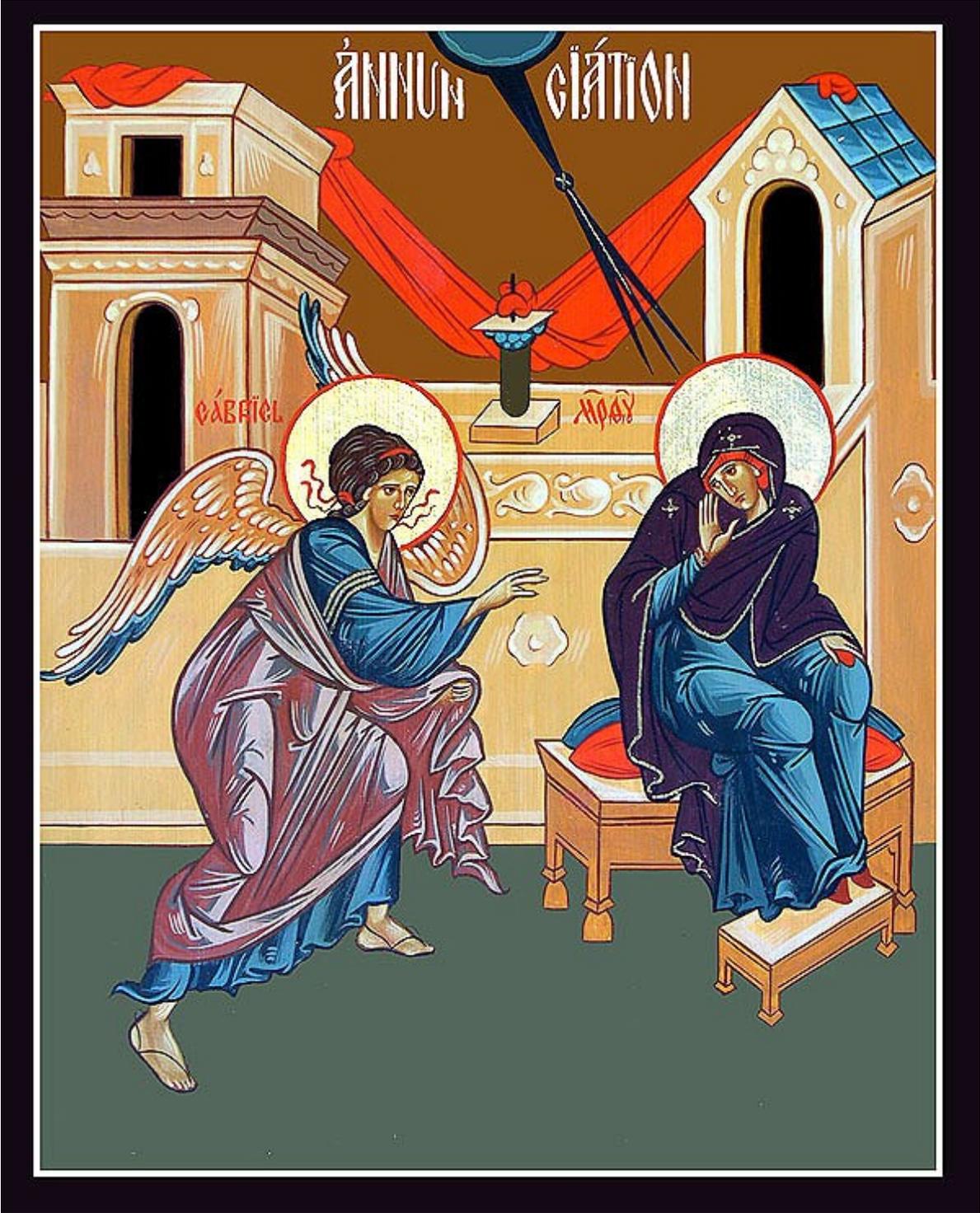




# The Voice

March  
2026





*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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**Director**  
 Helen Kutukyan

**Deli**  
 Kevin & Betty Cruz

**Meetings**

**Parish Council**  
 3rd Tuesday  
 6:30 PM

**Philoptochos**  
 1st Saturday  
 10:00 AM

**Bible Study**  
 Every 2nd & 4th  
 Wednesday  
 10:30 AM

**GOYA**  
 last Sunday  
 12:00 noon

**Adult**  
**Dance Classes**  
 Ann Athans

**Book Store**  
 Chayse Cloonan

**F.I.S.H.E.R. Men**  
 Aaron Knapp  
 Every 1st & 3rd Monday  
 6:00 PM

**Discover Orthodoxy**  
 Every 2nd & 4th Monday  
 6:30 PM

**Philoptochos**

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 Stacey Louka

Vice President  
 Helen Penkosky

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[Facebook.com/  
 stnicholasfp/posts](https://www.facebook.com/stnicholasfp/posts)

**YouTube**  
 St Nicholas Greek Ortho-  
 dox 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.

## FASTING - THE LENTEN DISCIPLINE, AND THE MIRACLE OF THE KOLYVA



We hear people talk about “giving up” something for Lent. Our practice in the Orthodox church is not to choose what we want to give up but rather to follow the discipline of Great Lent, our annual spiritual pilgrimage. We are invited to build this discipline in order to make the right choices in all aspects of our life.

