

## **Apolytikion for Pentecost in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. O Befriender of man, glory be to Thee.

## **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

## **The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.**

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

## **The Gospel of John 7:37-52; 8:12**



On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priest and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## **WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN**

**June 4 - 11, 2017**

## Welcome to Our Visitors

**WE ARE GLAD** you joined us in worship today. We hope your visit to Ascension 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.

## Spiritual Reflection

*"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)*

## Weekly Calendar

**REMINDER – This week is a FAST FREE WEEK due to the celebration of PENTECOST.**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 4</b>	<b>Holy Pentecost</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling Vespers	
	Graduate Sunday	
	Coffee Fellowship and cake to celebrate our graduates	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>June 5</b>	<b>Monday of the Holy Spirit</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>June 6</b>	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 9</b>	
	Parish Golf Outing	
	11:30 a.m.: Registration	
	6 p.m.: Fellowship Dinner	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 10</b>	
10 a.m.	Baptism: Zoe, daughter of Apostolis and Stephanie Sambanis	
	Sponsor: Melissa Metevelis	
11:30 a.m.	Baptism: Maria, daughter of Joseph and Vasiliki Quirk	
	Sponsor: Andrew Hernandez	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers @ All Saints Church, Joliet	
<b>Sunday June 11</b>		<b>All Saints</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Coffee Fellowship	

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Tasia Alexakos & Despina Taranko

**Epistle Reader:** Elaine Simos

**Ministry Greeters:** Mary and Thomas Gough

**Ushers:** Peter Venetos (UIC), Nick Marino, Tom Papastefan, Bob Mantzoros, Diane Sigalos, Bob Mantzoros, Alex Marx, Andrea Rogers

## Prayer Requests for Health

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS** the servants of God: Georgia, John, Eleni, George, Christine, Christy, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Helen, James, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony, Fred, James

## Vigil Lights

Vigil Lights offered by Mary Kakavas in loving memory of her husband William Kakavas

## Feast of Pentecost

Every Feastday in the Orthodox Church is beautifully unique and brings with it great depth and symbolism. The same is true of Pentecost, with its annual Kneeling Prayers. Pentecost marks the end of the past 50 day period during which we have joyfully celebrated Christ's Resurrection. According to a canon by the First Ecumenical Council, we are not to kneel between Pascha and Pentecost because of the "brilliant solemnity of the events which the Church commemorates" following Christ's Resurrection. By standing, we are reminded that we have risen together with Christ. The Feastday of Pentecost marks the end of the Paschal period and returns us now to the ordinary time in our cycle of the Church year. According to the late Father Alexander Schmemmann, in the Pentecostal Prayers, we are invited to kneel and it's our first kneeling since Pascha. The joy of Pascha has been completed and we once again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy, presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Just like the Apostles on Pentecost, we gain strength from the Holy Spirit to seek Divine help in our daily lives. All of this is revealed in the three prayers that are read as we all kneel. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance and increased appeal for forgiveness of sins. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love."

## Announcements

+ **WE STILL STAND IN PRAYER TODAY DURING THE CONSECRATION** and will resume kneeling at the Kneeling Vespers, which follows the Divine Liturgy.

+ **THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE** has identified additional major donor naming opportunities and has re-worked others: the foyer (\$150,000), the gallery (\$150,000), and the Adult Baptismal Font (\$75,000). These, together with our remaining major donor naming opportunities, which include the Nave (\$500,000), the kitchen (\$250,000), landscaping (\$150,000), and a classroom (\$75,000), are now shown on an updated board located in the Narthex. Also, our other remaining donation opportunities are Pews (\$10,000), but there are only five Pews yet to be donated, and Personalized Brick Pavers (\$1,000). Please act fast as we are now approximately 86% of the way to our goal of remaining debt-free and building without any borrowing. If you would like to avail yourself of one of the remaining major donor naming opportunities or to donate towards any of these other remaining Donation Opportunities, please contact Fr. Sotirios in the church office at 847-482-1200 or email him at [frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com).

+ **STEWARDSHIP** We are stewards of all God's blessings, including His Gospel Message. We don't bury our blessings in the ground, but as in the parable of the stewards, we strive to multiply our gifts and offer them back to God. As with our financial blessings, so it is with our stewardship of our families, the environment, the Gospel Message and all of God's gifts. To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2017 is \$281,424 by 243 families. If you have not submitted your 2017 pledge, please do so today!

+ **TODAY IS GRADUATES SUNDAY** – This morning we will honor our Ascension Graduates with a gift on behalf of the entire Congregation. Please refer to the enclosed list in this Sunday's Bulletin. Jr. Olympics participants will also be recognized. We wish the graduates of the class of 2017 many blessings as they begin the next phase of their lives.

+ **CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE JR. OLYMPICS** on Memorial Day weekend! In all, more than 60 athletes represented Ascension in 11 individual and team events and brought home 10 medals! We will be acknowledging the participants after the Divine Liturgy today. A special thank you to Esther Tegel, who did an outstanding job organizing this event for our Parish, and to all of the coaches/advisors who helped make this a wonderful weekend of fellowship and great sportsmanship.

+ **JUNE 22<sup>nd</sup> SENIOR SYNAXIS TRIP TO GOLD PYRAMID HOUSE:** Please RSVP To Elaine Beck by tomorrow, June 5<sup>th</sup>, if you are able to join the Seniors on June 22<sup>nd</sup> to tour the Gold Pyramid House in Wadsworth, IL, a mysterious, unusual and powerful home built with more gold than any other! Cost is \$20/person and friends and family are welcome! Details were sent to seniors a few weeks ago. After the tour, arrangements are being made to meet at a nearby restaurant for lunch. For more information and to reserve your spot, please call Elaine by the end of the day tomorrow at 847.367.5227.

+ **THE ANNUAL PHILOPTOCHOS CELEBRATION OF GIVING DINNER TOOK PLACE THIS PAST THURSDAY** and this year, Philoptochos honored Elaine Metropoulos and Tasia Alexakos for their loving service and devotion that enhanced the philanthropy and philoxenia of Ascension's Philoptochos chapter. We reviewed our past year via our 2nd annual yearbook and enjoyed a wonderful dinner at Dover Straits. Thank you all for another successful year!

+ **WE NEED COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN JUNE AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER:** Please consider hosting coffee fellowship after Liturgy with your family, or together with another family, so that we may continue our fellowship throughout the summer. Never done it before? Call the office or check our website for some simple ideas. A sign-up list is available on the bulletin board near the coffee. \*PLEASE make sure that all items are NUT FREE due to allergies. Thank you in advance.

+ **BOOKSTORE NEWS:** If you've been thinking about buying something from our bookstore, now is the time! We will soon be packing up all our books, icons, cards, etc. and putting them in storage until our new building is completed. So stop on by after Liturgy.

+ **DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR THE PARISH GOLF OUTING EXTENDED TO TODAY!** The final deadline to register for Ascension's Golf Outing and Family Dinner, hosted by Koinonia Men's Ministry, is TODAY! The event takes place next Friday, June 9th at the Deerfield Golf Course and there are spots available for golfers, sponsors and those who only wish to join us for dinner. You must register either on the Men's Ministry webpage (the preferred method); or, by downloading and printing hard copies of the registration form from the webpage (<http://ascensiongoc.com/parish-ministries/mensministry>). Please contact Bill Smirles ([smirles@gmail.com](mailto:smirles@gmail.com)) with any questions. We look forward to having you join us!