

# **ST. NICHOLAS**

# **NEWS**

## **February 2026**



**Meeting of our Lord**  
**February 2nd**



## **St. Nicholas News**

Monthly Bulletin of

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

Temporary Priest until Fr. George returns

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## **February 2026**

### **SUNDAY**

Orthros | 9:45 am

Sunday School | 9:45 am

Divine Liturgy | 10:15 am

### **WEEKDAY**

Orthros | 9:45 am

Divine Liturgy | 9:45 am

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## **Schedule of Services**

Holy Confession: Available by appointment.

### **Weekday Services**

Saturday, February 14 | 1st Saturday of the Souls

Saturday, February 28 | 2nd Saturday of the Souls

## **The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple**

**February 2**

When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.

The Apodosis of the Feast of the Meeting in the Temple is usually on the 9th of February. This, however, may vary if the Feast falls within the period of the Triodion. Should this occur, the Typicon should be consulted for specific information concerning the Apodosis of the Feast.

### **Apolytikion of Presentation of Our Lord in the First Tone**

Hail Virgin Theotokos full of Grace, for Christ our God, the Sun of Righteousness, has dawned from you, granting light to those in darkness. And you, O Righteous Elder, rejoice, taking in your arms, the Deliverance of our souls, who grants us Resurrection.

### **Kontakion of Presentation of Our Lord in the First Tone**

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

## February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <b>Sunday of the Publican &amp; Pharisee   Tridion Begins</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy	2 <b>Presentation of the Our Lord into the Temple</b>	3	4	5	6	7
		No Fasting   February 1-8				
8 <b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy 11:30   Philoptochos Silver Tea	9	10	11	12	13	14 <b>Saturday of the Souls</b> 9:45   Orthros 10:00   Divine Liturgy 10:00   Memorial Service
		Fast Day				
15 <b>Judgement Sunday (Wheatfare)</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Fast Day				
22 <b>Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy 12:45 pm   Parish Council Meeting	23 <b>Great Lent Begins</b> Clean Monday	24	25 <b>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</b> 5:30 pm	26	27 <b>1st Salutations to the Theotokos</b> 5:30 pm	28 <b>Saturday of the Souls</b> 9:45   Orthros 10:00   Divine Liturgy 10:00   Memorial Service
		Dairy Permitted this Week   dairy, eggs, fish, wine & oil allowed   February 16-22				
		FASTING FOR GREAT LENT (February 23-April 11)				
1 <b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy	2	3	4	5	6	7
		FASTING FOR GREAT LENT (February 23-April 11)				
FASTING FOR GREAT LENT (February 23-April 11)						

## **Do I Gain Anything by Fasting and Praying?**

Fasting is first and foremost an expression of our faith and love for God. For those we love, we willingly make sacrifices; so too in Lent, we offer a small sacrifice to place God first in our lives. Fasting calls for an act of will and allows us to share, in a small way, in Christ's crucifixion, guarding our hearts from being overwhelmed by daily distractions.

Fasting is also a powerful spiritual weapon. As St Isaac the Syrian teaches, if Christ Himself fasted, how can we neglect it? By fasting, we detach from worldly concerns and turn our focus toward repentance and spiritual growth. "The sacrifices of God are a contrite spirit" (Psalm 51:17). As our passions are calmed, our spiritual vision becomes clearer, our conscience awakens, and our desire for repentance deepens.

Fasting strengthens prayer. St Basil the Great says it lifts our prayers to God "as if on wings," and St John Chrysostom reminds us that during fasting the soul becomes lighter and more attentive. This is why fasting is such a blessed time for sincere, repentant prayer.

Yet fasting is not only about food. True fasting involves the whole person—turning away from sin and embracing humility, mercy, and love. As St John Chrysostom teaches, the eyes, ears, tongue, and hands must also fast. To fast rightly is to feed the hungry, comfort the suffering, forgive others, and practice compassion and peace.

As we fast bodily, let us also fast spiritually, uniting outward discipline with inward humility. Lent is a sacred season of prayer, repentance, confession, and preparation to receive the Holy Mysteries. Fasting and prayer are a healing remedy for the soul. As the Fathers affirm, fasting purifies the heart, drives away evil, and opens the way to repentance and salvation.

In the Love and Service of our Lord Jesus,  
+Fr. Vasileios

## **"Your Own From Your Own we offer to You..."**

A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, can I have ten dollars?" The father, wanting to understand, told the boy "Yes, but can you tell me what you plan to do with ten dollars?" The little boy replied quietly, "Daddy, I need the money to buy you a present."

We are not so different from that little boy. In every Divine Liturgy, when our gifts of bread and wine are blessed and lifted up in offering to God our Father, we hear the words, "*Your own from Your own we offer to You.*" We acknowledge that, just like the little boy buying a gift for his father, everything we have and everything we offer to God first comes from Him. In the Divine Liturgy, we offer bread and wine to God with thanksgiving. He returns them to us as His body and blood in Holy Communion as we receive Jesus Christ within us.