While fasting we must replace the foods from which we are fasting with prayer. We should be aware of how much we consume when fasting not just what we are eating. A good rule is that we should not leave a meal feeling stuffed but rather that we could have eaten more.

We celebrate the Feastday of Saint Theodore the first Saturday of Great Lent. We remember him during at this time because of the miracle of the kolyva which took place during the first week of Great Lent. Here is the story of Saint Theodore of Tyron from the Great Horologion:

*Saint Theodore, who was from Amasia of Pontus, contested during the reign of Maximian (286-305). He was called Tyro, from the Latin Tiro, because he was a newly enlisted recruit. When it was reported that he was a Christian, he boldly confessed Christ. The ruler, hoping that he would repent, gave him time to consider the matter more completely and then give answer. Theodore gave answer by setting fire to the temple of Cybele, the “mother of the gods,” and for this he suffered a martyr’s death by fire.*

The following excerpt from the Great Horologion relates the miracle of the kolyva:

*In the year 362, Julian the Apostate, knowing that the Christians purify themselves by fasting especially during the first week of the Fast, Clean Week, planned to defile them at that time. Therefore he secretly commanded that during those days the markets be filled with foods that had been defiled with the blood of animals offered in sacrifice to idols. But by divine command the Martyr Theodore appeared during sleep to Eudoxios, then Archbishop of Constantinople. The Saint revealed to him the tyrant’s plan, then told him to call the faithful together immediately on Monday morning and prevent them from purchasing those foods, but rather to make kolyva to supply their needs. The bishop asked what kolyva might be, and the Saint answered, “Kolyva is what we call boiled wheat in Euchaïta.” Thus, the purpose of the Apostate was brought to nought, and the pious people who were preserved undefiled for the whole of Clean Week, rendered thanks to the Martyr on this Saturday, and celebrated his commemoration with kolyva. We remember this each year to the glory of God and the honor of the Martyr Theodore.*

During this period of fasting, we must 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.”

Have a blessed Lent! *Kali Tessarakosti!*

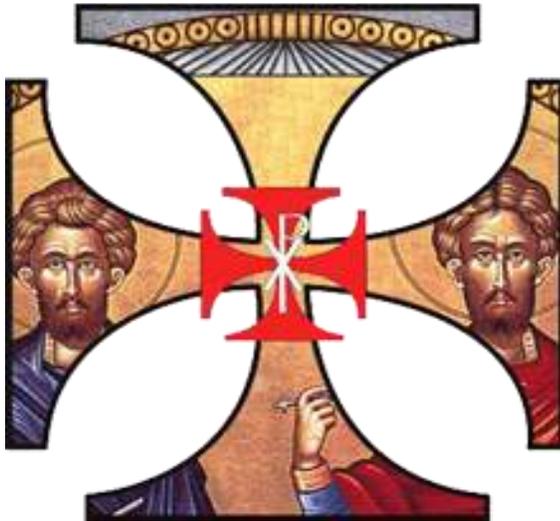


# Annunciation of the Theotokos

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)



# Philoptochos

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What is a Steward?

Stewardship is the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as a Parish; our active commitment to use our time, talent, and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love. (*Oriented Leadership*)

What a glorious weekend for our Annual Greek Festival! Thank you to all who gave so much of their time to ensure the festival was a great success. The hours of preparation, the hours spent during the festival, and the hours of dismantling and cleaning up. What a beautiful testament to everyone working together; a true meaning of stewardship.

Now we are on our journey of Great and Holy Lent. As we attend more services, fasting as one is able, we anticipate His Resurrection when all will join in singing "Christ is Risen from the Dead . . ." May we be blessed with God's strength as we make our journey towards Great and Holy Pascha.

Sincere thanks for the response to our call to become Stewards for 2026. To date, 72 forms have been received for a total pledged of \$118,460. If you have not yet submitted your 2026 form, we ask that you do so at your earliest convenience; and prayerfully consider what you can offer to God with joyful gratitude for your many blessings. Your gifts enable St. Nicholas Church to spread the Word of Christ and to support her ministries and charities throughout the year.

With love in Christ,  
Sharon Colonis  
Stewardship Chair

***"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, NIV)

# Your Stewardship

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(Hebrews 6:10, NIV)

# 2026 Greek Festival



Visit our website and facebook page for more festival photos.



