

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for 11th Sun. of Luke in the Second Mode

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Apolytikion of the Church in the First Mode

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou are the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11.

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Gospel of Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069

Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos

TEL: (847) 482-1200 | FAX: (847) 482-9566 | www.ascensiongoc.com

Office e-mail: reneemaltezos@ascensiongoc.com

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

Dec 13 - 20, 2015

Prosphora Bakers:

Patricia Filley & Litsa Stamatis

FOS Ministry Greeters:

Ellen & Michael Kaitson

Epistle Reader:

David Rutkowski

Ushers:

Nick Marino, Peter Venetos, Robert Buhler, Bob Mantzoros, David Rutkowski, Kathleen Rutkowski

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *“This is the way we should see Christ – He is our friend, our brother. He is whatever is good and beautiful. He is everything. Yet, He is still a friend and He shouts it out, “You’re my friends, don’t you understand that? We’re brothers. I’m not threatening you. I don’t hold hell in my hands. I love you. I want you to enjoy life together with me. Christ is Everything. He is joy, He is life, He is light. He is the true light who makes man joyful, makes him soar with happiness; makes him see everything, everybody; makes him feel for everyone, to want everyone with him, everyone with Christ.”*

—St. Porphyrios

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

Dec 13 - 20, 2015

Sunday	December 13
8:15 a.m.	Orthros
9:10 a.m.	Sunday Church School
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Christmas Pageant
5:00 p.m.	Metropolis Open House
Monday	December 14
5:30 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA & GOYA Christmas Caroling at the Greek American Rehab Center
Tuesday	December 15
4:45 p.m.	Greek School Christmas Program
Wednesday	December 16
10 a.m.	HOPE
6:30 p.m.	Holy Unction
Thursday	December 17 St. Dionysios
8:15 a.m.	Orthros
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
6:15 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School
7:45 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School
Friday	December 18
7 p.m.	Faith/Joy Christmas Party/Mock Lock-In
Saturday	December 19
11 a.m.	Baptism: Cora Elizabeth, daughter of Matthew and Anastasia Smith. Sponsor: Alexandra Thomas
5 p.m.	Vespers
Sunday	December 20 Sunday Before the Nativity
8:15 a.m.	Orthros
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship host needed

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

+ **WE ARE GLAD** you came to our Church. We hope your visit was memorable and meaningful in every way. Our doors and hearts are always open to you. Please join us for fellowship following the Divine Liturgy and visit with Fr. Sotiri and with members of the Parish Council. They will answer questions and provide you with information regarding the programs and life at the Ascension.

HOLY COMMUNION ETIQUETTE

+ If you are either baptized and/or confirmed as an Orthodox Christian and have spiritually prepared to receive Holy Communion, please come up with reverence and humility, row by row, and depart as directed by the ushers. Please remain in your rows until an usher indicates your row should proceed forward. If you are standing in the back of the nave, please wait until an usher directs you.

+ In receiving Communion, you should place the cloth under your chin, recite your Christian name, and wipe your mouth after receiving. If you are wearing lipstick please remove it prior to receiving Communion.

CHURCH NEWS

+ **A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST** is kindly requested for next Sunday, 12/20. Please call the office if you would like to host.

+ **IF YOU PURCHASED A POINSETTIA PLANT**, our JOY and Jr. GOYANS will be distributing them directly after the Christmas Pageant.

+ **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO OPEN HOUSE** takes place this evening at 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity to extend our wishes to His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and also His Grace Bishop Demetrios for a Blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

+ **YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to Ascension's Greek School Christmas program this Tuesday, December 15, at 5 p.m. to see our students commemorate Christ's Nativity by performing Greek Christmas songs, poems and skits.

+ **FAITH AND JOY:** Please join us for our first Christmas Party/Mock Lock-In on Friday, December 18th from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. at Ascension. Come in your pjs and bring a comfy blanket to sit on. We will have lots of snacks and watch a movie! RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com.

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** lasts through December 24th. Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17th. Additionally, this is a period of spiritual reflection, prayer and confession as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior. If you would like to schedule the Sacrament of Confession with Father Sotiri, please call the Church office. **As an additional blessing during our preparation, the Sacrament of Holy Unction will be offered to the faithful this Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:30 p.m.**

+ **CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULT SINGERS:** Any young adult interested in singing a solo Christmas carol immediately following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 20th, please email Mia Connolly at Miaps@aol.com.

+ **OUR ANNUAL PARISH ICE-SKATING PARTY** takes place on Monday, December 28th at 5:30 at Centennial Ice Arena at Highland Park. Save the date! More information to come.

+ **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2016 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD BY DECEMBER 30th** either by mail, or by dropping it off at the Church office. Ascension's stewardship theme, which we will cultivate in the coming year, is: ***Open Your Heart: Giving time, talent, treasure for the Glory of God.*** We ask for God's blessings as we prayerfully consider the time, talents and treasures we can share to sustain and enhance the spiritual and bountiful Parish life at Ascension in 2016. If you didn't receive a pledge card by mail, they are available at the Pangari.

+ **YOUTH SAVE THE DATES** – *December 30th* New Year's Eve's Eve Party, 7 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. @ St. Demetrios Church in Elmhurst; and, *January 8, 2016:* GOYA Lock-In @ Ascension. More information will be forthcoming.

+ **MEN'S MINISTRY SAVE THE DATE** - The Koinonia Board has announced the start of its 2016 activities. On January 14, 2016, the Koinonia Men's Ministry will hold a Kick-Off Meet-and-Greet event. Stay tuned for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

+ **PRAYER REQUESTS** – *Please include in your personal prayers* the servants of God: Maita, Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Nicholas, Ethel, Christine, Louise, John, Panagiota, Anastasia, Stella, Athanasia, Mitchell, Joanne, Augustine, Panagiotis, Christina, Georgiane, Helen, James