

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 for Annunciation of the Theotokos in the Fourth Mode

Today is the fountainhead of our salvation and the manifestation of the mystery which was from eternity. The Son of God becometh the Virgin's Son, and Gabriel announceth the good tidings of grace; for this cause, let us cry to the Mother of God with him: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

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 2:11-18.

BRETHREN, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me. Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

The Gospel of Luke 1:24-38



In those days, Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord had done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN March 25 - 31, 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

Mary freely accepted God's love. Her response to the annunciation was, "Let it be to me according to your word." As we continue our journey to Pascha, let us celebrate the free gift of God's love — a love that tramples down sin, death and the devil. A love that conquers all. A love that makes us sons of God and heirs of His kingdom.

Let us, like Mary, humbly accept this gift of love and, in so doing, like her, allow God to dwell within us.

Fr. Stephen Rogers, St. Ignatius Antiochian Orthodox Church in Franklin, Tennessee

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	March 25 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Doxology Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Papas & Boufis Families Girls' Chanting Practice	Annunciation
Tuesday 7 p.m.	March 27 OCCA Pan-Orthodox Akathist Hymn, Holy Protection Mother of God Monastery, Lake Villa, IL	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	March 29 Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
Saturday 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 10:30 am	March 31 Orthros @ 1221 North Riverwoods Chapel Divine Liturgy Making of Palms, Lightsource, 980 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills	Saturday of Lazarus

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Tasia Alexakos & Anastasia Anton
Epistle Reader: Thomas Poulakidas
Greeter: Mary Greub
Ushers: Nick Marino UIC, Carol Stamas, Peter Venetos, Tom Kiriakos, Mia Connolly, Steve Sintetas & Andrea Rogers.

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, Peter

Announcements

- + **CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions throughout Lent up until this Friday, March 30. Please call the Church office to make an appointment.
- + **RED EGGS:** Please call the church office if you are able to dye two dozen hardboiled eggs red for our parish Paschal celebration and bring them to the home we are renting at 1221 North Riverwoods Road on or before April 5th (Holy Thursday). We would be very grateful.
- + **OUR TRADITIONAL GOOD FRIDAY PREPARATION WILL BE SCALED DOWN THIS YEAR** Due to the fact that we will not have to clean and prepare our church for services this year, we unfortunately do not have a need for children to come and help on Good Friday morning/early afternoon. There will only be a small group of women from Philoptochos preparing the Kouvouklion for Good Friday services. We apologize especially to our youth and look forward to resuming this beautiful tradition in our new church home for years to come!
- + **PASCHAL CELEBRATION:** Immediately following the Resurrection Service, Parish Council invites everyone to come together as a parish family to joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior and proclaim "Christos Anesti"!
- + **THE HOLY WEEK SERVICE BOOK** is available for purchase from the bookstore for \$25. Please see Caity Anast during coffee hour today.
- + **PALM CROSS MAKING: WE'D LIKE YOUR HELP!** This 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. For more information, contact Elaine Beck at 847.367.5227 or Olga Kalis at 847.634.0261.
- + **PLEASE SUPPORT THE PHILOPTOCHOS ONE-DAY PASCHA BAKE SALE** which will take place on Palm Sunday, April 1st following the Divine Liturgy at University of St. Mary's of the Lake. For more information, please see the insert.
- + **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY PACHAL GREETING CARD DEADLINE THIS TUESDAY:** If you would like to extend Paschal greetings to fellow parishioners through the Koinonia Men's Ministry Pascha card fundraiser, please note that the card is going to print this week and the deadline for returning the enclosed form is this Tuesday, March 27th.
- + **YOUTH SUNDAY RESCHEDULED:** Due to scheduling conflicts, Youth Sunday and the brunch will be rescheduled to the fall. Please stay tuned!
- + **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GOYA'S BAKE SALE!** We appreciate all who purchased homemade Lenten treats and helped GOYA raise money for their upcoming trip to NYC. We also thank the GOYANs for creatively baking a wide variety of delicious Lenten treats!
- + **CONGRATULATIONS** to the students in our Greek School program who performed a beautiful program in honor of Greek Independence Day for our parish last Sunday for our parish. Bravo!
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT:** Our Philoptochos Chapter's March contributions included donations toward: Orthodox Christian Missions: \$380; Support a Mission Priest: \$380; Hellenic College/Holy Cross: \$600. These donations were collected from our generous parishioners. We also contributed to the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund.
- + **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.
- + **JR. OLYMPICS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:** Team Ascension is recruiting players and coaches! Interested? See the youth pages on our website for more information and/or contact Dino Bolos @ dinobolos@yahoo.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT HOLY WEEK

We have secured University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary for our Holy Week and Pascha services beginning Palm Sunday, April 1st through Pascha, April 8th. The Holy Week schedule and accompanying map is enclosed in this bulletin and will be sent to your homes this week. The University of St. Mary of the Lake is located approximately 15 minutes northwest of Ascension at 1000 E. Maple Ave, Mundelein. All services will take place in the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception with the exception of the afternoon and evening services on Good Friday, which will be in the Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium.

It has been said that it is not the place that sanctifies a person but his or her disposition. As we prepare to celebrate Pascha away from our home, we find solace in the fact that being united as one family, we will find strength from one another. Experiencing Christ's Sacred Passion and His Glorious Resurrection in a temporary space this year will be an experience for our lives and our children's lives as well. It will also give us greater joy next year being in our permanent home and enjoying the endless blessings of having our house of worship. During this year of construction and temporary relocation, your support, patience and prayers are very important and greatly appreciated.