

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Apolytikion for Sun. before Nativity in the Second Mode

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ our 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 Μαθητὰς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτῆς 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 11:9-10; 32-40.

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

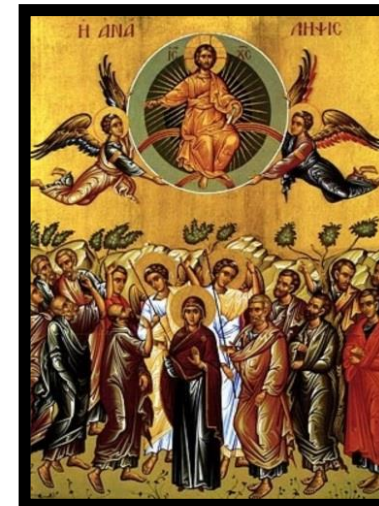
The Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

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 December 18, 2016 – January 1, 2017

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

How could the human race go to God if God had not come to us? How should we free ourselves from our birth into death if we had not been born again according to faith by a new birth generously given by God, thanks to that which came about from the Virgin's womb?

Irenaeus of Lyons

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 move forward. If you are standing in the back of the nave, please wait until an usher directs you.
- + Prior to receiving Holy Communion, we will recite together the *Prayers Before Receiving Holy Communion* on page 61 in the Divine Liturgy book found in the pew. Following Holy Communion, it is customary for the faithful to silently recite the *Prayers of Thanksgiving*, on page 73.
- + 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.
- + Whether you are an Orthodox Christian or not, please come forward at the dismissal to receive the blessed bread which is offered to everyone who worships with us. May the blessings of Christ be with you.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	December 18 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Servant of God, Anna Gouras (40 days) Christmas Pageant Metropolis Christmas Open House	Sunday before the Nativity
Monday 5:30 p.m.	December 19 JOY/Jr. GOYA/GOYA caroling at Greek American Rehab Center	
Tuesday 9 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	December 20 Divine Liturgy Greek School Christmas Program	St. Ignatius the God-Bearer
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.	December 21 The Sacrament of Holy Unction	
Thursday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.	December 22 Orthros Divine Liturgy	St. Anastasia the Great-Martyr
Friday 8:30 a.m.	December 23 Great Hours of Christmas	
Saturday 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 5 p.m.	December 24 Orthros Divine Liturgy Christmas Vespers	Eve of the Nativity
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	December 25 Orthros Divine Liturgy	Holy Nativity – Christmas Day
Monday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.	December 26 Orthros Divine Liturgy	Synaxis of the Theotokos Church Office Closed
Tuesday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. noon	December 27 Orthros Divine Liturgy Senior Synaxis Christmas Luncheon, Dover Straits	St. Stephanos, The First-Martyr
Wednesday 5:30 p.m.	December 28 Parish Ice-Skating Event, Centennial Ice Arena, Highland Park	
Thursday 7 p.m.	December 29 Men's Ministry Wine Sharing Event @ Lightsource, Vernon Hills	
Saturday 7 p.m.	December 31 Great Vespers, St. Basil Church, Chicago	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	January 1, 2017 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Doxology for the New Year	St. Basil the Great & Circumcision of Our Lord

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Patricia Filley & Tasia Alexakos
Epistle Reader: Caity Anast
Ushers: **UIC Tom Kiriakos**, Bill Smirles, Peter Venetos, Alex Marx, Doug Hugdahl, Andrea Rogers
 Mike Sutherland

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

Condolences

Maria Papagianis whose husband, Harry Papagianis, fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday. The funeral was held at Ascension on Thursday. We pray that God grant Harry eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven and comfort to his family. May his memory be eternal.



Announcements

- + **THE NATIVITY FAST** culminates on December 24. 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 this Wednesday, December 21st, at 6:30 p.m.**
- + **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO OPEN HOUSE** takes place today at 5 p.m. Our Parish looks forward to exchanging Christmas and New Years greetings with His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and His Grace Bishop Demetrios during these approaching Holy Days.
- + **SENIOR SYNAXIS** would like to thank you for your support at last week's Mini Christmas Bazaar. There are still items left which will be available for you after today's Pageant.
- + **IF YOU PURCHASED A POINSETTIA PLANT**, please pick it up directly after the Christmas Pageant.
- + **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2017 PLEDGE CARD** before the end of the year 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 all our parishioners who shared their personal stories about what motivated them to support and pledge to the Capital 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.
- + **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.
- + **SENIOR SYNAXIS IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Tuesday, December 27th at Dover Straits at 12 p.m. Family and friends are always welcomed. To RSVP, please call Elaine Beck by 12/24 at (847) 367-5227.
- + **THE KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY WELCOMES** everyone (21 & over) to join them for their 1st Annual night of Wine Sharing, Thursday Dec 29th, 7:00pm. Just bring a few bottles of your favorite wine, one to enjoy and one to share. Ugly Christmas sweaters optional, but encouraged! Please see the enclosed flyer for more details, or contact Doug Hugdahl, dhugdahl@lightsourceunlimited.com, or Demetri Katsulis, dtk111@comcast.net.
- + **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! See insert for more information.
- + **THE ASCENSION LEGACY GALA, A GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION** will feature a Commemorative Program Book to record the families, friends and businesses that support our parish at this pivotal time in our history. Be part of the legacy--ad deadline is **January 4**. Go to www.ascensiongoc.com/gala to place your ad, buy tickets or donate. 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.
- + **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotiri to bless your home, please complete the insert and return it to the Church Office by 1/9/17
- + **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.
- + **HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you know someone who is in the hospital, a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact the church office.
- + **WE THANK OUR PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE FOR AND DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS PAST YEAR** including Prophora bakers, Greeters, Epistle Readers, Ushers, and Coffee Fellowship hosts. Your love for Ascension is truly recognized and appreciated. May God bless you always.
- + **PHILOTOCHOS FELLOWSHIP WITH VETERANS** On Thursday Dec. 8, Philoptochos, joined by a few men from the Men's Koinonia group, brought dinner and a Greek Culture lesson to the Veterans undergoing treatment for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago. The Vets were served a delicious Greek Chicken dinner generously provided by Grazianos restaurant and the Demet family. Philoptochos members supplemented the meal with homemade Greek side dishes, desserts, and a bag of goodies and essentials. Thanks to all who participated in bringing some cheer to our Vets during the holiday season. Philoptochos would like to wish a Merry and Blessed Christmas to our parish family. Thank you for your involvement in the charitable work of our church!