

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Mode

Having learned the joyful proclamation of the Resurrection from the Angel, and having cast off the ancestral condemnation, the women disciples of the Lord spake to the Apostles exultantly: Death is despoiled and Christ God is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

### Apolytikion for Sunday of the Forefathers

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

### Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who have power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

### Apolytikion of the Church in the Fourth 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.

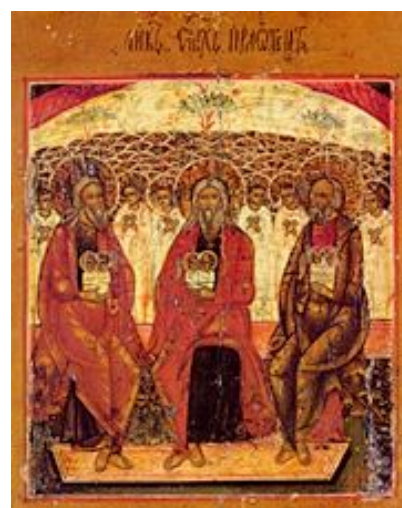
### Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

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 Colossians 3:4-11.

Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

### The Gospel of Luke 14:16-24



The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069  
Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos  
TEL: (847) 482-1200 | FAX: (847) 482-9566 | [www.ascensiongoc.com](http://www.ascensiongoc.com)  
Office e-mail: [info@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:info@ascensiongoc.com)

## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 16 - 23, 2018

### Welcome To Our Visitors

**WELCOME TO THE ASCENSION PARISH.** Your presence has brought us much joy. We hope your visit is 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

*"Lots of people today go chasing after joy, happiness, and go down roads that aren't clean, but are befouled by the actions of demons. . But if the 'the Lord God speaks' in our heart, then we should be quiet. We should turn to our heart, learn to pray the Jesus prayer, cleanse our heart with introversion, and then, without wishing for it, without seeking it, we'll be a 'city built on a hill'."*

*Elder Joseph of Vatopedi*

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 16</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God: Katherine Pappas (10 yrs), George Pappas (33 yrs) Anna Metropoulos (29 yrs), Peter Metropoulos (40 years), Katherine Brindisi (28 years), Chris Alexakos (31 yrs)	
	Christmas Pageant	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Alexakos and Metropoulos Families	
4 p.m.	Metropolis Christmas Open House, St. Demetrios, Chicago	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 17</b>	<b>St. Dionysios   The Three Holy Youths</b>
8 a.m.	Orthros	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy @ Church House	
5:30 p.m.	Faith/Joy, Jr. GOYA, GOYA Christmas Caroling @ the Greek American Rehab Center, Wheeling	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 18</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:45 pm.	Greek School	
6:30 p.m.	Philoptochos Christmas Gathering, hosted by the Buhlers'	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 19</b>	
5 a.m.	Divine Liturgy (note time change)	
6 a.m.	Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 20</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
11 a.m.	Baptism: Theanna, daughter of AnnaMaria & David Mottram <i>Sponsor: Marina Dedes Gallagher</i>	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 21</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 22</b>	<b>St. Anastasia</b>
8 a.m.	Orthros	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5 p.m.	Vespers @ 1221 Riverwoods Chapel	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 23</b>	<b>Sunday Before Nativity</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	



+ **ON BEHALF OF THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY, we wish you a blessed time with your families throughout this spiritual Nativity season. A schedule of Divine services for Christmas and Epiphany was just sent to your homes and may also be found on our website. Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!**

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Maria Karalis & Elaine Metropoulos  
**Epistle Reader:** Tom Kiriakos  
**Greeters:** Faye & Steve Kopplin  
**Ushers:** Alex Marx (UIC), Peter Venetos, Tom Kiriakos, Carol Stamas, Demetri Katsulis, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Papastefan, Steve Sintetas

## Prayer Requests for Health

**PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS** the servants of God: Eleni, George, Louise, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Dee, Helen, Sophia, Connie, Janet, Anthony, Fred, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Ignacio, Evangelos

## Stewardship

**STEWARDSHIP: THERE ARE ONLY TWO WEEKS LEFT TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE 2018 STEWARDSHIP YEAR.**

To date for 2018 Stewardship, 312 Ascension families have pledged \$358,378. If you haven't submitted your pledge for 2018 or have not yet fulfilled your 2018 pledged amount, please make your charitable donation now as we are approaching year-end. Thank you.

## Announcements

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** culminates on December 24. 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 Fr. Sotiri, please call the Church office. Please consult our website for the schedule of services leading to the Nativity. The Nativity Fast ends on Christmas Day. December 25 – January 4 is fast-free.

+ **METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE TODAY:** Please join His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and fellow Orthodox Christians this afternoon from 4 – 8 p.m. to share the blessings of the season at St. Demetrios Church, Chicago. For more information, please contact Carol Stamas at cestamas@comcast.net.

+ **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 complete the insert and return it to the Church Office by 1/7/19.

+ **WE'RE ASKING ALL ASCENSION YOUTH** to join us in bringing the Christmas spirit to residents of the Greek American Rehab Center in Wheeling tomorrow, Monday, Dec. 17 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We'll visit with the Residents, sing Christmas Carols, and share a light dinner together. For any questions, please see Carol Stamas. Thank you!

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP: ENCOUNTER THE WORD:** Join us this Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. at the Church house for the next Men's Bible Study Group. Divine Liturgy will precede Bible Study at 5 a.m. The topic this week, which will be led by Fr. Sotiri, is *Study the Sunday Gospels: Matthew 1:1-17, The Genealogy of Jesus and Matthew 1:18-25, The Virgin Birth of Christ*. Please RSVP to david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com. If you have an Orthodox Study Bible, (or are able to download the Orthodox Study Bible app), please bring it along.

+ **ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS (ages 21 – 40):** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago recently announced an open invitation for young adults and emerging leaders, ages 21-40, to apply for the newly created Young Professional Advisory Board of the Metropolis which will advise the Metropolitan and the Metropolis Council. More information and a link to the online application can be found on Ascension's OCF webpage.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Wednesday, December 27th at Dover Straits at 12 p.m. Family and friends are always welcomed. To RSVP, please call Elaine Beck by 12/20 at (847) 367-5227. Please join us for this joyous and festive gathering.

+ **YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN THE NEW YEAR:** Please volunteer to host coffee fellowship with your family, or together with another family, so that we may continue our fellowship after Liturgy. Recommendations for simple fasting items during the Nativity Fast can be found on our website. Dates for 2019 have just been added to the online sign-up form. You may sign up via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you in advance for offering your love and commitment to this important ministry.

+ **OUR ANNUAL PARISH ICE-SKATING PARTY** takes place on Friday, December 28th from 6 – 8 p.m. at Centennial Ice Arena at Highland Park. Please note that dinner will not be served this year. See insert for event details!

+ **ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS:** You are invited to join Fr. Sotiri, Carol Stamas, and Caitly Anast for brunch after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 30th at Strawberry Field Cafe, 410 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire. Please RSVP to Carol by December 28th at: cestamas@comcast.net

+ **SAVE THE DATE! ASCENSION OF OUR LORD'S ANNUAL APOKREATIKO GLENDI** will be held on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer, at 4:30 p.m.. There will be dinner, dancing, games and fun for all! Stay tuned for more details!