



Saint Nicholas
Greek Orthodox Church
2525 South 25th Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34981
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Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church



The Voice

**March
2025**

**We were called to
be witnesses,
not lawyers or judges.**





The Voice is published monthly by
Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church

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 Fort Pierce, FL 34981
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The Rev. Father Andrew Maginas

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Meetings

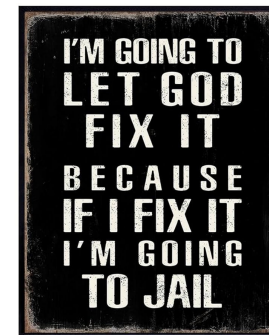
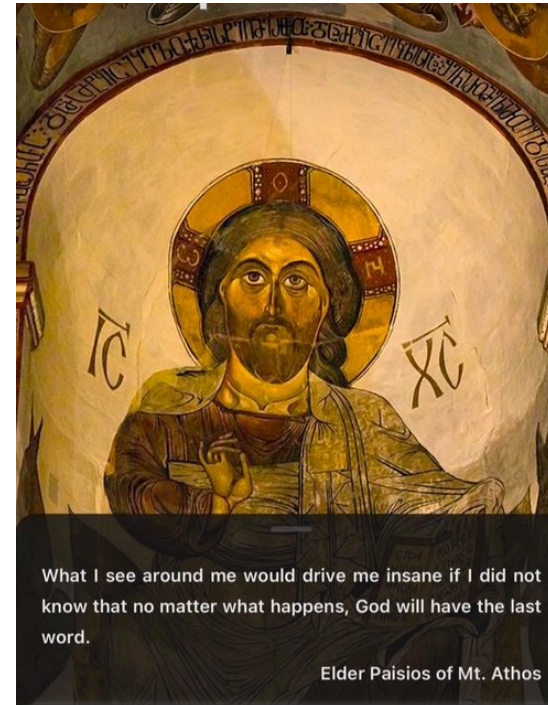
- Parish Council**
3rd Tuesday
7:00 PM
- Philoptochos**
1st Saturday
11:00 AM
- Bible Study**
Every 2nd & 4th
Wednesday
10:30 AM
- Addiction Support**
Every 2nd & 4th
Monday
6:00 PM
- GOYA**
last Sunday
12:00 noon
- Adult**
Dance Classes
Ann Athans
- Book Store**
Kathy Beasley
- Prison Ministry**
Shannon Foreman

Philoptochos

- President**
Stacey Louka
- Vice President**
Sharon Colonis
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Betty Cruz
- Corresponding Secretary**
Toni Rekus
- Treasurer**
Toula Bouchoc
- F.I.S.H.E.R. Men**
Aaron Knapp
Every 1st & 3rd
Monday
6:00 PM

On the Web
stnicholasfp.com

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- YouTube**
St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Ft Pierce, FL



Note to Parishioners:
 We invite all parishioners to submit items of interest for our monthly newsletter, *The Voice*.
 This may include articles, stories that are relevant and important news in the lives of our parishioners.
 Please submit material to the church office before the 15th of each month for review and inclusion in the next month's issue. Thank you.

Friend of St. Nicholas

Some of you who receive The Voice do not live in the Treasure Coast and are stewards of other Greek Orthodox parishes. We would like to ask for your support of our parish by being a "Friend of St. Nicholas Church". Your contribution as a "Friend" will help offset the cost of production of The Voice.

This does not make one a steward of St. Nicholas but gives one who is a steward elsewhere, an opportunity to make a gesture of financial support to our parish. Thank you for your consideration.

Friend of St. Nicholas:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I wish to become a Friend of St. Nicholas Church. I am enclosing a contribution in the amount of:

_____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other _____

Please mail this form and check to:

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
2525 South 25th Street
Ft. Pierce, FL 34981

Spiritual Growth and Great Lent

Great Lent is devoted to our preparation for the Holy Week and Resurrection of our Lord. Preparation is the key to our spiritual exp. We often speak about fasting. Most see fasting or abstaining from eriencecertain foods as the central theme of Great Lent.

Fasting is a spiritual exercise which helps us prepare for the coming Holy Week and Pascha. Fasting makes room for the additional prayers and services of this holy season of preparation. We cannot "fast" without partaking of the increased prayer life as individuals and as a worshipping community as well as increased scriptural and devotional readings. The void left by fasting must be filled. If we do not fill it with prayer and devotions, the Evil One will fill it with temptations and acts which lead to spiritual destruction. There are a number of opportunities for us to gather in prayer as a church family during Great Lent.

Each Wednesday in Great Lent the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is celebrated. This ancient Liturgy is called "Presanctified" because the Body and Blood of Our Lord are not consecrated during this Liturgy. They are consecrated during the Divine Liturgy of the preceding Sunday. The Presanctified Liturgy is one of the most ancient services of the Christian Church. To the faithful it offers a wealth of spiritual greatness to enhance all who travel the road of Great Lent.

