

**Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church**  
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**WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN**

**March 30 – April 6, 2014**

**SUNDAY**

**MARCH 30**

**4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – St. John of Climacus**

8:15 a.m. Orthros  
 No SCS Classes  
 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Memorial Service for the soul of the servant of God Andrew Bratsakis (40 days)  
 Coffee Fellowship – No host available as of this date

**MONDAY**

**MARCH 31**

JOY / Jr. GOYA Meetings and Confessions (Project for GARC Begins)

7:30 p.m. GOYA Meeting and Confessions

**TUESDAY**

**APRIL 1**

10:00 a.m. Toddlers and Parents  
 4:45 p.m. Greek School Classes  
 7:00 p.m. Men's Ministry Board Meeting

**WEDNESDAY**

**APRIL 2**

5:30 p.m. 9<sup>th</sup> Hour  
 6:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts  
 Lenten Supper hosted by the Ascension Philoptochos – Presentation by Vicki Douvli

**THURSDAY**

**APRIL 3**

7:00 p.m. Adult Greek School

**FRIDAY**

**APRIL 4**

6:30 p.m. **AKATHISTOS HYMN** – Salutations to the Virgin Mary

**SUNDAY**

**APRIL 6**

**5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – St. Mary of Egypt**

8:15 a.m. Orthros  
 9:10 a.m. SCS Classes Resume  
 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Fellowship – No host available as of this date  
 7:00 p.m. **Solemn Lenten Vespers Service** – attended by area clergy and chanters

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**Prospora Bakers:** Maita Houpis & Mary Kakavas **FOS Ministry Greeters:** Harry & Elaine Metropoulos

**Hymns of Small Entrance:** Grave Tone (p. 46); Hymn of our Church (p.47)

**Today's Epistle Reading:** Hebrews 6:13-20 **Reader:** Paul Lillios

**Today's Gospel Reading:** Mark 9:17-31

**Vigil Lights Offered:**

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+ **DURING OUR JOURNEY THROUGH LENT WE SEEK YOUR DONATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

- Flowers for the Icon of Palm Sunday - \$75.00;
- Flowers for the Mystical Supper Icon (Holy Wed. Night) - \$85.00;
- Palms \$350.00 (Entire amount or part thereof);
- Flowers for Epitaphio - \$1,100.00 (Entire amount or part thereof)

+ **IN ADDITION,** to the flowers we are seeking your generosity for the following for our Paschal Celebration:

- Tsourekia (Easter Bread) - 150.00; Chocolate Bunnies (for the the Agape Service) \$675.00;
- Cheese & Olives \$120.00; Fresh Fruit - \$85.00;

Greek Loukaniko (40 lbs.)

**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

- + **OUR PRAYERS TODAY** are offered for the soul of the Servant of God Andrew Bratsakis (40 days), beloved father of Marguerite (John) Matthews and George & James (Lonnie) Bratsakis. May his memory be eternal.
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS LENTEN PROJECT** – "Fill the Bag" – We will be assembling bags for the North Chicago VA Hospital veterans and the Annunciation Feed the Hungry Program on April 26<sup>th</sup>. We are asking for donations of men's crew socks (size 10-13), men's undershirts & boxer shorts (L-XL), toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant & boxes of band aids. Monetary donations are also welcome. Make checks to: **Ascension Philoptochos** and mark "**Lenten Project**" in the memo. All donations needed by Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. We thank you for your kindness – Kathie Rutkowski, Amy Tsarwhas & Marcia Moore. You may contact Marcia with any questions at (847) 774-0232.
- + **THE EASTER BAKE SALE IS COMING SOON** – Saturday of Lazarus, April 12<sup>th</sup> and Palm Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. Pre-orders can be placed today, and April 6<sup>th</sup>, and be picked up on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> following services. Decorative candles for Godchildren as well as Red Egg Dye will also be sold. Please call Elaine Stevens (847) 566-6520; Mary Gatsis (847) 821-2078 or Harriet Kyros (847) 508-7179 with any questions.

**ASCENSION NEWS UPDATES**

- + **AS OF MONDAY, MARCH 24,** and as per the knowledge and blessings of our Metropolis Hierarchy, Jason Schrik was released from his duties as the Pastoral Assistant and Chanter at the Ascension of Our Lord. We sincerely wish Jason (and his wife Sarah) the very best in their future endeavors.

**KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY – ANNUAL EASTER GREETING CARD**

- + **THE KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY IS SPONSORING THE ANNUAL "EASTER GREETING CARD"** once again this year, similar to the one offered last Easter. If you would like to send Paschal Greetings to your fellow Ascension Parishioners, please do so with your free-will offering and family name. Proceeds from the card will benefit various ministries the Group supports. Checks should be made out to: **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY**, please denote: Easter Card in the Memo. **Deadline for printing is: Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**ASCENSION UPCOMING LITURGICAL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND LENTEN PREPARATION**

- + **THE AKATHISTOS HYMN** takes place on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm with the chanting of beautiful hymns to the Theotokos. Please join us for the concluding service of the Heretismi.
- + **DURING GREAT LENT FATHER JIM IS AVAILABLE FOR CONFESSIONS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** Please do not wait until the last minute to make arrangements for Confession. Please call the Church Office or see Father personally to make an appointment. Father Jim will not be able to hear Confessions during Holy Week due to the extensive schedule of home, nursing home and hospital visitations he makes during the week, in addition to the Holy Week services.
- + **THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD IS HOSTING A METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO "SOLEMN VESPERS" SERVICE on Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Area clergy, chanters and Hierarchy will be in attendance. Our Ladies of Philoptochos will host the Lenten Reception following services.

**"CALLING ALL PARISHIONERS" TO ASSIST IN MAKING OF PALM CROSSES**

- + **PLEASE JOIN US AND HELP US MAKE THE PALM CROSSES ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9<sup>th</sup>,** following the Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts. The Ascension Senior Synaxis will be hosting the Lenten Supper following services and then we will be making Palm Crosses and cutting the bay leaves for Palm Sunday. Everyone from the parish is invited to join us for services, dinner and to assist us in this Lenten tradition.

**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

- + **JOY/JR. GOYA EASTER PLANT SALE** – Look no further for beautiful flowers to decorate your home for Pascha. Place your order today for the beautiful lilies or hydrangeas that our Joy/Jr. Goyans are selling through Sunday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Lilies are \$15.00 each or 3 for \$40.00 and Hydrangeas (pink or blue) are \$20.00 each. The plants will be ready for pick-up on Palm Sunday, following services. Checks can be made out to: **ASCENSION YOUTH MINISTRY.**
- + **CONFESSIONS FOR JOY/JR. GOYA AND GOYA** will resume following Spring Break on Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup> and if necessary, on April 7<sup>th</sup>. On the 31<sup>st</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, JOY & JR. GOYA will be preparing the Easter Gifts for the residents at the Greek American Rehabilitation Center under the direction of Maria Vlahos, with assistance from your Youth Workers.

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH**

- + **PRAYER REQUESTS** – Please include in your personal prayers the servants of God: Lisa, Georgia, Anastasios, Angelina, Mary, Konstantinos, Evangelia, Rose and Carol.