

Saint Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Shrewsbury Massachusetts
Biserica Ortodoxă Română Sfântul Nicolae Shrewsbury Massachusetts

34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545
Parish Priest Vasile Aileni
www.stnicholaschurch.org || tell (508) 320 0645

WEEKLY BULLETIN
Sunday February 9, 2025

Sunday Services

9:00 a.m. - Matins;
10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy;
11:30 a.m. - Coffee Hour

This Week's News

ICON AUCTION – Due to upcoming weather conditions on Sunday, February 9, we have to cancel the Icon Auction and the Luncheon that we were planning to have. We will postpone the event to February 23rd, which is the Sunday before the Lenten fast - Meatfare Sunday.

MUSTARD SEED MEAL – We would like to thank to Jenny Montvitt and Stephen Ellis for generously sponsoring our next Mustard Seed Meal on **Friday, February 21st**. We would also like to thank to all our volunteers to help us bagging and deliver the food! May God bless you all!

THE FAITH MAGAZINE October/December 2024 – We received the Faith magazine and you can take a copy with you from the candle stand.

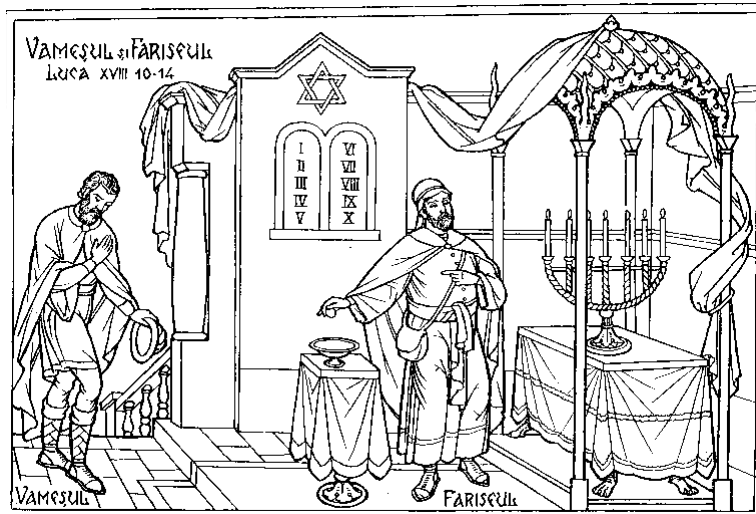
SATURDAY OF THE SOULS BEFORE EASTER:

On Saturday, February 22, we will have the memorial service for all loved ones fallen asleep in the Lord: at 10:00 am

TRIODION - The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. It marks the beginning of a time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

KONTAKION FOR THE PHARISEE AND PUBLICAN

Let us flee the Pharisee's conceited vaunting; let us learn the Publican's humility, and cry with groans unto the Savior: Thou Who alone art swiftly reconciled, be gracious unto us.



The Thirty Third Sunday after Pentecost
The Triodion Begins

Apostol Reading: 2 Timothy 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

(Parable of the Publican & the Pharisee)
Tone 8 † Resurrection Gospel 11

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace, for from thee arose the Sun of justice, Christ our God, lighting those who are in darkness. Rejoice and be glad, O righteous elder, carrying in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, Who granteth us Resurrection.

KONTAKION OF THE PRESENTATION

Thou, O Christ God, Who by Thy Birth, didst sanctify the Virgin's womb, and, as is meet, didst bless Simeon's arms, and didst also come to save us; preserve Thy fold in wars, and confirm them whom Thou didst love, for Thou alone art the Lover of mankind.





"Brothers, it is important not to lie to yourselves. He who lies to himself and allows himself to be penetrated by his own lie ends up never distinguishing the lie from the truth, and gradually even alienates himself from any form of truth, and by the one inside him, and by the one outside, around, losing, at the same time, his respect for himself and for others."

Feodor M. Dostoevsky
1821 - 1881

**Happy Birthday! God Grant You
Many More Years!**

Feb 7 - Evan Sparages
Feb 13 – Serghei Cebotari
Feb 18 – James Trakadas

Let us Pray for the good health of:

Andrei, Mark, Irene - Ekaterina, Psa Aza,
Betty Ekaterina, Psa Ileana, Luiza, Andrew,
Margareta, Marius-Nicolae, Loredana-Anca,
Teodora, Joanne, Deborah-Ann, Rebeka, Fr.
George, Fr. Stefan and his son Andrei for their
helath and for their salvation!
Amin!

