

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 11th Sun. of Luke in the Second Mode

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin she has committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

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.

Ανελήφθης 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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11.

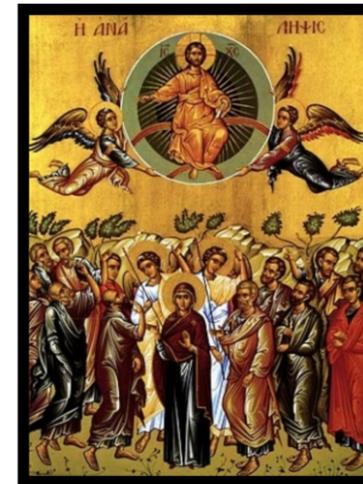
Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Gospel of Luke 14:16-24 The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"



+ ON BEHALF OF THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY, we wish you a blessed time with your families throughout this spiritual Nativity season. A schedule of Divine services for Christmas and Epiphany was sent to your homes and may also be found on our website. Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!

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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 17 – 31, 2017

Welcome To Our Visitors

WELCOME TO THE ASCENSION PARISH. Your presence has brought us much joy. We hope your visit is 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

“Come, O faithful, Let us enjoy the Master's hospitality, The banquet of immortality. In the upper chamber with uplifted minds Let us receive the exalted words of the Word Whom we magnify.”

Last Ode of the Compline Canon

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.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	December 17	11th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	St. Dionysios
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	The Three Holy Youths
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Memorial for the Souls of Servants of God, Georgia Katz (9 days), Angeliki Michelis (1 year)	
	Christmas Pageant presented by Ascension's Youth	
Monday	December 18	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House	
5:30 p.m.	Youth caroling at Greek American Rehab Center	
Tuesday	December 19	
7 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
Wednesday	December 20	St. Ignatius the God-Bearer
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Thursday	December 21	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Friday	December 22	St. Anastasia the Great-Martyr
8:30 a.m.	Great Hours of Christmas	
Saturday	December 23	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	December 24	Eve of the Nativity
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	<i>All services @ Daniel Wright</i>
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5 p.m.	Christmas Vespers	
Monday	December 25	Holy Nativity – Christmas Day
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	<i>Services @ Daniel Wright</i>
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday	December 26	Synaxis of the Theotokos
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Wednesday	December 27	St. Stephanos, The First-Martyr
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
12:30 p.m.	Senior Synaxis Christmas Luncheon, Dover Straits	
Thursday	December 28	
5:30 p.m.	Parish Ice-Skating Event, Centennial Ice Arena, Highland Park	
Friday	December 29	
7 p.m.	Men's Ministry Wine Sharing Event @ Lightsource, Vernon Hills	
Saturday	December 30	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	December 31	Sunday before Theophany
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Sophie Beris & Mary Kakavas
Epistle Reader: Kathie Rutkowski
Greeters: Elaine & Harry Metropoulos
Ushers: Nick Marino UIC, Peter Venetos, Doug Hugdahl, Carol Stamas, Bill Athenson, Jeannie Thomas, Mike Sutherland

Prayer Requests for Health

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS the servants of God: Eleni, George, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Dee, Helen, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony, Fred, Katerini, Holly, Nick

Condolences

+ **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES** to the family of Georgia Katz, loving wife of Sumner Katz, and mother of Jonathan, Marina and Vanessa, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 9th. The funeral was held at St. John Chrysostomos Monastery on Tuesday.

+ **WE ALSO EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES** to the family of James Antonak, loving husband of Neova, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 9th. Due to our construction phase, his funeral was held Thursday at SS Peter & Paul.

+ **OUR HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES** are also offered to Mary (John) Petros, whose brother, James, fell asleep in the Lord last Monday evening. Visitation will take place from 3 – 8 p.m. on Monday, 12/18, at Glueckert Funeral Home, Arlington Heights. His funeral will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 19th at St. Demetrios Church, Elmhurst.

We pray that God grant Georgia, James and James eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven and comfort to their families. May their memory be eternal.

