

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

### Apolytikion for Apodosis of Epiphany in the First Mode

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, 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 Fourth Mode

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

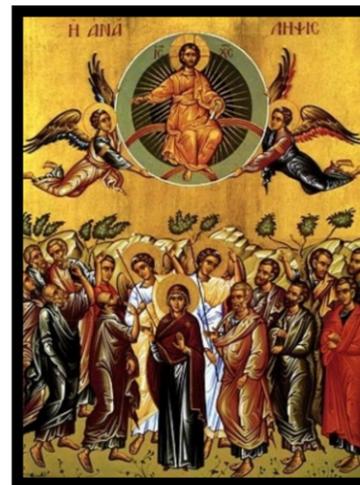
### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13.

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### The Gospel of Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN January 14 - 21, 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

*"The more people approach God, the closer they come to other people. And the closer they come to other people, the more they approach God."*

**Abba Dorotheos**

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 14</b>	<b>Sunday after Theophany</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Coffee fellowship hosted by Parish Council	
4:30 p.m.	Dive for the Cross, Highland Park Rec Center	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>January 15</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b>
		Office Closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>January 16</b>	
10 a.m.	OCCA Meeting	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, Chapel @ Metropolis of Chicago	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>January 17</b>	<b>St. Anthony the Great</b>
	Services will be held at the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, St. Athanasios, Aurora	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>January 18</b>	<b>St. Athanasios the Great</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy @ 1221 Riverwoods House	
10:30 a.m.	Senior Synaxis General Meeting/Vasilopita Cutting/Lunch	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>January 19</b>	
7 p.m.	Marriage Ministry meeting	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>January 20</b>	<b>St. Euthymios</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy @ 1221 Riverwoods House	
5 p.m.	Vespers @ 1221 Riverwoods House	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>January 21</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
6 p.m.	Sanctity of Life Prayer Service, St. Haralambos	

+ **COFFEE HOUR APPEAL:** Coffee hour offers us a valuable opportunity each week to spend time in fellowship with each other after we worship together as a parish family. We appreciate everyone who has graciously hosted in the past. When we don't have a host, the Parish Council members step up to make sure it's covered, and since we've been in our temporary space, we've had to rely on them a lot. We would love to have more people sign up for this important ministry. Offering it together with family or friends makes the effort easier and more enjoyable. Going forward, we will have a special sign-up form available by the coffee table. However, you may also always sign up online or by calling the church office. We've tried to make the process as simple as possible by listing ideas and everything needed to host a simple gathering on our website. Thank you!

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prophora:** Tasia Alexakos & Anastasia Anton  
**Epistle Reader:** Elaine Simos  
**Greeter:** Katherine Schreiber  
**Ushers:** Bill Athenson (UIC), Carol Stamas, Nick Marino, Peter Venetos, Diane Sigalos, Tom Kiriakos, Chris Chatzidakis

## 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 \$175,760 by 92 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!

+ **THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR YOU TO JOIN US TODAY AT OUR 3rd ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool, located at 1207 Park Ave. West, Highland Park. Diving is reserved for K-12th graders and is \$10 per diver. Divers should bring a swimsuit and towel. A parent or guardian must be present. We look forward celebrating this historic tradition with our sister parish, St. Demetrios, Libertyville. Questions or to RSVP: Desiree Petros at ddpetros@comcast.net.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS WILL HOLD ITS JANUARY GENERAL MEETING** this Thursday, January 18th at 10:30 a.m. at the home of Mary Kakavas. Along with a light fellowship lunch, we will be cutting the Vasilopita. If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Beck at 847.367.5227. We look forward to seeing you there!

+ **PAN-ORTHODOX SACNTITY OF LIFE SERVICE:** Orthodox Christian Clergy Association is holding the Annual Pan-Orthodox Sanctity of Life Prayer Service and presentation at St. Haralambos Church, Niles, on Sunday, January 21st at 6 p.m.

+ **LOOKING FORWARD TO HEALTHY LIVING 2018:** Attention Men of Ascension, you are all invited to join Koinonia Men's Ministry for our next meeting on Tuesday January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm at 980 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL. See the colorful insert in today's bulletin for the details or call Doug Hugdahl (847) 910-6010. Please RSVP to Demetri Katsulis (847) 370-3719.

+ **THE HELLENIC LETTERS LUNCHEON** will take place on January 28th at 2 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz. Please contact Maria Theodoropulu (mariathead@hotmail.com) if you are interested in attending.

+ **GREAT ESCAPE WINTER CAMP** There's still time for 6<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 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/>

+ **APOKREATIKO GLENDI:** Philoptochos is taking reservations after Divine Liturgy for this year's Apokreatiko Glendi! The Glendi will take place on Sunday, February 11, 2018, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. There will be dinner, dancing, games, the basket venture and fun for all! Please join us for this treasured event.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS WOULD LIKE TO THANK** Sal and Briana Cardone for generously hosting the January General Meeting at Mambo Italiano. The food and company were exceptional! Also, much appreciation to Marcia Moore, who spoke about how to become a healthier you in the New Year.

+ **THE NEXT MARRIAGE MINISTRY** meeting will take place this Friday, January 19 at 7 p.m. See insert for more details.

+ **ASCENSION HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE THIS SPRING:** Fr. Sotiri will be leading a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on April 29 - May 9, 2018. Space is limited and on a first come basis. All arrangements, reservations and questions are being handled through Cloud Tours, Inc.: 718.721.3808; 800.223.7880, Email: [stephen@cloudtours.com](mailto:stephen@cloudtours.com). Travelers must be 18 years and older. To view and download the flyer, go to <https://tinyurl.com/ycyut47k>. The registration form can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y7eg3hug>

+ **STEWARDS: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2018 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church.

+ **PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DUE JANUARY 31** The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's 2017/18 application is posted at [www.panhellenicsf.org/online](http://www.panhellenicsf.org/online). Scholarships are available to all undergraduate students of Hellenic descent. For more information on available scholarship programs, visit Ascension's website and click on the Orthodox Christian Fellowship link within the Ministry section.