

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 31, 2025

12th Sunday after Pentecost

The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most-holy Theotokos



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

***Please turn off or silence your electronic devices
before entering the church. Thank you.***

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Schedule for the Week of August 31, 2025

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – Tone 3. The restoration of the church of the Theotokos at Neorion (Neorion). The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Mother of God (395-408). Hieromartyr Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage (258). St. Gennadius, Patriarch of Constantinople (471). St. Aidan, Bishop of Lindesfarne (651).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Monday, September 1st - Fr. Nikolai's Day Off
Wednesday, September 3rd - 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Friday, September 5th - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Coffee Hour Today

Coffee Hour Today will be the Kavchok & Radio Tailgate

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

****Live Stream will also be available for all services.****

- Thursday, September 4** **CANCELLED** - 9:00 am - Akathist to the Theotokos, Nurturer of Children
5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Saturday, September 6**
Sunday, September 7 **13th Sunday After Pentecost**
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
6:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Monday, September 8** **Nativity of the Theotokos**
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
- Tuesday, September 9** 7:00 pm - Parish Council Meeting
- Saturday, September 13** 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, September 14 **14th Sunday After Pentecost**
Exaltation of the Cross
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 20 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, September 21 **15th Sunday After Pentecost**
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, September 27 5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, September 28 **16th Sunday After Pentecost**
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Upcoming Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Some may not know, but Council Meetings are open to all Parishioners to observe. If you wish to attend, please let Fr. Nikolai or Jen know, so we know to expect you.

Administrative Assistant's Schedule

Please be advised that the St. Nicholas Church Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Bzik, will be traveling internationally from Thursday, September 10 through Sunday, September 21. During this time, please contact Fr. Nikolai regarding any urgent matters. Kindly refrain from calling or texting Jennifer during this time if at all possible. Feel free to email, but be aware that she will not be responding to emails until after her return.

In preparation for being out of the office, the Bulletins for Sunday, September 14 and Sunday, September 21 will be printed early. Please send any announcements for those dates no later than Sunday, September 7. If something else comes up that needs to be announced, please inform Fr. Nikolai so that he may make the announcement at the conclusion of the Liturgy.

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 31, 2025

12th Sunday after Pentecost

The Placing of the Cincture (Sash) of the Most-holy Theotokos

Tone 3 Troparion *(Resurrection)*

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world great mercy.

Tone 8 Troparion *(Theotokos)*

Ever Virgin Theotokos, protectress of mankind, thou hast given thy people a powerful legacy: the robe and sash of thy most honored body which remained incorrupt throughout thy seedless childbearing; for through thee time and nature are renewed. Therefore we implore thee: "Grant peace to thy people and to our souls great mercy!"

Tone 3 Kontakion *(Resurrection)*

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Tone 4 Kontakion *(Theotokos)*

Today thy flock celebrates the enshrinement of thy precious sash, and it earnestly cries out to thee: "Rejoice, O Virgin, boast of all Christians!"

Tone 3 Prokeimenon *(Resurrection)*

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
(Ps. 46:6)

Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy! (Ps. 46:1)

Epistle

(1 Corinthians 15:1-11) Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you - unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time. For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Tone 3

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

In Thee, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps. 30:1a)

Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps. 30:2b)

Gospel

(Matthew 19:16-26) Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?" So He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which ones?" Jesus said, "'You shall not murder,' 'You shall not commit adultery,' 'You shall not steal,' 'You shall not bear false witness,' 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" The young man said to Him, "All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me." But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Communion Hymn

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! *(Ps. 148:1)*
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Candle Offerings for Sunday, August 31, 2025

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory Of Dr. Julius Herz, Offered by Dan & Jean Jubinski

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Dr. Julius Herz, Offered by Peter & Sarah Jubinski

Votives in Iconostas

In Honor Of Fr. Alexandros Petrides, Offered by Fr. Michael & Mat. Susan Kon

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

In Memory Of Anna Kanerva, Offered by Barb, Kyra & Gregory

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Happy Anniversary Becky & Jerry Volkert, Offered by Gordon & Val Roberts