Announcements

- + **BELOVED FAITHFUL:** Divine Liturgy begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. It is a great blessing to hear the very first sentence of the service that draws us in to the Heavenly Banquet offered at every Liturgy: *Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages.* Please make every effort to be on time.
- + **THE NATIVITY FAST** culminates on December 24. This is a period of spiritual reflection, prayer and confession as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior. If you would like to schedule the Sacrament of Confession with Fr. Sotiri, please call the Church office. Please consult our website for the schedule of services leading into the Nativity. The Nativity Fast ends on Christmas Day. December 25 – January 4 is fast-free.
- + **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE:** Since construction on our new church has begun, the capital campaign continues its work towards realizing our goal to remain debt-free. To date, we have total pledges and cash on hand of 78 percent of the final construction budget. While this is a tremendous achievement, we are committed in our desire to be mortgage-free and we ask that all stewards open their hearts and pledge what they can to help achieve our goal. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com, to donate now. Thank you!
- + **STEWARDSHIP 2017:** This is a reminder that as the fiscal year comes to a close, in order for offerings to be credited in 2017, they need to be received and/or postmarked no later than December 31, 2017. We thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on our Parish this past year.
- + **WE THANK OUR LOYAL PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE FOR AND DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS PAST YEAR** including Prospora bakers, Greeters, Epistle Readers, Ushers, and Coffee Fellowship hosts. Your love for Ascension is truly recognized and appreciated. May God bless you always.
- + **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:** We currently do not have coffee hosts for the next two Sundays, as well as most Sundays in the New Year. Please visit our website for more details and simple, peanut-free serving ideas! We have simplified the process and encourage people to go to our website to sign up. Or, feel free as always to call the office with questions. Thank you!
- + **WE'RE ASKING ALL ASCENSION YOUTH** to join us in bringing the Christmas spirit to residents of the Greek American Rehab Center in Wheeling tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 18 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We'll visit with the Residents, sing Christmas Carols, and share a light dinner together. For any questions, please see Carol Stamas. Thank you!
- + **SENIOR SYNAXIS IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Wednesday, December 27th at Dover Straits at 12:30 p.m. Family and friends are always welcomed. To RSVP, please call Elaine Beck by 12/20 at (847) 367-5227. Please join us for this joyous and festive gathering.
- + **THE KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY WELCOMES** everyone (21 & over) to join them for their 2nd Annual night of Wine Sharing, Friday Dec 29th, at 7 pm. Just bring 2 bottles of your favorite wine, one to enjoy and one to share. Ugly Christmas sweaters optional, but encouraged! Contact Doug Hugdahl, dhugdahl@lightsourceunlimited.com, or Demetri Katsulis, dtk111@comcast.net for more information.
- + **OUR ANNUAL PARISH ICE-SKATING PARTY** takes place on Thursday, December 28th at 5:30 at Centennial Ice Arena at Highland Park. Please see the insert for more details.
- + **GOYA NEW YEAR'S PARTY:** St. Demetrios of Elmhurst is hosting a "New Year's Eve GOYA Dance" (grades 6th-12th) on Friday, December 29th from 7:30-10:30pm. \$15 entry fee. Reunite with friends, while enjoying a night of music, dancing, food and fun! Contact Anthony Ruggerio at a.ruggerio@gmail.com with questions.
- + **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotiri to bless your home, please complete the insert and return it to the Church Office by 1/8/18.
- + **SAVE THE DATE! ASCENSION OF OUR LORD'S ANNUAL APOKREATIKO GLENDI** will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2018, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer, IL. There will be dinner, dancing, games and fun for all! Stay tuned for more details!
- + **NEW YEAR, HEALTHIER YOU!** You are invited to our "Building a Healthier You" Philoptochos General Meeting where Marcia Moore will speak to us about healthier product alternatives. The meeting will be generously hosted by Sal and Briana Cardone at their restaurant, Mambo Italiano in Mundelein, on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30pm. Please RSVP to Anna Duros at ascensionphilo@gmail.com if you are attending.
- + **STEWARDS: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2018 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today.
- + **COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR:** Dive for the Cross: January 14; Annual March for Life Chicago: January 14; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 21; Hellenic Letters Luncheon: January 28. Stay tuned for more information.
- + **FOOTBALL MANIA WINNER UPDATE FOR WEEK 7:** Milt Taliadouros, who won \$25. Congratulations!
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: DECEMBER DONATIONS INCLUDE:** United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF); General Medical Fund; Christmas Toy Drive for the Department of Children & Family Services: 6 children; St. Nicholas Party for our Children. Philoptochos would like to wish our parish family a Blessed and Merry Christmas! Thank you for all that you do to help us carry out our charitable work for our church.