

**Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church**  
**1391 Chaffee Street Upland, CA 91786**  
**<http://www.saintspyridon.org/>**  
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**✠ Liturgical service for September and October 2025 ✠**

**✠ Monday, September 1 ✠ Ecclesiastical New Year**

**✠ Thursday, September 4 ✠ Moses the Prophet**  
7pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

**✠ Sunday, September 7 ✠ Sunday before Holy Cross**  
**9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy**

**✠ Monday, September 8 ✠ Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos**  
**9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy**

**✠ Thursday, September 11 ✠ Theodora of Alexandria**  
7 pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

**✠ Sunday, September 14 ✠ The Elevation of the Holy Cross**  
**9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy**

**✠ Thursday, September 18 ✠ Ariadne the Martyr**  
7 pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

**✠ Sunday, September 21 ✠ Sunday after Elevation of the Holy Cross**  
9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy

**✠ Thursday, September 25 ✠ Paphnoutios and his 546 Companions**  
7 pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

**✠ Sunday, September 28 ✠ 1st Sunday of Luke**  
9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy

**✠ Liturgical service for October 2025 ✠**

**✠ Thursday, October 2 ✠ Cyprian and Justina**

7pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

✠☐ **Sunday, October 5** ✠☐ **2nd Sunday of Luke**

9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy

✠☐ Thursday, October 9 ✠☐ James the son of Alphaeus

7pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

✠☐ **Sunday, October 12** ✠☐ **Sunday of the Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council**

9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy

✠☐ Thursday, October 16 ✠☐ Longinos the Centurion

7pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

✠☐ **Sunday, October 19** ✠☐ **3rd Sunday of Luke**

9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy

7 pm ✠☐ **Vigil for St Gerasimos of Cephalonia ( Esperinos + Orthros + Artoklasia )**

✠☐ Monday, October 20 ✠☐ St. Gerasimos of Cephalonia

10 am Divine Liturgy

✠☐ Thursday, October 23 ✠☐ James the Apostle

7pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

✠☐ **Sunday, October 26** ✠☐ **6th Sunday of Luke (Demetrios the Myrrh - Streamer)**

9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy+ Artoklasia

✠☐ **Tuesday, October 28** ✠☐ **OXI DAY (Holy Protection of the Theotokos )**

✠☐ Wednesday, October 29 ✠☐ Anastasia of Rome

9 am Orthros / 10 am Divine Liturgy

✠☐ Thursday, October 30 ✠☐ Cleopas of the 70

7pm Paraklesis to Saint Spyridon

Beloved Faithful in Christ,

Peace and blessings be with you all in the Name of the Most Holy Trinity!

By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of the Most Holy Theotokos and of Saint Spyridon, on September 1 we begin a new Liturgical Year.

With heartfelt joy, we also prepare to celebrate the great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God on September 8.

All feasts of the ecclesiastical year are linked to this first feast dedicated to the Virgin, for she is the Living Icon of the Church: Ever-Virgin, Mother of God, and our Mother, who constantly intercedes for us.

I express my deep gratitude to each of you for your devoted presence and participation in the liturgical life of Saint Spyridon Church here in Upland. Our beloved patron, Saint Spyridon, the defender of the Orthodox faith, a model of humility and holiness—sees the spiritual and material efforts by which each of you, according to your ability, contributes to the good stewardship and growth of our parish.

Enclosed with the schedule for the months of September and October, you will also find the new Annual Membership and Support Form for Saint Spyridon Church. I kindly ask that you complete and return it to the parish office.

May the Lord bless you abundantly with health, steadfast faith, and prosperity, so that together we may glorify our Living and Almighty God, in the Name of the Most Holy Trinity.

With paternal blessing and love in Christ,

Fr. Iustinian Deac

Parish Priest of Saint Spyridon Orthodox Church, Upland

***Lighting candles in the Orthodox Church has a deep meaning, both symbolic and spiritual. It is an act of prayer and a personal offering before God.***

### **† □ *Spiritual Meanings***

#### ***Symbol of Christ's Light***

The burning candle reminds us of the Lord's words: "I am the Light of the world; whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). By lighting a candle, the believer expresses the desire to live in this light.

#### ***A Visible Prayer***

The flame of the candle is an outward sign of inner prayer. It continues to burn even after the person leaves the church, symbolizing that the prayer goes on.

### ***A Pure Offering***

The candle is usually made of beeswax – a pure and natural substance. It slowly melts away, “consuming itself” for God, like a living and humble sacrifice.

### ***Symbol of the Soul***

Just as the candle burns and is consumed, so too the Christian soul is called to burn with love for God and for one’s neighbor.

### ***Memory and Communion***

For the living: candles are lit while praying for health, help, and blessing.

For the departed: candles are lit as a sign of love and prayer for the souls of those who have passed away, asking God to guide them into eternal light

#### ☐ Practice in the Church

Candles for the living are usually placed on the right side, before the icon of Christ.

Candles for the departed are placed on the left side, before the icon of the Theotokos, or at the special candelabrum for the departed.

They are lit with faith and prayer, not as a mere outward custom.

#### ☐ ***The Fathers of the Church***

***St. Symeon of Thessalonica wrote that candles signify:***

- Pure Faith,
- a spotless life,
- burning love,
- unceasing prayer.

#### ☐ ***Short Prayers When Lighting Candles***

**For the living:**

“Lord Jesus Christ, Light of the world, receive this candle as a small gift from me, and enlighten my life and the lives of my loved ones. Grant us health, peace, and salvation.”

**For the departed:**

“Remember, O Lord, the departed members of my family and all those who have fallen asleep. Grant them rest in the light of Your face and forgive their sins.”