

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 Circumcision of Jesus Christ in the First Mode

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself without change, O greatly-compassionate Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us. Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to Thine inexpressible condescension.

Apolytikion for Basil the Great in the First Mode

Thy sound hath gone forth into all the earth, which hath received thy word. Thereby thou hast divinely taught the Faith; thou hast made manifest the nature of all things that be; thou hast adorned the ways of man. O namesake of the royal priesthood, our righteous Father Basil, intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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.

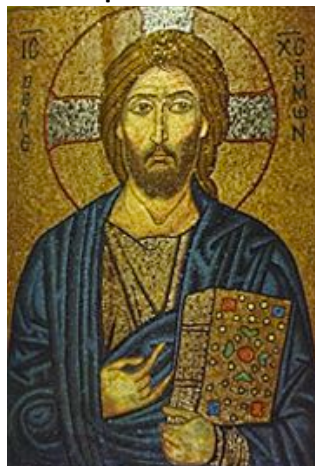
Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

Now the Lord of all that is doth undergo circumcision, in His goodness cutting off the sins and failings of mortals. He this day doth give salvation unto the whole world; and the hierarch and bright daystar of the Creator now rejoiceth in the highest, Basil the wise and divine initiate of Christ.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 2:8-12.

BRETHREN, see to it that no one makes a prey of you by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fulness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fulness of life in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of flesh in the circumcision of Christ; and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

The Gospel of Luke 2:20-21, 40-52



At that time, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. And at the end of eight days, when He was circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up according to custom; and when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, but supposing Him to be in the company they went a day's journey, and they sought Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances; and when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. After three days, they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when they saw Him they were astonished; and his mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for You anxiously." And He said to them, "How is it that you sought me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" And they did not understand the saying which He spoke to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man.

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
Office e-mail: reneemaltezos@ascensiongoc.com

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN January 1 – 8, 2017

Welcome to Our Visitors

WE ARE GLAD *you came to our Church.* We hope your visit 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

He who without separation and corruption Was born ineffably as the Word of the Father, Who is God from God in the changeless Godhead, Undergoes circumcision in the flesh. He who is above the law Delivers all from the curse of the law By becoming Himself under the law And giving us blessings from on high. Therefore we praise His infinitely gracious condescension, We sing His praises, And we glorify Him with thanksgiving, Entreating Him that our souls may be saved.

Orthros of the Feast of Our Lord's Circumcision

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	January 1 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Doxology Coffee Fellowship	Circumcision of our Lord St. Basil the Great
Monday	January 2 Office Closed	
Thursday 8:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m.	January 5 Great Hours of Epiphany Vespers Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of the Waters	Eve of Theophany
Friday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 7 p.m.	January 6 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of the Waters Great Vespers @ St. John's Church, Des Plaines	Holy Theophany
Saturday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 5 p.m.	January 7 Orthros Divine Liturgy Vespers	Synaxis of John the Baptist
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6 p.m.	January 8 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Vasilopita Cutting Metropolis Vasilopita Cutting @ SS Peter and Paul	Sunday After Theophany

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: Elaine Metropoulos and Sophia Metropulos
Epistle Reader: Thomas Poulakidas
Ministry Greeter: Kay James
Ushers: UIC Bill Athenson, Bob Mantzoros, Carol Stamas, Mia Connolly, Tom Vabakos, Georgia Tapas, Chris Chatzidakis

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

ON BEHALF OF THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY, we wish you a blessed and healthy New Year!

Announcements

- + **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2017 PLEDGE CARD** either by mail, or by dropping it off at the Church office. Our theme, which we will cultivate in the coming year, is: *As the Father has sent me, so I send you*. We ask for God's blessings as we prayerfully consider how we can serve as the *Voice of Christ in a Changing World* and offer our time, talents and treasures to sustain and enhance the spiritual and bountiful Parish life at Ascension in 2017. Stewardship cards are available in fellowship hall.
- + **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** The Capital Campaign committee continues its efforts to raise money for the construction of our new Church. Our total 2016 pledges of 2.9 M is progress, but our goal of 5.4 M has not yet been reached. If you have not yet submitted your Pledge card, please look into your hearts and support our fundraising effort. Our goal remains to achieve our financial target with 100% participation of our Parish. Thank you for your support, for a once in a lifetime sacred opportunity, to build a new House of Worship. Also, please remember to support our Gala on Saturday, February 4, 2017.
- + **STEWARDS: PLEASE TAKE HOME YOUR 2017 CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today.
- + **THE ASCENSION LEGACY GALA, A GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATION** will feature a Commemorative Program Book to record the families, friends and businesses that support our parish at this pivotal time in our history. Be part of the legacy--**ad deadline is this Wednesday, January 4**. Go to www.ascensiongoc.com/gala to place your ad, buy tickets or donate. The event will be held February 4 at the Lincolnshire Marriott Resort, hosted by HGTV's Alison Victoria, with entertainment provided by the Chris Sarlas Orchestra.
- + **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotri to bless your home, please complete and return the insert by 1/9/17.
- + **PLEASE JOIN US ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 13th FROM 7 - 8:30 p.m.** for our second meeting of the Ascension Marriage Ministry! Couples of all ages are welcome. For those needing childcare, our GOYA students will be at church to help watch our little ones. Please email Frank Kazas at fgkazas@gmail.com with any questions.
- + **PARENTING UNIVERSITY, A SERIES BEING OFFERED BY CHICAGO FAMILY SYNAXIS**, will offer a session entitled "Having Tough Talks" at SS Peter and Paul, Glenview, on Friday, January 20th at 6:30 p.m.
- + **THE FAMILY SYNAXIS "HOLISTIC CHRISTIAN" WOMEN'S RETREAT** will take place Friday, January 13 to Saturday, January 14, 2017, at the Saint Iakovos Retreat Center. Holistic Health and Wellness Coach, Cynthia Damaskos, will be the featured speaker. Register now at <http://www.gocfamilysynaxis.org/>
- + **JOIN US AT OUR 2nd ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** on Sunday, January 15th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool located at 1207 Park Ave West, Highland Park. Diving is reserved for K-12th graders and is \$10 per diver. Divers should bring a swimsuit and towel. A parent or guardian must be present. We look forward to celebrating this historic tradition!
- + **2017 GOYAN RETREAT!** Ascension GOYANS, our annual retreat will take place this year on January 20-21 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center! Save the date -- additional details to follow!
- + **THE HELLENIC LETTERS LUNCHEON** will take place on January 29th at 2 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz. Details regarding reserving a table for Ascension are forthcoming.
- + **THE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** is currently accepting applications from eligible undergraduate students of Hellenic descent to support the educational pursuits of exceptional young people. The application deadline is January 31, 2107. Visit www.panhellenicscholarships.org for application information.
- + **CROSSROAD 2016 FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS** is a summer institute hosted at Hellenic College in Boston that connects students with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Early registration deadline is February 1, 2017. Visit www.CrossRoadInstitute.org for more information.
- + **HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you know someone who is in the hospital, a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact the office.
- + **WEEKLY "SANCTUARY VIGIL LIGHT" DONATIONS** may be offered for the health of individuals, family members or in memory of departed loved ones. A \$75.00 donation for each week's vigil lights is requested. Names will be acknowledged in the Sunday Bulletin. Call the Church Office to reserve your week.