

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

### Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin she has 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.

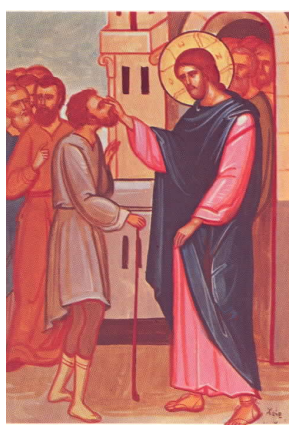
### Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode

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 Ephesians 6:10-17.

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

### The Gospel of Luke 18:35-43



At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him; and when he came near, He asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 2 - 9, 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

*"The Nativity Forty-day Fast represents the fast undertaken by Moses, who, having fasted for forty days and forty nights, received the Commandments of God, written on stone tablets [of the Law]. And we, fasting for forty days, will reflect upon and receive from the Virgin of the living Word – not written upon stone, but born, incarnate, and we will commune of His Divine Body."*

## Announcements

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>December 2</b> Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God: Maria Demas (1 yr) Coffee Hour hosted by Parish Members who celebrate the Feastday of St. Nicholas ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ! St. Nicholas celebration for Ascension's children hosted by Philoptochos	<b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. 6 p.m. 7 p.m.	<b>December 3</b> Divine Liturgy @ Church House Jr. GOYA GOYA (meet at Kohls, Vernon Hills) Great Vespers, St. Demetrios, Elmhurst	
<b>Tuesday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 4:45 pm.	<b>December 4</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Greek School	<b>St. Barbara &amp; St. John of Damascus</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> 5 a.m. 6 a.m. 10 a.m. 7 p.m.	<b>December 5</b> Divine Liturgy (note time) Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study HOPE Great Vespers @ St. Nicholas Church, Oak Lawn	
<b>Thursday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	<b>December 6</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	<b>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</b>
<b>Friday</b> 9 a.m. 7 p.m.	<b>December 7</b> Divine Liturgy Faith/Joy Christmas Party/Mock Lock-In	
<b>Saturday</b> 9 a.m.	<b>December 8</b> Divine Liturgy	
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 3 p.m.	<b>December 9</b> Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert, St. John the Baptist	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b> <b>Conception of St. Anna</b>

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Anastasia Anton & Sophie Beris  
**Epistle Reader:** James Anast  
**Greeters:** Debbie & Demetri Katsulis  
**Ushers:** Nick Marino (UIC), Peter Venetos, Alex Marx, Mia Connolly, Carol Stamas, Doug Hugdahl, Diane Sigalos, Tom Papastefan

## 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

## CONDOLENCES

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Eleni (Bruce) Carlson, whose loving mother, Carmen (Kyriaki) Leiva, fell asleep in the Lord on November 27th. The funeral took place this past Thursday at St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines. We pray that God grant His servant, Kyriaki, eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven and comfort to her family. May her memory be eternal.

+ **STEWARDSHIP: DECEMBER IS THE LAST MONTH TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE 2018 STEWARDSHIP YEAR.** To date for 2018 Stewardship, 304 Ascension families have pledged \$356,829, of which \$319,818 has been received. If you haven't submitted your pledge for 2018 or have not yet fulfilled your 2018 pledged amount, please consider doing so now as we are approaching year-end.

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** takes place November 15—December 24. Fish, wine and olive oil are permitted, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, until December 17. During the Nativity Fast, we will celebrate 40 Liturgies for the faithful—Sarantaliturgo – to pray for the well-being of our parish families, as well as for the souls of the deceased. The service schedule and prayer request form is available on our Nativity webpage ([www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/nativity-season](http://www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/nativity-season)).

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

+ **CHRISTMAS CARD DEADLINE THIS WEDNESDAY:** Join the many families of our Parish in expressing Christmas greetings to all members and friends of our Ascension Church. Return the insert by this Wednesday, December 5th to take part in our 2018 Christmas greeting card.

+ **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: Luke 13: 10-17*. The next session will take place on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 a.m. Please RSVP to [david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Please join us for our 4th annual Christmas Party/Mock Lock-In this Friday, December 7th from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the house at 1221 N. Riverwoods Road. Come in your pjs and bring a comfy blanket to sit on. We will have lots of snacks and watch a festive movie! Please RSVP to [faithjoyascension@gmail.com](mailto:faithjoyascension@gmail.com).

+ **THE 2018 PANORTHODOX CHRISTMAS CONCERT, "Make a Joyful noise to God all the Earth."** (Psalm 65:1) will take place next Sunday, December 9th at 3 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, 2350 E. Dempster St., Des Plaines. The concert will feature a variety of Orthodox Christian talent and traditions from the Chicagoland area. Suggested ticket donation: \$10/person. Proceeds from the concert will benefit Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage.

+ **OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** will take place after the Divine Liturgy on December 16th. Don't miss the magical opportunity to witness and watch our Greek School and Sunday Church School children set the stage for a beautiful Nativity season! Pageant rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 15th at Daniel Wright from 9 – 11:30 a.m. (Pre-K and K practice begins at 10 a.m.)

+ **METROPOLIS CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE:** We are pleased to announce that the Metropolis of Chicago Christmas Open House will once again be held on Sunday December 16 from 4 to 8 pm. Please join His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael and fellow Orthodox Christians in fellowship and sharing blessings of the season at St. Demetrios Church Chicago. For more information, please contact Carol Stamas at [cestamas@comcast.net](mailto:cestamas@comcast.net).

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE:** As we look toward occupying our new church by Pascha, we are within reach of our final funding to be in our new spiritual home *debt-free*: a final \$335,000 in new pledges needs to be raised, and a total of \$315,000 on existing pledges needs to be collected, to be mortgage-free. The time has come to donate if you have not yet donated. We need your help! Please consider donating today! Also, if you have had an existing pledge, but have not yet had an opportunity to fulfill it, we would be grateful if you were able to do so prior to calendar year-end. Every dollar spent on paying down debt is money taken away from growing our ministries. Be sure to visit our website at [ascensiongoc.com](http://ascensiongoc.com) to view an exciting video tour of the construction progress to date of our new church! Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or by email at [frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com), to donate today. Thank you.