

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Theophany 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 for Synaxis of John the Forerunner in the Second Mode

The memory of the just is celebrated with hymns of praise, but the Lord's testimony is sufficient for thee, O Forerunner; for thou hast proved to be truly even more venerable than the Prophets, since thou was granted to baptize in the running waters Him Whom they proclaimed. Wherefore, having contested for the truth, thou didst rejoice to announce the good tidings even to those in Hades: that God hath appeared in the flesh, taking away the sin of the world and granting us great mercy.

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 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 Acts of the Apostles 19:1-8.

In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

The Gospel of John 1:29-34



At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

January 7 - 14, 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

"Although God is beyond description and approach in His essence, and could change everything with a single word, He came down to us and submitted Himself to the whole of the human condition: the humiliation, the suffering and death. He did all of this in order to come and meet us. He didn't say: 'Here I am. Come and meet me'. He came to us. What does this mean for our daily lives? That we should also get ourselves down to where our neighbors are, to meet them there and stop demanding that they should come and find us. We have to act as Christ did. He came and found us, not so that He would stay where we were, nor to just leave us there, but to raise us up by glorifying us."

Metropolitan Athanasios of Lemesos

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	January 7	Synaxis of John the Baptist
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Philoptochos Vasilopita Cutting	
	2018/19 Parish Council Affirmation of Office	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Marx Family	
Monday	January 8	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	January 9	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
6:30 p.m.	Philoptochos Meeting/Presentation, Mambo Italiano, Mundelein	
Wednesday	January 10	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
7 p.m.	Parish Council	
Thursday	January 11	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
Saturday	January 13	
5 p.m.	Vespers (@ 1221 House)	
Sunday	January 14	Sunday after Theophany
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:30 p.m.	Dive for the Cross, Highland Park Rec Center	

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Maria Karalis & Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Katherine Schreiber
Greeters: David & Kathie Rutkowski
Ushers: David Rutkowski (UIC), Kathy Rutkowski, Peter Venetos, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Kiriakos, Mike Sutherland, Bill Smirles

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 ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ELECTED 2018-2019 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**, who will take affirmation of office after today's Divine Liturgy: Harold Anagnos, Basil (Bill) Athenson, Robert Buhler, Mia Connolly, Doug Hugdahl, Demetri Katsulis, Frank Kazas, Thomas Kiriakos, Nick Marino, Alex Marx, Tom Papastefan, David Rutkowski, Diane Sigalos, Carol Stamas, and Peter Venetos. May God guide your charitable works throughout the next two years. We also offer an abundance of gratitude to the 2016/17 Parish Council members who guided this Parish the past 2 years with faith, loyalty and love.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL VASILOPITA CUTTING TRADITION** today and will be taking a collection to benefit the St. Basil Academy, as well as other youth programs.

+ **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 \$170,185 by 85 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!

+ **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – Please note, tomorrow is the deadline for turning in the insert to have Fr. Sotiri bless your home.

+ **THIS TUESDAY: NEW YEAR, HEALTHIER YOU!** You are invited to our "Building a Healthier You" Philoptochos General Meeting at Mambo Italiano in Mundelein, on Tuesday, January 9th at 6:30pm. Please see insert for details and RSVP to Anna Duros at ascensionphilo@gmail.com if you are attending.

+ **APOKREATIKO GLENDI: TAKING RESERVATIONS BEGINNING THIS SUNDAY:** Philoptochos will begin taking reservations for this year's February 11th Apokreatiko Glendi starting today after Divine Liturgy. See insert for details on this year's treasured event!

+ **JOIN US AT OUR 3rd ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** on Sunday, January 14th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool. This year we will join together with our sister parish, St. Demetrios, Libertyville, to celebrate this historic tradition! 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. Please rsvp to ddpetros@comcast.net if you are able to attend.

+ **THE NEXT MARRIAGE MINISTRY** meeting will take place on Friday, January 19 at 7 p.m. Stay tuned 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. 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.

+ **FINAL FOOTBALL MANIA WINNER UPDATES:** Week 9 winners are Amy Tsarwhas \$25, Jim Bologeorges \$25, Maria Karalis \$25 and Candace Hanson \$25. Week 10 winner: Thomas Turner \$25. Grand prize winner Thomas Masloske \$200. Congratulations to all our winners! Philoptochos would like to offer a special thank you to everyone for supporting our Football Mania fund-raiser. We had a successful season -- raising \$2,727.00 -- enabling us to continue our Philanthropic efforts.

+ **DCFS TOY DRIVE A SUCCESS:** Once again, Ascension participated in the Foster Children Christmas Gift Drive thru the Orthodox Christian Clergy Association. Our Sunday Church School, the Men's Koinonia and the Ladies Philoptochos purchased and wrapped gifts for 20 children. The gifts were delivered through SS. Peter & Paul Church in Glenview to the DCFS location in Chicago.

+ **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO FAMILY SYNAXIS JANUARY COUPES RETREAT:** The Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Ministry and the St. Iakovos Retreat Center invites all married couples to a Couples Retreat held January 26th-28th, 2018. The keynote speaker is Fr. Alex Goussetis, who will be presenting "Renewed Day by Day: Enlivening our Marriage Commitment." Space is limited, please register by this Wednesday, January 10th through www.gosirc.org.

+ **COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR:** Annual March for Life Chicago: January 14 @ 2 p.m., Federal Plaza, Chicago (<http://www.marchforlife-chicago.org/>); Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 21; Hellenic Letters Luncheon: January 28; Great Escape Winter Camp for 6th-11th graders March 2-4. Stay tuned for more information.

Holy Communion Etiquette

+ If you are either baptized and/or confirmed as an Orthodox Christian and have spiritually prepared to receive Holy Communion, please come up with reverence and humility, row by row, and depart as directed by the ushers. Please remain in your rows until an usher indicates your row should move forward. If you are standing in the back of the nave, please wait until an usher directs you.

+ Prior to receiving Holy Communion, we will recite together the *Prayers Before Receiving Holy Communion* on page 61 in the Divine Liturgy book found in the pew. Following Holy Communion, it is customary for the faithful to silently recite the *Prayers of Thanksgiving*, on page 73.

+ In receiving Communion, you should place the cloth under your chin, recite your CHRISTIAN NAME, and wipe your mouth after receiving. If you are wearing lipstick please remove it prior to receiving Communion.

+ Whether you are an Orthodox Christian or not, please come forward at the dismissal to receive the blessed bread which is offered to everyone who worships with us. May the blessings of Christ be with you.

+ **BELOVED FAITHFUL:** Divine Liturgy begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. It is a great blessing to hear the very first sentence of the service that draws us in to the Heavenly Banquet offered at every Liturgy: *Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto the ages of ages.* Please make every effort to be on time.