

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, 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, 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 Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20.

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Gospel of Mark 9:17-31



At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN March 26 – April 2, 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

"Prayer is our opportunity to communicate with God. To speak with Him, to ask of Him and to develop a relationship with Him for guidance in our faith and daily life. One may follow the recommended daily prayer cycle, pray before and after meals or complete their prayers at various times throughout the day. The key is to make the effort and speak with God from your heart."

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

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	March 26	Sunday of St. John Climacus
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Memorial for the Soul of the Servants of God, Lew Dumas (6 months) and John Kokinis (40 days) Coffee Fellowship hosted by Senior Synaxis
Wednesday	March 29	
5:30 p.m.	9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	Lenten Meal hosted by Greek School Speaker Series featuring Rev. Dr. Loukas Gikas
Thursday	March 30	
6 p.m.	Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
Friday	March 31	
7 p.m.	The Akathist Hymn	
Saturday	April 1	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	April 2	Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Fellowship

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Lela Gramatis
Epistle Reader: Tom Kiriakos
Ministry Greeters: The Saric Family
Ushers: UIC Nick Marino, Chris Chatzidakis, Jeannie Thomas
Bill Smirles, Tom Papastefan

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

- + **CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions throughout Lent up until the week before Holy Week. Please call the Church office to make an appointment.
- + **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 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), 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 six Pews yet to be donated, 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
- + **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 \$251,984 by 188 families. If you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so today!
- + **THIS WEDNESDAY, 3/29, AFTER THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY** our Lenten Lecture Series continues as we welcome Rev. Dr. Loukas Gikas, who will present: "St. Luke the Surgeon and the Theology of Suffering." Please join us for a spiritually enriching service followed by a very inspiring presentation.
- + **THE CHICAGO PAN-ORTHODOX AKATHIST HYMN** will take place Tuesday, April 4th at 7 p.m. at Holy Protection of the Mother of God Serbian Orthodox Monastery - "New Gracanica" - in Lake Villa.
- + **2ND ANNUAL LENTEN MINI-RETREAT:** Please join us Friday, April 7th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Ascension for our 2nd Annual Lenten Mini-Retreat where Pre-K-5th graders will learn about *The Beatitudes*. Children will actively participate through hands-on lessons, crafts, and hymns. There is no cost for the retreat, but a free-will offering is appreciated for craft materials. Please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com to reserve your child's spot.
- + **JOY/JR. GOYA PASCHA PLANT SALE CONTINUES TODAY:** JOY/Jr. GOYA will be taking orders for lilies and hydrangeas after Liturgy today and next Sunday, 4/2. The plants will be ready for pick-up on Palm Sunday. Please support this ministry.
- + **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY PACHAL GREETING CARD:** Once again this year, Koinonia Men's Ministry will be offering the Parish the opportunity to extend Paschal greetings to fellow parishioners through its annual Pascha card fundraiser. See enclosed insert for more information. Note the April 3rd submission deadline.
- + **THE PHILOPTOCHOS PASCHA BAKE SALE** will be here April 8th & 9th! Sale items include koulouria, kourabiedes, melomakarona, baklava, tsourekis, lambades, and Greek egg dye. Pre-order so we don't run out of your favorites! Fill out an order form and turn it in after church today. Pre-orders will be accepted until April 2nd and will be available for pickup following the Saturday of Lazarus service on Saturday, April 8th and the Palm Sunday service on April 9th. Questions? Contact Debbie Katsulis 847-573-8233, debrakatsulis@yahoo.com or Patricia Filley 312-320-4062, pfilley@sbcglobal.net.
- + **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE** for week 12: David and Donna Raye, who won \$25.00. Congratulations!
- + **JR. OLYMPICS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:** Team Ascension is recruiting players and coaches! Interested? See our website for more information and/or contact Esther Tegel at etegel2@gmail.com.
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT:** This month, our Philoptochos chapter made donations to the Sisterhood of Saint Basil and IOCC. Additional donations to Orthodox Christian Missions/ Support a Missions Priest (\$550) and Hellenic College Holy Cross (\$1000) were made possible by the generosity of our parishioners. Support has also been provided to the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund. We recently made a donation and participated in the Annual Quilt-a-thon, where we made quilts to be donated to local area pediatric hospital units.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent - St. John Climacus

Our venerable and God-bearing Father John Climacus, also known as John of the Ladder, John Scholasticus, and John Sinaites, was a seventh century monk at St. Catherine's monastery at the base of Mount Sinai. The Orthodox Church celebrates his feast day on March 30. He came to the monastery and became a novice when he was about 16 years old, and when he died in 649 he was the monastery's abbot. He wrote a number of instructive books, the most famous of which is The Ladder of Divine Ascent. (It is because of this book that John is known as "Climacus," which means "of the ladder".) It describes how to raise one's soul to God, as if on a ladder. This book is one of the most widely read among Eastern Orthodox Christians, especially during the season of Great Lent which immediately precedes Pascha (Easter), and on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent he is especially commemorated.

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