedule

October 2026

4	Prosphoro Dr. Lina Miraziz Jung
	Pangari David Jung, Conrad Allen
	Coffee Hour Debi Flegas, Melissa Ross, Andrea Slauch
11	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari Mike Lydakis, Maria Tsoulos
	Coffee Hour GOYA Hotdog Fundraiser
18	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari Kiki Couchell, Constantine Ghionis
	Coffee Hour TBA
25	Prosphoro Mrs. Donna Mavroftas
	Pangari Ramzi Ayyad, Themis Rubio
	Coffee Hour Festival Volunteer Luncheon
1	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari Ramzi Ayyad, Elena Ghionis
	Coffee Hour Stewardship Luncheon

Our Sympathies | The Parish wishes to extend it sympathies to Mr. Pete Mavromatis and his family on the falling asleep in the Lord of his beloved mother, Marina Mavromatis in Greece. She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She will truly be missed.

May Her Memory be Eternal!