Dates to remember:

February 2 - The Presentation of Our
Lord and Savior in the Temple
February 9 - Icon Auction
February 9 - Triodion Begins
February 21 - Mustard Seed Meal
February 23 - Meatfare Sunday
March 2 - Forgiveness Sunday
(Cheesefare)

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD! Though we constantly provoke you, Lord God, in your boundless mercy you never abandon us. In your own mysterious ways, you ease the burdens of our life, giving us the strength to bear them, and you answer us, again in your own way, when we cry out to you in distress. Still, though we seldom hear or understand your response, by faith we try to remember that you are there and that you hear us. Teach us to live as you wish us to, and, in your loving kindness, increase and confirm our faith. For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!



Cercetează-ți Credința

Vă invităm să participați, prin intermediul Programului educațional „Cercetează-ți Credința!”, la o nouă serie de evenimente dedicate celebrării Anului Omagial al Centenarului Patriarhiei Române și Anului Comemorativ al Duhovnicilor și Mărturisitorilor Ortodocși Români din Secolul al XX-lea.

În fiecare a doua joi a fiecărei luni, începând cu ora 7:00 PM EST | 6:00 PM CST | 4:00 PM PST, catehezele vor fi susținute de către Domnul Profesor Dragoș Ursu, având ca temă principală „O istorie a Ortodoxiei în spațiul românesc. Devenire instituțională și biografii spirituale”.

Prima conferință va avea loc Joi, 9 Ianuarie 2025, și va aborda subiectul: „Introducere în istoria Ortodoxiei românești. O privire teologică asupra trecutului”.

Pentru a participa la conferință, vă rugăm să accesați link-ul de conectare prin portalul ZOOM.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82458482255?pwd=eI4Lvw2IbLBcWMIcXwqtS0hCMI6AKa.1>

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Time	Service Type
Jan-2025			
Sunday	2-Feb	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (The Canaanite Woman) (†) The Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple
Sunday	9-Feb	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Thirty Third Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee) Triodion Begins Today
Sunday	16-Feb	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Thirty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of the Prodigal Son)
Saturday	22-Feb	10:00 AM	Saturday of the Souls - Memorial Service
Sunday	23-Mar	9:00 AM	Matins
		10:00 AM	The Thirty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Sunday of the Last Judgment) - Meatfare Sunday

Romanian Orthodox Church marks 100 years since becoming a Patriarchate

<https://basilica.ro/en/romanian-orthodox-church-marks-100-years-since-becoming-a-patriarchate/>

Romanian Orthodox Church proclaims 16 newly canonized Saints on Patriarchate Centennial



The Romanian Orthodox Church officially proclaimed sixteen newly canonized saints on Tuesday, during a historic ceremony at the Patriarchal Cathedral in Bucharest, attended by Patriarch Daniel and the members of the Holy Synod.

The proclamation ceremony took place after the Divine Liturgy, marking the 100th anniversary of the Romanian Patriarchate. The event gathered members of the National Church Assembly and hundreds of believers on Metropolitan Hill.

Proclamation of the Saints

Patriarchal Auxiliary Bishop Varlaam of Ploiești, who also serves as Secretary of the Holy Synod, read the Synodal Tomos, officially announcing the sixteen new Romanian saints.

“Today, our Orthodox Church brings great joy to its faithful on the Centennial of the Romanian Patriarchate, as it adds to the calendar of saints those righteous ones who pleased God from among the Romanian people.”

The decree highlighted that these newly recognized saints lived lives of prayer, fasting, repentance, humility, and love, achieving spiritual perfection.

“Some of them paid for their confession of faith with their lives, being crowned with the glorious wreath of martyrdom. Others endured continuous, bloodless martyrdom, suffering imprisonment, torture, and endless humiliation, and even after their release, they continued to be persecuted by those who denied God.”

“Neither hardship, distress, hunger, lack of clothing, nor danger could separate them from the love of Christ. In all these things, they proved to be more than conquerors through Christ, who loved them,” the synodal text stated.

Following the reading of the canonization decree, icons of the new saints were presented and the Tronos Byzantine Choir chanted their troparia.

Patriarch Daniel described the sixteen saints in his address as “the most precious fruit that our Church has offered in these 100 years.”

“Through them, the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit in the Romanian Orthodox Church is more intensely revealed.”

He emphasized that they were canonized because their lives bore clear signs of holiness, including:
Orthodox faith,
A life of repentance and prayer,
Humble and merciful love for others,
Sacrificial confession of faith,
Miracles attributed to them,
The veneration of the faithful.

The Patriarch clarified that their canonization is a recognition of their sanctity beyond any political context, reaffirming that true Christian witness does not endorse worldly ideologies but rather the eternal values of faith and love for God.

“The Centennial of the Romanian Patriarchate is, therefore, a moment of sacred joy and gratitude for the entire Romanian Orthodox Church. Looking back, we see not only a rich history but also a profound spiritual legacy left by our predecessors—patriarchs, hierarchs, priests, monks, and lay faithful—who defended and transmitted the Orthodox faith over time.”

