

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Theophany Afterfeast 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.

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

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 the Ephesians 4:7-13.

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When He ascended on high He led a host of captives, and He gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that He had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is He who also ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

The Gospel of Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, Jesus heard that John had been arrested, He withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

January 10 - 17, 2016

Prosphora Bakers:

Helen Pissios & Elaine Metropoulos

FOS Ministry Greeters:

Debra & Demetri Katsulis

Epistle Reader:

Jim Facklis

Ushers:

Nick Marino, Peter Venetos, Tom Papastefan, Bob Mantzoros,
David Rutkowski, Steve Demet

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION – *“When you read the Scriptures, do not have in mind to read page after page, but ponder over each word. When some words make you go deep into yourself, or stir you to contrition, or fill your heart with spiritual joy and love, pause on them. It means that God draws near to you”.*

St. Nicodemos of the Holy Mountain

CHURCH NEWS

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

Jan 10 - 17, 2016

Sunday	January 10	Sunday After Theophany
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	2016/17 Parish Council Oath of Office	
	Philoptochos Vasilopita Cutting	
	Coffee Fellowship Hosted by Koinonia Men's Ministry Board	
6 p.m.	Metropolis of Chicago Vasilopita, St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn	
Monday	January 11	
5:45 p.m.	JOY/Jr. GOYA	
Tuesday	January 12	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
Wednesday	January 13	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
Thursday	January 14	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7 p.m.	Koinonia Men's Ministry <i>Meet and Greet</i> Meeting	
Saturday	January 16	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers @ Metropolis of Chicago Chapel for the Feast Day of St. Anthony	
Sunday	January 17	St. Anthony the Great
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Philoptochos Heart Health Meeting and Featured Speaker	
4:30 p.m.	Dive for the Cross event at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool	

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.

+ **THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY CONGRATULATES THE FOLLOWING NEWLY ELECTED 2016-2017 PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS**, who will be sworn in directly after today's Divine Liturgy: Harold Anagnos, Basil (Bill) Athenson, Robert Buhler, Mia Connolly, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Kiriakos, Bob Mantzoros, Nick Marino, Alex Marx, Tom Papastefan, David Rutkowski, Diane Sigalos, Carol Stamas, Tom Vabakos, Peter Venetos. May God guide your charitable works throughout the next two years.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL VASILOPITA CUTTING TRADITION** today and will be taking a collection to benefit the St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY -- a group home for children in need; as well as the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) refugee relief efforts.

+ **WE HUMBLY ASK YOU TO PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR 2016 STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE CARD AND COMPLETE YOUR 2015 STEWARD OFFERING** 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.

+ **STEWARDS: PLEASE TAKE HOME YOUR 2016 CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today. They are located on a table near the entrance.

+ **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 pick up a form under the television in the Fellowship Hall and return it to the Church Office by this Wednesday, January 14.

+ **NURSING HOME RESIDENTS AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you know someone who is in a nursing home or is home-bound, and they would like Fr. Sotiri to visit them, please contact the church office.

+ **DIVE FOR THE CROSS** - Please join us for our first-ever Dive for the Cross event on Sunday, January 17th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool located at 1207 Park Ave West, Highland Park. 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. We look forward to celebrating this historic tradition!

+ **FINAL FOOTBALL MANIA WINNER UPDATES** - Week 9 winner: Jennifer Schreiber, \$25.00; and, Week 10: Renee Turner \$25.00. A special thanks to everyone who supported the Philoptochos Football Mania fundraiser. We had another successful season raising \$2,770.00, which enables us to continue our Philanthropic efforts.

+ **THE MEET AND GREET KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY MEETING** will take place this Thursday, January 14th at 7 p.m. at Doug Hugdahl's office, Lightsource Unlimited, 980 Corporate Woods Parkway, Vernon Hills. A light dinner will be served. Please RSVP to Doug at 847 910-6090. Board members will be available during today's coffee hour to answer any of your questions.

+ **2016 WOMEN'S RETREAT** - The annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago Family Synaxis Women's Retreat will be held January 15th. For more information, visit www.gocfamilysynaxis.org

+ **OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:** Annual March for Life Chicago: January 17 @ 2 p.m. at Federal Plaza (see website for more information); Senior Synaxis Meeting: January 21; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 24th; Apokreatiko Glendi: Sunday, March 6th. Stay tuned for more information.

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALTH

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