

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Nativity of John the Forerunner in the Fourth Mode

O Prophet and Forerunner of Christ God's coming to us, all we who with longing now extol thee are at a loss to honour thee worthily. For thy mother's barrenness and father's long silence, by thine all-renowned and hallowed birth, were both ended, and the Incarnation of the Son of God is preached unto all the world.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have 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, 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 Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

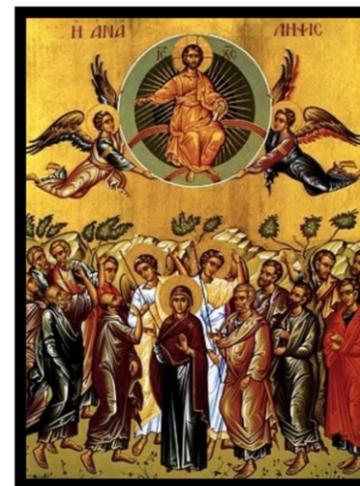
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 13:11-14; 14:1-4.

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 Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76-80

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and they wondered at his delay in the temple. And when he came out, he could not speak to them, and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he made signs to them and remained dumb. And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After these days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son. And her neighbors and kinsfolk heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they would have named him Zacharias after his father, but his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." And they said to her, "None of your kindred is called by this name." And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he would have him called. And he asked for a writing tablet, and wrote, "His name is John." And they all marveled. And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God. And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea; and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways." And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN June 24 - July 1, 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

“Friendship is more necessary for the soul than for the body. When you’re sad, the thought of a friend brings a smile to your face. On your death-bed, the presence of a friend beautifies the face of death. Friendship is always the life-giving breath or the angel who accompanies us through life, who raises us when we fall and who inspires us when our strength fails.”

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	June 24	<u>Nativity of John the Baptist</u>
8:15 a.m.		Orthros
9:30 a.m.		Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God, George Houpis (40 Days) Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Houpis Family Girls' Chanting Practice following Liturgy Fr. Sotiri departs for Fanari Camp through the end of this week
Thursday	June 28	
7 p.m.		Great Vespers @ SS. Peter & Paul
Friday	June 29	<u>SS Peter & Paul</u>
8:30 a.m.		Orthros @ SS. Peter & Paul Church, Glenview
9:30 a.m.		Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, SS. Peter & Paul
7 p.m.		Great Vespers @ Holy Apostles Church, Westchester
Saturday	June 30	<u>Holy Apostles</u>
8 am.		Orthros @ Holy Apostles, Westchester
9 a.m.		Divine Liturgy @ Holy Apostles Church
Sunday	July 1	<u>5th Sunday of Matthew</u>
8:15 a.m.		Orthros
9:30 a.m.		Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship

+ DID YOU KNOW? The Nativity of the Holy Forerunner and Baptist of the Lord, John: The Gospel (Luke. 1: 5) relates that the righteous parents of Saint John the Baptist, the Priest Zachariah and Elizabeth (September 5), lived in the ancient city of Hebron. They reached old age without having children, since Elizabeth was barren. Once, Saint Zachariah was serving in the Temple at Jerusalem and saw the Archangel Gabriel, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. He predicted that Saint Zachariah would father a son, who would announce the Savior, the Messiah, awaited by the Old Testament Church. Zachariah was troubled, and fear fell upon him. He had doubts that in old age it was possible to have a son, and he asked for a sign. It was given to him, and it was also a chastisement for his unbelief. Zachariah was struck speechless until the time of the fulfillment of the archangel's words. (Source: Orthodox Church in America, www.oca.org)

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Mary Kakavas & Maria Karalis
Epistle Reader: Paul Lillios
Greeters: Gerry and Despina Taranko
Ushers: Bill Athenson (UIC), Alex Marx, Tom Papastefan, David Rutkowski, Kathie Rutkowski, 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, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Don

Announcements

+ STEWARDSHIP 2018: We live in a physical world that places great value on material possessions. Material possessions and wealth may bring power and status. But wealth and possessions can be fleeting. Circumstances change. It is the voice of Jesus Christ and the truth of His Gospel that remain constant. In our spiritual relationship with our Creator, we realize that we are called to be good stewards of His creation. And as stewards of His Gospel, we are called to use our material, worldly possessions to meet the needs of others. If you haven't pledged your Ascension Stewardship for 2018, we ask that you consider pledging soon. Pledge cards are available near the candle stand.

+ PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: Our Philoptochos Chapter's End of Year contributions included donations toward: Ascension Building Fund, Equestrian Connection (Pediatric Therapy), St. Iakovos Retreat Center, S.E.D.O.L. Summer Camp, Support a Mission Priest, St. Innocent Orphanage/Project Mexico, OCMC Albanian Mission Trip, Greek-American Rehabilitation Center, IOCC, and Hellenic College/Holy Cross Student Sponsorship.

+ SAVE THE DATE for the 3rd ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SOCIAL, July 29th! Sponsored by Men's Koinonia, this gathering gives the families and youth in our Parish the opportunity to enjoy ice cream, hotdogs, fun and fellowship immediately following Liturgy.

+ UPCOMING GREEK FESTIVALS: Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greek-style!

June 22-24: Holy Cross Greek Fest, Justice

July 7-8: St. Andrew's Greek Fest, Chicago

June 22-24: St. Nectarios, Palatine

July 7-8: St. Spyridon, Palos Heights

June 22-24: Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago

+ MIDWEST HELLENIC DANCE FESTIVAL: NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 1st IS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE!

Follow this link to register by July 1 for the Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival, which takes place over Columbus Day weekend this year, October 5th-7th, at the Marriott Oakbrook: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/midwest-hellenic-dance-festival-2018-registration-43153784130>. This event is sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis and dedicated to promoting, preserving and perpetuating the traditional Greek dance, music and fellowship of our Hellenic Heritage. For more information, contact Tina Lambros Anagnos at 847.404.0747, or visit the "News" category of our website, where you will find a link to register.

+ YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN AUGUST: Please consider hosting coffee fellowship after Liturgy with your family, or together with another family, so that we may continue our fellowship throughout the summer. Dates currently available in August include 8/5, 8/19, and 8/26. When we don't have a host, Parish Council members step up to make sure it's covered and we've had to rely on their generosity many times since we've been in our temporary place. Recommendations for simple offerings can be found on our website. Please sign up either online via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you in advance for offering your love and commitment to this important ministry.

+ WE WISH ALL OF OUR YOUTH ATTENDING FANARI CAMP SESSIONS THIS SUMMER an uplifting, safe, fun and blessed week. May God grant you safe travels and spiritually guide you while you are away from home. Fr. Sotiri will be at the second session taking place this week.