

**Saint Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church**

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**Sunday, January 25, 2026**  
*Fifteenth Sunday of Luke*

8:45am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

## Hymns of the Day

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and condescended to be buried for three days, so that from the passions You might set us free. Our life and resurrection, O Lord, glory be to You.

΄Απολυτίκιον. Άναστάσιμον. Ήχος πλ. δ΄.

΄Εξ ύψους κατῆλθες ὁ Εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφὴν κατεδέξω τριήμερον,  
ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσῃς τῶν παθῶν. Ή ζωὴ καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασις  
ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.

### **Apolytikion of Saint Gregory the Theologian in the First Mode**

The shepherd's pipe of your theology overpowered the horns of the orators. For the more you plumbed the depths of the Spirit, ever greater eloquence was bestowed on you. O Father Gregory, intercede with Christ God, entreating Him to save our souls.

### **Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode**

An example of the faith and a life of humility: \* as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, \* and through the truthfulness of your deeds \* were exalted to greatness through your humility, \* uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. \* Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, \* intercede with Christ our God \* that our souls may be saved.



### **Kontakion of the Presentation of Christ in the First Mode**

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord.

## Communion Verse

Praise the Lord from the heavens. Alleluia.

Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν. Ἀλληλούϊα.

*And the following:*

The righteous will be remembered for ever. Alleluia.

Εἰς μνημόσυνον αἰώνιον ἔσται δίκαιος. Ἀλληλούϊα.

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### Epistle Reading

**Hebrews 7:26 – 28; 8:1 – 2**

Brethren, it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the sanctuary and the true tent which is set up not by man but by the Lord.

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 19:1 – 10**

At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on

account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way.

And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

## Saints and Feasts

### Gregory the Theologian, Archbishop of Constantinople

This great Father and Teacher of the Church was born in 329 in Arianzus, a village of the second district of Cappadocia, not far from Nazianzus. His father, who later became Bishop of Nazianzus, was named Gregory, and his mother was named Nonna; both are among the Saints, and so are his brother Caesarius and his sister Gorgona.

At first he studied in Caesarea of Palestine, then in Alexandria, and finally in Athens. As he was sailing from Alexandria to Athens, a violent sea storm put in peril not only his life but also his salvation, since he had not yet been baptized. With tears and fervour he besought God to spare him, vowing to dedicate his whole self to Him, and the tempest gave way to calm. At Athens Saint Gregory was later joined by

Saint Basil the Great, whom he already knew; but now their acquaintanceship grew into a lifelong brotherly love. Another fellow student of theirs in Athens was the young Prince Julian, who later as Emperor was called the Apostate because he denied Christ and did all in his power to restore paganism. Even in Athens, before Julian had thrown off the mask of piety; Saint Gregory saw what an unsettled mind he had, and said, "What an evil the Roman State is nourishing."

After their studies at Athens, Gregory became Basil's fellow ascetic, living the monastic life together with him for a time in the hermitages of Pontus. His father ordained him presbyter of the Church of Nazianzus, and Saint Basil consecrated him Bishop of Sasima, which was in the archdiocese of Caesarea. This consecration was a source of great sorrow to Gregory, and a cause of misunderstanding between him and Basil; but his love for Basil remained unchanged.

About the Year 379, Saint Gregory came to the assistance of the Church of Constantinople, which had already been troubled for forty years by the Arians; by his supremely wise words and many labours he freed it from the corruption of heresy, and was elected Archbishop of that city by the Second Ecumenical Council, which assembled there in 381, and condemned Macedonius, Archbishop of Constantinople, the enemy of the Holy Spirit. When Saint Gregory came to Constantinople, the Arians had taken all the churches and he was forced to serve in a house chapel dedicated to Saint Anastasia the Martyr. From there he began to preach his famous five sermons on the Trinity, called the *Triadika*. When he left Constantinople two years later, the Arians did not have one church left to them in the city. Saint Meletius of Antioch, who was presiding over the Second Ecumenical Council, died in the course of it, and Saint Gregory was chosen in his stead; there he distinguished himself in his expositions of dogmatic

theology.

Having governed the Church until 382, he delivered his farewell speech—the Syntacterion, in which he demonstrated the Divinity of the Son—before 150 bishops and the Emperor Theodosius the Great. In this speech he requested, and received from all, permission to retire from the see of Constantinople. He returned to Nazianzus, where he lived to the end of his life, and reposed in the Lord in 391, having lived some sixty-two years.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

“In the morning I give my right hand to God, to offer praise and nothing shadowy, but as much as possible to sacrifice the day to you, that remaining unshaken, I may be master of my passions. . . . This is my desire, my Christ. Guide me straight.”

- St. Gregory the Theologian, *Poems on Scripture* II.1.24

## Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Robert Tewis; Robert (Tikhon) Foster; Lance (Stylianos) Schmitt

*If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.*

# Parish Information

## House Blessings

Following the feast of Holy Theophany (January 6), we have the tradition of blessing homes. If you would like to schedule a house blessing for the days following Holy Theophany, please contact Fr. Jeremy.

## Church School

Church School for our children begins following Holy Communion. We have two classrooms: one for elementary-school ages, and one for middle school and up. Please allow our Church School kids and their teachers to come up for Communion first.

## Introduction to Orthodox Christianity

Our Adult Ed class meets on Sundays following coffee hour. We meet in the classrooms downstairs. Any who would like to learn more about our Orthodox Faith, whether a newcomer or a life-long member, are welcome to attend. Please contact Fr. Jeremy to be added to the distribution list for readings.

## Byzantine Chant Classes

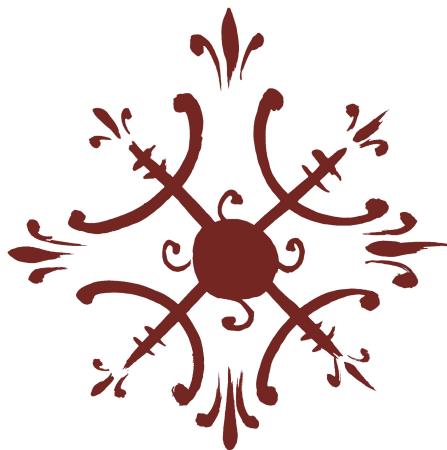
Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

## Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **February 7 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

## Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, February 12** at 12pm.



## This Week at St. Nicholas

- Tuesday, January 27 **Removal of the relics of St. John Chrysostom:** 8:30am Orthros & Typika
- Wednesday, January 28: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, January 29: 6pm Great Vespers
- Friday, January 30 **Three Holy Hierarchs:** 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, January 31: 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers