

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

### Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin he 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 First Mode

O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just.

### The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2.

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

### The Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46



The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you,

as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 11 - 18, 2018

Welcome To Our Visitors

**WELCOME TO THE ASCENSION PARISH.** Your presence has brought us much joy. We hope your visit is 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

*...The day will come when we shall stand before God and be judged, but as long as our pilgrimage continues, as long as we live in the process of becoming, as long as there is ahead of us this road that leads to the full measure of the stature of Christ which is our vocation, judgment must be pronounced by ourselves.*

**Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh**

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.   5 p.m.	<b>February 11</b> Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God, John Kokinis (1 yr) Coffee Fellowship hosted by friends of Mary and the late John Kokinis Girls' Chanting Practice immediately following Liturgy Apokreatiko Glendi, Concorde Banquets, Kildeer	<b>Judgement Sunday</b> <b>Meatfare Sunday</b>
<b>Monday</b> 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<b>February 12</b> JOY/Jr. GOYA GOYA	
<b>Tuesday</b> 4:45 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	<b>February 13</b> Greek School Sunday Church School Teachers' Meeting	
<b>Wednesday</b> 10:30 a.m.	<b>February 14</b> HOPE Cheesefare Potluck Lunch	
<b>Thursday</b> 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	<b>February 15</b> Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
<b>Friday</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b>February 16</b> Faith/Joy Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party	
<b>Saturday</b> 5 p.m.	<b>February 17</b> Vespers	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Souls</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>February 18</b> Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy	<b>Forgiveness Sunday</b> <b>Cheesefare Sunday</b>

### The Sunday of the Last Judgment | Meatfare Sunday

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory. This is also the last day that we may consume meat products before the beginning of Great Lent.

Excerpt taken from "Coffee with a Little Stewardship" series by the Serbian Orthodox Church

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Sophia Metropulos & Tasia Alexakos  
**Epistle Reader:** James Facklis  
**Ushers:** Carol Stamas, (UIC) Bill Athenson, Tom Kiriakos, David Rutkowski, Demetri Katsulis, Mike Sutherland, Bill Sutherland

## Prayer Requests for Health

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS** the servants of God: Eleni, George, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Dee, Helen, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony, Fred, Katerini, George

## Announcements

+ **ARCHIMANDRITE NATHANAEL SYMEONIDES ELECTED METROPOLITAN OF CHICAGO:** This past Wednesday, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America announced that The Holy and Sacred Synod of Ecumenical Patriarchate elected unanimously the Very Reverend Archimandrite Nathanael Symeonides as Metropolitan of Chicago. Let us pray as a parish family that the Lord grants our newly elected Metropolitan Nathanael peace, safety, honor and health so he may guide his Orthodox flock unto length of days.

+ **LENT BEGINS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th.** The Ascension of Our Lord wishes you a blessed and reflective Lenten journey. Due to space and parking restrictions in our temporary home, many of the services traditionally offered at Ascension throughout Lent will not take place this year. Please stay tuned to our bulletin, E-Newsletter and website for more information on the location of Holy Week services as well as other announcements related to this most sacred season.

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2018:** Our 2018 Stewardship theme is: "Work at it with All Your Heart." Stewardship contributions cover operating expenses for our church and provide the annual funding needed to operate the vibrant ministries of this Parish. Our 2018 Operating Fund is budgeted at \$500,000.00. This Fund is separate from our capital campaign fundraising initiative to build our new church and community center facilities. To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2018 is \$235,348 by 143 families. Let us work to keep the momentum going for this Parish and for the glory of God.

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE: The time has come! Please, if you have not yet contributed to the capital campaign fund, the time is now!** We are at a critical juncture and need to raise the final \$1.65M to build our new church. *Debt-free*. Every donation matters, no matter how big or small! We ask that you open your hearts, have a family discussion, and consider this unique opportunity to pledge. Our Donor Recognition Wall will forever profile each family donor's name and we want you to be a part of it. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com. We thank you in advance for your love to building *Our Church - Our Faith - Our Legacy*.

+ **TODAY IS THE APOKREATIKO GLENDI** at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. Appetizers begin at 4:30 p.m. with dinner buffet following at 5:30. We look forward to seeing you there!

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Please join us for a Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party on Friday, February 16th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the house. We will also be assembling school kits for IOCC. Please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com.

+ **RETREAT: THE BIBLE ANSWER MAN** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Department of Religious Ed and the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Demetrios in Elmhurst invite the faithful to a retreat with "The Bible Answer Man, Hank Hanegraaff, on Saturday, February 17, 2018 at St. Demetrios. For more information, visit [www.st-demetrios.org](http://www.st-demetrios.org)

+ **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS** will take place on February 25th at SS. Constantine and Helen in Palos Hills at 6:30 p.m.

+ **CELEBRATION OF BOOKS** The annual celebration of books will once again take place at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester, on Sunday, March 4th – Thursday, March 8th. This year's keynote speakers will be Dr. David Ford, Professor of Church History, St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary; Dr. Mary Ford, Associate Professor of New Testament and Spirituality, St. Tikhon's; and Dr. Timothy Patitsas, Associate Professor of Ethics, Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. For more information, visit: [www.holyapostleschurch.com](http://www.holyapostleschurch.com)

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT DINNER:** Save the date for this year's benefit dinner which takes place on Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m., at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Des Plaines. Keynote speaker Bishop Athanasius (Akunda) of Kisumu and All Western Kenya will talk about the growth of Orthodoxy in East Africa. All proceeds will go to support the work of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in Kenya and throughout the world. Ascension is hoping to fill a table for the event. Contact the office at 847.482.1200 with your reservation.