

# Saint Nicholas Romanian Orthodox Church Shrewsbury Massachusetts

## Biserica Ortodoxă Română Sfântul Nicolae Shrewsbury Massachusetts

34 Gold Street, Shrewsbury, MA, 01545

Parish Priest Vasile Aileni

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### **WEEKLY BULLETIN**

**Sunday February 22, 2026**

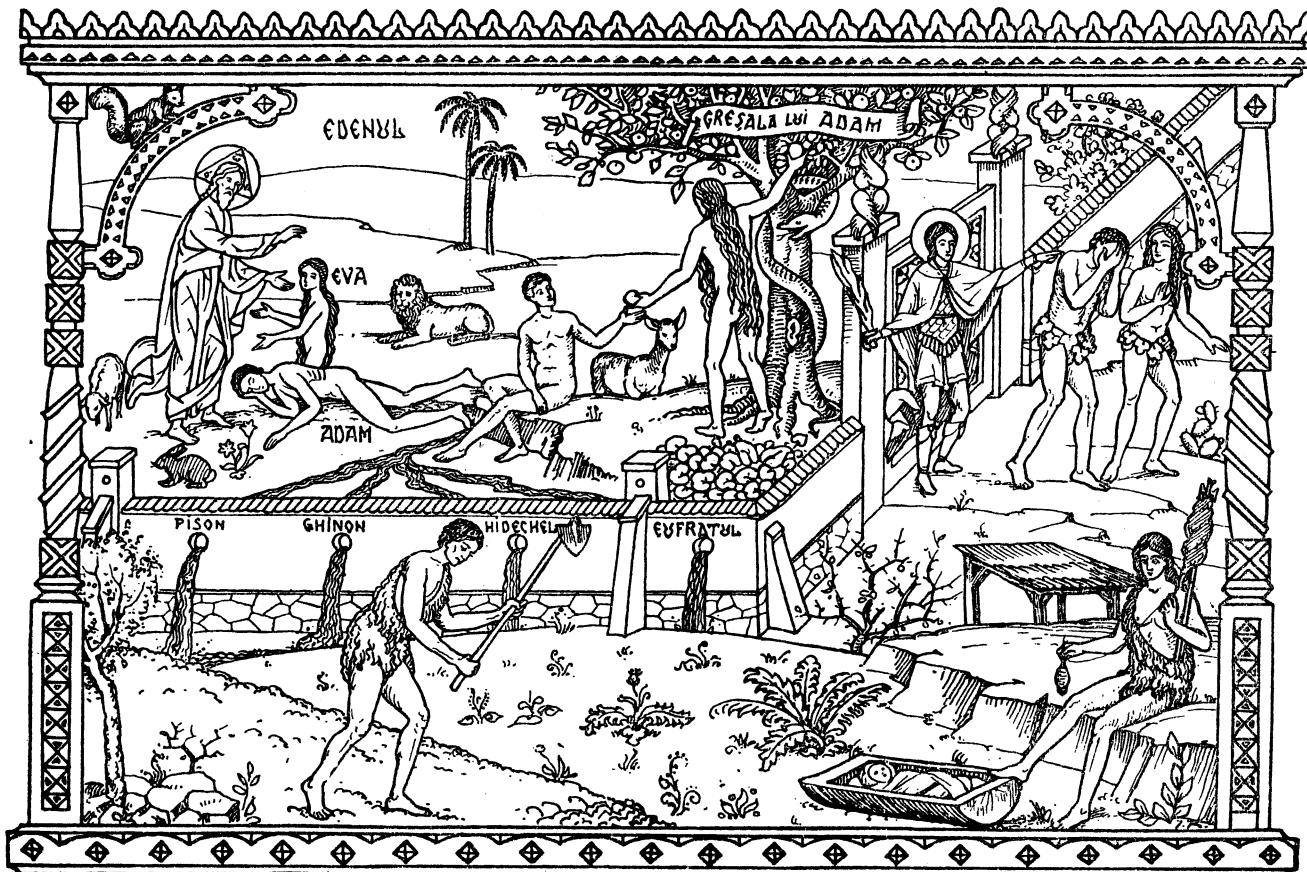
*Sunday of Forgiveness - Cheese-Fare Sunday*

*Apostolic Reading: Romans 13, 11-14; 14,1-4*

*Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21*

*(The Casting out of Adam & Eve from Paradise)*

*Tone 4 † Resurrection Gospel 4*



### **Weekly Liturgical Services**

**Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Matins;  
10:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy;**

### **WEEKLY NEWS**

**ICON AUCTION** – February 22 The auction will continue in a little different way. Because we have a few icons left, we will display them in the church hall and if you wish you can choose your favorite icon and make a donation to the church.

**FAREWELL TO FR. SERGIU CONCU AND HIS BELOVED WIFE OANA** – Sunday, Feb 22 we invite you to celebrate the ordination of Fr. Sergiu Concu and in the same time to say good bye to him and his wife Oana as they were appointed to minister St. Iacob Putneanul in Albany, NY. We want to thank both of them for the time they spent with us and to wish them a successful and fruitful sacred mission! Axios!

