

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 Sun. of the Holy Cross in the First Mode

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

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.

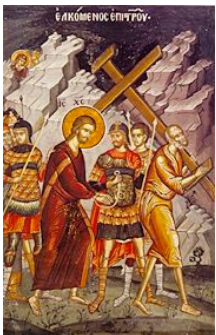
Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6.

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Gospel of Mark 8:34-38; 9:1



The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN March 11 - 18, 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

"Glory, O Lord, to the power of Thy Cross, which never fails! When the enemy oppresses me with a sinful thought or feeling, and I, lacking freedom in my heart, make the sign of the Cross several times with faith, suddenly my sin falls away from me, the compulsion vanishes, and I find myself free... For the faithful, the Cross is a mighty power which delivers from all evils, from the malice of the invisible foe."

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	March 11	Sunday of the Holy Cross
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	<i>Daylights Savings Time</i>
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Procession of the Cross Coffee Fellowship hosted by Sophie Beris & Voula Nicolau Philoptochos General Meeting following Liturgy Girls' Chanting Practice immediately following Liturgy	
Monday	March 12	
5 p.m.	Great Compline	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	March 13	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
Wednesday	March 14	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
Thursday	March 15	
6:30 p.m.	OCMC Missions Team Dinner, St. John the Baptist	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
Friday	March 16	
6 p.m.	FAITH/JOY Lenten Mini-Retreat	
Saturday	March 17	St. Alexios, Man of God
	Ordination of His Grace Metropolitan-Elect Nathanael Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, NYC	
Sunday	March 18	Sunday of St. John Climacus
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Greek School Independence Day Program	

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Elaine Metropoulos & Sophia Metropulos
Epistle Reader: Paul Lillios
Greeters: Mary & Gust Gatsis
Ushers: Tom Kiriakos (UIC), Demetri Katsulis, Diane Sigalos, David Rutkowski, Kathie Rutkowski, Carol Stamas, 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, James, Theresa

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life!

Do not permit the spirit of laziness, curiosity, lust of power and idle talk to come into me.

Rather, grant me your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love.

Yes, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own faults and not judge my brothers and sisters,

For You are blessed now and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

Announcements

+ **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:** We are blessed to announce that we have secured University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein for our Holy Week and Pascha services beginning Palm Sunday, April 1st through Pascha, April 8th. Please see insert for more information on the schedule and location and stay tuned for additional information as logistics are finalized. Your support during this temporary situation and time of transition is greatly appreciated.

+ **CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions throughout Lent up until the week before Holy Week. Please call the Church office to make an appointment.

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE: The time has come! Please, if you have not yet contributed to the capital campaign fund, the time is now!** We are at a critical juncture and need to raise the final \$1.65M to build our new church. *Debt-free*. Every donation matters, no matter how big or small! We ask that you open your hearts, have a family discussion, and consider this unique opportunity to pledge. Our Donor Recognition Wall will forever profile each family donor's name and we want you to be a part of it. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com. We thank you in advance for your love to building *Our Church - Our Faith - Our Legacy*.

+ **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 \$285,534 by 181 families. Let us work to keep the momentum going for this Parish and for the glory of God.

+ **THE PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING TAKES PLACE TODAY after Divine Liturgy in the library.** Please stay for fellowship and updates on our upcoming events. If you have not yet signed up as a Philoptochos member, Lent is the perfect time to join us in becoming 100 Strong!

+ **ASCENSION'S GREEK SCHOOL** will present our annual Celebration of Greek Independence Day program next Sunday, March 18th, directly following the Divine Liturgy. Our students look forward to performing songs, poems and dances in honor of the March 25th commemoration.

+ **GOYA LENTEN BAKE SALE NEXT SUNDAY, March 18** - Please support GOYA as they continue fundraising for their spring trip to New York and enjoy Lenten goodies! As always, thank you for your support.

+ **PALM CROSS MAKING:** On Saturday, March 31st at 10:30 a.m., Senior Synaxis invites the entire parish to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. We will meet at Lightsource, 980 Corporate Woods Parkway in Vernon Hills and a light Lenten lunch will be served. Please join us as we prepare together as a Parish Family for Holy Week.

+ **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:** Please consider hosting a coffee fellowship hour. There are several Sundays available in the coming weeks. Visit our website for more details and simple, peanut-free and Lenten serving ideas! You may sign up on our website, on the sign-up list by the coffee table, or by calling the office. Thank you!

+ **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL REMINDERS:** OCMC Coin boxes are due back to church next Sunday, 3/18. Please encourage your children to collect and donate change, a true act of almsgiving during this Lenten season. Also, please note that SCS does not meet on March 25th, April 1st and 4/8 due to spring break, Palm Sunday and Pascha. Classes will resume April 15th. and again on April 1st and April 8th.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS ONE-DAY PASCHA BAKE SALE** will take place on Palm Sunday, April 1st following the Divine Liturgy at University of St. Mary's of the Lake. Purchase and enjoy deliciously tempting Greek treats including tsoureki and homemade baked goods! (Sorry no preorders will be taken this year.) For more information, contact Jeannie Thomas, 847.323.6916; jgt1009@gmail.com, or Faye Kopplin, 847.561.2324, koppfm@gmail.com.

+ **3RD ANNUAL LENTEN MINI-RETREAT:** Please join us for our 3rd Annual Lenten Mini-Retreat on Friday, March 16th from 6 – 8:30 p.m. at the house located at 1221 N. Riverwoods Road. The retreat is open to our youth in grades Pre-K – 5th. There is no cost for the retreat, but a free-will offering is appreciated for craft materials. A lenten dinner will be served. See insert for more information and please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com to reserve your child's spot.

+ **ATTENTION 7th -12th GRADERS – ORATORICAL FESTIVAL:** Don't miss the opportunity to show your God-given talents as a writer, speaker and/or artist. The 2018 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is underway! If you are in 7th – 12th grade, you are encouraged to participate in this program, which gives you the opportunity to express your faith. All of the details, including this year's interesting topics, can be found on the Youth Pages of our website.

The Sunday of the Holy Cross – Mid Lent

On this Sunday, the third Sunday of Lent, we celebrate the veneration of the honorable and Life-Giving Cross, and for this reason: inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves.... and become bitter and despondent and failing, the Life-Giving Cross is presented to us for refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion, and for comfort.... We are like those following a long and cruel path, who become tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, sit in its shadow and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, continue their journey; likewise today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life-Giving Cross was planted in our midst by the holy fathers to give us rest and refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task....

Excerpt taken from Great Lent, by Alexander Schmemmann, and the Synaxarion of the Sunday of the Holy Cross