



**Saint Nicholas  
Greek Orthodox Church**

3585 North 12th Street, Grand Junction, CO 81506

Office Phone: (970) 242-9590

[www.saintnicholasgj.org](http://www.saintnicholasgj.org)

Rev. Fr. Jeremy Troy, *Proistamenos*  
[frjeremytroy@gmail.com](mailto:frjeremytroy@gmail.com)

**Sunday, February 8, 2026**  
*Sunday of the Prodigal Son*

8:30am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

## **Hymns of the Day**

### **Second Antiphon**

Save us, O Son of God, who were held in the arms of righteous Symeon. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Τιὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἐν ἀγκάλαις τοῦ δικαίου Συμεὼν βασταχθείς, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

## **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode**

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

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

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.

## **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.

# Gospel and Epistle Readings

## Epistle Reading

### 1 Corinthians 6:12 – 20

Brethren, “all things are permitted for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are permitted for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” — and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

## Gospel Reading

### Luke 15:11 – 32

The Lord said this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them.

“Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.”’ And he arose and came to his father.

“But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed

your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

## Saints and Feasts

### Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The Fathers have put this reading the week after the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition, we might come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Those who have wrought many great iniquities often fall into despair, thinking that there can be no forgiveness for them; and being without hope, they fall every day into the same and worse iniquities. The divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach that there is no sin that can overcome at any time His love for man.

### Afterfeast of the Presentation of Christ

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, to present Him in the temple according to

the Law of Moses, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves, as required by the Law.

On this same day, a devout man, the aged Symeon, was 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 and took Him up into his 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.

### **Great Martyr Theodore the Commander**

The holy Martyr Theodore dwelt in Heraclea. He was a commander in the military, and the report came to the Emperor Licinius that he was a Christian and abominated the idols. Licinius sent certain men to him from Nicomedia, to ask him to appear before him. Through them, however, Theodore sent back a message that Licinius must come to Heraclea.

When the Emperor came to Heraclea, Theodore met him with honor, and the Emperor gave Theodore his hand, believing that through him he would be able to draw the Christians to the worship of his idols. Seated on his throne, he bade Theodore offer sacrifice to the gods. Theodore asked that the emperor entrust him with the most venerable of his gods, those of gold and silver, that he might take them home and attend upon them, promising that the following day he would honor them in public. The Emperor gave command that Theodore's request be fulfilled.

When the Saint had taken the idols home, he broke them in pieces and distributed the gold and silver to the poor. The next day a centurion told Licinius that he had seen a pauper

pass by carrying the head of Artemis. Licinius, in an uncontrollable fury, had the Saint put to many torments, then crucified. While upon the cross, the holy Martyr was further tormented, and he was left on the cross to die. The next day Licinius sent men to take his corpse and cast it into the sea; but they found the Saint alive and perfectly whole. Through this, many believed in Christ. Seeing his own men turning to Christ, Licinius had Theodore beheaded, about the year 320.

## Parish Prayer List

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

Robert Tewis; Robert (Tikhon) Foster; Lance (Stylianos) Schmitt; Alexandra Currier; Karen (Marie) Eagle; Beth Robinson

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

## Parish Information

### 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, **March 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, February 10 **Hieromartyr Haralambos**: 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
- Wednesday, February 11: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, February 12: 12pm Ladies' Luncheon
- Saturday, February 14 **Saturday of Souls**: 9am Orthros, 10am Divine Liturgy, 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers