

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 08, 2026**

The Thirty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Apostolic Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

(Sunday of the Prodigal Son)

Tone 2 † Resurrection Gospel 2



Weekly Liturgical Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. - Akathist;

10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy;

WEEKLY NEWS

ICON AUCTION – February 15 we will have our Icon Auction; you will have the opportunity to take an icons dear to you to bless your home for 40 days while enjoying a good meal at St. Nicholas.

OUR PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING is postponed for Sunday, February 8th, 2026 due to weather conditions. Your attendance is important, not only to be updated over the last year with various reports, the meeting also gives everyone an opportunity to present questions, concerns and any ideas you may have for our parish.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – Raul and Gianina Zekeru will commemorate all their departed loved ones on Sunday, Feb 8. They also offered to sponsor \$ 200 coffee hour. May God make their memory eternal!

SATURDAY OF THE SOULS BEFORE EASTER LENT: On Saturday, February 14, we will have the memorial service for all loved ones fallen asleep in the Lord: at 10:00 am. As you all know already, During the Great Lent we serve the Memorial Service for all departed ones every Saturday. You are encouraged to send the names of your departed ones along with a donation for the church!

MUSTARD SEED MEAL – We need a sponsor for our previous Mustard Seed Meal on Friday, February 20. We could use this way of giving in memory of our loved ones, for the someone's health, but beyond that is because we want to feed our hungry brothers and sisters. If you have it in your heart to contribute, please contact Betty Anderson (508) 353-9449.

PITA DOUGH MAKING - There will be a Pita Baking Session, Saturday, February 28, 10:00 AM to NOON. We will have the opportunity to commemorate the departed loved ones and then we go to work. No experience necessary!

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS NEEDED for the coming weeks. Please speak with Betty Anderson or Cristina Iusco if you would like to sponsor one.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
GOD GRANT YOU MANY
YEARS!**

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

**The Prayer of St. Ephraim
The Syrian**

**O Lord and master of my life! Dispel from me
the spirit of discouragement and slothfulness,
Of ambition and vain talk!**

**Instead, give me the spirit of prudence and
humility, of patience and charity**

**Yes, my king and Lord let me look at my own
Sins and refrain from judging others: For you
are
Blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.**

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 1 - Triodion Begins
February 2 - **The Presentation**
of Our Lord and Savior in the
Temple
February 8 – General Assembly
February 15 - Icon Auction
February 15 - Meatfare Sunday
February 20 - Mustard Seed
Meal
February 22 - Forgiveness
Sunday (Cheesefare)

Weekly Reflection

"When you see that people are sinning in one way or another against you, against the Lord, against their peers and against themselves, do not be fierce with hatred against them, because even without you there is enough hatred on earth, but pity them, forgive them with all your heart when they offend you and say to yourself:

"Lord, forgive them - because their sin has confused them - for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23, 34)" Saint John of Kronstadt 1829 - 1908

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD! ! O Lord and Master of our lives: Educate us, your ignorant servants, by letting your wisdom enlighten our minds and hearts. Make us alert, lest the deceits of this world seduce us. Teach us how to distinguish between substance and appearance, how to discern what is of the Holy Spirit and what is not. Do not leave us to fight the enemy of our life by ourselves, for he is constantly striving to silence the word of life within us. Rather, be with us today, and every day, through your loving mercy. For you alone are good and full of love for us, O God and we give you glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!



The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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.'"

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of 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 divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast.

Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin no matter how great it may be that can overcome at any time His love for man.



The Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of the Americas
Mitropolia Ortodoxă Română a celor Două Americi

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CONVOCATION

The General Assembly of the members of St. Nicholas Parish in Shrewsbury is convened for Sunday February 8th, 2026 at 12:30 pm (after Holy Liturgy).

General Assembly Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer.
2. Introduction Rev. Vasile Aileni.
3. Election of the secretary.
4. The presence of parish members/stewards.
5. Approve the Agenda.
6. Minutes of the General Assembly of January 26, 2025.
7. Activity report for 2025 - The Parish Priest.
8. Activity report for 2025 - The president of the Parish Council.
9. Financial report for 2025.
10. Draft 2026 budget.
11. Stewardship and church financial support. Proposals for supporting the church.
11. Election of parish delegates at the 2026 Congress in PHILADELPHIA JULY 9-12.
14. Establishing the date of the next General Assembly.
15. Miscellaneous.
16. Closing prayer.

All members of the parish are welcome and invited to participate!

