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 Unmercenaries Cyrus and John in the Plagal First Mode
Since Thou hast given us the miracles of Thy holy Martyrs as an invincible battlement, by their entreaties scatter the counsels of the heathen, O Christ our God, and strenghten the faith of Orthodox Christians, since Thou alone art good and the Friend of man.

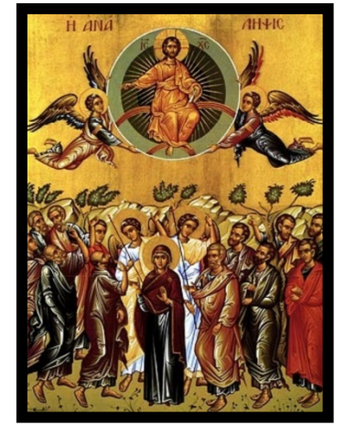
Apolytikion of the Church in the First Mode
Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou are the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.
Ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱός 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 First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15.
TIMOTHY, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

The Gospel of Luke 19:1-10
At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received Him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Ascension of Our Lord
Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN
January 31 – February 6, 2016

Prosphora Bakers:	Patricia Filley & Mary Kakavas
FOS Ministry Greeter:	Kay James
Epistle Reader:	Jim Anast
Ushers:	**Doug Hugdahl,** Carol Stamas, Peter Venetos, Tom Kiriakos, Steve Demet, David Rutkowski

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *"Our religion is perfectly and profoundly conceived. What is simple is also what is most precious. Accordingly, in your spiritual life engage in your daily contest simply, easily and without force. The soul is sanctified and purified through study of the Fathers, through the memorization of the psalms and of portions of Scripture, through the signing of hymns and through the repetition of the Jesus Prayer. Devote your efforts, therefore, to these spiritual things and ignore all the other things."*

- St. Porphyrios

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
January 31 – February 6, 2016

Sunday	**January 31**	**15th Sunday of Luke**
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by Greek School Staff	
2 p.m.	Hellenic Letters Luncheon @ Chateau Ritz	
5:30 p.m.	Capital Campaign Informational Meeting @ Demetri's Restaurant, Deerfield	
Monday	**February 1**	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	**February 2**	**Presentation of Our Lord**
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
Wednesday	**February 3**	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
6:30 p.m.	Paraklesis & LOGOS	
Thursday	**February 4**	
7 p.m.	Open House for Adult Greek School Program	
Saturday	**February 6**	
11:30 a.m.	Baptism: Konstantino, son of Tom & Eleni Kouretsos; Sponsors: Bill & Elaine Galanis	
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

+ **WE WELCOME THE VISITING YOUTH GROUP** from the Presbyterian Church of Barrington. We look forward to worshipping together with you this morning.

+ **OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN *"OUR FAITH…OUR CHURCH…OUR LEGACY"* IS NOW UNDERWAY!** – Today the Capital Campaign Committee is hosting its first informational meeting at Demetri's Restaurant, from 5:30-7:30pm. We have reached our capacity for this meeting, but invite you select one of our other dates, either February 11th or February 18th. Please sign up after church today, or 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. Please note that space may be limited at these meetings.

+ **WE HUMBLY ASK YOU TO PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2016 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD AND COMPLETE YOUR 2015 STEWARD OFFERING** 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. Pledge cards are available at the Pangari.

+ **SS PETER AND PAUL'S DIVORCE REBUILDERS** offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. Meetings will take place from 7–8:30 p.m. for six weeks on Mondays, February 1st through March 7th at SS Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glenview. This group provides a place where you can learn and heal from the hurt of divorce and is lead by Maria Boyle, MA Counseling, Northwestern University. For more information, and to enroll in this program, please email: mariaharduvel@aol.com and please note in the subject heading: Divorce Rebuilders. *"No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."*

+ **ADULT GREEK SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**: Please join us at Ascension this Thursday, February 4, from 7-8 p.m. if you are interested in learning more about the Beginner and Intermediate Adult Greek School language program. New students are always welcome.

+ **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 Tuesday, 2/9. For more information visit www.ascensiongoc.com or please contact Suzanne Saric (847.508.5893) or suzannesaric@sbcglobal.net.

+ **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 for the next two Sundays. Thank you for your support of this annual tradition.

+ **2016 METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO-WESTERN REGION FAMILY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT** will be hosted *February 12, 13, and 14* by St. Demetrios in Libertyville, IL. Parishes from throughout the Midwest will be participating in the games and social events planned for the weekend. Ascension is hoping to enter teams in both the youth and adult brackets. Interested in participating? Visit www.greekbball.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