<https://basilica.ro/en/romanian-orthodox-church-proclaims-16-newly-canonized-saints-on-patriarchate-centennial/>

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND THE PHARISEE

(Gospel reading: Luke 18:10–14).

On this and the following two Sundays, the theme is repentance. Repentance is the door through which we enter Lent, the starting-point of our journey to Pascha. And to repent signifies far more than self-pity or futile regret over things done in the past. The Greek term *metanoia* means ‘change of mind’: to repent is to be renewed, to be transformed in our inward viewpoint, to attain a fresh way of looking at our relationship to God and to others. The fault of the Pharisee is that he has no desire to change his outlook; he is complacent, self-satisfied, and so he allows no place for God to act within him. The Publican, on the other hand, truly longs for a ‘change of mind’: he is self-dissatisfied, ‘poor in spirit’, and where there is this saving self-dissatisfaction there is room for God to act. Unless we learn the secret of the Publican’s inward poverty, we shall not share in the Lenten springtime.

2025 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and HOLY TRINITY Schedule

Date	Day	Holy Trinity	Pre-Sanctified Rotation	Comment
3/5/2025	Wednesday	Fr. Mark	St. Nicholas	
3/9/2025	Sunday		St. George	Concelebration-Sunday of Orthodoxy
3/12/2025	Wednesday	Fr. Chris	St. Mary	
3/19/2025	Wednesday	Fr. Milad	St. Spyridon	
3/26/2025	Wednesday	Fr. Vasile	St. George	
4/2/2025	Wednesday	Fr. Chris	St. Mary	
4/9/2025	Wednesday	Fr. Milad	St. Nicholas	
4/16/2025	Wednesday	Concelebration		(Unction)
4/17/2025	Thursday	?		Holy Thursday

**COUNCIL OF EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS**

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

PAN-ORTHODOX DIVINE LITURGY

March 9, 2025 ♦ 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (8:30 Matins)

HOSTED BY

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

30 Anna Street, Worcester, Massachusetts

*Join us as we celebrate our unity of faith and the common goal of supporting our
Orthodox Churches and ministries here in Central Massachusetts.*

A free reception will follow the service.



HOLY TRINITY NEWS

February 10, 2025

THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

- Monday:** *Library Cart visits 9am, Jeopardy 2:30pm, Refreshments 2:30pm*
Tuesday: *Exercise 9a, Coffee and Pastry Social sponsored by St. Mary's 2pm, Word Games and card games 3p*
Wednesday *Divine Liturgy 9:30am, Spiritual Coloring, Bell Choir 11am, Craft 1:30pm*
Thursday: *Exercise 10:30am, Family Feud 1:30p, Documentary 2p, Bowling 3:30pm*
Friday: *Happy Valentines Day 2pm Social!! Library cart room visits 9a, Exercise 10a, Scrabble 10:30am, Fun and Social 2:30pm*

Anyone is welcome to stop by and take part in our activities. If you have any questions or plan to stop by for an activity, please contact Isabelle Bouchard, at 508-852-1000.

February is National Senior Independence month!

Independence gives each of us a sense of purpose and the ability to still be independent and exercise autonomy is an important component to mental and physical wellbeing. What are ways that we can directly aid older adults to keep independence?

- 1. Prioritize safety - Safety First! There are several precautions you can put in place to aid safety. Remove clutter and other tripping hazards, add handles, guardrails, and other stabilizers, and have technology in place that can be used one if your loved one need it.*
- 2. Support social engagement: Connection is key to a happy life. Supporting your loved one's ability to see friends, talk to and be around others will help support a sense of purpose and community.*
- 3. Involve them in day-to-day activities: Giving older adults the same treatment, opportunities, and experiences that you would have given them twenty years ago gives the older adult the opportunity to make decisions and choices about their day-to-day living.*
- 4. Encourage exercise of both mental and physical activities: Keeping our brain AND body active is crucial to a healthy life. Physical activities such as water aerobics, walking, gardening, and yoga are great ways to move. Playing board and card games, doing puzzles, playing along with game shows, or watching their favorite sports team are great ways to keep mental sharpness.*
- 5. Utilize health-tech to aid mobility and independence: There are a number of different types of assistive health technology that can assist an individual's independence; walkers, fitness trackers, hearing aids, and fall prevention devices are just a few examples.*

STAY CONNECTED: Like our Facebook.

OUR COMMUNITY IN PICTURES
Happy Birthday to Mrs. Natasha and Mrs. Maria





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34 Gold St | Shrewsbury, MA 01545-6238
508-845-0088 | e-mail: info@StNicholasChurch.org
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Sunday Services: Matins at 9:00 am and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am