

### **Apolytikion for Pentecost in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. O Befriender of man, glory be to Thee.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

### **The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.**

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

### **The Gospel of John 7:37-52; 8:12**

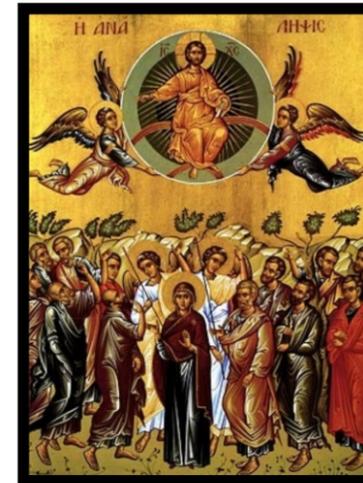


On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to Him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN May 27 – June 3, 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

"Before the war begins, seek after your ally; before you fall ill, seek out your physician; and before grievous things come upon you, pray, and in the time of your tribulations you will find Him, and He will listen to you."

## Weekly Calendar

**REMINDER – This week is a FAST FREE WEEK due to the celebration of PENTECOST.**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 27</b>	<b>Holy Pentecost</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling Vespers Coffee Fellowship hosted by Parish Council Great Vespers @ Holy Trinity Church, Chicago <i>Jr. Olympics continues at Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen</i>	
7 p.m.		
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 28</b>	<b>Monday of the Holy Spirit Memorial Day</b>
<i>Church office Closed</i>		
8 a.m.	Orthros (@ 1221 House Chapel)	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 31</b>	
6:30 p.m.	Philoptochos Celebration of Giving	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 1</b>	
11:30 a.m.	Parish Golf Outing, Deerfield Golf Club	
6 p.m.	Golf Outing Fellowship Dinner	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 2</b>	
11 a.m.	Baptism: Victoria Grace, daughter of Tom and Nicole Hermes <i>Sponsors: George and Maria Karalis</i>	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, All Saints Church, Joliet	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 3</b>	<b>All Saints</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Graduate Sunday Program	

## Feast of Pentecost

Every Feastday in the Orthodox Church is beautifully unique and brings with it great depth and symbolism. The same is true of Pentecost, with its annual Kneeling Prayers. Pentecost marks the end of the past 50-day period during which we have joyfully celebrated Christ's Resurrection. According to a canon by the First Ecumenical Council, we are not to kneel between Pascha and Pentecost because of the "brilliant solemnity of the events which the Church commemorates" following Christ's Resurrection. By standing, we are reminded that we have risen together with Christ. The Feastday of Pentecost marks the end of the Paschal period and returns us now to the ordinary time in our cycle of the Church year. According to the late Father Alexander Schmemmann, in the Pentecostal Prayers, we are invited to kneel and it's our first kneeling since Pascha. The joy of Pascha has been completed and we once again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy, presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Just like the Apostles on Pentecost, we gain strength from the Holy Spirit to seek Divine help in our daily lives. All of this is revealed in the three prayers that are read as we all kneel. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance and increased appeal for forgiveness of sins. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Iliana Radaios & Sophia Metropulos  
**Epistle Reader:** James Facklis  
**Greeters:** David & Kathie Rutkowski  
**Ushers:** Tom Kiriakos (UIC), Carol Stamas, Peter Venetos, Alex Marx, Diane Sigalos, Mia Connolly, Chris Chatazidakis, Demetri Katsulis

## 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

## Announcements

+ **WE STILL STAND IN PRAYER TODAY DURING THE CONSECRATION** and will resume kneeling at the Kneeling Vespers, which follows the Divine Liturgy.

+ **THE PASCHA TO PENTECOST *Double the Donation Equation* CAMPAIGN IS EXTENDED TO INCLUDE THE JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> PARISH GOLF OUTING:** If Ascension raises \$250,000 in new contributions through June 1st for construction of our new church, an anonymous donor has graciously offered to match the donation, bringing our parish \$500,000 closer to building debt-free! We are down to our final \$1.14 million to raise! Please donate today and participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a Greek Orthodox church and community center that will be a spiritual home for us, our children, grandchildren and many more generations to come. Help us achieve our dream debt-free!! The current version of our Donor Recognition Wall has been published, but there is still time to include your family name on this commemorative wall that will be displayed in our new church. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com. We thank you in advance for your love in coming together as a parish family to help build *Our Church - Our Faith - Our Legacy*.

+ **ON THE OCCASION OF THE JUNE 11<sup>th</sup> FEASTDAY OF THE HOLY APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW, PATRON SAINT OF METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL OF CHICAGO,** The Holy Metropolis of Chicago invites the faithful to the following: Sunday, June 10: 5 p.m. Great Vespers | 6 – 9 p.m. Open House Reception @ St. Andrew Church, Chicago. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at Annunciation Cathedral with Matins at 8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.

+ **CONGRATULATIONS to the Greek School Graduation Class of 2018:** Blake (Nikos) Petros, Peter (Panagiotis) Roumeliotis & Iohn (Ioannis) Tsonis. Thank you also to all of the families who were part of Ascension's Greek School program this year. Applications for the 2018/19 school year will be available in mid-July. Please be ambassadors of our program and help to spread the word about both the youth and adult offerings we have available.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS CELEBRATION OF GIVING DINNER:** Philoptochos invites you to its annual Celebration of Giving Dinner this Thursday, May 31st at 6:30 p.m. at Dover Straits in Mundelein. Cost is \$30 per person, and includes our yearbook. All are warmly welcomed to gather and look back on our year of friendships, philanthropy and fun. For questions and to RSVP, please contact Anna Duros by May 28th at ascensionphilo@gmail.com.

+ **WE NEED COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN JUNE AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER:** 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. 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. You may sign up on the list on the coffee hour table; online via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you in advance for offering your love and commitment to this important ministry.

+ **THIS TUESDAY IS THE LAST DAY TO CALL IN YOUR GRADUATES:** Please call the office by Tuesday if someone in your home is reaching a graduation milestone this year. We would like to acknowledge every graduate at our annual tribute, which will take place next Sunday, June 3rd, following the Divine Liturgy. Students from Elementary School, High School, College, Graduate or Post-Graduate programs will be recognized. Please contact Suzanne Saric by email (suzannesaric@sbcglobal.net) or by calling the church office no later than this Tuesday, May 29th with the following information; name(s) of your graduate(s); school graduating from; degree (if applicable) and full name and location of school they will be attending in the fall (if applicable). Thank you.

+ **ALTAR TABLE VOTIVE LIGHT DONATIONS** may now be offered for the health of individuals, family members or in memory of departed loved ones. A \$75.00 donation for each week's votive light is requested. The votive light burns perpetually at the altar in the chapel of the house Ascension is renting during construction of the new church. Names will be acknowledged in the Sunday Bulletin. Call the Church Office to reserve the votive and share commemorative names.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT:** Our Philoptochos Chapter's May contributions included donations toward: 75th Anniversary Founders Fund; Orthodox Christian Fellowship; and, Jr. Olympics.

+ **REGISTER NOW for the Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival** which takes place over Columbus Day weekend this year, October 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, at the Marriott Oakbrook. 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.