

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

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 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

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 9:32-42.

In those days, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

The Gospel of John 5:1-15



At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

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 νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

Christos anesti eknekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin charisamenos.

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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

April 29 – May 6, 2018

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

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

"Great is the profit of the divine Scriptures, and all-sufficient is the aid which comes from them ... For the divine oracles are a treasury of all manner of medicines, so that whether it be needful to quench pride, to lull desire to sleep, to tread under foot the love of money, ... from them one may find abundant resource."

St. John Chrysostom

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	April 29 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship hosted by Pat and Maria Vlahos Holy Land Pilgrimage through May 9th	Sunday of the Paralytic
Monday 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	April 30 JOY, Jr. GOYA GOYA (meet at Starbucks, West Lake Forest)	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	May 1 Greek School	
Wednesday	May 2 <i>Fish is allowed</i>	Mid-Pentecost
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	May 3 Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	May 6 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

+ **ASCENSION ANNOUNCES ITS PASCHA TO PENTECOST *Double the Donation Equation*:** If Ascension raises \$250,000 in new contributions between Pascha and Pentecost (May 27) for construction of our new church, an anonymous donor has graciously offered to match the donation, bringing our parish \$500,000 closer to building debt-free! We are down to our final \$1.14 million to raise! Please donate today and participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a Greek Orthodox church and community center that will be a spiritual home for us, our children, grandchildren and many more generations to come. Help us achieve our dream debt-free!! The current version of our Donor Recognition Wall has been published, but there is still time to include your family name on this commemorative wall that will be displayed in our new church. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com. We thank you in advance for your love in coming together as a parish family to help build *Our Church - Our Faith - Our Legacy*.

+ **DO YOU KNOW why we don't kneel** between the Feast Days of Pascha and Pentecost? To answer this, let's find out why we kneel at all. Kneeling, bowing and prostrations were conducted even in the Old Testament as a sign of deep prayer, repentance, lamentation and devout respect and worship. Even Jesus knelt before His Passion in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:29). According to a canon by the First Ecumenical Council, we are not to kneel between Pascha and Pentecost because of the "brilliant solemnity of the events which the Church commemorates" after Christ's Resurrection. We celebrate His third day Resurrection and therefore do not need to lament. St. Basil teaches us that by standing, we are reminded that we have risen from the dead together with Christ and we ought to seek the things above. Of course, the same prayers are said with reverence and fervor during this most Holy Consecration portion of the Liturgy. (Source: Orthodox Christian Information Center)

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Tasia Alexakos & Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Caity Anast
Greeters: Elaine & Harry Metropoulos
Ushers: Peter Venetos (UIC), Nick Marino, Alex Marx, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Kiriakos, Diane Sigalos, Steve Sintetas, Demetri Katsulis

Prayer Requests for Health

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

Announcements

+ **OUR FEASTDAY SERVICES:** With the paternal blessings of His Eminence Metropolitan NATHANAEL, and the *philoxenia* of the parish of Saints Peter and Paul, Ascension's Feastday celebrations this year during our construction phase will take place at SS. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church, 1401 Wagner Rd., Glenview. Hierarchical Great Vespers will take place on Wednesday, May 16th at 7 p.m. and on Thursday, May 17, the day of our Feastday, Orthros will be at 8:15 a.m. followed by the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Our Parish family looks forward to hosting and worshipping at SS Peter and Paul with many local clergy and faithful throughout the Metropolis.

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2018:** As we continue pushing through this transition period, our commitment to Stewardship is more important than ever! We should be inspired by what's ahead for our new church home. We have many vibrant ministries that have thrived through the transition, but our ministries still need your help! To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2018 is \$316,098 by 220 families. Let's keep the momentum going - if you haven't pledged your Ascension Stewardship for 2018, we ask that you prayerfully consider pledging soon. Pledge cards are available near the candle stand.

+ **SAFE TRAVELS TO OUR ASCENSION PILGRIMS:** Fr. Sotiri and 29 pilgrims are leaving today for Jerusalem to take a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. We pray that God will guide you on this journey, give you strength, and open your hearts to all of the spiritual and sacred sites you will experience. A special thank you to Father and Violetta Buhler for organizing this journey of faith and fellowship for our Parish. God be with all of you.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS: PLEASE RSVP NOW FOR THE MAY 21ST TRIP TO STARVED ROCK:** Senior Synaxis will be traveling by bus to Starved Rock on Monday, May 21st for lunch, entertainment and a full day of fellowship! In order to reserve your seat, payment and reservations need to be made to Elaine Beck no later than May 8th! Please contact Elaine with questions at (847) 367.5227.

+ **THE ST. DEMETRIOS SPRING GREEK FEST** takes place next weekend, May 4 - 6 in the Church Hall, 1400 N. O'Plaine Rd., Libertyville. Enjoy traditional Greek cuisine and homemade Greek pastries. For more information, call St. Demetrios at 224.513-5530.

+ **THE PHILOPTOCHOS PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE** wishes to thank everyone who participated in the "Feed the Hungry" event, which took place this past Tuesday, April 24th at Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. We would like to especially thank the women and men who volunteered to serve and clean up, as well as underwrite the food expenses again this year. We extend a special "thank you" to the Demet family and Grazziano's restaurant for donating the prepared pasta meals with meat sauce, as well as to Violetta Buehler for donating the cost of the bagged takeaway lunches that we distributed. In all, we fed approximately 120 hungry people. Your generosity of time, talents and treasures makes this worthwhile event possible every year.

+ **JR. OLYMPICS REGISTRATION DEADLINE NEXT SUNDAY MAY 6th!** Jr. Olympics takes place Memorial Day weekend and registration forms, signed by parents and participants, are needed in order to meet the Metropolis deadline. You can download the forms off of the website then scan and email the signed forms to Dino Bolos (dinobolos@yahoo.com); fax them to him at 847-960-4985; or, stop by and see Dino after Liturgy today at the Jr. Olympics table to complete and/or turn in your forms. Also, the same neon yellow shirts will be worn this year. If you or your child needs to order a shirt, please email or speak to Dino as soon as possible. For more information, visit the youth pages of our website. Let's generate excitement for this wonderful event that consists of three days of sporting, social, and spiritual events for more than 2,000 Metropolis faithful each year!

+ **SAVE THE DATE: THE NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON MAY 20th.** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

+ **REGISTER BY MAY 21ST FOR THE 2018 ASCENSION GOLF OUTING!** The Koinonia Men's Ministry will be hosting the annual Ascension Golf Outing and Family Dinner on Friday, June 1st at the Deerfield Golf Course. Registration is now open on the Koinonia Men's Ministry webpage on the Ascension website! See insert for more details and please plan to join us for this great day of fellowship! The deadline to register is May 21st.

+ **SAVE THE DATE: The 3rd annual Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival** will take place over Columbus Day weekend this year, October 5th-7th, at the Marriott Oakbrook. This event is sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis and dedicated to promoting, preserving and perpetuating the traditional Greek dance, music and fellowship of our Hellenic Heritage. The festival will consist of workshops and a traditional Glendi celebration which will showcase dance troupes from Chicago and throughout the Midwest. For more information, contact Tina Lambros Anagnos at 847.404.0747.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: Χριστός Ανέστη!** Our Philoptochos Chapter's April contributions included donations toward Sisterhood of St Basil Academy, International Orthodox Christian Charities and the Bishop's Welfare Fund.