

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, 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 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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7.

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The Reading is from Luke 18:18-27



At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, He said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those

who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But He said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN November 26 – December 3, 2017

Welcome to Our Visitors

WELCOME TO THE ASCENSION PARISH. Your presence has brought us much joy. We hope your visit is 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

"Stewardship is caring for the needs of others. Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us. Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I believe..." as proof of that belief."

- Williams and McKibben in *Oriented Leadership*

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	November 26 Orthros Divine Liturgy Artoclasia for George and Maita Houpis Coffee Fellowship hosted by Parish Council	13th Sunday of Luke
Monday 9 a.m. 5:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	November 27 Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House JOY/Jr. GOYA GOYA to meet at Target, Lake Bluff	
Tuesday 7 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	November 28 Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House Greek School	
Wednesday 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 7 p.m.	November 29 Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House HOPE Great Vespers, St. Andrew Church, Chicago	
Thursday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	November 30 Orthros Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	St. Andrew the First-Called
Friday 9 a.m. 7 p.m.	December 1 Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House Marriage Ministry	
Saturday 9 a.m. 5 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	December 2 Divine Liturgy @ 1221 House Vespers @ 1221 N. Riverwoods House Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert, St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	December 3 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Soul of Servant of God His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos of Blessed Memory (6 months) St. Nicholas Celebration for the children hosted by Philoptochos	14th Sunday of Luke

+ **SACRAMENTS** With the Lord's blessings, the Liturgical life of our church will continue in earnest during our construction project. We have made arrangements for Fr. Sotiri to be able to conduct Baptisms and Wedding Sacraments at another Greek Orthodox Church. Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions in the small worship area of the new space at 1221 Riverwoods Road. Weekday services will be held in this worship space as well. **If you'd like to plan a Sacrament (Baptism, Wedding, Confession), or a Funeral, Memorial or Artoclasia, please contact the church office so proper arrangements can be made during our construction period.**

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora Bakers: Sophia Metropulos & Elaine Metropoulos
Epistle Reader: David Rutkowski
Ministry Greeter: Olga Kalis
Ushers: David Rutkowski (UIC), Kathie Rutkowski, Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, Bob Mantzoros, Tom Kiriakos, Doug Hugdahl

Prayer Requests for Health

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

Announcements

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** takes place November 15—December 24. Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17. During the Nativity Fast, Fr. Sotiri will celebrate 40 Liturgies for the faithful—Sarantaliturgo. Please see our website or call the Church office for the schedule of services. May God bless us throughout the Nativity Fast, and grant us the ability to focus on Christ's birth through additional prayer, fasting and almsgiving during this blessed advent season.

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE:** Since construction on our new church has begun, the capital campaign (now known as the Construction Fund—Finish the Construction Debt-Free) continues its work towards realizing our goal to remain debt-free. To date, we have total pledges and cash on hand of 78 percent of the final construction budget. While this is a tremendous achievement, we are committed in our desire to be mortgage-free and we ask that all stewards open their hearts and pledge what they can to help achieve our goal. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com, to donate now. Thank you!

+ **NOVEMBER IS STEWARDSHIP MONTH** Please submit your 2018 pledge card in the next few weeks either by mail, or by dropping it off at the Church office at 1221 N. Riverwoods Rd. New this year: you can also complete the pledge card online by going to www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/stewardship. Our theme, which we will cultivate in the coming year, is: "Work at it with all your heart." We ask for God's blessings as we prayerfully consider how we can offer --from our heart --our time, talents and treasures to sustain and enhance the spiritual and bountiful Parish life at Ascension in 2018.

+ **ARE YOU A NICK, NICOLE, NIKKI, NICOLETTA? NEXT WEEK'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP IS FOR YOU!** On Sunday, December 3rd, coffee fellowship will be hosted by those in our parish who wish to celebrate or honor a loved one who bears the name of St. Nicholas'. Please bring your platter of fasting goodies, fruit, or whatever you wish to share with the parish to the fellowship area on Sunday morning. ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ!

+ **JOIN THE MANY FAMILIES** of our Parish in expressing Christmas greetings to all members and friends of our Ascension Church. Return the insert by Wednesday, December 6th to take part in our 2017 Christmas greeting card.

+ **GINGERBREAD HOUSES:** Our GOYA is offering this popular event again this year, with a little twist due to our space limitations! On December 3rd and 10th after Divine Liturgy, Gingerbread pre-assembled kits will be available for sale. ALL the houses will be sold TO GO so you can decorate them in the comfort of your own home. Houses will cost \$20/each and supplies are limited so make sure you pick one up before they are sold out! All sales will assist GOYA and their upcoming trip to New York this Spring. Please contact Maria Vlahos @ smileygrk@gmail.com / 224.688.0214, if you have any questions.

+ **FOOTBALL MANIA WINNER UPDATE FOR WEEK 4:** Olympia Papadourakis, who won \$25.00. Congratulations!

+ **MARRIAGE MINISTRY MEETING THIS FRIDAY!** Ascension's Marriage Ministry will be holding it's next meeting this Friday, December 1st, from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the home of Bruce and Elena Carlson, 1909 Lincoln Ave., Northbrook. Kick off the busy month of December by spending a peaceful and enriching evening with your spouse and other Ascension couples. Reach out to Frank Kazas at fgkazas@gmail.com with any questions.

+ **THIS YEAR'S PAN-ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS CONCERT** takes place on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at St. John the Baptist, 2350 E. Dempster Street, Des Plaines. Great Vespers begin at 5 p.m. followed by the concert at 6:30 p.m. (in the Great Hall). The event will feature Orthodox Christian talent in various languages and traditions from the Chicagoland area. Lenten food and gift items will also be available. Free Will Donation: A portion of the proceeds will benefit IOCC.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Please join us for our third annual Christmas Party/Mock Lock-In on Friday, December 8th from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the house at 1221 N. Riverwoods Road. Come in your pjs and bring a comfy blanket to sit on. We will have lots of snacks and watch a festive movie! Please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: NOVEMBER DONATIONS:**

- Ecumenical Patriarchate
- National Sisterhood of Presvyteres APC-NSP Benevolent Fund
- Aid to Greece & Cyprus; \$1,300 raised from the Pop-up Kafe'
- Feed My Starving Children