# Thank you parishioners and friends of Saint Nicholas!

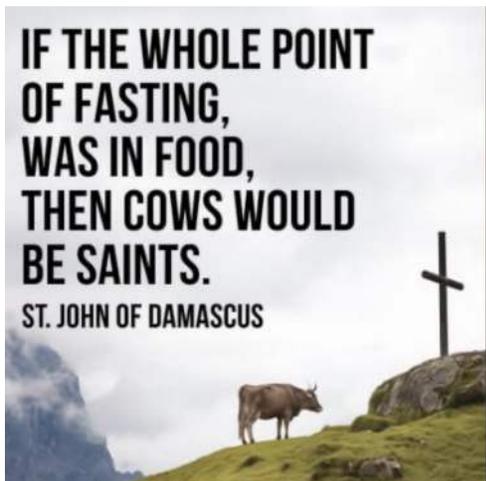
We concluded the weeks leading to Great Lent with our annual Greek Festival. We were blessed with all the conditions which help an endeavor like this succeed. The weather was warm and stayed dry until after the last lunch rush. Most importantly all of our community came together once again working the long hours of preparation for the festival, the marathon of the festival weekend, and as exhausted as they were our crew came back Monday to dismantle, clean, and store away for next year the staging and equipment used for the festival.

We missed those who were ill and unable to help this year and look forward to having them with us next year. I am especially proud of how everyone came together in each area of the festival to welcome our visitors and hear them say that this is the best festival they attended. What we accomplish this year brings our visitors back again next year. Thank you for your dedication and love for our Saint Nicholas parish.

Finally, we thank our youth that practiced for weeks with their teachers. They shared with our guests the joy of the Greek dances. They were superb!

Have a blessed Great Lent,

Father Andrew



# A Message from the President

Dear Parishioner,

One of the major fundraisers for our church is the Community Easter Card, which is sent to all members of our parish. Please support this yearly project by completing the attached form and returning it to the church office by the deadline of

**Tuesday, April 1, 2026**

The cost of printing your name on the card is \$25.00 per family.

Please make checks payable to Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church. You may place your form and donation in the trays on Sunday, or send it to the church office at 2525 South 25th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34981, or pay online from our website at [www.stnicholasfp.com](http://www.stnicholasfp.com).

Love in Christ,

Kevin Cruz

Parish Council President

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and return this portion with your donation.

## Easter Card Form

Print your name as it is to appear on the card:

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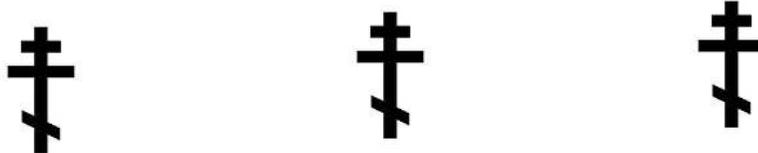
Enclosed Payment: Cash\_\_\_\_\_

Check\_\_\_\_\_



## Donations Needed For Great and Holy Lent

Once again we must prevail upon your love for the Church in order to provide flowers, candles, etc. for the services of Holy Lent. If you are able to help, please indicate the item and place your donation in one of the Lenten envelopes along with this form. You can also use the QR Code below and pay directly from our website. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



### Sunday of the Holy Cross

Daffodils - \$300

### Palm Sunday

Palms Strips and Crosses - \$100

Bridegroom Icon Frame - \$150

### Holy Wednesday

Holy Unction Olive Oil - \$15

### Holy Thursday

Candles for Top of Crucifix - \$15

### Holy Friday

Epitaphios Flowers - \$800

Rose Petals for Myrrh Bearers - \$30

White Sheet for Shroud - bring one

Rose Water - bring one bottle

### Holy Saturday

Bay Leaves - \$100

Resurrection Banner - \$175

Eight Iconostasion Swags - \$30 each

Large Garland - \$100

Five Small Garlands - \$30

Large Lily Plants - \$25

Small Lily Plants - \$15



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

# March 2026

<b>Sunday Services:</b> <b>8:45 AM-Orthros</b> <b>10:00 AM-Liturgy</b>						
<b>1</b> Sunday of Orthodoxy	<b>2</b>  6:00 PM - FISHER Men	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>  6:00 PM-Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  6:00 PM Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Philoptochos
<b>8</b> St. Gregory Palamas  *Daylight Savings Time Begins	<b>9</b>  6:30 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM - Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 10:30 AM- Bible Study	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Sunday of the Holy Cross	<b>16</b>  6:00 PM - FISHER Men	<b>17</b>  6:30 PM - Parish Council Meeting	<b>18</b>  6:00 PM-Pre-Sanctified	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  6:00 PM Salutations & Potluck Lenten Dinner	<b>21</b>  11:00—St. John Chrysostom Oratorial Festival
<b>22</b> St. John Climacus  Greek Ind. Lunch.	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM - Discover Orthodoxy	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> The Annunciation 9:00 - Matins 10:00 - Liturgy 11:30 AM- Bible Study	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  GraceWay prep.
<b>29</b> St. Mary of Egypt  GraceWay cooking	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			6:00 PM Akathist Hymn & Potluck Lenten Dinner	