

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Apolytikion for Constantine and Helen in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Having seen the image of Thy Cross in Heaven, and like Paul, having received the call not from men, Thine apostle among kings entrusted the commonwealth to Thy hand, O Lord. Keep us always in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O only Friend of man.

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.

Ανελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῆ ἑπαγγελίᾳ 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

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 26:1, 12-20.

IN THOSE DAYS, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles-to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

The Gospel of John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As He said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is He?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped Him.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN May 21 -28, 2017

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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.

Resurrection Hymn

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.
Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.
Christos anesti eknekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin charisamenos.

Spiritual Reflection

"The blind man is symbolic of all humanity: all need illumination by Christ, the light of the world."

Weekly Calendar

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| Sunday | May 21 | Sts. Constantine and Helen |
| 8:15 a.m. | Orthros | |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday Church School | |
| 9:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy | |
| | Artoklasia (blessing of the 5 loaves) for the health and well-being of the Papas and Boufis Families | |
| | Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God, Panayiota (7yrs), Theodora (9 yrs), and Marina (6 yrs) | |
| | Sunday Church School Recognition Program | |
| | Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Papas and Boufis Families | |
| Monday | May 22 | |
| 5:45 p.m. | JOY/Jr. GOYA End-of-Year Celebration at Connolly's home | |
| 7:30 p.m. | GOYA Senior Recognition and 8th Grade Step-Up at Lovells, Highwood | |
| Tuesday | May 23 | |
| 10 a.m. | Senior Synaxis Removing Flowers from Kouvouklion | |
| 4:45 p.m. | Greek School End-of-Year Program and Graduation | |
| 8 p.m. | Apodosis of Pascha, St. Demetrios, Elmhurst | |
| Wednesday | May 24 | Apodosis of Pascha |
| 7 p.m. | Ascension Hierarchical Great Vespers | |
| Thursday | May 25 | Ascension of Our Lord |
| 8:15 a.m. | Orthros | |
| 9:15 a.m. | Hierarchical Divine Liturgy | |
| 6:15 p.m. | Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School | |
| 7:45 p.m. | Adult Beginner Greek School | |
| Saturday | May 27 | |
| 8 a.m. | Opening Ceremony followed by Jr. Olympics all day at Sts. Constantine and Helen, Palos Hills | |
| Sunday | May 28 | Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council |
| 8:15 a.m. | Orthros | |
| 9:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy | |
| | Coffee Fellowship | |

+ **CELEBRATE OUR FEASTDAY THIS WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY:** Our beloved Ascension's Hierarchical Great Vespers will take place this Wednesday, May 24th at 7 p.m. A reception will follow the Service hosted by our Philoptochos. Please make every effort to attend. On Thursday, May 25th, the day of our Feastday, Orthros will be at 8:15 a.m. followed by the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Fellowship, hosted by our Senior Synaxis, will follow. Our Parish family looks forward to hosting and worshipping with many local clergy and faithful throughout the Metropolis.

+ **DONATIONS FOR OUR FEASTDAY** – If anyone wishes to donate the flowers that will decorate the Icon of the Ascension, or the loaves for the Artoklasia, please contact the Church office at 847.482.1200. The cost of the flowers for the two Ascension Icons is \$150.00 and the bread for the Artoklasia for our Great Vespers amounts to \$190.00, and for our actual Feastday \$95.00. Your generosity is always appreciated.

+ **REMOVING FLOWERS FROM THE KOUVOUKLION** – Our Senior Synaxis members will gather at Church this Tuesday, May 23rd at 10 a.m. to remove the flowers from the Kouvouklion. All are welcome. Any questions, please call Elaine Beck at (847) 367-5227.

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Maria Karalis and Elaine Metropoulos

Epistle Reader: Kathie Rutkowski

Greeters: Jayne and Chris Chatzidakis

Ushers: David Rutkowski (UIC), Nick Marino, Peter Venetos, Kathie Rutkowski, Mia Connolly, Jeannie Thomas, Bill Smirles

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, Helen, James, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony, Fred, James

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 Adult Baptismal Font (\$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), 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 five Pews yet to be donated, and Personalized Brick Pavers (\$1,000). Please act fast as we are now approximately 86% 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 \$ \$280,024 by 234 families. If you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so today!

+ **ON BEHALF OF THE SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF**, thank you to all of our students and families for another wonderful school year! We enjoyed each week with your children. Our program grew this year and we celebrated many wonderful achievements, which you will witness following the Divine Liturgy. Our youth who participated in the Oratorical Festival will also be recognized today. Look for reminders this summer regarding registration for Sunday Church School 2017-2018.

+ **PLEASE ATTEND OUR GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM THIS TUESDAY** at 5 pm to celebrate the completion of another fruitful school year. Our students will perform Greek poems, songs and dances dedicated to Grandparents followed by a brief graduation ceremony honoring this year's four graduates. We hope to see you there!

+ **JR. OLYMPICS NEXT WEEKEND!** Come support the youth of Ascension who have signed up to participate in this year's Jr. Olympics, May 26-28th. Representing the Ascension this year will be 2 Coed Soccer Teams (7-9 yrs and 10-12 yrs); 2 coed Basketball Teams (7-10 yrs and 11-13 yrs); Girls Volleyball (13-18); Boys Volleyball (13-18); Coed Softball (13-18); along with Track and Field Events (ages 8 through 18), Wrestling, Table Tennis (13-15); Chess/Checkers/Tavli, Swimming (8-13). Opening ceremonies are on Saturday, May 29th, at Stagg Field (by SS Constantine and Helen Church in Palos Hills) beginning at 8 a.m. Team members should gather by 7:45A and look for the Ascension banner so that we may march into the field for the "Parade of Churches". For more information and a full schedule of events, visit the Youth Pages at www.ascensiongoc.com, or contact Esther Tegel at etegel2@gmail.com.

+ **TRISAGION SERVICES ON MONDAY, MAY 29TH (MEMORIAL DAY)** – Please note that Fr. Sotiri will conduct a Trisagion Service again this year at two local cemeteries: Ridgewood cemetery (Des Plaines) at 9:00 a.m.; and, Memorial Park (Skokie) at 10:30 a.m. Please meet Father at the entrance gate of each cemetery.

+ **PLEASE NOTIFY THE OFFICE ASAP IF YOUR SON/DAUGHTER IS REACHING A GRADUATION MILESTONE THIS YEAR.** Ascension's annual graduate tribute will take place on Sunday, June 4th, following the Divine Liturgy. Please call the church office no later than Monday, May 29th to submit the name(s) of your graduate(s) from Elementary School, High School, College, Graduate or Post-Graduate programs so they may be recognized on that day. Thank you.

+ **BOOKSTORE NEWS:** If you've been thinking about buying something from our bookstore, now is the time! We will soon be packing up all our books, icons, cards, etc. and putting them in storage until our new building is completed. So stop on by after Liturgy.

+ **JOIN US FOR THE 2017 ASCENSION GOLF OUTING!** The Koinonia Men's Ministry will be hosting the annual Ascension Golf Outing and Family Dinner on Friday, June 9th at the Deerfield Golf Course. Register now on the Koinonia Men's Ministry webpage on the Ascension website (hard copies of the registration form can also be downloaded from the webpage, printed and turned into the office). Please visit our website for more information and plan to join us!

+ **HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING HOME & HOME-BOUND PARISHIONER VISITS.** If you know someone who is hospitalized, in a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact our 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.