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

Happy Anniversary Kyra & Andrew, Offered by Mom & Dad

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist (2)

Happy Anniversary Peter & Jamee Slivka, Offered by Fran & Mike Slivka

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Family

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

Thoughts for the New Year - A Time for Renewal

The first day of the New Year is a traditional time we evaluate our past and set new goals for the coming year. Often we couch these as “resolutions.” We commit to losing weight, exercising more, improving our business and so forth. We might even commit ourselves to reading the Scriptures every day or making a commitment to daily prayer or regularly attending church and participating in the fasts and sacraments regularly. These efforts to seek to better our life physically and spiritually are important. Yet there are only a few such resolutions that last more than a few weeks.

Why is this? Simply because we don't set out to make a habit out of what we commit to, making them part of our normal life routine. We are so influenced by our culture that we expect instant results. We are impatient, too used to comfort, and quickly tire of things that require discipline and hard work. But if we truly seek to be an Orthodox Christian we must do both of these. This is what the Orthodox way of life is all about. Our spiritual growth does not come without effort and discipline. This is how the apostle Peter puts it: Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love (2 Peter 1:5-7).

Being an Orthodox Christian is about a way of life. We must seek to live in a way that we become the “aroma of Christ” to our surroundings (2 Cor 2:15). This means that we must develop a presence that influences others by our way of living and acting.

This is a good time to review the following ten principles of an Orthodox Way of life and reflect on our own life style. asking what changes do I need to make to improve my “aroma.”

1. Praying Daily: Have a regular prayer rule that includes morning and evening prayer.
2. Worshiping and Participating in Sacraments: Attend and participate in the Divine Liturgy receiving Holy Communion regularly as well as regular participation in Confession.

3. Honoring the Liturgical Cycle of the Church: Follow the seasons of the church and participate in the fasts and feasts of the Church.
4. Using the Jesus Prayer: Repeat the Holy name whenever possible throughout the day or night.
5. Slowing Down and Ordering Your Life: Set priorities and reduce the stress and friction caused by a hurried life.
6. Being Watchful: Give full attention to what you are doing at the moment.
7. Taming the Passions: Overcome your habits, attachment to your likes and dislikes, and learn to practice the virtues.. Putting Others First: Free yourself from your selfishness and find joy in helping others.
9. Spiritual Fellowship: Spend time regularly with other Orthodox Christians for support and inspiration.:
10. Reading the Scriptures and Holy Fathers: Be inspired by the lessons of the Holy Scriptures, the wisdom of the Holy Fathers and the lives of the Saints of the Church.

The starting point is always prayer coupled with regular participation in the Divine Liturgy and regular preparation and partaking of Holy Communion. Fasting and the practice of the Jesus prayer can help build the necessary discipline and a attitude of repentance where we are constantly asking for God's mercy and help.

If you seek spiritual enrichment in the coming year, then don't let yourself fall into a dull slumber of inattention to what really matters. Engage yourself in your spiritual development and allow the Holy Spirit to transform you from the inside out. Don't seek instant results from God like he was an ATM machine. Seek and thirst after him. Don't fret about how distant He seems. Commit yourself to live the life He has provided for you through His Church. The Church is given to us for our benefit. It outlines for us how we can become self-disciplined and gain His help to transform our lives so that we truly live in Him and He in us as the Scripture says.

May God enlighten you and bring you many Blessings in the Coming New Year.

Deacon Haralambos (Charles) Joiner
Saint George Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Greenville, SC

A Note of Thanks

Sending many thanks for all the help in making our halupki this past week. So many of you were able to offer your time and energy to come set up and prep, make the halupki, and clean up over the four days. We made about 1600 halupki in record time this year because we had so many hands available. Some will be used for our Christmas Bazaar, and the rest for another halupki dinner. Until next time, may God's grace be with you all.

With love in Christ,
Val

Weekly Offering Envelopes for 2026

It's hard to believe, but it is already time for us to begin planning for 2026! In reviewing our records, we have noticed that a growing number of parishioners are using online banking to make their offering, and are not using the traditional weekly envelopes. Any method of making donations is always welcome! In the interests of saving some paper and a few dollars for the church, we would like to check in with you to see if you are still interested in receiving a box of weekly envelopes for 2026.