The First Prayer of the Faithful in the Presanctified Liturgy is quietly offered by the priest shortly before we kneel as the presanctified gifts, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, are brought to the Holy Altar from the Prothesis. This Great Entrance, in contrast to the usual Sunday Divine Liturgy, has the priest taking the most direct path on the Solea rather than processing through the congregation.



The prayer reads: *O God, great and praised, through the life-giving death of Your Christ, You have borne us from corruption to immortality. Liberate all our senses from killing passion, setting over them as a benevolent sovereign our inner reason. Let the eye be averted from every evil sight, and the ear be deaf to idle talk. May the tongue be purged of unseemly speech. Purify these lips that praise You, Lord. Make our hands abstain from wicked deeds, doing only such things as are pleasing to You, thus sealing with Your grace all our members, and our mind.*

The Salutations to the Theotokos are chanted on the first four Friday evenings of Great Lent. The Akathist Hymn combines the Salutations on the fifth Friday. All are invited to join us for the Potluck Lenten Dinner and Reflections on our Orthodox Christian Faith and Great Lent following these services on March 7, 14, 21, 28 and April 4. These Reflections assist us to grow spiritually as we proceed towards Great and Holy Week.

During this period of fasting, let us be more aware of what comes out of our mouths than what goes in. In the epistle of St. James, we read that the tongue is fire and with it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who are made in the likeness of God (*James 3:6-9*). What we say cannot be retracted. What we say wounds deeply. Let us instead love our neighbor and speak soothing, comforting words. This is the immediate fruit of the successful "fast". Remember to look up at the icon of Jesus each time we exit the church (on the West wall below the choir loft). It is our reminder to "Love One Another" as we exit the church and re-enter the world. Have a blessed Lent! *Kali Tessarakosti!*

The Lenten prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, do not permit the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power and idle talk to come into me.

Instead, grant me, your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience and love.

Yes, Lord and King, give me the power to see my own faults and not to judge my brother.

For you are blessed unto the ages of ages.

BEST EVER SENIOR CITIZEN JOKE

A little silver-haired lady calls her neighbor and says, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle, and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbor asks, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver-haired lady says, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decides to go over and help with the puzzle. She lets him in and shows him where she has the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studies the pieces for a moment, then looks at the box, then turns to her and says, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster."

He takes her hand and says, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea, and then," he said with a deep sigh...

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

Words to heal the soul

10 Lessons I Want to Instill in My Kids...

If you're thankful, show it.
 If you love someone, tell them.
 If you're wrong, fess up.
 If you're confused, ask questions.
 If you learn something, teach others.
 If you're stuck, ask for help.
 If you made a mistake, apologize.
 If you trip, get back up.
 If someone needs help, help them.
 If you see wrong, take a stance.

5 TYPES OF GIVERS IN THE CHURCH

- 05 THE LEGACY GIVER**
Have the means to alter the trajectory of churches and committees.
- 04 THE SURRENDERED GIVER**
The joyful surrender who doesn't want to hold anything back from God.
- 03 THE INTENTIONAL GIVER**
Evaluates finances and understands their budget reflect their priorities.
- 02 THE CONSISTENT GIVER**
Wants to be a part of the team. May or may not be a "member," but with a desire to belong.
- 01 THE FIRST-TIME GIVER**
Moved by teaching, compelled by the vision, or perhaps simply convicted by God.

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Philoptochos



Greetings,

Thank you to all who helped with setting up the Philoptochos table for the festival and to those who tended the table. A report on sales should be available at our next meeting.

DATE CHANGE: It has been decided to move the date of our March meeting to the 2nd Saturday of the month which is the 8th. We cannot be sure the hall will be back to normal or if cleaners are still working. March 8th is the 3rd Saturday of Souls, therefore the meeting will start at 11:30. Come early and attend Liturgy and fill out a form with names of the deceased you would like Fr. Andrew to read. If you **have** submitted your names, Fr. Andrew has them to read at all three services. Forms will be available if needed.

Great and Holy Lent begins on March 3, 2025. Philoptochos has many items on our “to do” list in preparation for Pascha and will need our ladies to volunteer when possible. Tsoureki bread with the egg will be sold for \$15 on March 30, April 6, and April 13 after Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Eggs will be cooked and dyed, oiled, and wrapped on Holy Thursday, April 17, after Divine Liturgy in the church hall.

At our last meeting Fr. Andrew spoke of his schedule for week day services. The Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will begin on Wednesday, March 5 at 6 pm. Thereafter, this service will rotate the start time; the next service will be Wednesday, March 12, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at 9 am followed by Bible Study in the church hall.

