

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Mode

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spake to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin he has 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 Second Mode

O Master, Prudence, Guide of Wisdom, Instruction to the foolish and Defender of the poor, strengthen my heart and grant it discernment. Give me words, Word of the Father, for behold, I shall not keep my lips from crying out to You, "O Merciful One, have mercy on me who has fallen."

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4.

Brethren, salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed; the night is far gone, the day is at hand. Let us then cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves becomingly as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for God is able to make him stand.

The Gospel of Matthew 6:14-21

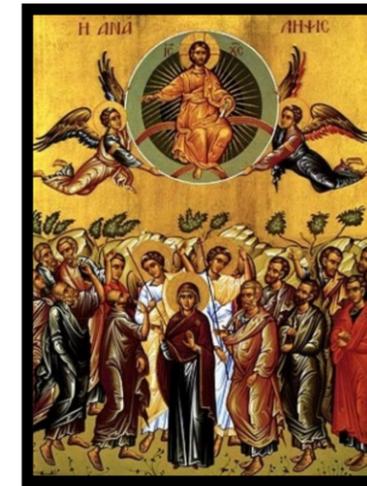


The Lord said, "If you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

"And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 18 - 25, 2018

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

"Pray and then speak. That's what to do with your children. If you are constantly lecturing them, you'll become tiresome and when they grow up they'll feel a kind of oppression. Prefer prayer and speak to them through prayer. Speak to God and God will speak to their hearts. That is, you shouldn't give guidance to your children with a voice that they hear with their ears. You may do this too, but above all you should speak to God about your children. Say, 'Lord Jesus Christ, give Your light to my children. I entrust them to You. You gave them to me, but I am weak and unable to guide them, so, please, illuminate them.' And God will speak to them and they will say to themselves, 'Oh dear, I shouldn't have upset Mummy by doing that!' And with the grace of God this will come from their heart."

St. Porphyrios

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	February 18 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God, Athanasios Mallioufas (3 yrs) Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Theodore and Tsarwhas Families Girls' Chanting Practice immediately following Liturgy	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Sunday
Monday	February 19 Church office Closed	Clean Monday Lent Begins President's Day
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	February 20 Greek School	
Wednesday 10 a.m.	February 21 HOPE	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	February 22 Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
Saturday 5 p.m.	February 24 Vespers	3rd Saturday of Souls
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	February 25 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy followed by Procession of Icons Pan-Orthodox Vespers, SS Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills	Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of Forgiveness and Cheesefare Sunday

The Sunday of Forgiveness is the last Sunday prior to the commencement of Great Lent. On the Sunday of Forgiveness focus is placed on the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden, an event that shows us how far we have fallen in sin and separated ourselves from God. At the onset of Great Lent and a period of intense fasting, this Sunday reminds us of our need for God's forgiveness and guides our hearts, minds, and spiritual efforts on returning to Him in repentance.

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

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Illiana Radaios & Sophie Beris
Epistle Reader: Nick Gatsis
Ushers: Peter Venetos (UIC), Bill Athenson, Doug Hugdahl, Diane Sigalos, Carol Stamas, Mia Connolly, Steve Sintetas

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

NEXT WEEK IS THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Parents of children in our Sunday Church School: Please send your children to church with an icon so they can process with them after the Divine Liturgy. It would also be a great blessing for all of our parishioners to bring an icon to church next Sunday on the day we commemorate the Triumph of Orthodoxy.

Announcements

+ **THE ORDINATION OF ARCHIMANDRITE NATHANAEAL SYMEONIDES TO THE EPISCOPACY** will take place on Saturday, March 17, 2018 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York with Orthros at 8:30 a.m., followed by the Hierarchal Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America will enthrone Metropolitan-Elect Nathanael on Saturday, March 24, 2018, at Chicago's Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation, with the service beginning at 11:00 a.m.

+ **LENT BEGINS TOMORROW, FEBRUARY 19th.** The Ascension of Our Lord wishes you a blessed and reflective Lenten journey. Due to space and parking restrictions in our temporary home, many of the services traditionally offered at Ascension throughout Lent will not take place this year. Please stay tuned to our bulletin, E-Newsletter and website for more information on the location of Holy Week services as well as other announcements related to this most sacred season.

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2018:** Our 2018 Stewardship theme is: "Work at it with All Your Heart." Stewardship contributions cover operating expenses for our church and provide the annual funding needed to operate the vibrant ministries of this Parish. Our 2018 Operating Fund is budgeted at \$500,000.00. This Fund is separate from our capital campaign fundraising initiative to build our new church and community center facilities. To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2018 is \$242,248 by 154 families. Let us work to keep the momentum going for this Parish and for the glory of God.

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE: The time has come! Please, if you have not yet contributed to the capital campaign fund, the time is now!** We are at a critical juncture and need to raise the final \$1.65M to build our new church. *Debt-free.* Every donation matters, no matter how big or small! We ask that you open your hearts, have a family discussion, and consider this unique opportunity to pledge. Our Donor Recognition Wall will forever profile each family donor's name and we want you to be a part of it. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com. We thank you in advance for your love to building *Our Church - Our Faith - Our Legacy.*

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS WOULD LIKE TO THANK** all who attended and supported the Glendi this past Sunday at the Concorde Banquet Hall. A special thank you to the members of the planning committee who didn't miss a beat; and, to all of our donors who helped make the evening both fun and successful! It was a perfect way to spend a memorable and lovely evening of fellowship together as we prepare to enter Great Lent as a parish family.

+ **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS** will take place next Sunday, February 25th at SS. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills at 6:30 p.m.

+ **CELEBRATION OF BOOKS** The annual celebration of books will once again take place at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester, on Sunday, March 4th – Thursday, March 8th. See the insert for this year's schedule of speakers and presentations. For more information, visit: www.holyapostleschurch.com

+ **LENTEN FAMILY RETREAT:** Join other Orthodox families at St. Demetrios' Church in Chicago on Saturday, March 10 for a one day Lenten Retreat titled, Transforming our Baptismal Garments into the Armor of God. The retreat leader, Rev. Fr. Ephraim Peters, currently serves SS. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Chicopee, Mass. Workshops for adults, interactive sessions for children, "coffee talks" for teens, as well as child-care for babies! Support for children with special needs will be available upon request. Find more information and to register, visit www.GOCFamilySynaxis.org, or email Chicago.Family.Synaxis@gmail.com.

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT DINNER:** Save the date for this year's benefit dinner which takes place on Thursday, March 15th @ 6:30 p.m., at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines. Keynote speaker Bishop Athanasius (Akunda) of Kisumu and All Western Kenya will talk about the growth of Orthodoxy in East Africa. All proceeds will go to support the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in Kenya and throughout the world. Ascension is hoping to fill a table for the event. Contact the office at 847.482.1200 with your reservation.