

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 Afterfeast of the Presentation in the First Mode

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

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.

Ἀνελήφθῃς 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 First Mode

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10.

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'" As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

February 7 - 14, 2016

Prosphora Bakers:

Elaine Stevens & Sophia Beris

FOS Ministry Greeters:

Ellen & Michael Kaitson

Epistle Reader:

Tom Kiriakos

Ushers:

Doug Hugdahl, Bob Mantzoros, Tom Kiriakos, Mike Sutherland,
Steve Sintetas, Carol Stamas, Mia Connolly

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *“The only means by which you can spend the day in perfect holiness, peace, and without sin, is the most sincere, fervent prayer as soon as you rise from sleep in the morning. It will bring Christ into your heart, with the Father and the Holy Ghost.”*

- St. John of Kronstadt

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
February 7 - 14, 2016

Sunday **February 7** **16th Sunday of Matthew**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:15 a.m. Sunday Church School
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Memorial Service for the souls of the servants of God: Athanasios Malioufas (1 year) and Vasiliki Malioufas (6 yrs), and also Louis (Elias) Sigalos (5 years)
Coffee Fellowship hosted by Olga Metropulos

Monday **February 8**
5:45 p.m. JOY/Jr. GOYA
7:30 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday **February 9**
4:45 p.m. Greek School
7 p.m. Great Vespers @ St. Haralambos Church, Niles

Wednesday **February 10** **St. Haralambos**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:30 p.m. Paraklesis & LOGOS

Thursday **February 11**
10 a.m. Liturgy at Greek American Rehab Center
6:15 p.m. Adult Beginner Greek School
7 p.m. Capital Campaign Fundraising Meeting, Lake Forest
7:45 p.m. Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School

Saturday **February 13**
5 p.m. Vespers

Sunday **February 14** **Sunday of the Canaanite**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:15 a.m. Sunday Church School
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

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 wine your mouth after receiving. If you are wearing lipstick please remove it prior to receiving Communion.

+ **OUR PRAYERS THIS MORNING** are for the souls of the Servants of God, Athanasios and Vasiliki, beloved parents of Olga (George) Metropulos; and, our prayers are also for the soul of the servant of God Louis (Elias) Sigalos, beloved husband of Marina Sigalos and beloved father of Diane (Frank Belmonte) Sigalos. May their memory be eternal.

+ **OUR CONDOLENCES** to Bill (Susie) Athenson whose beloved father, Gabriel Athenson, fell asleep in the Lord on January 31st. Funeral services took place this past week in New Jersey. May his memory be eternal.

CHURCH NEWS

+ **OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "OUR FAITH...OUR CHURCH...OUR LEGACY" IS NOW UNDERWAY!** – This week on Thursday evening, the Capital Campaign Committee will host its second informational meeting at the home of Robert & Violetta Buhler: 660 Rockefeller Road, Lake Forest, from 7 – 9 p.m. Thank you to all who attended last Sunday's productive meeting at Demetri's Restaurant. The February 18th meeting at Royal Melbourne has limited availability remaining; however, the committee will also be scheduling additional meeting dates for March. Check the website for more information and to access our google sign-up option. Questions? Contact Fr. Sotiri at the Church office 847.482.1200; or Mia Connolly at 727.415.6277 / Miaps@aol.com.

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2016: Open Your Heart: Giving time, talents and treasure for the Glory of God.** Stewardship is our response to God's grace and moves us from grace to gratitude. We thank the 155 stewards who have pledged \$229,985.00 for 2016. If you have not yet filled in your pledge card for 2016, please express your love to God and your Church today. Pledge cards are available at the Pangari.

+ **PARISH FAMILY SKI TRIP** - All Youth Groups and their families are invited to join us for a Ski Trip to Alpine Valley on Monday, February 15th. We will be meeting at Ascension at 7:30 a.m. and returning at 6 p.m. The cost is \$90.00 per person, which includes lift ticket, equipment rental and the bus ride. *Reservations must be made by this Tuesday, 2/9.* For more information, visit www.ascensiongoc.com, or please contact Suzanne Saric at 847.508.5893 / suzannesaric@sbcglobal.net, or the Church office.

+ **OUR ANNUAL GOYA YOUTH SUNDAY** will take place on Sunday, February 21 at which time our GOYANS will serve as the Greeters, Ushers and Epistle Reader. Following the Divine Liturgy, please join them at the Youth Sunday Brunch to be held at the Royal Melbourne Club in Long Grove. We will be taking reservations today and next Sunday. GOYA thanks you for your support of this annual tradition.

+ **YOUTH BASKETBALL SHOOT-OUT FEBRUARY 26-28 @ ST DEMETRIOS, ELMHURST:** Another opportunity to bring fellowship to the basketball court! Do you have a 1st-6th grader who is interested in playing? Visit www.gmmt.org and contact Dino Bolos for more information: dinobolos@yahoo.com

+ **BE THE BEE YOUTH RETREAT:** On Saturday, February, 27, the Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, Steven Christoforou, will lead a retreat for youth (6th-12th grade), parents, and youth workers at SS Peter and Paul from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information and to register, contact Deacon Kosmas Kallis at SS Peter and Paul, frk@ssppglenview.org

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, Joseph, Sophia

Note: Bulletin submissions are welcome! If you would like to include news or event information in a Sunday bulletin, please send your submission to Suzanne Saric (suzannesaric@sbcglobal.net) by noon the Wednesday before publication.