

Sunday School

Sunday School for the 2026-2027 school year has begun. 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. There are a total of five levels of classes available. They are: 3-5 years old; 1st-2nd grades; 3rd-5th grades; 6th-8th grades; and the High School 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 students then go to church to sit with their parents. If you cannot bring your child, please use car pools so that the children can be there every Sunday. Any questions? Please call the Church Office at (864) 585-5961.

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

ST. NICHOLAS NEWS September 2026



**Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 14th**

September 2026

- Festival
- Services
- Fasting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Beginning of the Ecclesiastical Year	2	3	4	5
		Labor Day	Fast Day		Fast Day	
6 14th Sunday of Matthew 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 11:45 Dance Practice	7	8 The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos 8:30 Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy	9	10	11 Package Kourambedes Package Tiropites and Spanakopita	12 Rolling Dolmades 9:30 a.m.
			Fast Day		Fast Day	
13 Sunday before Holy Cross 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 11:45 Dance Practice 12:00 Dolmades & Souvlakia	14 The Elevation of the Venerable & Life-giving Cross 8:30 Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy Baklava Souvlaki	15 Make Pastry samplers and make baklava samplers TENT SETUP	16 Set up tables and skirt pastry booth. Tent lights Dining Stations Signage	17 Festival Outside Setup Festival Dance Practice 5:30 pm	18 GREEK FESTIVAL	19
	Strict Fast Day		Fast Day		Fast Day	
20 Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross 8:30 Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy 11:00-6 pm Greek Festival GREEK FESTIVAL	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Fast Day		Fast Day	
27 1st Sunday of Luke 9:45 Orthros 9:45 Sunday School 10:15 Divine Liturgy 12:15 Parish Council Meeting	28	29	30			

The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Giving Cross

September 14 Reading

Saint Helen, the mother of Saint Constantine the Great, when she was already advanced in years, undertook, in her great piety, the hardships of a journey to Jerusalem in search of the cross, about the year 325. A temple to Aphrodite had been raised up by the Emperor Hadrian upon Golgotha, to defile and cover with oblivion the place where the saving Passion had been suffered. The venerable Helen had the statue of Aphrodite destroyed, and the earth removed, revealing the Tomb of our Lord, and three crosses. Of these, it was believed that one must be that of our Lord, the other two of the thieves crucified with Him; but Saint Helen was at a loss which one might be the Wood of our salvation. At the inspiration of Saint Macarius, Archbishop of Jerusalem, a lady of Jerusalem, who was already at the point of death from a certain disease, was brought to touch the crosses, and as soon as she came near to the Cross of our Lord, she was made perfectly whole. Consequently, the precious Cross was lifted on high by Archbishop Macarius of Jerusalem; as he stood on the ambo, and when the people beheld it, they cried out, "Lord have mercy." It should be noted that after its discovery, a portion of the venerable Cross was taken to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church built by Saint Helen, until the year 614. At that time, the Persians plundered Palestine and took the Cross to their own country (see Jan. 22, Saint Anastasius the Persian). Late, in the year 628, Emperor Heraclius set out on a military campaign, retrieved the Cross, and after bringing it to Constantinople, himself escorted it back to Jerusalem, where he restored it to its place.

Rest from labour. A Fast is observed today, whatever day of the week it may be.

Apolytikion of Elevation of the Holy Cross in the First Tone

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your commonwealth by Your Cross.

Kontakion of Elevation of the Holy Cross in the Fourth Tone

Lifted up on the Cross by Your free will, Christ God, grant mercies to the new commonwealth that bears Your name. Gladden our faithful rulers by Your power, giving them victories over their adversaries. May Your alliance be for them a weapon for peace, an invincible standard.



St. Nicholas News

Monthly Bulletin of

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

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Reverend Father George F. Nayfa
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Website: www.stnicholasgoc.org

September 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

Tuesday, September 8th | Nativity of the Theotokos
Monday, September 14th | The Elevation of the Venerable & Life-giving Cross

Guidelines for Respectful Worship

Probably the most important duty that we each have as worshippers attending church services is to do all that is in our power to see that a proper decorum and atmosphere is maintained so that all of the congregation is able to pray sincerely, peacefully and meaningfully.

