

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

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

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforesime 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.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin she has committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

Apolytikion of the Church in the Fourth 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, Χριστὲ 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.

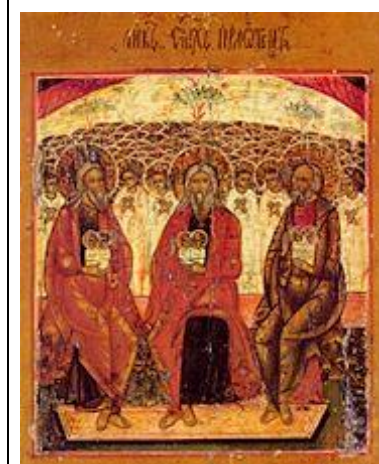
Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

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.

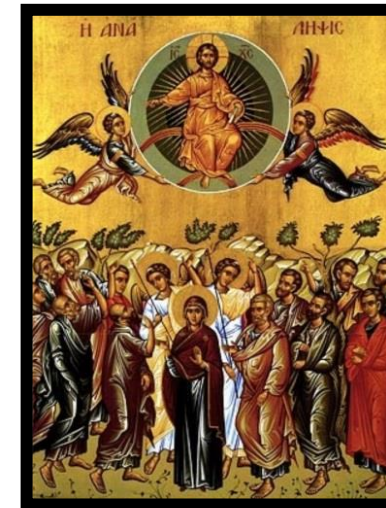
BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In 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



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 11 - 18, 2016

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.

Spiritual Reflection

Come, O faithful, Let us enjoy the Master's hospitality, The banquet of immortality. In the upper chamber with uplifted minds Let us receive the exalted words of the Word Whom we magnify.

Last Ode of the Compline Canon

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	December 11 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Servant of God, Polixeni Papouli (1 year) Coffee Fellowship hosted by Senior Synaxis Senior Synaxis Mini Christmas Bazaar Great Vespers @ St. Spyridon, Palos Heights	11th Sunday of Luke
Monday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	December 12 Orthros Divine Liturgy JOY/Jr. GOYA GOYA	St. Spyridon the Wonderworker
Tuesday 9 a.m. 4:45 p.m. 7 p.m.	December 13 Divine Liturgy Greek School Parish Council Meeting	
Wednesday 10 a.m.	December 14 HOPE	
Thursday 9 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	December 15 Divine Liturgy Adult Beginner Greek School Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	St. Eleutherios
Friday 7 p.m.	December 16 Great Vespers, Chapel of St. Dionysios @ Holy Trinity Church, Chicago	
Saturday 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 5 p.m.	December 17 Orthros Divine Liturgy Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Vespers	St. Dionysios The Three Holy Youths
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	December 18 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Christmas Pageant Metropolis Christmas Open House	Sunday Before the Nativity

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Amelia Diveris and Sophie Beris

Epistle Reader: Paul Lillios

Ministry Greeters: Mary and Thomas Gough

Ushers: UIC Nick Marino, Bob Mantzoros, Carol Stamas, Doug Hugdahl, Peter Venetos, Andrea Rogers

Prayer Requests for Health

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS the servants of God: Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Nicholas, Christine, Christy, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Helen, James, Sophia, Connie, Janet

Announcements

- + **SUPPORT SENIOR SYNAXIS TODAY** by purchasing homemade gifts and pastries at their Mini Christmas Bazaar, open for business directly after Liturgy!
- + **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2017 PLEDGE CARD** in the next few weeks either by mail, or by dropping it off at the Church office. Our theme, which we will cultivate in the coming year, is: *As the Father has sent me, so I send you*. We ask for God's blessings as we prayerfully consider how we can serve as the *Voice of Christ in a Changing World* and offer our time, talents and treasures to sustain and enhance the spiritual and bountiful Parish life at Ascension in 2017. Stewardship cards are available in fellowship hall.
- + **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** The Capital Campaign Committee would like to thank David and Kathie Rutkowski and George and Maita Houpis for sharing their personal story about what motivated them to support and pledge to the Capital Campaign. We continue our testimonials today and hope that they provided information that is helpful to you and your families, so that you can decide how you are best able to support this campaign. If you have not yet submitted your Pledge card, please look into your hearts and support our fundraising effort. Our goal remains to achieve our financial target with 100% participation of our Parish. Thank you for your support, for a once in a lifetime sacred opportunity, to build a new House of Worship.
- + **THE ASCENSION LEGACY GALA, A GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION** tickets are now available online at www.ascension.com/gala, click Tickets. The event will be held February 4 at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort, hosted by HGTV's Alison Victoria, with entertainment provided by the Chris Sarlas Orchestra. The deadline to be included in the commemorative Program Book is January 4. For more information, visit www.ascension.com/gala.
- + **THE NATIVITY FAST** takes place November 15—December 24. Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17. 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 Fr. 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 21st, at 6:30 p.m.
- + **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS** – Our JOY and Jr. GOYANS will be available after Church to take your poinsettia orders. Plants will be available for pick up next Sunday, December 18th. Please support our youth groups.
- + **HOCKEY MANIA STARTS SOON!** Philoptochos is inviting everyone to participate in our 2016 2017 Hockey Mania Fund-raiser, which will start on 12/19 and run for 15 weeks. Tickets will be available after Liturgy in the fellowship hall. This will make a great stocking-stuffer! Please stop by and join us for a fun Hockey season.
- + **A HOLLY JOLLY TIME** was had by all at the Philoptochos Membership Christmas party. An appreciative thank you to our hostess, Mia Connolly, for welcoming us into her home where we enjoyed food, fellowship & our spirited ornament exchange. Merry Christmas!
- + **THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT IS NEXT SUNDAY 12/18** after the Divine Liturgy. Don't miss this beautiful opportunity to witness our Parish youth perform the Nativity Story. Rehearsal takes place on Saturday, December 17th from 10 a.m. – noon.
- + **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO OPEN HOUSE** takes place next Sunday, December 18th at 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for all of us to extend our wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year to His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and His Grace Bishop Demetrios.
- + **YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to Ascension's Greek School Christmas program on Tuesday, December 20, at 5 p.m. to see our students commemorate Christ's Nativity by performing Greek Christmas songs, poems and skits.
- + **OUR ANNUAL PARISH ICE-SKATING PARTY** takes place on Wednesday, December 28th at 5:30 at Centennial Ice Arena at Highland Park. Save the date! More information to come.
- + **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotri to bless your home, please complete the insert and return it to the Church Office by 1/9/17
- + **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you know someone who is in a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact the church office at 847.482.1200.
- + **THE FAMILY SYNAXIS WOMEN'S RETREAT** will take place Friday, January 13 to Saturday, January 14, 2017, at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center. Save the date and stay tuned for further details regarding the speaker, theme and registration.