

## Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

### **Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

### **Apolytikion for Thomas Sun. in the Grave Mode**

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

### **Apolytikion for Great Martyr George in the Fourth Mode**

Liberator of captives, defender of the poor, physician of the sick, and champion of kings, O trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

### **The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11.**

ABOUT THAT TIME, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

### **The Gospel of John 20:19-31**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe." Eight days later, His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to Him: "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

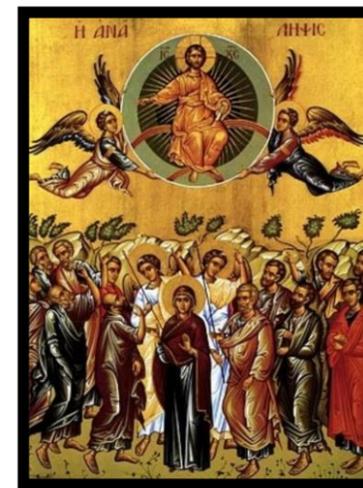
## Resurrection Hymn

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.

Christos anesti eknekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin charisamenos.

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

April 23 - 30, 2017

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!  
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

## Welcome To Our Visitors

**WE ARE GLAD you joined us in worship today.** We hope your visit to Ascension 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

*"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Heb. 11:1) And here He pronounces blessed not the disciples only, but those also who after them should believe."*

**St. John Chrysostom**

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 23</b>	<b>Sunday of Thomas</b> <b>St. George the Great Martyr</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Fellowship hosted by parish members celebrating the Feastday of St. George ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ!
<b>Monday</b>	<b>April 24</b>	
5:30 p.m.	JOY, Jr. GOYA and GOYA visit the Greek American Rehab Center	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>April 25</b>	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>April 26</b>	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
6:30 p.m.	Paraklesis	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>April 27</b>	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>April 29</b>	
5 p.m.	St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, Minneapolis	Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>April 30</b>	<b>Sunday of The Myrrh Bearers</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Fellowship

## 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.

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Despina Taranko and Tasia Alexakos

**Epistle Reader:** Mark Rader

**Ministry Greeters:** Jeannie and John Thomas

**Ushers:** UIC Tom Kiriakos, Bill Athenson, Peter Venetos, Mia Connolly, Carol Stamas, Jeannie Thomas, 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, Anthony



**DO YOU KNOW** why we don't kneel between the Feast Days of Pascha and Pentecost? To answer this, let's find out why we kneel at all. Kneeling, bowing and prostrations were conducted even in the Old Testament as a sign of deep prayer, repentance, lamentation and devout respect and worship. Even Jesus knelt before His Passion in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:29). According to a canon by the First Ecumenical Council, we are not to kneel between Pascha and Pentecost because of the "brilliant solemnity of the events which the Church commemorates" after Christ's Resurrection. We celebrate His third day Resurrection and therefore do not need to lament. St. Basil teaches us that by standing, we are reminded that we have risen from the dead together with Christ and we ought to seek the things above. Of course, the same prayers are said with reverence and fervor during this most Holy Consecration portion of the Liturgy. (Source: *Orthodox Christian Information Center*)

## Announcements

+ **CHRISTOS ANESTI! MAY OUR RISEN LORD** continue to bless Ascension of Our Lord and each and every member of our Parish. We thank you most sincerely for all of your monetary donations as well as the contributions of time and creative talent you gave to our beloved Ascension throughout Great Lent and Holy Week.

+ **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** has identified additional major donor naming opportunities and has re-worked others: the foyer (\$150,000), the gallery (\$150,000), and the community center stage (\$50,000). These, together with our remaining major donor naming opportunities, which include the Nave (\$500,000), the kitchen (\$250,000), landscaping (\$150,000), and a classroom (\$75,000), are now shown on an updated board located in the Narthex. Also, our other remaining donation opportunities are Pews (\$10,000), but there are only five Pews yet to be donated, and Personalized Brick Pavers (\$1,000). Please act fast as we are now approximately 83% of the way to our goal of remaining debt-free and building without any borrowing. If you would like to avail yourself of one of the remaining major donor naming opportunities or to donate towards any of these other remaining Donation Opportunities, please contact Fr. Sotirios in the church office at 847-482-1200 or email him at [frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com).

+ **STEWARDSHIP** Stewardship is recognizing the amazing wonder and power of grace that we did not deserve. It is the attitude of gratitude, of being thankful in all things, even when we do not feel the gratitude or see it. To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2017 is \$266,874 by 214 families. If you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so today!

+ **ATTENTION SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS: PLEASE BRING YOUR OCMC COIN BOXES** to church as soon as possible.

+ **THE JOY/JR. GOYA AND GOYA VISITATION TO THE GREEK AMERICAN REHABILITATION CENTER** will take place tomorrow, Monday, April 24th. We will gather on the first floor at 5:30 p.m. and visit the residents on each floor singing "Christos Anesti", followed by a fellowship dinner.

+ **THE BAKE SALE COMMITTEE** would like to thank all of our dedicated bakers and volunteers for making this year's bake sale a success. We greatly appreciate your time and talents! We also thank the congregation for their continued loving support of our efforts.

+ **FINAL HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE:** Week 15 winners are Maita and George Houpis, who won \$25.00. Congratulations! A special thanks to everyone for supporting our Hockey Mania fundraiser. We had a successful season raising \$2,380, which enables us to continue our Philanthropic efforts.

+ **FEED THE HUNGRY PROGRAM AT ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL** - Our Philoptochos will "Feed the Hungry" this Tuesday, April 25th at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. We are planning to feed 150+ hungry men and women, most of who are homeless. Please contact Kathie Rutkowski @ 847-421-8267, to volunteer or donate. Philoptochos will also be distributing the filled bags from the "Fill the Bag" program to everyone being fed that day. Thank you to those who donated to and participated in this year's *Fill the Bag* program!

+ **THE ST. DEMETRIOS SPRING GREEK FEST** takes place May 5 - 7 in the Church Hall, 1400 N. O'Plaine Rd., Libertyville. Enjoy traditional Greek cuisine and homemade Greek pastries. For more information, call St. Demetrios at 224.513-5530.

+ **THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 7<sup>th</sup>.** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

+ **JR. OLYMPICS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:** Team Ascension is currently recruiting players and coaches! More information is available on the youth pages of our website; or, contact Esther Tegel at [etegel2@gmail.com](mailto:etegel2@gmail.com) with questions and interest.

+ **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2017 ASCENSION GOLF OUTING!** The Koinonia Men's Ministry will be hosting the annual Ascension Golf Outing and Family Dinner on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Deerfield Golf Course. Registration will open soon on our website. Stay tuned!

+ **THE 2017 METROPOLIS ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL** takes place in Minneapolis this Saturday and Ascension's representatives are Andrew Athenson and Callie Saric, who submitted essays in the Senior and Junior division, respectively. We wish both of them good luck in this year's annual competition!

+ **HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING HOME & HOME-BOUND PARISHIONER VISITS.** If you know someone who is hospitalized, in a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact our office.