

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

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 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 February 19 - 26, 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

"If you are constantly lecturing your children, you'll become tiresome and when they grow up they'll feel a kind of oppression [and rebel]. Prefer prayer and communicate with them through prayer. Speak to God and God will speak to their hearts. ...Say, 'Lord Jesus Christ, give Your light to my children. I entrust them to You. You gave them to me, but I am weak and unable to guide them, so, please, illuminate them.' And God will speak to them."

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	February 19 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship Hosted by the Metropoulos Family	Judgement Sunday Meatfare Sunday
Monday	February 20 Office Closed	President's Day
Tuesday 4:45 p.m. 7 p.m.	February 21 Greek School Parish Council Meeting	
Wednesday 11 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	February 22 HOPE Cheesefare Luncheon Paraklesis & LOGOS	
Thursday 12 noon 6:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	February 23 Senior Synaxis Valentine's Day Luncheon, Demetri's, Deerfield OCMC Missions Team Dinner, St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School Adult Beginner Greek School	
Friday 6:30 p.m.	February 24 FAITH/JOY Fast-Free Friday Pizza Party	
Saturday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 5 p.m.	February 25 Orthros Divine Liturgy Vespers	2nd Saturday of Souls
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	February 26 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Sunday

The Sunday of the Last Judgment | Meatfare Sunday

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory. This is also the last day that we may consume meat products before the beginning of Great Lent.

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

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Provided by bakers who offered prospora for Saturday of Souls. May God Bless You.

Epistle Reader: Kathie Rutkowski
Ministry Greeters: Elaine and Harry Metropoulos

Ushers: David Rutkowski, UIC, Bill Athenson, Tom Papastefan, Doug Hugdahl, Bob Mantzoros, Bill Smirles, Chris Chatzidakis, Carol Stamas

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

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to Mary Kokinis, whose husband, John Kokinis, fell asleep in the Lord this past Monday. The funeral was held at Ascension on Thursday. We pray that God grant John eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven and comfort to his family. May his memory be eternal.

Announcements

+ **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 \$235,424 by 160 families. If you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so today!

+ **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** has identified additional major donor naming opportunities and has re-worked others: the foyer (\$150,000), the gallery (\$150,000), the east entrance (\$75,000), 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), a multi-purpose room (\$100,000), and a classroom (\$75,000), soon will be shown on a new board to be located in the Narthex. Also, our other remaining donation opportunities are Pews (\$10,000) 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

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Please join us for our Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party this 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.

+ **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE** for week 7: Diane Maroudas, who won \$25.00. Congratulations!

+ **MARRIAGE MINISTRY** Join us on Friday, March 3rd immediately following the Salutations to the Theotokos service for the next meeting of the Ascension Marriage Ministry! Couples of all ages are welcome. Help us continue to build our new ministry and enjoy fellowship with other Ascension couples. Email Frank Kazas at fgkazas@gmail.com with any questions.

+ **THE SECOND SATURDAY OF SOULS** will be celebrated this Saturday, February 25th. 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.

+ **GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH PRAYER:** Forgiveness Vespers will take place next Sunday, 2/26 at 5 p.m. On 2/27, Kathara Theftera (Clean Monday), the Great Compline will take place at 6 p.m. The 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will take place on Wednesday, 3/1, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The First Salutations to the Theotokos is on Friday, 3/3 at 7 p.m. A full schedule of Lenten services, as well as information on our Lenten Lecture Series, will be inserted into the bulletin next week.

+ **FLOWERS FOR THE THEOTOKOS** The Salutations for the Theotokos begin on Friday, March 3rd. For the five consecutive Fridays, we adorn the Icon of the Theotokos with flowers. The dates of the Salutations are 3/3, 3/10; 3/17; 3/24, and 3/31. 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.

+ **TRIUMPH OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS** will take place on March 5th at St. George Antiochian Church in Cicero at 6:30 p.m. The homilist will be Fr. Josiah Trenham, from St. Andrew Orthodox Church in Riverside, California.

+ **BOOKSTORE NEWS:** New titles have arrived just in time for your Lenten reading or Pascha gifts. **For adults—***Becoming Orthodox, Parenting Toward the Kingdom, The Road Back to Christ, and Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives.* **For teens—***Hear Me, Letters to Lydia, and Keeper of the Light.* **For middle grade—***Shepherding Sam and Special Agents of Christ.* **For babies and toddlers—***Goodnight Jesus and What Do You See at Liturgy?* Plus prayer ropes, icon bracelets, incense, and more!

+ **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! 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. 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.

+ **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.