- If you received a personalized box of weekly envelopes in 2025, and you would like to receive the same style box of offering envelopes in 2026, you do not need to take any action. Your box will be available to pick up at the candle desk towards the end of the year.
- If you received a personalized box of weekly envelopes in 2025, and you would like to discontinue those envelopes, please notify Jennifer Bzik by September 15, 2025.
- If you did not receive a personalized box of weekly envelopes in 2025, and you would like to receive a box for 2026, please notify Jennifer Bzik, and confirm your mailing address by September 15, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Bzik

Frozen Halupki 4 Packs

As a reminder, Frozen Halupki 4 packs are still available for \$15. Please see Val Roberts if you are interested.

Welcome Back Children!

Sunday School Begins:

September 7 with a Moleben prayer immediately following Divine Liturgy. There will also be a brief meeting during coffee hour to hand out the Church School Calendar and review the church school structure for the year.

September 14 Sunday classes begin just before dismissal

Please see John Heitzenrater if you wish your child/grandchild to be enrolled in our Sunday School program if he/she has not been enrolled before this year. Children must turn 4 by October 1st to begin Sunday School.

Parents - Please also note that we have created an emergency contact form for our students. Please stop by the candle desk and fill out a form for each child enrolled in the Sunday School program. Even if you have filled out this form in the past, please complete and updated version for our records. Thank you!

Pierogi Making Schedule

NO PEROGI MAKING ALL SUMMER Monday, June 9 to Wednesday, Sept. 10
RESUME Making our delicious pierogi Monday, September 15, Tuesday, September 16 and Wednesday, September 17.

Upcoming Baking Schedule

Many hands make light work, and we have lots to do to prepare for the upcoming Christmas Bazaar! Please consider helping out if you are able. Contact Pat Grammes if you have any questions.

Sunday, September 7	12:00 pm (after liturgy) - Kiffle dough prep
Thursday, September 4	9:00 am - Roll Baking
Wednesday, September 10	8:00 am - Kiffle filling/baking
Thursday, September 18	9:00 am - Roll Baking
Thursday, September 25	9:00 am - Roll Baking
Thursday, October 2	9:00 am - Roll Baking



The Stuckey Family does not have a specific registry, since they have most of the larger items. Things they would appreciate most include: diapers, bibs, socks, and boy clothes since this little one will be the first boy after two girls.

Heavenly Father...

Physician of our souls and bodies, Who has sent Your only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Your Servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in this sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For You are the source of healing, and to You we give glory; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers for the Health of the Servants of God:

Archbishops: Melchisedek Pleska, Nathaniel Popp

Igumen: Patric Carpenter, David Lewis

Archpriests: Nikolai Breckenridge, Thomas Edwards, John Perich, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, David Shewczyk, Ian Shipley, James Weremedic, John Onofrey, George Hasenecz, Emilian Hutnyan, John Nightingale

Deacons: Geoffrey LoBalbo

Matushki: Liudmyla Breckenridge, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic, Stephanie Onofrey, Julia Romanchak

Servants: Bethany Bruder, Theresa Butler, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Alexis Defoe, Maryann Dudash, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Marina (Margaret) Heitzenrater, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Sava Hrebinka, Sherry Hromiak, Krista Irwin, Michael H. Isbansky, Shirley Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Alexandra Keysock, William Keysock, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, Bernard Kusior, Jean Kusior, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Radu Lungu, Mircea Lupo, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Amber Metz, Michael Metz, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Nicolae & Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Joseph Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, William Potter, Rosalie Radio, Laurel Riley, Gordon Roberts, Leah Roberts, Barbara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Nancy A. Sabol, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Dorothy Stafiniak, Maeve Stuckey, Patricia Telepchak, Irene Witanek, Sandra Wyslutsky

Catechumen: Elizabeth Glazman, Tonia Matyger, Alejandro Santiago

Handmaiden: Christina Mazur, Corinne Stuckey, and their unborn children; Christina Heitzenrater, Kerry Kurtz, Amanda Riley and their newborn children.

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.