

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

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 Sun. of the Holy Fathers in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast established our Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth, and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith. O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Great Martyr Marina in the Fourth Mode

O Lord Jesus, unto Thee Thy lamb doth cry with a great voice: O my Bridegroom, Thee I love; and seeking Thee, I now contest, and with Thy baptism am crucified and buried. I suffer for Thy sake, that I may reign with Thee; for Thy sake I die, that I may live in Thee: accept me offered out of longing to Thee as a spotless sacrifice. Lord, save our souls through her intercessions, since Thou art great in mercy.

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, 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 Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15.

TITUS, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

The Gospel of Matthew 5:14-19



The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

July 17 - 24

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

"Do you know the difference between people who live worldly lives and those who live spiritually? Those who follow the world try hard to keep their yards clean but seem not to mind that their houses are full of trash. So they sweep their yards clean, and throw the trash inside! They think, 'see what is in my house.' In other words, it's fine to have rubbish inside but not outside! All they want is to be admired by everyone. By contrast, spiritual people care about having the interior of their house clean. They are not interested in what people will say or think, because Christ lives in their house and their hearts, not in their yards."

St. Paisios

Weekly Calendar

Sunday July 17 Sunday of the Holy Fathers St. Marina

8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship hosted by Iliana Anthimiades & Kathy Schreiber

Wednesday July 20 Elias the Prophet

Sunday July 24 5th Sunday of Matthew St. Christina the Great Martyr

8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship
Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God Vasilios Kazas (40 yrs); and, Venice Schuppe (40 days)
12:30 p.m. Baptism: Nektaria & Porphyria, daughters of Aristides & Dimitra Assimacopoulos
Sponsor: Leonidas Bletsogiannis
2 p.m. Baptism: Leah (Evangelia), daughter of Jaslynn and Angelo Poulikakos
Sponsors: Kyriako Tsirigotakis and Maria Koutsis

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Despina Taranko and Tasia Alexakos

FOS Ministry Greeters: Jayne & Chris Chatzidakis

Epistle Reader: Mark Rader

Ushers: **UIC Carol Stamas**, Peter Venetos, Bill Athenson, Steve Demet, Mia Connolly, Doug Hugdahl

Prayer Requests for Health

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

Vigil Lights

Vigil Lights for the health and well being of the Nick and Peter Stevens families.

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, you may read the *Prayers Before Receiving Holy Communion* on page 37 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 55.

+ 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.

Announcements

+ **WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST WELCOME** to Rev. Fr. Anastasios Theodoropoulos who is celebrating the Divine Liturgy with us today. God grant you many years.

+ **PLEASE NOTE** – Fr. Sotiri will be away until July 23rd. We wish him and his family a blessed vacation.

+ **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "Our Faith...Our Church...Our Legacy"** Our Capital Campaign committee is pleased to announce that, as a Parish, we have successfully raised \$5.2M, in cash and pledges. With a Total Fundraising Goal of \$7.5M, we are almost 70% of the way there!! To date, 92 donors have pledged \$3,141,850 to our 2016 campaign goal of \$5.4M. This, along with the net amount donated by our 141 Parishioners in our prior campaign and the net amounts from prior dinner dances and other fundraising activities (which together aggregated approximately \$2.1 million at the start of our 2016 campaign), brings our grand total of cash on hand and pledges, to \$5.2M. With a remaining \$2.3M to raise, and a hopeful 100% participation from our Parishioners, our goal is within our reach. If you have not submitted your family's pledge card, we urge you to submit it, so that you can be recognized as a supporter of this project. Naming Opportunities continue to be donated, and there are still opportunities available, such as the:

- Community Center: \$1,000,000
- Nave and Dome: \$500,000/each
- Fellowship Hall, Gallery and Kitchen: \$250,000/each
- Landscaping: \$150,000
- Berms: \$50,000

All contributions are equally needed and appreciated, and will help our Parish meet our fundraising goal. Please contact Fr. Sotiri with any questions at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com, or the Church Office at 847-482-1200.

+ **THE ANNUAL PICNIC FOR SENIOR SYNAXIS MEMBERS** will take place on Thursday, July 28, 2016 at 1 p.m. here at Church. Please contact Elaine Beck at 847.367.5227 if you have any questions.

+ **SCS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES: IT'S A MID-SUMMER SOCIAL!** Attention all past, present and future Sunday Church School students and their families: The Koinonia Men's Ministry invites you to a mid-summer fellowship lunch after Liturgy on July 31st. Reconnect with your church family during the dog days of summer while enjoying hot dogs and ice cream hosted by our Men's Ministry. We hope to see you there!

+ **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOST STILL NEEDED:** Thank you to all who have signed up and hosted coffee fellowship hour. *The following date is still open this summer: August 7.* Call the office or check our website for some simple ideas. The sign-up list is available on the bulletin board near the coffee. *PLEASE make sure that all items are NUT FREE due to allergies. Thank you!

+ **ASCENSION FAMILY LOOKING FOR NANNY** - one of our Ascension families is looking for a nanny to help for 2-3 days per week starting August 22nd. The family has a 4 year old and 10-month old and lives in the Barrington / Palatine area. Please call the church office if you're interested in helping.

+ **SAVE THE DATE – SEPTEMBER 2nd - SEPTEMBER 4th for the Family Synaxis Labor Day Weekend Retreat** which will take place on the beautiful grounds of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI. This year's theme is **Sacred Space, Sacred Time: Cultivating Orthodox Families**. Registration just opened this weekend and with limited housing available, accommodations will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. Register by August 17 to receive the reduced registration cost. 8/24 is the last day to register. For more information, visit <http://www.gocfamilysynaxis.org>

+ **UPCOMING GREEK FESTIVALS:** Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greek-style!
July 15 – 17: St. Haralambos, Niles
July 16 – 17: All Saints, Joliet
July 23 – 24: Assumption, Chicago
July 23 – 24: Assumption, Homer Glen