

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Apolytikion for Sun. of St. Gregory Palamas in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Light of Orthodoxy, pillar and teacher of the Church, adornment of monastics, invincible champion of theologians, O Gregory thou wonderworker, boast of Thessalonica, herald of grace: ever pray that our souls be saved.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin she has committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

Apolytikion of the Church in the Fourth 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, Χριστέ 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 Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3.

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end." But to what angel has He ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

The Gospel of Mark 2:1-12



At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

March 12 - 19, 2017

Welcome to Our Visitors

WE ARE GLAD you joined us in worship today. We hope your visit to Ascension 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.

Spiritual Reflection

"If from one burning lamp someone lights another, then another from that one, and so on in succession, he has light continuously. In the same way, through the Apostles ordaining their successors, and these successors ordaining others, and so on, the grace of the Holy Spirit is handed down through all generations and enlightens all who obey their shepherds and teachers."

—St. Gregory Palamas

Weekly Calendar

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| Sunday | March 12 | Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas |
| 8:15 a.m. | Orthros | |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday Church School | |
| 9:30 a.m. | Divine Liturgy | |
| | Memorial for the Soul of the Servant, Anthepe Anthimiades (40 days) | |
| | Greek School Independence Day Program | |
| | Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Anthimiades Family and Kathy Schreiber | |
| 6:30 p.m. | Celebration of Books, Holy Apostles, Westchester | |
| Monday | March 13 | |
| 5 p.m. | Great Compline | |
| 5:45 p.m. | JOY/Jr. GOYA | |
| 7:30 p.m. | GOYA | |
| Tuesday | March 14 | |
| 4:45 p.m. | Greek School | |
| 7 p.m. | Parish Council Meeting | |
| Wednesday | March 15 | |
| 10 a.m. | HOPE | |
| 5:30 p.m. | 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy | |
| | Lenten Meal hosted by Sunday Church School Speaker Series featuring Dr. Ary Christofidis | |
| Thursday | March 16 | |
| 6:15 p.m. | Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School | |
| 7:45 p.m. | Adult Beginner Greek School | |
| Friday | March 17 | St. Alexios |
| 8:30 a.m. | 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy | |
| 6 p.m. | Faith/Joy | |
| 7 p.m. | 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos | |
| Saturday | March 18 | |
| 9 a.m. | Family Synaxis Lenten Retreat, St. Andrew Church, Chicago | |
| 7 p.m. | Great Vespers, Holy Cross Hellenic Orthodox Church, Justice | |
| Sunday | March 19 | Sunday of the Holy Cross |
| 8:15 a.m. | Orthros | |
| 9:15 a.m. | Sunday Church School | |

+ **WE WARMLY WELCOME STUDENTS FROM THE LUTERHAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, who are visiting our Parish today. We hope you have an enriching experience!

+ **ASCENSION'S GREEK SCHOOL** will present our annual Celebration of Greek Independence Day program today, directly following the Divine Liturgy. Our students look forward to performing in honor of the March 25th commemoration.

+ **CELEBRATION OF BOOKS** The annual Celebration of Books at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester begins this evening through Thursday, March 16th. This year's keynote speakers will be Rev. Dr. Eugen Pentiu, Dr. Alexis Torrance and Dr. Bruce Beck. For more information, visit: www.holyapostleschurch.com

+ **CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions throughout Lent up until the week before Holy Week. Please call the Church office to make an appointment.

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Sophie Beris and Despina Taranko

Epistle Reader: Nick Gatsis

Ministry Greeters: Andrea and Doug Rogers

Ushers: Tom Kiriakos, UIC, Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, Mia Connolly
Diane Sgalos, Nick Marino, Steve Sintetas, David Rutkowski

Prayer Requests for Health

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS the servants of God: Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Nicholas, Christine, Christy, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Helen, James, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony

Vigil Lights

VIGIL LIGHTS OFFERED by The Anthimiades Family in memory of Anthepe (Dorothy) Anthimiades

Announcements

+ **TO OUR ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY:** Thank you for the abundance of love and good wishes you bestowed on us last week. We were both very touched and wish you all of God's blessings in both your individual and collaborative endeavors. With love, Fr. T and Presbytera Rose.

