

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.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have 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 Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

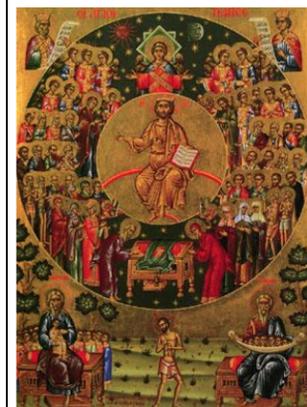
Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 10:1-10.

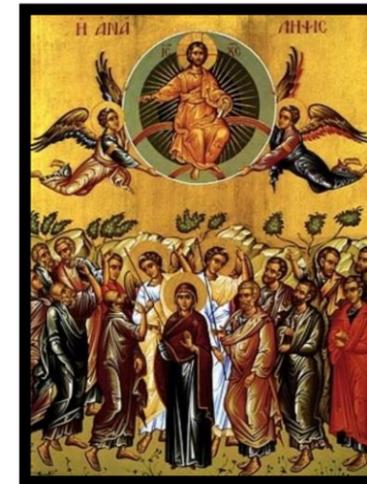
BRETHREN, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

The Gospel of Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1



At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged Him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw Him, they begged Him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat He crossed over and came to His own city.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

July 9 - 16, 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

"People who live in the past might as well be dead. Those who live in the future, through their imagination, are puerile because only God knows the future. The joy of Christ is to be found only in the present. In the eternal present of God."

Abbess Gavriilia

Weekly Calendar

Sunday July 9 5th Sunday of Matthew

8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God, Metropolitan IAKOVOS (40 days); Elias Plevritis (4 yrs); James Vasilopoulos (35 yrs);
Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Plevritis Family

Sunday July 16 Sunday of the Holy Fathers

8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship

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

Prosporo Bakers: Elaine Metropoulos
Epistle Reader: Thomas Kiriakos
Ministry Greeter: Demetri & Debbie Katsulis
Ushers: Bill Athenson (UIC), Nick Marino, Tom Kiriakos, Doug Hugdahl, Diane Sigalos, Alex Marx, Steve Sintetas

Prayer Requests for Health

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS the servants of God: Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Christine, Christy, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Dee, Helen, James, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony, Fred, James

Announcements

+ **THIS WEEK AT FANARI CAMP:** Fr. Sotiri will be leaving after Liturgy this afternoon to spend a blessed week at Fanari Camp. To date, we've received wonderful feedback from the Ascension youth who have attended as campers. We pray that Father, as well as our Ascension campers, have an uplifting, safe, fun and blessed experience. May God grant you safe travels and spiritually guide you while you are away from home.

+ **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** has identified additional major donor naming opportunities and has re-worked others: the foyer (\$150,000), the gallery (\$150,000), and the Adult Baptismal Font (\$75,000). These, together with our remaining major donor naming opportunities, which include the Nave (\$500,000), the kitchen (\$250,000), landscaping (\$150,000), and a classroom (\$75,000), are now shown on an updated board located in the Narthex. Also, our other remaining donation opportunities are Pews (\$10,000), but there are only three Pews yet to be donated, and Personalized Brick Pavers (\$1,000). Please act fast as we are now approximately 82% 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 at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com.

+ **STEWARDSHIP** We are stewards of all God's blessings, including His Gospel Message. We don't bury our blessings in the ground, but as in the parable of the stewards, we strive to multiply our gifts and offer them back to God. As with our financial blessings, so it is with our stewardship of our families, the environment, the Gospel Message and all of God's gifts. To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2017 is \$297,524 by 256 families. If you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so today!

+ **SCS STUDENTS AND FAMILIES: IT'S A MID-SUMMER SOCIAL!** Attention all past, present and future Sunday Church School students and their families: The Koinonia Men's Ministry invites you to a mid-summer fellowship lunch after Liturgy on July 23rd! Reconnect with your church family during the dog days of summer while enjoying hot dogs and ice cream hosted by our Men's Ministry. We look forward to seeing you there!

+ **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN AUGUST:** Please consider hosting coffee fellowship after Liturgy with your family, or together with another family, so that we may continue our fellowship throughout the summer. Never done it before? Call the office or check our website for some simple ideas. A sign-up list is available on the bulletin board near the coffee. *PLEASE make sure that all items are NUT FREE due to allergies. Thank you in advance.

+ **SAVE THE DATE: THE FAMILY SYNAXIS RETREAT** will be held on Labor Day weekend, September 1-3, at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. More details to come!

+ **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 the oil for each week's vigil lights is requested. Names will be acknowledged in the Sunday Bulletin. Call the Church Office to reserve your week.

+ **UPCOMING GREEK FESTIVALS:** Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greek-style!

July 8-9: St. Andrew, Chicago

July 14-16: St. Sophia, Elgin

July 21-23: All Saints, Joliet

July 22-23: SS Peter & Paul, Glenview

July 8-9: St. Spyridon, Palos Heights

July 14-16: St. Haralambos, Niles

July 22-23: Assumption, Homer Glen

July 28-30: St. Demetrios, Libertyville