

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

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, 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 First Mode

O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2.

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

March 6 - 12, 2016

Prosphora Bakers:

Sophia Metropulos

FOS Ministry Greeters:

Marcia & Eric Moore

Epistle Reader:

Caity Anast

Ushers:

Nick Marino, Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, David Rutkowski, Diane Sigalos, Mia Connolly

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *"In the difficult circumstances of life, offer your prayers to God more frequently. It is better to resort to prayers than to the empty notions of weak human reason which mostly cannot come to pass. It is better to lean on faith and on the Almighty God through prayer than one's feeble reason through untrustworthy notions and assumptions."*

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov

**Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
March 6 - 12, 2016**

Sunday	March 6	Judgement Sunday - Meatfare Sunday
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Memorial Service for the soul of the servant of God, Andrew A. Athens (3 years) Coffee Fellowship hosted by Elaine Stevens and Nick and Penny Gatsis
4:30 p.m.	Glendi @ Concorde Banquet Hall in Kildeer	
Monday	March 7	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	March 8	
10 a.m.	Clergy Syndesmos	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
Wednesday	March 9	40 Holy Martyrs
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
10:30 a.m.	HOPE Cheesefare Potluck	
7 p.m.	Stewardship Committee meeting	
Thursday	March 10	
6:30 p.m.	OCMC Benefit Banquet @ St. John's	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
Saturday	March 12	2nd Saturday of Souls - Psychosavato
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 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.

+ **OUR PRAYERS THIS MORNING** are for the soul of the servant of God, Andrew A. Athens, beloved husband of Louise Athens, and beloved father of Jackie Athens and Paul Athens. May his memory be eternal.

CHURCH NEWS

+ **THE SECOND SATURDAY OF SOULS** will be celebrated this Saturday, March 12th. Names of your deceased loved ones and koliva should be prepared, so through your presence at the Divine Liturgy, you may offer prayers for your departed loved ones' souls.

+ **FLOWERS FOR THE THEOTOKOS** – The Salutations for the Theotokos begin on Friday, March 18th. For the five consecutive Fridays, we adorn the Icon of the Theotokos with flowers. The dates of the Salutations are 3/18; 3/25; 4/1; 4/8 and 4/15. The cost of the flowers for each Friday is \$75.00. If you wish to donate the flowers that adorn the Icon of the Theotokos for any Friday, please call Renee Maltezos in the Church Office. We thank you in advance.

+ **OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "OUR FAITH...OUR CHURCH...OUR LEGACY"**: The Capital Campaign committee hopes that last Sunday's Informational Meeting sparked interest and excitement towards getting involved in and supporting our Capital Campaign project. Another presentation took place at the Men's Ministry Meeting this past Wednesday. As we continue to communicate the committee's goals and explain our fundraising needs, please find it in your hearts to support the building of our new church by offering your support to the best of your abilities. We realize that this capital campaign initiative is a very personal commitment for each of our families. Please also feel free to contact Fr. Sotiri regarding your support and participation at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com/847.482.1200.

+ **ADULT GREEK SCHOOL TUTORING OPPORTUNITY**: There is a time slot available within the Adult Greek School program *for tutoring* (Thursdays, from 7:45 to 9:00 pm). If you, or somebody you know may be interested, please contact our Greek School Director, mariatheod@hotmail.com, as soon as possible.

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO – Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)** will hold its Annual Benefit Banquet this Thursday, March 10th at St. John's Church, Des Plaines at 6:30 p.m. Donation of \$35.00 requested per person. For more information, please visit <http://www.missionteamchicago.org>, or call 317.709.0168. The keynote speaker will be the Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor, CEO & Professor of Missiology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary.

+ **"FROM ROCK STAR ATHEIST TO ORTHODOX MISSIONARY PRIEST"**: Don't miss this presentation by Father Themis Adamopoulos on Saturday, March 12th at 7 p.m. at St. Demetrios in Elmhurst. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with Great Vespers, followed by dinner and the presentation. RSVP by March 11th. Proceeds will benefit The Holy Orthodox Mission in Sierra Leone. Visit www.st-demetrios.org for more information.

+ **SOLEMN VESPERS AT ASCENSION**: Two important Solemn Vespers services will be held at our beloved Church. Please worship with us at Forgiveness Vespers on March 13th at 5 p.m., a beautiful way to commence Lent. On April 3rd at 7 p.m., Solemn Vespers service for the Metropolis will take place at Ascension of Our Lord.

+ **TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS** will take place on March 20th at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church in Elmhurst at 6:30 p.m. The homilist will be His Grace Bishop PAUL, Bishop of Chicago and the Midwest (OCA).

+ **"LOVING YOUR NEIGHBOR: SPEAKING TO OTHERS ABOUT ORTHODOXY"** On March 26 @ 10 a.m., St. Basil's in Chicago will feature this presentation by Fr. Dustin Lyon, of Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church in Dubuque, IA. Fr. Dustin will be offering some easy, informal ways to discuss our Faith with non-Orthodox people in our lives.

+ **LENTEN RETREAT: HUMILITY: THE KEY TO THE KINGDOM** The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos invites you to participate in this spiritually uplifting, informative, and enlightening program to be held on March 26th at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church, Justice, IL. Please see Carol Stamas with any questions.

+ **A WONDERFUL FAMILY LENTEN OPPORTUNITY IS OPEN TO US** on April 2nd at the Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Retreat, which will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Spyridon Church in Palos Heights. This year's theme is: *Family Forgiveness*. For more information, and to register by the early-bird deadline of 3/23, visit www.gocfamilysynaxis.org.

+ **THE 2016 ORATORICAL FESTIVAL** is gaining momentum at Ascension! If you are in 7th – 12th grade, you are encouraged to participate in this program, which gives you the opportunity to express your faith either through writing, speaking, drawing or poetry. All of the details are on the Youth Pages of our website. For more information, contact Dr. Dean Tsarwhas at tsarwhas1@gmail.com

+ **JR. OLYMPICS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**: Team Ascension is recruiting players and coaches! Interested? Fill out the insert and leave it in the Church office; or, contact Esther Tegel at etegel2@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

+ **PRAYER REQUESTS** – *Please include in your personal prayers* the servants of God: Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Nicholas, Christine, Louise, John, Panagiota, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Helen, James, Sonhia