**"...but make me worthy, Your sinful and unworthy servant, to offer these Gifts unto You. For You are the Offerer and the Offered, Who accepts and is distributed, O Christ our God...."** Priestly prayers before Holy Communion

**See our Church, Not as it Is, But as it Could Be.**

Too often, we view St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in terms of survival—asking what it costs, what is owed, what are my dues for the year, how much do I owe? These are all earthly concerns. A more faithful question is: What can I give and do so that the Church may become all it is meant to be—the Body of Christ in the world? With vision and faith, we desire not only a church for ourselves, but one for generations yet to come.

As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God's gift and a means of communion with Him. Like the boy in the New Testament who offered five loaves and two fish, and Jesus multiplied them to feed the 5,000, we are called to offer what we have, God receives our humble gifts and multiplies them to feed the world.

When we see great need in our community and in the world, we may ask, "If God is so loving, then why is there so much poverty and suffering in the world? Where is God when we need Him?" Sometimes the need is so overwhelming that to help at all seems impossible, but in the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, we are taught to offer what we have, no matter the amount, and miracles will happen.

So it is with our church, we often imagine only what is humanly possible. If we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of "**Your own from Your own.**" We will see our church, not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God's generosity and love. With our faithful offering, we will see in our church as they did in the early Church, "...the Lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

**“Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches, and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly gifts. Grant them in return for earthly things, heavenly gifts; for temporal, eternal; for corruptible, incorruptible.” - from the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great**

May God remember all who bear fruit, do good works, and care for the poor, and reward them with heavenly and eternal gifts

Become a steward of St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church today. Join a family that cares for one another and loves one another no matter what your background or race is. We see you and love you as an image of God.

+Fr. Vasileios

## 6 Facts about the Triodion

- 1) Begins on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
- 2) Ends on Pascha, with the Service of the Midnight Office
- 3) Contains hymns for 10 Sundays and over 70 individual days
- 4) Originally written in Greek as early as the 9th century
- 5) Its precursors are dated to the 5th and 6th centuries
- 6) Refers to both the book and the period before Great Lent





Philoptochos  
IS  
SPONSORING A  
Membership &  
Silver Tea

AFTER CHURCH  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026

SIGNUP SHEET WILL BE AVAILABLE  
TO JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS

MISSION: AIDS THE SICK, THE POOR,  
AND VULNERABLE AND PROMOTES  
PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS.

DONATIONS: PROCEEDS USED FOR ITEMS  
NEEDED IN THE ALTAR OR INSIDE THE CHURCH





# Announcements

**Saturday of the Souls** | On February 14th, February 22nd, we will be remembering the souls of our departed loved ones. If you have names to be read, please give them to Fr. Vasileios before these dates.

**Stewardship** | Pledge cards are available at the Pangari or contact a Parish Council member. Remember that prayer is the foundation of stewardship! Please continue to pray for Father George and his family.

## **Stewardship Update - YTD 12/31/25**

\$89,280 - 41 Families Pledged 2025

\$207,076 - Actual gifts

\$206,067 - Budget

\$73,620 - 25 Families Pledged 2026

**Life Line Screening** will be coming to the Hellenic Center | February 11th - 9 am- 4 pm  
St Nicholas members get a discount on testing.

## **Congratulations!**

**Baptism** | Maria Vassilaras was baptized on Sunday, December 28, 2025, in our church. She is the daughter of Theoharis and Anna Vassilaras. The Godparents are Theodoros and Kalliopi Palivos. Congratulations!

**Na Sas Zisi!**

## **Blessing Homes & Businesses**



Fr. Vasileios will be blessing homes and businesses beginning after **January 6, 2026**, through the start of Great Lent on **February 23, 2026**, using the Holy Water from the Great Agiasmos Service of Theophany.

If you would like to have your home or business blessed sign up using the sheet in Pangari.

# Schedule

**February 2026**

**Sunday, February 1**

Coffee Hour | Georgiana Williams (Memorial Service)

Prosphoro | TBA

Pangari | Themis Rubio & Kiki Couchell

**Sunday, February 8**

Coffee Hour | Philoptochos Silver Tea

Prosphoro | TBA

Pangari | Ed Griffin & Britt Becknell

**Sunday, February 15**

Coffee Hour | Tarazi Family (Memorial Service)

Prosphoro | TBA

Pangari | Ramzi Ayyad & David Jung

**Sunday, February 22**

Coffee Hour | TBA

Prosphoro | TBA

Pangari | Mike Lydakis & Constantine Ghionis

**Special screening package for  
\$129 for our members includes:**

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!  
**800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



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February 11th - 9 am - 4 pm

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