**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.

## IMPORTANT LINKS/VIDEOS

[Great Lent \(Eastern Orthodox\)](#)

[Why Young Americans Are Becoming Orthodox Christian — The 100,000 Convert Boom Explained](#)

## Weekly Reflection



"Look, my brothers, and see: the only people who truly enjoy life are those who have received this commandment of Christ and live according to it. But those people who are determined to do all things, to provide all the means, to reach all their ways, to fulfill all their plans and fulfill all their desires without God's help are red with worry. They build, but an unseen hand destroys. They gather, but an unseen wind scatters. They run, but the wonder-worker lengthens their way more and more and removes their aim and purpose."    Saint Nicholas Velimirovici 1881 – 1956

## *A Prayer of Fr. Laurence*

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD! At times, O forgiving Lord, it is difficult not to harbor grudges when we have been offended by treacherous speech and hurt by words that bruise our pride. We desire to rid ourselves of such feelings, but our own powers are not up to the task. Nor would we want, in any case, to rely solely on our own strength. You yourself must give us what we need to purify our minds and hearts, to dispel all these negative sentiments, lest we perish for breeding and nurturing them. For blest and glorified is your most honorable and magnificent name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen!    ♣

## The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to MATTHEW 6:14-21

"The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves

break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

#### THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW ABOUT THE GREAT CANON.

The Great Canon of St Andrew, Bishop of Crete, is the longest canon in all of our services, and is associated with Great Lent, since the only times it is appointed to be read in church are the first four nights of Great Lent (Clean Monday through Clean Thursday, at Great Compline, when it is serialized) and at Matins for Thursday of the fifth week of Great Lent, when it is read in its entirety (in this latter service, the entire life of St Mary of Egypt is also read).

There is no other sacred hymn which compares with this monumental work, which St Andrew wrote for his personal meditations. Nothing else has its extensive typology and mystical explanations of the scripture, from both the Old and New Testaments. One can almost consider this hymn to be a “survey of the Old and New Testament”. Its other distinguishing features are a spirit of mournful humility, hope in God, and complex and beautiful Trinitarian Doxologies and hymns to the Theotokos in each Ode.

The canon is a dialogue between St. Andrew and his soul. The ongoing theme is an urgent exhortation to change one’s life. St Andrew always mentions his own sinfulness placed in juxtaposition to God’s mercy, and uses literally hundreds of references to good and bad examples from the OT and NT to “convince himself” to repent.

A canon is an ancient liturgical hymn, with a very strict format. It consists of a variable number of parts, each called an “ode”. Most common canons have eight Odes, numbered from one to nine, with Ode 2 being omitted. The most penitential canons have all nine odes. Some canons have only three Odes, such as many of the canons in the “Triodion” (which means “Three Odes”).

The Great Canon was written by a holy man to teach himself the right way to live. We cannot benefit from it unless we make it a priority to stand in prayer, in the church, and listen to it, with a great desire and expectation for God’s grace to teach us and heal us. Our theology is first and foremost – experienced and prayed, and not only “studied”.

#### Forgiveness Sunday



#### (Cheesefare Sunday)

The Holy Fathers have appointed the commemoration of Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight here, on the eve of the holy Forty-day Fast, demonstrating to us not by simple words, but by actual deeds, how beneficial fasting is for man, and how harmful and destructive are insatiety and the transgressing of the divine commandments. For the first commandment that God gave to man was that of fasting, which the first-fashioned received but did not keep; and not only did they not become gods, as they had imagined, but they lost even that blessed life which they had, and they fell into corruption and death, and transmitted these and innumerable other evils to all of mankind. The God-bearing Fathers set these things before us today, that by bringing to mind what we have fallen from, and what we have suffered because of the insatiety and disobedience of the first-fashioned, we might be diligent to return again to that ancient bliss and glory by means of fasting and obedience to all the divine commands. Taking occasion from today's Gospel (Matt. 6:14-21) to begin the Fast unencumbered by enmity, we also ask forgiveness this day, first from God, then from one another and all creation.



## SAINT NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

### BIDEN AN ICON & LUNCHEON

WHEN      SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>TH</sup> 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 TO THEIR HOMES FOR 40 DAYS.

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

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



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

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help make history!

SAINT KOSMAS ACADEMY  
 TheOrthodoxSchool@Gmail.com



## 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



102 Russell St. Worcester, MA 01609

# 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 18

St. Nicholas Church

March 4

St. George Cathedral

March 25

No Pre-Sanctified Liturgy  
(Feast of Annunciation)

March 11

St. Mary's Church

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*

## FIRST WEEK OF THE GREAT LENT

### LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

MONDAY 06:00 pm - THE GREAT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE – Part I

TUESDAY 06:00 pm - THE GREAT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE – Part II

WEDNESDAY 06:00 pm – THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY AT ST. SPYRIDON CATHEDRAL

THURSDAY 06:00 pm - THE GRE AT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE – Part III

FRIDAY 06:00 pm - THE GREAT CANON OF SAINT ANDREW OF CRETE – Part IV

SATURDAY 10:00am – MEMORIAL SERVICE

# HOLY TRINITY WEEKLY NEWS

FEBRUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026

"Where there is love, there is life." — Mahatma Gandhi ❤

Here's a peek of what's happening at Holy Trinity

Our recent bake sale was a wonderful treat for everyone! Residents, families, and staff came together to enjoy a delicious assortment of homemade goodies from classic chocolate chip cookies to beautifully decorated cupcakes, cakes and more!



Our residents enjoyed a lovely Valentine's Day lunch filled with laughter, friendship, and warm smiles. Festive decorations and sweet treats made the afternoon a special celebration for all!



Residents of Holy Trinity Nursing Home enjoyed a delightful visit today as the Dancers of Central Mass presented a special dance exhibition. The performance brought smiles, music, and joyful energy to the afternoon, creating a meaningful and uplifting experience for everyone in attendance.



STAY CONNECTED: Like our Facebook. [Facebook](#)

## CHURCH BUILDING & GROUNDS

**Our church needs to:**

- Purchase and install efficient light bulbs for inside and outside (parkinglot), 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!

## ICON AUCTION



