

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Presentation in the First Mode

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

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.

Ἀνελήφθῃς 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 First Mode

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 6:12-20.

Brethren, "all things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. "All things are lawful for me," but I will not be enslaved by anything. "Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food" -- and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, "The two shall become one flesh." But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Gospel of Luke 15:11-32



The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 4 - 11, 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

"Let your prayer be completely simple. For both the publican and the prodigal son were reconciled to God by a single phrase."

St. John Climacus

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	February 4 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Metropoulos Family GOYA Brunch, Strawberry Fields, Lincolnshire	Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Monday 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	February 5 JOY/Jr. GOYA GOYA	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m. 7 p.m.	February 6 Greek School Parish Council	
Wednesday 10 a.m.	February 7 HOPE	
Thursday noon 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m. 7 p.m.	February 8 Senior Synaxis Valentine's Day Luncheon, Dover Straits Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House) Marriage Ministry Meeting with Dr. Ary Christofidis 980 Corporate Woods Parkway in Vernon Hills	
Friday 7 p.m.	February 9 Great Vespers @ St. Haralambos Church, Niles	
Saturday 11:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	February 10 Baptism: Timotheos (Landon), son of Bill and Kristen Lambropoulos Sponsors: Demetre Lambropoulos and Lindsey Galassini Officiated by Fr. Sotiri @ St. Demetrios, Libertyville Vespers	St. Haralambos 1st Saturday of Souls
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	February 11 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Apokreatiko Glendi, Concorde Banquets, Kildeer	Judgement Sunday Meatfare Sunday

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son reflects on a time of repentance and a return from exile. Exile relates to how we have strayed from God and "wasted with sinners the riches that Thou gavest." Great Lent itself is a pilgrimage, a return and a focus on repentance and asking God for forgiveness for our sins. As the Prodigal Son returned to his Father, we must return to our Father as well.

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

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Elaine Stevens and Elaine Metropoulos
Epistle Reader: Bill Athenson
Greeters: Jeannie & John Thomas
Ushers: Tom Kiriakos (UIC), Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, Mia Connolly
Doug Hugdahl, Diane Sigalos, Frank Kazas

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

Announcements

+ **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 \$199,458 by 119 families. Let us work to keep the momentum going for this Parish and for the glory of God.

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE:** Since construction on our new church has begun, the capital campaign 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!

+ **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR THIS YEAR'S APOKREATIKO GLENDI:** Please be sure to make your reservations for the Glendi today after Liturgy. Philoptochos will be accepting cash or checks. The Glendi takes place next Sunday, February 11, 2018, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. Appetizers begin at 4:30 p.m. with dinner buffet following at 5:30. There will be dinner, dancing, games, the basket venture and fun for all! Join us for this treasured event!

+ **JOIN US THIS THURSDAY FOR A SPECIAL MARRIAGE MINISTRY MEETING:** We're happy to announce that we'll be hosting Dr. Ary Christofidis for a presentation and discussion at our next Marriage Ministry this Thursday, February 8th, entitled "Refreshing the Love in our Marriage That Gets Put Off to the Side." Dr. Christofidis is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a frequent visitor to Ascension. He led a wonderful discussion during Great Lent last year about modern distractions in our marriages and families, and we're excited to have him visit again! The presentation will be held at 980 Corporate Woods Parkway in Vernon Hills and will start at 7 p.m. To RSVP, please email Frank Kazas at fgkazas@gmail.com

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Please join us for a Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party on Friday, February 16th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the house. We will also be assembling school kits for IOCC. Please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com.

+ **RETREAT: THE BIBLE ANSWER MAN** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Department of Religious Ed and the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios in Elmhurst invite the faithful to a retreat with "The Bible Answer Man, Hank Hanegraaff, on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at St. Demetrios. See insert for more information.

+ **GREAT ESCAPE WINTER CAMP** There's still time for 6th - 11th graders to register for Great Escape WINTER CAMP 2018, which takes place March 2-4 at the Iakovos Retreat Center. Don't miss out on the fun planned for a weekend retreat filled with fellowship, discussions, skits, Olympic games, bonfires, sing-a-longs and worship to enlighten your Lenten journey. Spots are filling up fast! Limited to only 75 campers, on a first come first serve basis. For more information, visit <https://fanaricamp.wordpress.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.

+ **IONIAN VILLAGE SUMMER 2018 REGISTRATION BEGINS MARCH 1st AT 12 p.m. EST** Ionian Village is an invitation to the youth of our Archdiocese to closely encounter our Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage. The program consists of two sessions, with dates carefully selected to allow for maximum participation across the Archdiocese. Each summer camping session is open to young people currently in grade 9 through grade 12. The IVNext program is open to young adults ages 19 to 24 and offers a foray into our heritage and faith in a smaller group setting, while exploring the crucial next steps that each young adult will take. For more information, visit www.ionianvillage.org