Parish Priest Vasile Aileni
Shrewsbury, February 8, 2026



SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH BIDEN AN ICON & LUNCHEON

WHEN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH 12:00 PM

WHERE 34 GOLD STREET, SHREWSBURY, MA 01545

IN THIS ANCIENT TRADITION, ALL BLESSED ICONS GO HOME WITH THE THOSE WHO WON THE BID BRINGING GRACE THE THEIR HOMES FOR 40 DAYS.

GIVING GRATE BLESSINGS TO OUR HOMES AS WE START THE NEW YEAR!

LUNCHEON SUGGESTED DONATION - \$ 20 ADULT \$ 5 CHILDREN



Orthodox FOOD CENTER

A collaboration of the Worcester area Orthodox churches; its mission is to distribute food to low income and homeless individuals residing in the Worcester area.

OPEN SATURDAYS 10AM-12PM
ST. SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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ACADEMY

With God's help & our community's generosity,
we will have an Orthodox Christian Elementary
school in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Join the fundraising effort &
help make history!

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SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

PAN-ORTHODOX DIVINE LITURGY

MARCH 1, 2026

10:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY (8:45 MATINS)

HOSTED BY

ST. SPYRIDON

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

102 Russell Street

Worcester, Massachusetts

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

A free reception will follow the service.

SPONSORED BY

COUNCIL OF EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCHES
OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

2026

PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGIES

6:00 pm on the Wednesdays of Lent

February 25

St. Spyridon Cathedral

March 4

St. George Cathedral

March 11

St. Mary's Church

March 18

St. Nicholas Church

March 25

No Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
(Feast of Annunciation)

April 1

St. George Cathedral



LENTEN WEDNESDAY LITURGY and SUPPER

*Please bring a Lenten dish to serve to our guests
in attendance from other Orthodox churches*

Explanations from the Lenten Triodion

THIS SUNDAY WE RECALL THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

(Gospel reading: Luke 15:11–32). The parable of the Prodigal forms an exact ikon of repentance in its different stages. Sin is exile, enslavement to strangers, hunger. Repentance is the return from exile to our true home; it is to receive back our inheritance and freedom in the Father's house. But repentance implies action: 'I will rise up and go ...' (verse 18). To repent is not just to feel dissatisfied, but to take a decision and to act upon it. On this and the next two Sundays, after the solemn and joyful words of the Polyeleos at Mattins, we add the sorrowful verses of Psalm 136, 'By the waters of Babylon we sat down and wept ...'. This Psalm of exile, sung by the children of Israel in their Babylonian captivity, has a special appropriateness on the Sunday of the Prodigal, when we call to mind our present exile in sin and make the resolve to return home.

NEXT SATURDAY IS CALLED the Saturday of the Dead. On the day before the Sunday of the Last Judgment, and in close connection with the theme of this Sunday, there is a universal commemoration of the dead 'from all the ages'. (There are further commemorations of the dead on the second, third and fourth Saturdays in Lent.) Before we call to mind the Second Coming of Christ in the services on Sunday, we commend to God all those departed before us, who are now awaiting the Last Judgment. In the texts for this Saturday there is a strong sense of the continuing bond of mutual love that links together all the members of the Church, whether alive or dead. For those who believe in the risen Christ, death does not constitute an impassable barrier, since all are alive in Him; the departed are still our brethren, members of the same family with us, and so we are conscious of the need to pray insistently on their behalf.

HOLY TRINITY WEEKLY NEWS

FEBRUARY 8th 2026

"Taking care of the elderly is not just a responsibility; it's an art." James E. Faulkner

Groundhog Day Fun!

Residents enjoyed a hands-on edible craft to celebrate Groundhog Day! Using sweet treats and a little creativity, everyone made their own "groundhog" snack. It was a fun way to spark smiles, conversation, and a little seasonal cheer—no matter what Punxsutawney Phil predicts!



We also enjoyed some musical fun as residents were treated to a lively live performance by Joey C. Familiar tunes and great energy filled the room, inspiring toe-tapping, sing-alongs, and plenty of smiles. Thank you, Joey C, for sharing your talent and making the day extra special.



Snowed in? That's okay! We had so much fun with our residents' enjoying arts and crafts while watching the snow fall outside. What better way to celebrate a snowy day than by creating cheerful snowman crafts together?



STAY CONNECTED: Like our Facebook.



CHURCH BUILDING & GROUNDS

Our church needs to:

- Purchase and install efficient light bulbs for inside and outside (parking lot), the church
- Repair and install new carpet/tiles in the Holy Altar
- We are currently working with Mass Save Energy Experts to make our entire building more energy efficient
- Olive oil for altar oil candles.

All donation and support is welcomed and really appreciated!

Thank you!