

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Theophany in the Fourth Mode

Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

Apolytikion of the Church in the First Mode

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou are the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Ἀνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8.

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

The Gospel of Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John the Baptizer appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes He who is mightier than I, the thong of Whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

January 3 - 10, 2016

Prosphora Bakers:

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FOS Ministry Greeters:

Andrea & Doug Rogers

Epistle Reader:

Elaine Simos

Ushers:

UIC Carol Stamas, David Rutkowski, Bill Athenson, Bob Mantzoros,
Doug Hugdahl, Robert Buhler

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *“Repentance is the renewal of Baptism and is a contract with God for a fresh start in life.”*

—St. John Climacus

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Jan 3 - 10, 2016

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	January 3 Orthros Divine Liturgy No Coffee Fellowship host available	Sunday Before Epiphany
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	January 5 Great Hours of Epiphany Greek School Vesperal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of the Waters	Eve of the Theophany – Strict Fast Day
Wednesday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 7 p.m.	January 6 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of the Waters Great Vespers @ St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines	Holy Theophany – Fast Free Day
Thursday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	January 7 Orthros Divine Liturgy Adult Beginner Greek School Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	Synaxis of John the Baptist
Friday 7 p.m.	January 8 GOYA Retreat/Lock-In until 9 a.m. Saturday morning	
Saturday 5 p.m.	January 9 Vespers	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	January 10 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Philoptochos Vasilopita Cutting	Sunday After Theophany

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 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.

+ **ON BEHALF OF THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY**, we wish you a blessed and healthy New Year!

HOLY COMMUNION ETIQUETTE

+ If you are either baptized and/or confirmed as an Orthodox Christian and have spiritually prepared to receive Holy Communion, please come up with reverence and humility, row by row, and depart as directed by the ushers. Please remain in your rows until an usher indicates your row should proceed forward. If you are standing in the back of the nave, please wait until an usher directs you.

+ In receiving Communion, you should place the cloth under your chin, recite your Christian name, and wipe your mouth after receiving. If you are wearing lipstick please remove it prior to receiving Communion.

CHURCH NEWS

+ **WE HUMBLY ASK YOU TO PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2016 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD AND COMPLETE YOUR 2015 STEWARD OFFERING** either by mail, or by dropping it off at the Church office. Ascension's stewardship theme, which we will cultivate in the coming year, is: ***Open Your Heart: Giving time, talent, treasure for the Glory of God.*** We ask for God's blessings as we prayerfully consider the time, talents and treasures we can share to sustain and enhance the spiritual and bountiful Parish life at Ascension in 2016. If you didn't receive a pledge card by mail, they are available at the Pangari.

+ **STEWARDS: PLEASE TAKE HOME YOUR 2006 CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today. They are located on a table near the entrance.

+ **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotri to bless your home, please complete the form (see insert) and return it to the Church Office by January 14.

+ **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you know someone who is in a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact the church office at 847.482.1200.

+ **YOUTH SAVE THE DATES** – *January 8-9, 2016:* GOYA Lock-In @ Ascension; *January 17:* Dive for the Cross, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. Highland Park Rec Center pool (see insert). Check our website for updated information.

+ **THE MEET AND GREET KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING** will take place at 7 p.m. on January 14, 2016 at Doug Hugdahl's office, Lightsource Unlimited, 980 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills. A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP and direct questions to Doug Hugdahl at 847 910-6090.

+ **2016 WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION CLOSING TOMORROW** – The annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Women's Retreat will be held January 15-16 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. For more information, visit www.gocfamilysynaxis.org

+ **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:** Annual March for Life Chicago: January 17; Senior Synaxis Meeting: January 21; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 24th; Apokreatiko Glendi: Sunday, March 6th. Check our website and stay tuned for more information.

+ **CROSSROAD 2016 FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS** is a summer institute hosted at Hellenic College in Boston that connects students with the Orthodox Christian theological and spiritual tradition. Early registration deadline is February 1, 2016. Visit www.CrossRoadInstitute.org for more information.

+ **THE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** is currently accepting applications from eligible undergraduate students of Hellenic descent to support the educational pursuits of exceptional young people. The application deadline is February 1, 2016. Visit the new Orthodox Christian Fellowship Ministry webpage at www.ascensiongoc.com

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

+ **PRAYER REQUESTS** – *Please include in your personal prayers* the servants of God: Maita, Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Nicholas, Ethel, Christine, Louise, John, Panagiota, Anastasia, Stella, Athanasia, Mitchell, Joanne, Augustine, Panagiotis, Christina, Georgiane, Helen, James, Joseph, Sophia