

**Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church**

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**WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN**

November 30 - December 7, 2014

**SUNDAY** **NOVEMBER 30 - ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE**  
8:15 a.m. Orthros  
NO SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Artoclasia for Andrea Desimiotis  
Coffee Fellowship hosted by Mary Kakavas

**MONDAY** **DECEMBER 1**  
5:45 p.m. JOY/Jr. GOYA  
7:30 p.m. GOYA - Shopping for Greek American Nursing Home

**TUESDAY** **DECEMBER 2 -**  
4:45 p.m. Greek School

**WEDNESDAY** **DECEMBER 3**  
10:00 a.m. HOPE  
7:00 p.m. Philoptochos Christmas Party @ the Karkazis home

**THURSDAY** **DECEMBER 4 - ST. BARBARA**  
8:15 a.m. Orthros  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:15 p.m. Beginners Greek School  
7:45 p.m. Intermediate/Advanced Greek School

**SATURDAY** **DECEMBER 6 - ST. NICHOLAS**  
8:15 a.m. Orthros  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
11:00-4:00 p.m. Gingerbread House Decorating  
5:00 p.m. Vespers

**SUNDAY** **DECEMBER 7**  
8:15 a.m. Orthros  
9:15 a.m. Sunday Church School  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Memorial Service for the soul of the servant of God Evangelina (Evangelia) Gianos (1 year)  
Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Chatzidakis and Betsios families  
Philoptochos St. Nicholas Party for the children.  
JOY/Jr. GOYA Poinsettias Sale

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Prospora Bakers: Helen Pissios & Mary Greub      **FOS Ministry Greeters:** Maria LaFleur  
Hymns of Small Entrance: Plagal Fourth (pg 46); Hymn of the Church (page 47)  
Today's Epistle Reading: I Corinthians 4:9-16      **Reader:** Jeff Carlson  
Today's Gospel Reading: John 1:35-52

**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 REMINDERS AND UPDATES**

+ **PROSPHORA BAKERS NEEDED** - If you are interested in baking the Eucharistic Bread, please call the Church office. If you have never baked Prospora before, a team of our expert bakers will teach you.

+ **COFFEE HOST** still needed for Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please call the Church Office.

+ **PAN-ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** - Great Vespers will take place at St. John's Church on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., followed by a concert featuring Orthodox choirs in English, Georgian, Greek, Romanian, Serbian and Ukrainian. The Pan-Orthodox Choir of Great Chicago will also be featured. Lenten food and gift items will be available that evening from all participating groups. Free will donation. A portion of the proceeds will go towards the building of an Pan-Orthodox Church at the seminary in Guatemala.

+ **THE HELLENIC CHORAL SOCIETY**, under the direction of Georgia Mitchell will present "The Spirit of Christmas" at SS Peter & Paul Church on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

+ **OUR CHURCH'S CHRISTMAS TREE** this year will be decorated by brightly colored hats and gloves. Our Sunday School children have been asked to bring these items to decorate our Christmas tree. These items will be donated to children in need. Thank you for your support.

**YOUTH NEWS**

+ **TODAY** is the final day for taking reservations for the Gingerbread Decorating Event. If you have not reserved your time slot or your house(s) and you are still interested in joining us, please see Maria Vlahos after the Divine Liturgy today.

+ **THE ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE** - Our JOY and Jr. GOYANS will be available to take your orders today so you can decorate your homes for Christmas. You may place your orders today and also next Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. The poinsettia table will be in the Narthex right next to the Gingerbread table. For more details please see enclosed insert.

**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

+ **FOOTBALL MANIA WINNERS** - Congratulations to the Week 5 Winners of \$25.00 each: Thomas Peters, Mary Rogers and Chris Kyros.

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH**

+ **PRAYER REQUESTS** - Please include in your personal prayers the servants of God: Angeline, Augoustinos, Georgia, John, Penelope Athanasia, Sophia, Vasilios, Marego, George, Jac and Nicholas.

**SPIRITUAL REFLECTION** - "The head seeks God but it is the heart that finds Him. 'For man believes in his heart and so is justified ...' writes St. Paul (Rom. 10:10). When the head descends into the heart, the head faith becomes a heart faith. It becomes not just a head faith, or just a heart faith, but a head-in-the heart faith. Just as love, charity and other important virtues cannot exist only in the mind but are primarily of the heart, so it is with our faith and trust in God. We are not to let Jesus remain in the mind and give Him only a cold intellectual allegiance. He must descend into the heart where we shall be able to see His presence and yield our will to Him." - Anthony M. Coniaris