

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

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, 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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

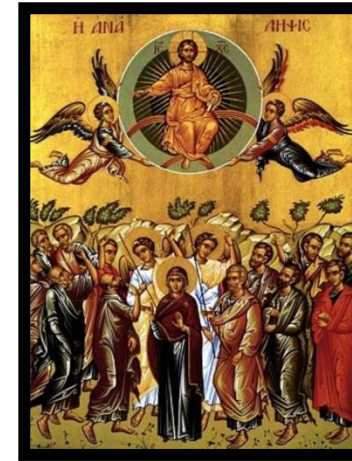
The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19.

Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

The Gospel of Luke 18:18-27

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' " And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

Nov 29 – Dec 6, 2015

Prospora Bakers:

FOS Ministry Greeter:

Epistle Reader:

Ushers:

Mary Karahalios & Tasia Alexakos

The Saric Family

Jim Anast

Bill Smirles, Carol Stamas, Nick Marino, Tom Kiriakos, Steve Demet,
Alex Marx

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *“God tested Abraham, that is, God afflicted him for his own benefit, not in order to learn what kind of man Abraham was – for He knew him, since He knows all things before they come into existence – but in order to provide him with opportunities for showing perfect faith.”*

St. Mark the Ascetic

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

Nov 29 – Dec 6, 2015

Sunday	November 29	13th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Coffee Fellowship hosted by John and Anastasia Svigos JOY/Jr. GOYA Poinsettia Sale
7 p.m.	Great Vespers @ St. Andrew, Chicago	
Monday	November 30	St. Andrew the First-Called
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA Meeting	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	December 1	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
Wednesday	December 2	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
6:30 p.m.	Paraklesis and LOGOS	
Thursday	December 3	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
7 p.m.	Philoptochos Christmas Party at Marcia Moore's home	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
Friday	December 4	St. Barbara and St. John of Damascus
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Saturday	December 5	
9:30 a.m.	Gingerbread House Decorating, Session 1	
12:30 p.m.	Gingerbread House Decorating, Session 2	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn	
Sunday	December 6	St. Nicholas the Wonderworker
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:10 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	St. Nicholas Sunday Philoptochos St. Nicholas party for the children Parish Council Elections

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.

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

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** lasts through December 24th. Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17th. Additionally, this is a period of spiritual reflection, prayer and confession as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior. If you would like to schedule the Sacrament of Confession with Father Sotiri, please call the Church office. As an additional blessing during our preparation, the Sacrament of Holy Unction will be offered to the faithful on Wednesday, December 16th, at 6:30 p.m.

+ **PLEASE MAKE A NOTE**, especially amidst the holiday season -- any items that are served in Church, for any reason or event, should not include any kind of nuts. Many of our parishioners, adults and children are allergic to nuts. We thank you for your consideration.

+ **PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2016 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD** in a timely fashion 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.

+ **PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS** take place next week, December 6th, following the Divine Liturgy. Please take a moment to consider all of the talented individuals who are volunteering to represent this Parish in 2016-17 and place your vote. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the current Parish Council members who gave of their time and talents to represent Ascension for the past two years. Thank you.

+ **METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO OPEN HOUSE** takes place Sunday, December 13th at 5 p.m. This is a great opportunity for all of us to extend our wishes to His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos and also His Grace Bishop Demetrios for a Blessed Christmas and a fruitful New Year.

+ **TODAY IS THE FINAL DAY** for taking reservations for the Gingerbread Decorating Event. If you have not reserved your time slot or your house(s) and you are still interested in joining us, please visit the GOYA table or see Carol Stamas directly after the Divine Liturgy today.

+ **THE ANNUAL POINSETTIA SALE** – Our JOY and Jr. GOYANS will be available to take your orders today and next Sunday so you can decorate your homes for Christmas. The poinsettia table will be in the Narthex right next to the Gingerbread table. For additional details, please see enclosed insert.

+ **JOIN THE MANY FAMILIES** of our Parish in expressing Christmas greetings to all members and friends of our Ascension Church. Return the insert by December 9th to take part in our 2015 Christmas greeting card.

+ **SAVE THE DATE** for this year's Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert: Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 4 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines.

+ **CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULT SINGERS:** Any young adult interested in singing a solo Christmas carol immediately following the Divine Liturgy as parishioners receive Antithoro on Sunday, December 20th, please email Mia Connolly at Miaps@aol.com.

+ **YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED** to Ascension's Greek School Christmas program on Tuesday, December 15, at 5 p.m. to see our students commemorate Christ's Nativity by performing Greek Christmas songs, poems and skits.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

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