It is with this fact in mind that we have set forth the following guidelines:

Upon entering the Church, at all times, but especially during services an individual should remember that he or she is in the House of God. Reverence and good manners are required so as not to disturb those who are already engaged in prayer, but, even more importantly, as an expression of sincere faith and awareness of the presence of the Lord. No irrelevant conversations should take place, either in the Narthex or in any part of the Church.

According to actual church service procedures, each and every member of the congregation is required to be seated in the pews at the beginning of the service. It is only by leniency that anyone is allowed to enter the Church once the services have begun. Thus it behooves us not to take undue advantage of this leniency.

There are several parts of the service during which no one should be moving about. Wherever a person happens to be at these moments, he or she should stop and stand reverently, until the proper time to proceed. These parts of the service are:

1. The Procession of the Priest and Altar Boys with the Gospel;
2. The reading of the Gospel;
3. The Cherubic Hymn and the Great Procession of the Priest and Altar Boys with the Holy Gifts;
4. The recitation of the Nicene Creed (in which the entire congregation should participate);
5. The prayers of offering "Take, eat..." and the prayers of the consecration of the Holy Gifts;
6. The Sermon;
7. Any special services (memorial services, processions, prayers).

One basic rule to follow is that, whenever the Priest is facing the people or outside of the altar, either with the censer or giving the blessing, everyone should stand wherever they are.

Please remember that the Parish Council members and the ushering staff are required to keep order during services, and all should follow their instructions at all times.

DEPARTMENT OF OUTREACH & EVANGELISM

GREEK FESTIVAL 2026

Work Schedule

September 11th - 17th | 10:00 until finished

September 11 | Friday

Package Kourambedes in package of 4
Package Tiropites and Spanakopita

September 12 | Sat | 9:30 am

Rolling Dolmades

September 13 | Sunday

Making Dolmades & Souvlakia
Put up fencing and mark parking lines

September 13-15 | Sun, Mon, Tues

AM & PM Hours
Trim, Cut, Marinate, and skewer souvlakia

September 14 | Monday

(10:00-2:00 and 4:00 to 6:30)
Cutting & Cupping Baklava

September 15 | Tuesday

(10:00-2:00 and 4:00 to 6:30)
Cutting Baklava & making pastry samplers
and small baklava samplers.
Tent Set-Up

September 16 | Wednesday

Make large pastry samples
Set up tables with tablecloths, skirt pastry
booth and stock with pastries.
Place plastic tablecloths on the tables and
decorate the tables.
Set up dining station and signage.
Set up tent lights on Wednesday &
Thursday.

Food Preparation for the festival. Many
hands needed to prepare food.

September 17 | Thursday

Cup Specialty Desserts (10:00 AM)
Bring all outside equipment
The following booths:
1) Ice Cream,
2) Loukoumades,
3) Outside Grill
are to be set up and stocked by each
booth chairperson with items needed to
begin festival by Friday.
Vendors set up tents.
Children's Dance Practice

Festival open to the public 18, 19, 20

*Thank you in advance for all the volunteers
that can come help before, during, and after the festival.*

The Festival Committee

Greek Festival

September 18-20, 2026

www.SpartanburgGreekFestival.com

VOLUNTEER: When you arrive for your shift, please check-in at the Volunteer Tent. You'll receive a name tag and a ticket good for half-off one meal (not including pastries or alcoholic beverages).

The SignUp Genius is ready for you.

Reserve your spot today!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/greekfestival26#>

Festival Chairman:

Constantine Ghionis

COMMITTEES:

