Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

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.

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 Third Mode
O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20.
Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Gospel of Luke 15:11-32

The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN
February 12 - 19, 2017

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

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son *reflects on a time of repentance and a return from exile. Exile relates to how we have strayed from God and "wasted with sinners the riches that Thou gavest." Great Lent itself is a pilgrimage, a return and a focus on repentance and asking God for forgiveness for our sins. As the Prodigal Son returned to his Father, we must return to our Father as well.*

Excerpt taken from "Coffee with a Little Stewardship" series by the Serbian Orthodox Church

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	**February 12**	**Prodigal Son**
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Souls of the Servant of God, Louis Sigalos 6 yrs), Jane Kannapes (1 yr), Panagiotis Maheras (9 months), and Penelope Maheras (3 yrs). Youth Sunday Brunch, Royal Melbourne Country Club, Long Grove	
Monday	**February 13**	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	**February 14**	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
Wednesday	**February 15**	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
6:30 p.m.	Paraklesis & LOGOS	
Thursday	**February 16**	
10 a.m.	Fr. Sotiri serving Liturgy at Greek American Rehab	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
Saturday	**February 18**	**1st Saturday of Souls**
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	**February 19**	**Judgement Sunday**
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	Meatfare Sunday
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prosphora: Elaine Stevens and Sophia Metropulos
Epistle Reader: Angel Montero
Ministry Greeters: Catherine Greub and Maggie Kotsonis
Ushers: Angel Montero, Artemis Paschos, Catherine Greub, Maggie Kotsonis, Sophia Fakhoury, Vanessa Katz

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

Vigil Lights

Vigil lights offered by Tom and Valerie Papastefan in memory of Valerie's father, Constantine (Gus) Skizas

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.

Announcements

+ **THE GALA CO-CHAIRS WISH TO EXTEND** sincere and heartfelt appreciation to all who helped to make the Ascension Legacy Gala a success. To our wonderful Committee, it was pure joy to work with such a dedicated, passionate and talented group of women. To those who attended and or donated, thank you for your loving support. Through our collective efforts and with God's grace, the dream of building a new parish home will soon become a reality.

+ **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** again wishes to thank everyone who made our Ascension Legacy Gala such a TREMENDOUS success, especially our event Co-Chairs Amy Tsarwhas and Marcia Moore, everyone on their event committee, our anonymous donor, and everyone else who gave so much so generously from their heart! Thank you!! Also, immediately following upon the excitement and success of the Gala, we have secured the Major donor naming opportunity for the DOME! So, please act fast on one of our remaining major donor naming opportunities, which include the Nave ($250,000), the kitchen ($250,000), landscaping ($150,000), a multi-purpose room ($100,000), and a classroom ($75,000), as we are now approximately 83% of the way to our goal of remaining debt-free and building without any borrowing. Also, our other remaining donation opportunities are as follows: Pews ($10,000), Sanctuary windows ($5,000), and Personalized Brick Pavers ($1,000). 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.

+ **TODAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY** and our GOYANS are serving as the Greeters, Ushers and Epistle Reader. Following the Divine Liturgy, we will be holding our annual Youth Sunday Brunch at the Royal Melbourne Club in Long Grove and warmly welcoming our keynote speaker, Deacon Perry Hamalis. GOYA thanks you for your support of this annual tradition.

+ **THE FIRST SATURDAY OF SOULS** will be celebrated this Saturday, February 16th. Names of your deceased loved ones and koliva should be prepared, so through your presence at the Divine Liturgy, you may offer prayers for the souls of your departed loved ones.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Please join us for our Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party on Friday, February 24th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Ascension. We will be assembling emergency kits for IOCC. Please see our flyer for more details. This is a great way for our children to begin to prepare for Great Lent. Assembling the IOCC KITS will teach our children the value of almsgiving, which is one of the pillars of Great Lent. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity for our children to get involved! Please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com.

+ **ATTENTION 7th-12th GRADERS:** Don't miss the opportunity to show your God-given talents as a writer, speaker and/or artist. The 2017 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is underway**!** **I**f 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. Coinciding with Great Lent, this inspiring program will give you a unique opportunity for reflection during the Lenten journey. All of the details, including this year's interesting topics, can be found on the Youth Pages of our website. For more information, contact Dr. Dean Tsarwhas at tsarwhas1@gmail.com.

+ **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE** for week 6: Kay James, who won $75.00. Congratulations!

+ **SS PETER AND PAUL DIVORCE REBUILDERS** offers information, guidance and support to those who are separated and divorced. Meetings will take from 7-8:30 p.m. for six weeks on beginning Monday, February 13th through March 27th at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Palos Hills, in the Recreation Center. This group provides a place where you can learn and heal from the hurt of divorce and is lead by Maria Boyle, Counseling, Northwestern University. To secure a seat in this program, please email: mariaharduvel@aol.com and please note in the subject heading: Divorce Rebuilders. There is no fee for this program. *"No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."*

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT DINNER:** Reservations are being accepted for this benefit dinner that takes place on Cheesefare Thursday, February 23rd, 6:30 p.m., at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines. For more information, please go to www.MissionTeamChicago.org, call (317) 709-0168, or e-mail MTCBenefit@yahoo.com before this Thursday, February 16.

+ **GREAT ESCAPE WINTER CAMP:** All 6th – 11th graders are invited to attend this Metropolis-wide retreat, which will be held at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center March 10th-12th. Registrations are due by March 1st and space is limited. Visit our website's youth pages for more information.