

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 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 Fourth Mode

Let us flee from the boasting of the Pharisee and learn through our own sighs of sorrow the humility of the Publican. Let us cry out to the Savior, "Have mercy on us, for through You alone are we reconciled."

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15.

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Gospel of Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

February 21 - 28, 2016

Prosphora Bakers:

Helen Pissios & Tasia Alexakos

FOS Ministry Greeters:

Natalie Giannos & AnnaMaria Kaparos

Epistle Reader:

Andrew Duros

Candles:

Michael Giannos & Katie Lovell

Ushers:

Andrew Douvliis, Angel Montero, Niki Koclanes

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *"We are now entering the period of the Triodion, the arena of spiritual combat. . .The very existence of the Triodion reveals the nature of the Church's spirituality, charismatic mission, and transcendent character - which is also very human - along with its eschatological horizon, which it opens up before us. It is impossible for someone to experience the Triodion and not to grow spiritually."*

**Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church
February 21 - 28, 2016**

Sunday	February 21	Publican and Pharisee - Triodion Begins Today	Fast-free week
8:15 a.m.	Orthros		
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School		
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Youth Sunday Brunch @ Royal Melbourne		
Monday	February 22		
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA		
7:30 p.m.	GOYA – Meet at Red Robin, Lincolnshire		
Tuesday	February 23		
4:45 p.m.	Greek School		
7 p.m.	Sunday Church School Teachers' Meeting		
Wednesday	February 24	First and Second Finding of Head of John the Baptist	
8:15 a.m.	Orthros		
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy		
6:30 p.m.	Paraklesis & LOGOS		
7:30 p.m.	Construction Committee Meeting		
Thursday	February 25		
6:15 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School		
7:45 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School		
Friday	February 26		
6:30 p.m.	FAITH/JOY Fast-Free Friday Pizza Party		
Saturday	February 27		
5 p.m.	Vespers		
Sunday	February 28	The Prodigal Son	
8:15 a.m.	Orthros		
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School		
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy Memorial Service for the soul of the servant of God, Panayiota Katsiropoulos (40 days) Capital Campaign Informational Meeting following Divine Liturgy		

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.

CHURCH NEWS

+ **OUR CONDOLENCES** to George Mussie whose beloved brother, Peter Mussie, fell asleep in the Lord this week in California. May his memory be eternal.

+ **OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN "OUR FAITH...OUR CHURCH...OUR LEGACY"**: Thank you to those who attended our Informational Meeting at the Royal Melbourne club this past Thursday. The committee added an additional informational meeting after Divine Liturgy on February 28th. We realize that this capital campaign initiative is a very personal commitment for each of our families. Please feel free to contact Fr. Sotiri regarding your support and participation at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com/847.482.1200.

+ **TODAY IS YOUTH SUNDAY** and our GOYANS are serving as the Greeters, Ushers and Epistle Reader. Following the Divine Liturgy, we will be holding our annual Youth Sunday Brunch at the Royal Melbourne Club in Long Grove. GOYA thanks you for your support of this annual tradition.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** - Please join us for our Fast-Free Friday Pizza Party on February 26th from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Ascension. The cost is \$7 per child. Please RSVP by this Tuesday, 2/23 to faithjoyascension@gmail.com. See insert for more information.

+ **THE ANNUAL METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO FAMILY SYNAXIS MEN'S RETREAT** will be held February 26-27 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. This year's theme is: *Thirsting for God: Finding Peace In Spite of Anxiety, Stress and Depression*. For more information, visit www.gocfamilysynaxis.org/mens-retreat

+ **A VIGIL FOR ST. NICHOLAS PLANAS** will take place at Ascension on March 1st, beginning at 7 p.m. See insert for more information on this simple Saint.

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO – Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)** will hold its Annual Benefit Banquet on Thursday, March 10th at St. John's Church, Des Plaines at 6:30 p.m. Donation of \$35.00 requested per person. For more information, please visit <http://www.missionteamchicago.org> or call 317.709.0168. The keynote speaker will be the Very Rev. Dr. Chad Hatfield, Chancellor, CEO & Professor of Missiology at St. Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary.

+ **GREAT ESCAPE WINTER CAMP**: All 6th – 12th graders are invited to attend this Metropolis-wide retreat which will be held at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center March 11th-13th. Registrations are due by March 4th. Visit our website's youth pages for more information.

+ **"FROM ROCK STAR ATHEIST TO ORTHODOX MISSIONARY PRIEST"**: Don't miss this presentation by Father Themis Adamopoulos on Saturday, March 12th at 7 p.m. at St. Demetrios in Elmhurst. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with Great Vespers, followed by dinner and the presentation. RSVP by March 11th. Proceeds will benefit The Holy Orthodox Mission in Sierra Leone. Visit www.st-demetrios.org for more information.

+ **FR. DEMETRIOS CARELLAS**, a noted retreat master in the USA and Canada will be speaking at St. John the Baptist on March 11th (for high schoolers and young adults) and March 12th on the Beatitudes. For more information and to RSVP, contact St. John's at 847.827.5510.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS FIELD TRIP TO FIELD MUSEUM** will take place on March 31st. We invite family and friends to join us. Please RSVP by March 1st to Elaine Beck, 847.367.5227. See insert for more information.

+ **ATTENTION 7-9th GRADERS and 10th-12th GRADERS**: Do you want to share a story about your faith? Show your talents as a writer? Submit an essay for this year's St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival to be held at our parish and at the Metropolis level. Have a chance to win scholarship money. Metropolis winners compete at the National Oratorical Festival in Charlotte, NC. Visit our Church website for more information and stay tuned!

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

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