

Apolytikion for Holy Epiphany in the First Mode

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Fourth Mode

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7.

TITUS, my son, the grace of God has appeared for the salvation of all men, training us to renounce irreligion and worldly passions, and to live sober, upright, and godly lives in this world, awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all iniquity and to purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

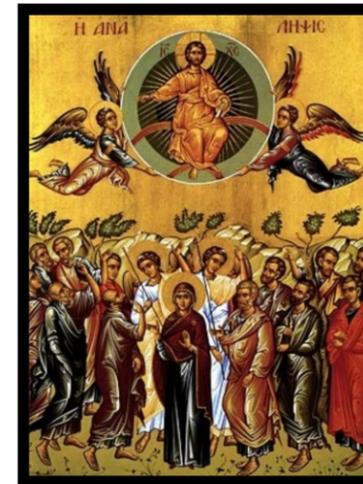
But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

The Gospel of Matthew 3:13-17



At that time, Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069
Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos
TEL: (847) 482-1200 | FAX: (847) 482-9566 | www.ascensiongoc.com
Office e-mail: info@ascensiongoc.com

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN January 6 - 13, 2019

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

"Why were the heavens opened? To inform you that at your baptism also this is done, God calling thee to your country on high.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	January 6	Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters Coffee Fellowship hosted by Eleni & Bruce Carlson Great Vespers @ St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines	
7 p.m.		
Monday	January 7	Synaxis of John the Baptist
8 a.m.	Orthros	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy @ 1221 Riverwoods House Chapel GOYA---	
7:30 p.m.		
Tuesday	January 8	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Parish Council	
Thursday	January 10	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Saturday	January 12	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	January 13	Sunday After Theophany
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Parish Vasilopita Cutting hosted by Philoptochos	

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE:** As we look toward occupying our new church by Pascha, we are within reach of our final funding to be in our new spiritual home debt-free: a final \$250,000 in new pledges needs to be raised, and a total of \$315,000 on existing pledges needs to be collected, to be mortgage-free. The time has come to donate if you have not yet donated. We need your help! Please consider donating today! Also, if you have had an existing pledge, but have not yet had an opportunity to fulfill it, we would be grateful if you were able to do so as soon as possible. Every dollar spent on paying down debt is money taken away from growing our ministries. Be sure to visit our website at ascensiongoc.com to view an exciting video tour of the construction progress to date of our new church! Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or by email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com, to donate today. Thank you.

+ **2019 STEWARDSHIP – All Things Are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ!** Stewardship has been defined as faith in action. It provides us an avenue to humbly thank God for all the gifts he has given us by sharing these gifts to do God's work. Offering our time, talent, and treasures to support His churches truly demonstrates our belief because we are actively supporting God's work in helping those in need and teaching His Word. As we move ever closer to opening the doors to our new church, we need everyone at Ascension to answer the call of stewardship in whatever capacity each of us can. We're thankful for the 147 families that have pledged their time, talent and treasures to Ascension this year, but we need everyone's help. If you haven't yet, please complete the 2019 Stewardship card and submit it as soon as possible. Put your faith in action and help support Ascension in reaching new heights in 2019!

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Sophie Beris and Tasia Alexakos
Epistle Reader: Elaine Simos
Greeters: Jerry & Despina Taranko
Ushers: Peter Venetos (UIC), Demetri Katsulis, Frank Kazas, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Papastefan, Carol Stamas, Mia Connolly, Tom Kiriakos

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, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Ignacio

Announcements

- + **STEWARDS: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2019 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS & SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today.
- + **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotiri to bless your home, please complete the insert and return it to the Church Office by 1/7/19.
- + **OUR ANNUAL PARISH VASILOPITA CUTTING TRADITION**, hosted by Philoptochos, takes place next Sunday, 1/13, following Liturgy. Philoptochos will be taking a collection to benefit St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY, a group home for children in need.
- + **METROPOLIS VASILOPITA CUTTING:** Please join Metropolitan Nathanael, Metropolis Clergy and fellow Orthodox Christians Sunday, January 13 for the 2019 Metropolis Vasilopita Cutting to be held at at SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 11025 South Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL beginning at 6 pm. The annual event benefits the children at St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY, a group home for children in need.
- + **SENIOR SYNAXIS ANNUAL VASILOPITA CUTTING** will take place on Thursday, January 17th @ 11 a.m. at LightSource Unlimited, 980 Corporate Woods Pkwy, Vernon Hills (224.543.4000). A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Elaine Beck at 847.367.5227 by January 14th.
- + **COFFEE HOUR APPEAL:** Coffee hour offers us a valuable opportunity each week to spend time in fellowship with each other after we worship together as a parish family. We appreciate everyone who has graciously hosted in the past. Let's keep the momentum going so we may keep this ministry vibrant! To host coffee fellowship with your family, or together with another family, please sign up via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you in advance for offering your love and commitment to this important ministry.
- + **JOIN US AT OUR 4th ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** on Sunday, January 13th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool. This year our sister parish, St. Demetrios, Libertyville, will once again join us to celebrate this historic tradition! Diving is reserved for K-12th graders and is \$10 per diver. Divers should bring a swimsuit and towel. A parent or guardian must be present. Please rsvp to ddpetros@comcast.net by this Friday, January 11th if you are able to attend.
- + **GOYANS: Save the Date** for the 2019 Ascension GOYA Retreat at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, January 25-26. Stay tuned for more information.
- + **ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS (ages 21 – 40):** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago recently announced an open invitation for young adults and emerging leaders, ages 21-40, to apply for the newly created Young Professional Advisory Board of the Metropolis which will advise the Metropolitan and the Metropolis Council. More information and a link to the online application can be found on Ascension's OCF webpage.
- + **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE:** Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago and the Metropolis of Chicago Archons invite the faithful to a lecture and discussion entitled, "Existential Threats Confronting The Ecumenical Patriarchate: Why Americans Should Care." The presentation will take place on January 31st at 2:30 p.m. at the University of Illinois I Hotel and Convention Center in Champaign, IL. For more information, email adpdeli@yahoo.com
- + **COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR:** Dive for the Cross: January 13; Annual March for Life Chicago: January 13; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 20; GOYA Retreat: January 25-26; Hellenic Letters Luncheon @ Chateau Ritz, Niles January 27; Metropolis Department of Religious Education Trivia Night, Greek Islands, Lombard: January 31st, Panhellenic Scholarship Applications Due: January 31. Stay tuned to our website for more information.
- + **SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY SYNAXIS WOMEN'S RETREAT:** January 25-26, 2019, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The retreat leader is Mother Macrina of the Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan. She has served the monastery for over 20 years, and is a warm and devout servant of God, and a gifted speaker. Registration will open Friday, Jan. 4, 2019 via the Family Synaxis website, www.gocfamilysynaxis.org
- + **SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY SYNAXIS MEN'S RETREAT:** February 22-23, 2019, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The retreat leader will be Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis. Stay tuned for more details.
- + **SAVE THE DATE! ASCENSION OF OUR LORD'S ANNUAL APOKREATIKO GLENDI** will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer, at 4:30 p.m. There will be dinner, dancing, games and fun for all! Stay tuned for more details!