+ **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** has identified additional major donor naming opportunities and has re-worked others: the foyer (\$150,000), the gallery (\$150,000), and the community center stage (\$50,000). These, together with our remaining major donor naming opportunities, which include the Nave (\$500,000), the kitchen (\$250,000), landscaping (\$150,000), a multi-purpose room (\$100,000), and a classroom (\$75,000), are now shown on an updated board located in the Narthex. Also, our other remaining donation opportunities are Pews (\$10,000), but there are only six Pews yet to be donated, and Personalized Brick Pavers (\$1,000). Please act fast as we are now approximately 83% of the way to our goal of remaining debt-free and building without any borrowing. If you would like to avail yourself of one of the remaining major donor naming opportunities or to donate towards any of these other remaining Donation Opportunities, please contact Fr. Sotirios in the church office at 847-482-1200 or email him at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY, 3/15, AFTER THE PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY** our Lenten Lecture Series continues as we welcome back Dr. Ary Christofidis, Founder of the Orthodox Christian Counseling Institute. Dr. Christofidis will present "Holy Marriage & Parenthood: Responsibilities and Distractions Along the Way." Please join us for this relevant and enriching evening.

+ **THE ASCENSION MARRIAGE MINISTRY** will be attending the Lenten Lecture Series this Wednesday in lieu of our normal meeting. Please see the bullet point above for more information on the program scheduled for that evening, which will add an enriching component and complement the goals of our Parish's new Marriage Ministry.

+ **THE NEXT FAITH/JOY MEETING** will be held this Friday, March 17th and we will meet an hour before the Salutations service (6 p.m.) to discuss the Annunciation of the Theotokos and to make a craft. Parents are welcome to join us from 6 – 7 p.m., as Father will have a discussion with them during that time. We will then attend the Salutations service together.

+ **ASCENSION GIRLS CHANT GROUP** Girls 3rd Grade-HS are invited to join a chant group! The girls will help sing some of the Good Friday hymns. Practices are mandatory and will primarily take place Sundays after church, with the possibility of a few practices on Saturdays. Please let Presvytera Stefanie Malamis know if you are interested (presstefanie@yahoo.com). The first practice takes place today immediately following Divine Liturgy in the Church.

+ **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY PACHAL GREETING CARD:** Once again this year, Koinonia Men's Ministry will be offering the Parish the opportunity to extend Paschal greetings to fellow parishioners through its annual Pascha card fundraiser. See enclosed insert for more information.

+ **HOCKEY MANIA WINNER UPDATE** for Week 10: Nick Lialios, who won \$25.00. Congratulations!

+ **TODAY IS THE EARLY-BIRD DEADLINE TO REGISTER** for the Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Retreat, which will be held this Saturday, March 18th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Chicago. For more information and to register, visit www.gocfamilysynaxis.org.

+ **JR. OLYMPICS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND:** Team Ascension is recruiting players and coaches! Interested? See our website or flyer for more information and/or contact Esther Tegel at etegel2@gmail.com.

+ **ATTENTION 7th-12 GRADERS**, the deadline for submission of your entry to the St. John Oratorical Festival is Monday, March 20, 2017. All of the details, including the topics for the Junior and Senior divisions, are posted on the Youth Pages of our website. For additional information, please contact Dr. Dean Tsarwhas at tsarwhas1@gmail.com. Your submissions can be emailed to Dr. Tsarwhas at tsarwhas1@gmail.com or Carol Stamas at cestamas@comcast.net.

+ **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS NEEDED** – Please consider hosting a coffee fellowship hour after Liturgy. It's simple to do! More information, including suggested food items, is available in fellowship hall and on our website. The sign-up list is posted near the coffee serving area and now extends through June. During Lent, out of respect for the sacred fast and to those keeping the fast, please offer simple Lenten items. Also, it is imperative that any items that are served in Church, for any reason or event, should not include any kind of nuts. We thank you for your consideration.

+ **BOOKSTORE NEWS:** New titles have arrived just in time for your Lenten reading or Pascha gifts. **For adults—***Becoming Orthodox, Parenting Toward the Kingdom, The Road Back to Christ, and Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives.* **For teens—***Hear Me, Letters to Lydia, and Keeper of the Light.* **For middle grade—***Shepherding Sam and Special Agents of Christ.* **For babies and toddlers—***Goodnight Jesus and What Do You See at Liturgy?* Additionally, service books for the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Heretismi are available for purchase, plus prayer ropes, icon bracelets, incense, and more!