

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Mode

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spake to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Theophany in the First Mode

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, 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 art 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.

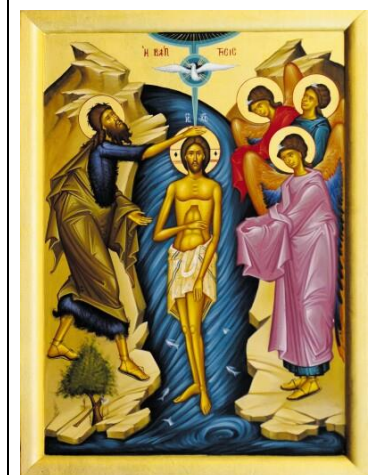
Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13.

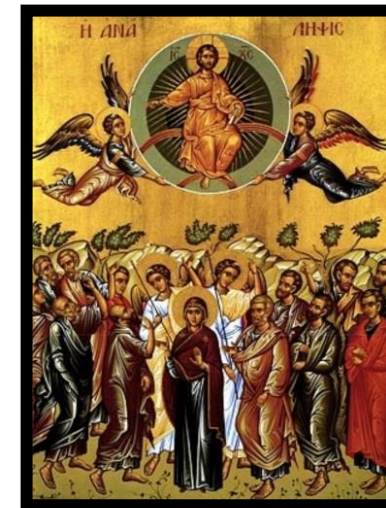
BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Gospel of Matthew 4:12-17



At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN January 8 - 15, 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

"If we love someone, we always think of him, strive to please him, day and night our heart is occupied with this subject. Is it thus that you, love God? Do you often turn to Him, do you always think of Him, do you always pray to Him, and fulfill His holy commandments? For our good, for our happiness, at least let us make a promise to ourselves, that from this day, from this hour, from this very moment we shall strive to love God above all, and fulfill His holy will."

St. Herman of Alaska

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6 p.m.	January 8 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Parish Vasilopita Cutting hosted by Philoptochos Metropolis Vasilopita Cutting @ SS Peter and Paul	Sunday After Theophany
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	January 10 Greek School	
Wednesday 10 a.m. 7 p.m.	January 11 HOPE Parish Council	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	January 12 Adult Beginner Greek School Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
Friday 7 p.m.	January 13 Marriage Ministry	
Saturday 5 p.m.	January 14 Vespers	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	January 15 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Baptism Dive for the Cross, Highland Park Rec Center	12th Sunday of Luke

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 Stevens and Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Mark Rader
Ministry Greeters: Ellen and Michael Kaitson
Ushers: UIC David Rutkowski, Kathie Rutkowski, Nick Marino, Tom Kiriakos, Peter Venetos, Mike Sutherland, Steve Sintetas

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

Announcements

- + **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.
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL VASILOPITA CUTTING TRADITION** today and will be taking a collection to benefit the St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY -- a group home for children in need.
- + **2017 GOYAN RETREAT!** Ascension GOYANS, our annual lock-in/retreat will take place this year on January 20-21 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center! Please attend a quick meeting after Church today for more details.
- + **STEWARDS: PLEASE TAKE HOME YOUR 2017 CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today.
- + **THE ASCENSION GALA COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU** to submit your ads to be included in our commemorative ad book, which will feature families, friends and businesses that support our parish at this pivotal time in our history. *Because of the holidays, we have extended the deadline by a week to January 11th.* The most expedient way to place your ad would be to email Maria Lampros at MVL101@aol.com. You may then follow up with your check and your ad form. Go to www.ascensiongoc.com/gala to print ad forms, 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. Sotiri to bless your home, please contact the office by tomorrow, 1/9/17.
- + **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED** – Please consider hosting a coffee fellowship hour after Liturgy. It's simple to do! Information can be found in a flyer under the television in fellowship hall and on our website. The sign-up list is posted near the coffee serving area. We need hosts throughout most of the winter months. Thank you!
- + **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATES:** Week 1 Dan Tsohis who won \$25.00; and week 2, Patricia Kyriazopoulos, who won \$25. Congratulations to our first 2 winners!
- + **PLEASE JOIN US THIS 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 fgkzas@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 this 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** next 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!
- + **UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE METROPOLIS:** Annual March for Life Chicago: January 15 @ 2 p.m. at Federal Plaza; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 22nd, 6 p.m. at Sts. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Burr Ridge. See our website for more information.
- + **THE HELLENIC LETTERS LUNCHEON** will take place on January 29th at 2 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz. Please contact Maria Theodoropulu (mariathead@hotmail.com) if you are interested in attending.
- + **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.