

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

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, Χριστὲ 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 Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15.

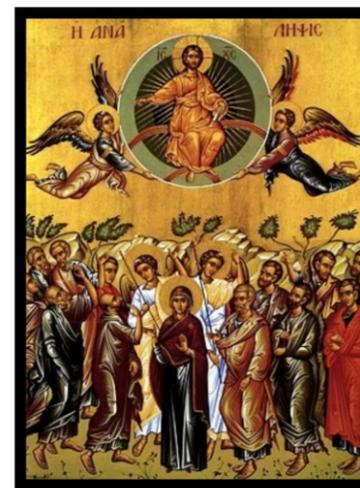
TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of Luke 18:10-14



The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069
Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos
TEL: (847) 482-1200 | FAX: (847) 482-9566 | www.ascensiongoc.com
Office e-mail: info@ascensiongoc.com

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN January 28 – February 4, 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

"If there is a moral quality almost completely disregarded and even denied today, it is indeed humility. The culture in which we live constantly instills in us the sense of pride, of self-glorification, and of self-righteousness ... Even our churches - are they not imbued with that same spirit of the Pharisee? Do we not want our every contribution, every 'good deed,' all that we do 'for the Church' to be acknowledged, praised, publicized? ... How does one become humble? The answer, for a Christian, is simple: by contemplating Christ..."

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 2 p.m.	January 28 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship hosted by Greek School Girls' Chanting Practice immediately following Liturgy Hellenic Letters Luncheon, Chateau Ritz	Triodion Begins Publican and Pharisee
Monday 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	January 29 JOY/Jr. GOYA GOYA Great Vespers for Three Hierarchs @ St. Basil, Chicago	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	January 30 Greek School	Three Hierarchs <i>Divine Liturgy will be held at 10 a.m. at the Hellenic American Academy, Deerfield.</i>
Thursday 7 p.m.	February 1 Open House for Adults / Adolescents Greek School Program	
Friday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m.	February 2 Orthros Divine Liturgy @ 1221 Riverwoods Road House	Presentation of Our Lord
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 GOYA Brunch, Strawberry Fields, Lincolnshire	Sunday of the Prodigal Son

THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the beginning of Great Lent. It marks the time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

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

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Mary Kakavas
Epistle Reader: Caity Anast
Greeters: Gerald & Despina Taranko
Ushers: Carol Stamas (UIC), Tom Kiriakos, Doug Hugdahl, Peter Venetos, Bill Athenson, Nick Marino, Bill Smirles, 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

Announcements

- + **THE TRIODION BEGINS TODAY** and this week following is a fast-free week.
- + **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 \$183,870 by 105 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!
- + **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! Join us for this treasured event. Please RSVP by February 4th.
- + **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. Travelers must be 18 years and older. See the insert for more information on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.
- + **OPEN HOUSE: ADULT/ADOLESCENT GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM:** Are you interested in learning to speak Greek, or would you like to improve your Greek and have a good time? Please join us this Thursday to find out more about what Ascension's Adults/Adolescents Greek School program has to offer!
- + **GOYA: LET'S DO BRUNCH!** GOYANS are invited to brunch after Divine Liturgy next Sunday, 2/4, at Strawberry Fields in Lincolnshire. Please RSVP to Christina Kiriakos at christinakiriakos@gmail.com by this Thursday so we can make a reservation. It'll be a perfect way to kick off Superbowl Sunday!
- + **EXCITING NEXT 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 on 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
- + **PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DUE THIS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31** The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation's 2017/18 application is posted at 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.
- + **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/>
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT** Our Philoptochos Chapter's January contributions included donations toward: Cancer/Other Major Illness Fund; Social Services Fund; and, we collected \$1,500 from our generous parishioners for St. Basil's Academy. Thank you!
- + **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. For reservations or to make a donation, please go to www.MissionTeamChicago.org, call (317) 709-0168, or email MTBenefit@yahoo.com before March 8th.