

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode**

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

### **Apolytikion for Nicholas the Wonderworker in the Fourth Mode**

The truth of things hath revealed thee to thy flock as a rule of faith, an icon of meekness, and a teacher of temperance; for this cause, thou hast achieved the heights by humility, riches by poverty. O Father and Hierarch Nicholas, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

### **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 Hebrews 13:17-21.**

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Gospel of Luke 13:10-17**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As He said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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### **WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN**

**Dec 6 - 12, 2015**

**Prophora Bakers:**

**FOS Ministry Greeter:**

**Epistle Reader:**

**Ushers:**

Mary Greub & Sophia Metropulos

Mary and Catherine Greub

Jim Anast

**Peter Venetos**, Steve Sintetas, Bill Smirles, Alex Marx, Bill Athenson, Diane Sigalos

**SPIRITUAL REFLECTION** – “A person can become a saint anywhere ... At your work, whatever it may be, you can become a saint through meekness, patience, and love. Make a new start every day, with a new resolution, enthusiasm and love, prayer and silence.”

—St. Porphyrios

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

Dec 6 - 12, 2015

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 6</b>	<b><u>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</u></b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:10 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	St. Nicholas Sunday   Philoptochos St. Nicholas party for the children	
	Parish Council Elections	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 7</b>	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 8</b>	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 9</b>	<b><u>Conception of St. Anna</u></b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
6:30 p.m.	Paraklesis and LOGOS	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 10</b>	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 11</b>	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers @ St. Spyridon, Palos Heights	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 12</b>	<b><u>St. Spyridon the Wonder-Worker</u></b>
8 a.m.	Orthros	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
10 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal	
3 p.m.	Baptism: Nikoloas, son of Dennis and Patricia Kyriazopoulos. Sponsor: Maria Pentaris	
5 p.m.	Vespers	

### 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

+ **ASCENSION HAS DESIGNATED TODAY AS ST. NICHOLAS SUNDAY.** Philoptochos will be hosting a special St. Nicholas party for our parish children. Additionally, Philoptochos will be passing a special tray to collect and donate funds toward the rebuilding of the national Shrine of St. Nicholas at Ground Zero.

+ **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TAKE PLACE TODAY**, after the Divine Liturgy. Please take a moment to consider all of the talented individuals who are volunteering to represent this Parish in 2016-17 and place your vote. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the current Parish Council members who gave of their time and talents to represent Ascension for the past two years. Thank you.

+ **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS** are kindly requested for Sunday, 12/13 and 12/20. Please call the office if you would like to host.

+ **THE PAN-ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS CONCERT** takes place this evening at 4 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines.

+ **THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** will take place after the Divine Liturgy on December 13th. Don't miss this beautiful opportunity to witness our Parish youth perform the Nativity Story in their own special way. Rehearsal takes place on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 – noon.

+ **LAST CHANCE TODAY TO PURCHASE POINSETTIA PLANTS** – Our JOY and Jr. GOYANS will be available to take your orders today so you can decorate your homes for Christmas. Plants will be distributed next week, 12/13. Please visit the poinsettia table in the Narthex. For additional details, please see enclosed insert.

+ **CHRISTMAS CARD DEADLINE THIS WEDNESDAY:** Join the many families of our Parish in expressing Christmas greetings to all members and friends of our Ascension Church. Return the insert by this Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to take part in our 2015 Christmas greeting card.

+ **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO OPEN HOUSE** takes place Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for all of us to extend our wishes to His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and also His Grace Bishop Demetrios for a Blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

+ **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2016 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD** in a timely fashion 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.

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** lasts through December 24<sup>th</sup>. Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 20<sup>th</sup>, please email Mia Connolly at Miaps@aol.com.

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

+ **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.

+ **A JOLLY TIME** was had by all at the Philoptochos Christmas party. Thank you to our hostess, Marcia Moore, for welcoming us into her beautiful home where we enjoyed food, fellowship & our traditional ornament exchange.

### PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

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