

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

January 4 - 11, 2015

SUNDAY **JANUARY 4 - SUNDAY BEFORE THEOPHANY**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Memorial Service for James (Demetrios) Smirles (4) yrs & Regina Smirles (6) months
Memorial Service also for Darlene (Agape) Pennias - 40 days
Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Smirles' family

MONDAY **JANUARY 5 (Strict fast day)**
8:30 a.m. Great Hours of Epiphany
5:30 p.m. Vespers followed by Agiasmos (Blessing of the Waters)
NO YOUTH GROUPS TODAY

TUESDAY **JANUARY 6 - HOLY THEOPHANY**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy followed by the Blessing of the Waters
4:45 p.m. Greek School and Cutting of the Vasilopita
7:00 p.m. Great Vespers at St. John the Baptist Church, Des Plaines

WEDNESDAY **JANUARY 7 - SYNAXIS OF JOHN THE BAPTIST**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

THURSDAY **JANUARY 8**
6:15 p.m. Greek School - Beginners/Advanced Beginners
7:45 p.m. Greek School - Intermediate/Advanced
7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Board Celebration

FRIDAY **JANUARY 9**
6:30 p.m. Joint GOYA Lock-In @ SSP&P Church in Glenview until 9:30 a.m. Saturday

SATURDAY **JANUARY 10**
5:00 p.m. Vespers

SUNDAY **JANUARY 11 - SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY**
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:15 a.m. Sunday Church School Starts
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy followed by cutting of the Vasilopita
Memorial Service for: Eugenia (Evgenia) Doxas (40 days) and
Memorial Service for: Stamatis D. Kiriakos (40 years)
40-day Blessing for Maria Metropulos Milnes and her son

Prospora Bakers: Elaine Stevens & Sophie Beris FOS Ministry Greeters: Jerry Taranko
Hymns of Small Entrance: Plagal First (pg 45); Hymn of the Church (page 47)
Today's Epistle Reading: II Timothy 4:5-8 Reader: Tom Kiriakos
Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-8

WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

+ **WE ARE GLAD** you came to our Church. We hope your visit was memorable and meaningful in every way. Our doors and hearts are always open to you. Please join us for fellowship following the 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 of Our Lord.

CHURCH NEWS, REMINDERS AND UPDATES

+ **OUR PRAYERS TODAY ARE FOR THE SOULS OF THE SERVANTS OF GOD:** James and Regina Smirles, beloved parents of Bill (Cheri) Smirles and Eugenia Doxas, beloved mother of Mary (Rick) Weber and George (Maggie) Doxas. May their memory be eternal.

+ **OUR SYMPATHIES** go to the families of George (Penny) Kartsimas; James W. (Dr. Yuliya Kin-Kartsimas); Louis J. (Carlos Balais) Kartsimas and the late Stephen A. (Elizabeth) Kartsimas on the death of their beloved mother Helen Kartsimas who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, December 28th. The funeral took place here at our Church on Wednesday, December 31st. May her memory be eternal.

+ **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** - According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish your home to be blessed, please call the Church Office by **January 14.**

+ **2015 PARISH DIRECTORY** - We will be publishing a new parish directory in early 2015. We hope all 2015 stewards will participate. For more information please visit our website at ascensiongoc.com. All forms and information can be found there. The deadline for submission is January 31st, 2015.

+ **2015 STEWARDSHIP CARDS** have been mailed to everyone's home and are also available in the Narthex by the Pangari. If you have not filled yours in yet for your stewardship, we urge you to take one. Any questions, please call Kay James at the office.

YOUTH NEWS

+ **SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST** is the date when our Youth will hold their annual Brunch. Details will be forthcoming soon.

+ **DON'T FORGET** - Join your fellow Goyans at SS Peter & Paul Church for the city wide lock-in on Friday, January 9, 2015. Goyans from the Ascension of Our Lord, SS Peter & Paul, St. Haralambos, St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, St. Demetrios in Chicago and St. Basil will come together in Faith, service and fellowship. More information will be forthcoming.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

+ **REMINDER** - The Philoptochos General Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 18th immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

+ **FOOTBALL MANIA** winner for Week 9 was the Athenson family who won \$25.00. Congratulations!

+ **SAVE THE DATE** - Our **Apokreatiko Glendi** will take place on **Sunday, February 8th** at the Concorde Banquet Hall in Kildeer. There will be dinner, dancing, games and fun for all. More information will be available soon.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

+ **PRAYER REQUESTS** - Please include in your personal prayers the servants of God: Angelina, Georgia, John, Penelope Athanasia, Sophia, Vasilios, Eleni, George, Nicholas and Louise.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION - *"A precious story pictures a mother pleading with Napoleon to spare her condemned son's life. The emperor called the crime dreadful; justice demanded his life. "Sir," sobbed the mother, "Not justice, but mercy." "He does not deserve mercy," was the answer. "Ah yes, how true," said Napoleon. "I will have mercy." And he spared her son. Mercy! No one deserves it. Everyone needs it.*