

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

December 21 - 28, 2014

SUNDAY DECEMBER 21
SUNDAY BEFORE NATIVITY
8:15 a.m. Orthros
NO SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship hosted by John & Anastasia Svigos

MONDAY DECEMBER 22
NO JOY/Jr. GOYA or GOYA Meetings

TUESDAY DECEMBER 23
NO GREEK SCHOOL - CHRISTMAS BREAK

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE
7:30 a.m. Great Hours
9:00 a.m. Vespers Liturgy
5:00 p.m. Candlelight Vespers followed by Christmas Carols

THURSDAY DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

FRIDAY DECEMBER 26 - SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

SATURDAY DECEMBER 27 - ST. STEPHEN THE FIRST MARTYR
8:15 a.m. Orthros
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY DECEMBER 28
SUNDAY AFTER NATIVITY
8:15 a.m. Orthros
NO SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy
12:00 Noon Senior Synaxis Christmas Party @ Dover Straits
Coffee Fellowship hosted by Peter & Effie Gountanis

Prospora Bakers: Elaine Stevens & Sophie Beris Beris
FOS Ministry Greeters: Kathie & David Rutkowski
Hymns of Small Entrance: Third Tone (pg 44); Hymn of the Church (page 47)
Today's Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40
Reader: Nick Gatsis
Today's Gospel Reading: Matthew 1:1-25

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 NEWS, REMINDERS AND UPDATES

+ **OUR CONDOLENCES** to Denise Ditka whose beloved mother Anna Ayalianos, fell asleep in the Lord on November 25th. The funeral took place at St. Spyridon Church in Palos Heights. May her memory be eternal.

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

+ **2015 PARISH DIRECTORY** - We will be publishing a new parish directory in early 2015. We hope all 2015 stewards will participate. For more information please visit our website at ascensiongoc.com. All forms and information can be found there. The deadline for submission is January 31st, 2015.

+ **2015 STEWARDSHIP CARDS** have been mailed to everyone's home and are also available in the Narthex by the Pangari. If you have not filled yours in yet for your stewardship, we urge you to take one. Any questions, please call Kay James at the office.

SENIOR SYNAXIS

+ **THE GROUP'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** will take place on Sunday, December 28th at Dover Straits at 1:00 p.m. Family and friends are always welcomed. Please call Elaine Beck at (847) 367-5227.

YOUTH NEWS

+ **POINSETTIA PLANTS** - We still have some plants for sale. For those who have not purchased any plants yet, this is your opportunity to purchase some for decorating your homes, and also supporting our JOY/Jr. GOYANS.

+ **REMINDER - DON'T FORGET OUR PARISH FAMILY ICE SKATING PARTY** on Monday, December 29th. For more details please see insert.

+ **SAVE THE DATE** - Join your fellow Goyans at SS Peter & Paul Church for the city wide lock-in on January 9, 2015. Goyans from the Ascension of Our Lord, SS Peter & Paul, St. Haralambos, St. Demetrios in Elmhurst, St. Demetrios in Chicago and St. Basil will come together in Faith, service and fellowship. More information will be forthcoming.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

+ **FOOTBALL MANIA WINNERS** - Congratulations to Patricia Filley who was again a winner in Week 8. She won \$25.00 again!

+ **SAVE THE DATE** - Our **Apokreatiko Glendi** will take place on **Sunday, February 8th** at the Concorde Banquet Hall in Kildeer. There will be dinner, dancing, games and fun for all. More information will be available soon.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

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

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION - "Once a man was asked, 'what did you gain by regularly praying to God?' The man replied, 'nothing ... but let me tell you what I lost: Anger, ego, greed, depression, insecurity and fear of death.' Sometimes, the answer to our prayers is not gaining but losing; which ultimately is the gain."