

**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 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 Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

**Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Second Mode**

O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4.**

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires. As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

**The Gospel of Matthew 6:14-21**

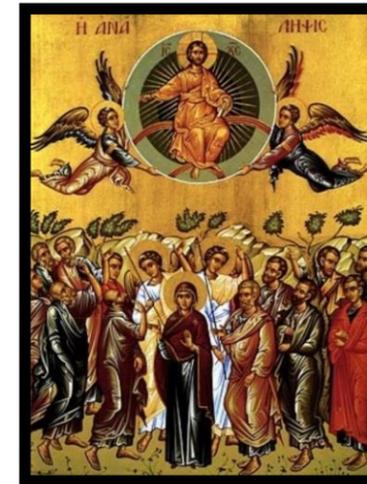
The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."



Ascension of Our Lord  
Greek Orthodox Church



1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069  
Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos  
TEL: (847) 482-1200 | FAX: (847) 482-9566 | [www.ascensiongoc.com](http://www.ascensiongoc.com)  
Office e-mail: [reneemaltezos@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:reneemaltezos@ascensiongoc.com)

**WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN**  
**February 26 – March 5, 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

*"Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is the fast of demons. . . We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family."*

His Grace Bishop Kallistos of Diokleia

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 26</b>	<b><u>Forgiveness Sunday</u></b> <b><u>Cheesefare Sunday</u></b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Houpis and Kaulentis Families	
12:30 p.m.	Baptism: Nikolette, daughter of Leo and Angelica Kontos Sponsors: Jim and Sophia Koliatsis	
2 p.m.	Baptism: Alexandra, daughter of Trent and Sarah Blasco Sponsors: Jennifer & William Sutkay	
5 p.m.	Forgiveness Vespers	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 27</b>	<b><u>Clean Monday   Lent Begins</u></b>
6 p.m.	Great Compline followed by Lenten dinner with Youth Groups	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 28</b>	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 1</b>	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
5:30 p.m.	9 <sup>th</sup> Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal hosted by Parish Council   Speaker Series featuring Fr. Andrew Kearns	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 2</b>	<b><u>St. Nicholas Planas</u></b>
6:15 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 3</b>	
7 p.m.	1 <sup>st</sup> Salutations to the Theotokos	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 4</b>	<b><u>3rd Saturday of Souls</u></b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 5</b>	<b><u>Sunday of Orthodoxy</u></b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Procession of Icons	

## Our Sunday Volunteers

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

**Epistle Reader:** Catherine Anast  
**Ministry Greeters:** Eric and Marcia Moore

**Ushers:** Tom Kiriakos, UIC, Peter Venetos, Nick Marino, Carol Stamas Tom Vabakos, Steve Sintetas, Andrea Rogers

## 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

## 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 \$237,774 by 165 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](mailto:frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com)

+ **THE GALA COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM BOOK** is now available on Ascension's website at [www.ascensiongoc.com/gala](http://www.ascensiongoc.com/gala). We would like to once again thank everyone who contributed to this memorable album.

+ **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE** for Week 8: Brooke Tsoulos who won \$25.00. Congratulations!

+ **THE MARCH MARRIAGE MINISTRY** meeting, originally scheduled for this Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, will be replaced by the Lenten Lecture Series program scheduled on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Please see insert for more information on the program scheduled for that evening, which will add an enriching component and complement the goals of our Parish's new Marriage Ministry.

+ **THE THIRD SATURDAY OF SOULS** will be celebrated this Saturday, March 4th. 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.

+ **FLOWERS FOR THE THEOTOKOS** The Salutations for the Theotokos begin this Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

+ **A WONDERFUL FAMILY LENTEN OPPORTUNITY IS OPEN TO US** on Saturday, March 18th at the Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Retreat, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Chicago. This year's theme is: *Cultivating Relationships with the Saints: The True Heroes for Orthodox Families*. For more information, and to register by the early-bird deadline of 3/12, visit [www.gocfamilysynaxis.org](http://www.gocfamilysynaxis.org).

+ **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!

+ **CELEBRATION OF BOOKS** The annual celebration of books will once again take place at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester, on Sunday, March 12th – Thursday, March 16th. This year's keynote speakers will be Rev. Dr. Eugen Pentiu, Dr. Alexis Torrance and Dr. Bruce Beck. For more information, visit: [www.holyapostleschurch.com](http://www.holyapostleschurch.com)

+ **ATTENTION 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:tsarwhas1@gmail.com).

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT:** Our Philoptochos chapter's February national commitments included donations to the Autism fund, the St. Fotios Shrine, and the collections benefiting *One Warm Coat* and *Midwest Veterans Closet*.

### + GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH PRAYER +

Forgiveness Vespers takes place this evening at 5 p.m. Tomorrow, 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. See insert for a full schedule of Lenten services, as well as information on our Lenten Lecture Series, which begins this Wednesday when Fr. Andrew Kearns presents "Re-Orienting the Passions: Patristic Reflections of the Grace Filled Drives Behind the Passions." Additional information, calendars and reflections can be found on a special webpage devoted to Great Lent 2017, which you can access from our Ascension website: [www.ascensiongoc.com](http://www.ascensiongoc.com).