The salutations begin on Friday, March 7 at 6 pm, followed by a light, Lenten meal and discussion by Fr. Andrew. Helen Fiorentinos and Joani Mihalakos are in charge of asking for volunteers to host a meal. Please contact them if you would like to bring a dish.

With Love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis – Vice President

**“God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.”
(Hebrews 6:10)**

Stewardship

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our 45th Greek Festival is now behind us. Our festival was a perfect example of Christian Stewardship. Sincere thanks to all who gave of their TIME working at various stations; their TALENT which ensured all stations were prepared and ready for our visitors; and their TREASURE for supporting our festival with purchases of the delicious food and pastries and many other products that were available. A most glorious tribute to our Lord for our many blessings. We should have a financial accounting in next month's letter.

Sincere thanks to those who have submitted their 2025 Stewardship Form. Stewardship requires commitment to a spiritual way of living, a holy habit. Stewardship is "giving back" in gratitude for all God has given us. We may ask: how much should I give? The answer is a personalized one, between you and God, and one should prayerfully make that decision. A helpful hint comes from the Bible, "give from the first fruits of our labor rather than the left overs".

There are two important reminders I would like to mention. First, know that your stewardship of money is kept in the strictest of confidence. Second, it is understood that during the year circumstances can change. If you are unable to meet your stewardship commitment do not be concerned, we are glad you are a part of this parish.

Great and Holy Lent begins on March 3. May it be a journey of spiritual growth and renewal.

With Love in Christ,
Sharon Colonis, Stewardship Chair

*"Let everyone give as his heart tells him, neither grudgingly, nor under compulsion, for God loves the man that gives cheerfully."
(II Corinthians 9:7)*



2025 GREEK FESTIVAL



Annunciation of the Theotokos

March 25

Six months after John the Forerunner's conception, the Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth, a town of Galilee, unto Mary the Virgin, who had come forth from the Temple a mature maiden (see Nov. 21). According to the tradition handed down by the Fathers, she had been betrothed to Joseph four months. On coming to Joseph's house, the Archangel declared: "Rejoice, thou Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." After some consideration, and turmoil of soul, and fear because of this greeting, the Virgin, when she had finally obtained full assurance concerning God's unsearchable condescension and the ineffable dispensation that was to take place through her, and believing that all things are possible to the Most High, answered in humility: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And at this, the Holy Spirit came upon her, and the power of the Most High overshadowed her all-blameless womb, and the Son and Word of God, Who existed before the ages, was conceived past speech and understanding, and became flesh in her immaculate body (Luke 1:26-38).

Bearing in her womb the Uncontainable One, the blessed Virgin went with haste from Nazareth to the hill country of Judea, where Zacharias had his dwelling; for she desired to find Elizabeth her kinswoman and rejoice together with her, because, as she had learned from the Archangel, Elizabeth had conceived in her old age. Furthermore, she wished to tell her of the great things that the Mighty One had been well-pleased to bring to pass in her, and she greeted Elizabeth and drew nigh to her. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she felt her six-month-old babe, Saint John the Baptist, prophesied of the dawning of the spiritual Sun. Immediately, the aged Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and recognized her as the Mother of her Lord, and with a great voice blessed her and the Fruit that she held within herself. The Virgin also, moved by a supernatural rejoicing in the spirit, glorified her God and Savior, saying: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour," and the rest, as the divine Luke hath recorded (1:39-55)



March 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2nd Saturday of Souls 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM - Memorials
2 Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) 8:45AM - Matins 9:45 AM - Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM - Forgiveness Vespers	3 Clean Monday (Great Lent Begins) 6:00 PM - F.I.S.H.E.R. Men	4	5 6:00 PM - Presanctified Liturgy	6	7 6:00 PM - 1st Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	8 3rd Saturday of Souls 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy 11:00 AM - Memorials 11:30 AM - Philoptochos
9 Sunday of Orthodoxy 8:45AM - Matins 9:45 AM - Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm - Pan-Orthodox Vespers at St. Philip, Davie	10 6:00 PM - Addiction Support Group 7:00 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	11	12 9:00 AM - Presanctified Liturgy 10:30 AM - Bible Study	13	14 6:00 PM - 2nd Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	15
16 Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas 8:45AM - Matins 9:45 AM - Divine Liturgy	17 6:00 PM - F.I.S.H.E.R. Men	18 7:00 PM - Parish Council Meeting	19 6:00 PM - Presanctified Liturgy	20	21 6:00 PM - 3rd Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	22
23 Sunday of the Holy Cross 8:45AM - Matins 9:45 AM - Divine Liturgy Independence Day Luncheon	24 6:00 PM - Addiction Support Group 7:00 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos 9:00 AM - Matins 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy 11:30 AM - Bible Study	26	27	28 6:00 PM - 4th Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	29 Parish Oratorical Festival
30 Sunday of St. John Climacus 8:45AM - Matins 9:45 AM - Divine Liturgy	31					