Festival Chair - Constantine Ghionis, constantine.ghionis@gmail.com

Inside Dining - Claire Bourland, clairebourland610@gmail.com

The Grill - Litsa Sinclair, littiepoo07@yahoo.com

Admissions - Patty Miller, patriciamiller44@gmail.com

Beverages, Banking - Ron Dill, ron.dill@gmail.com

Bookkeeper - Maria Small, miasmall62@gmail.com

Dancers - Anna Gilman, annagilman19@gmail.com

Grants, Licenses, Security - Mike Lydak, lydakismike@gmail.com

Kafenion - Niko Gilman, nikogilman@bellsouth.net

Kitchen, Food/paper supplies - Jon Couchell, joncouchell@charter.net

Loukoumades - Kristina Berry, berr1676@bellsouth.net

Marketing, Volunteers, POS - Genie Becknell, genie.becknell@gmail.com

Parking/Grounds Management - Lolo Rubio, lolorubiot@gmail.com

Pastries, Rentals - Kiki Couchell, kikicouchell@charter.net

Sponsors - Nick Small, nasmall82@gmail.com

Taverna & Vendors- Martha Nayfa, greeknayfa@gmail.com

Fr George Nayfa - Fearless Supporter, fathergn@gmail.com

Meaning Of The Elevation Or Exaltation of The Holy Cross

In the liturgical observances of Good Friday the Church views the Crucifixion within its original setting, as an event in the first Holy Week at Jerusalem. At the feast of the Exaltation, by contrast, the Cross is regarded rather in its effects upon the subsequent history of the Church. On Good Friday the note is predominantly—though never exclusively—of sorrow and mourning; on September 14 the Cross is commemorated in a spirit of triumph, as a ‘weapon of peace and unconquerable ensign of victory’ (kontakion of the feast.)

The services for the day allude in particular to four themes:

(a) There are constant references to the vision of the Cross seen by the Emperor Constantine in the year 312, shortly before his victory over Maxentius.

(b) The feast of the Exaltation recalls more especially the finding of the True Cross by Constantine’s mother, St. Helen. As the news of the discovery spread through the Holy City, vast crowds gathered to venerate the Cross of the Lord. The Patriarch of Jerusalem, St. Makarios, carried it up into the pulpit: and when the people saw it lifted on high, they all began to cry out, again and again, Kyrie eleison, ‘Lord, have mercy’—an event recalled in the service of the day, with the frequent repetition of Kyries at the ceremony of Exaltation.

(c) The feast on September 14 also commemorates the second great Exaltation of the Cross, at Constantinople in 629. The True Cross had fallen into the hands of the Persians in 614, when they captured the Holy City of Jerusalem. It was subsequently recovered by the Emperor Heraclius and brought to the capital, Constantinople, where it was triumphantly exalted in the Great Church of Agia Sophia.

(d) Finally, there are allusions to an event which is no more specifically commemorated on September 13: the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection, built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and completed in 335.

In the title of the feast, the Exaltation is termed ‘universal’. This is an essential element in the meaning of the festival: the power of the Cross extends to every part of the universe, and the salvation which it brings embraces the entire creation. That is why, in the ceremony of Exaltation, the priest turns in blessing towards each point of the compass: ‘The four ends of the earth, O Christ our God, are sanctified today’ (troparion at the ceremony of Exaltation).

From: “The Festival Menion”

Announcements

Special Note For Sunday September 20th | On Sunday, September 20th the Orthros will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:00 a.m. due to the Festival.
REMEMBER THIS IS ONLY FOR THE 20th.

Festival | Please remember that the festival is just around the corner on September 18, 19 and 20. **Help is still needed for all three days especially!**
Set-up on September 15-17th.

Stewardship | As a reminder, if you have not filled out a pledge card for 2026, please do so. This will ensure that our records for 2026 are accurate and you are getting recognition for your contributions.

Stewardship YTD 7/31/26
Annual Pledged - 44 Families \$110,773
Annual Budget \$232,000
Actual gifts YTD \$101,861

Altar Boys | One of the most meaningful ministries for a young man is to serve in the altar during worship services. These young men are needed ingredients in the whole worship process. We invite all young males, second grade and up, to give their names to Fr. George by September 28th to be included in the new Altar Boys list which will begin October 5th. Even if he has been in the altar previously, we ask that the name be submitted again. In this way, I am receiving an assurance that he is committing himself to this Diakonia.

Sympathies:

The Parish wishes to extend its sympathies to Johnny Paradeses and his family on the falling asleep in the Lord of his wife, Tona Paradeses on August 13, 2026. She was a beloved wife, mother, sister, & aunt. She will truly be missed.

May Her Memory Be Eternal!

Church Schedule

September 2026

6	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari Elena Ghionis, Kiki Couchell
	Coffee Hour TBA
8	Prosphoro TBA
13	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari Logan Griffith, Mike Lydakis
	Coffee Hour TBA
14	Prosphoro TBA
20	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari David Jung
	Coffee Hour Greek Festival
27	Prosphoro TBA
	Pangari Conrad Allen, Ramzi Ayyad
	Coffee Hour TBA