

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 Sun. of Orthodoxy in the Second Mode

We worship Thine immaculate icon, O Good One, asking the forgiveness of our failings, O Christ our God; for of Thine own will Thou wast well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, that Thou mightest deliver from slavery to the enemy those whom Thou hadst fashioned. Wherefore, we cry to Thee thankfully: Thou didst fill all things with joy, O our Saviour, when Thou camest to save 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, 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 11:24-26, 32-40.

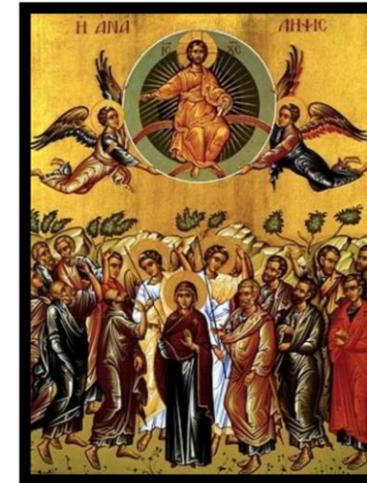
Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets -- who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated -- of whom the world was not worthy -- wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel of John 1:43-51



At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN March 5 - 12, 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

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy." The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Orthodox worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops. Almost a century before this, the iconoclastic controversy had once more shaken the foundations of both Church and State in the Byzantine Empire. Excessive religious respect and the ascribed miracles to icons by some members of society, approached the point of worship (due only to God) and idolatry. This instigated excesses at the other extreme by which icons were completely taken out of the liturgical life of the Church by the Iconoclasts. The Iconophiles, on the other-hand, believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty.

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

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	March 5	Sunday of Orthodoxy
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Procession of Icons Coffee fellowship lovingly hosted by our Parish in honor of Fr. Demetrios and Presvytera Rose Treantafeles as they celebrate their 90 th birthdays.	
6:30 p.m.	Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ St. George Antiochian Church, Cicero	
Monday	March 6	
	Orthodox Christian Clergy Association Retreat	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	March 7	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
Wednesday	March 8	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
5:30 p.m.	9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Lenten Meal hosted by Philoptochos Speaker Series featuring Mr. Alex Magdalinos	
Thursday	March 9	40 Holy Martyrs
6:15 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
Friday	March 10	
7 p.m.	2 nd Salutations to the Theotokos	
Saturday	March 11	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	March 12	Sunday of St. Gregory
Palamas		
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Greek School Independence Day Program	
6:30 p.m.	Celebration of Books, Holy Apostles, Westchester	

+ **CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions throughout Lent up until the week before Holy Week. Please call the Church office to make an appointment.

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY, 3/8, AFTER THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY** our Lenten Lecture Series continues and will focus on The Holy 40 Martyrs, whose Feast Day we celebrate this Thursday. We welcome back our friend, Alex Magdalinos, who will share his reflections on this in a presentation entitled, "The Holy 40 Martyrs At Sebasteia - Winter is Bitter but Paradise is Sweet."

Our Sunday Volunteers

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

Epistle Reader: James Facklis

Ministry Greeters: Kathie & David Rutkowski

Ushers: Peter Venetos, UIC, Doug Hugdahl, David Rutkowski, Kathie Rutkowski, Carol Stamas, Diane Sigalos, Mike Sutherland

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

Condolences

+ **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES** to Dean (Lisa) and Patty (Larry) Dolan whose parents, Mary and George Karahalios both passed away last weekend, within one day of each other. We pray that God grant them eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven. May their memory be eternal.

Announcements

+ **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), 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

+ **ASCENSION'S GREEK SCHOOL** will present our annual Celebration of Greek Independence Day program next Sunday, March 12th, directly following the Divine Liturgy. Our students look forward to performing songs, poems and dances in honor of the March 25th commemoration.

+ **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL REMINDERS:** OCMC Coin boxes were distributed last week. Please encourage your children to collect and donate change, a true act of almsgiving during this Lenten season. Also, please note that SCS does not meet on March 26th, due to spring break.

+ **ASCENSION GIRLS CHANT GROUP** Girls 3rd Grade-HS are invited to join a chant group! The girls will help sing some of the Good Friday hymns. Practices are mandatory and will primarily take place Sundays after church, with the possibility of a few practices on Saturdays. Please let Presvytera Stefanie Malamis know if you are interested (presstefanie@yahoo.com). The first practice will take place Sunday, March 13, immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church.

+ **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.

+ **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE** for week 9: Olympia Papadourakis who won \$300.00. Congratulations!

+ **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.

+ **FANARI CAMP 2017** Registration opens at 12 p.m. this Tuesday, March 7th. For more information on Fanari, which is open to children entering 6th grade through 11th grade in the fall of September 2017, go to <http://www.fanari.org/>.

+ **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED** – Please consider hosting a coffee fellowship hour after Liturgy. It's simple to do! More information, including suggested food items, is available in fellowship hall and on our website. The sign-up list is posted near the coffee serving area and now extends through June. During Lent, out of respect for the sacred fast and to those keeping the fast, please offer simple Lenten items. Also, it is imperative that any items that are served in Church, for any reason or event, should not include any kind of nuts. We thank you for your consideration.

+ **DOCUMENTARY ABOUT PERSECUTION OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS IN MIDDLE EAST** Every Sunday of March, beginning today, ABC-7 Chicago's weekly program *Sanctuary* will feature a documentary titled, "Modern Christian Martyrs", which takes a closer look at growing evidence of widespread persecution of religious minorities, as well as efforts by faith communities here in Chicago to support and protect some of the world's most vulnerable people. Presented by The Greater Chicago Broadcast Ministries in cooperation with The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago, the program will feature an interview with Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos. To view the promo, go to <https://vimeo.com/204601086>

+ **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?* Additionally, service books for the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Heretismi are available for purchase, plus prayer ropes, icon bracelets, incense, and more!

+ **CHURCH RIDE SHARING:** Do you need a ride to church or are you able to provide a ride for someone else? Philoptochos can help facilitate a match between drivers and riders so everyone who would like to attend church or church meetings is able. Contact Annette Sutherland ([847-224-7126](tel:847-224-7126)/ambuther@comcast.net) to sign up. Thank you!