

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Nativity in the Fourth Mode

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath shined the light of knowledge upon the world; for thereby they that worshipped the stars were instructed by a star to worship Thee, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know Thee, the Dayspring from on high. O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Sun. after Nativity in the Second Mode

O Joseph, proclaim the wonders to David, the ancestor of God. Thou hast seen a Virgin great with child; thou hast given glory with the shepherds; thou hast worshipped with the Magi; and thou hast been instructed through an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

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 beareth the Transcendent in essence; * to the Unapproachable, * the earth doth offer a small cave; * Angels join in choir with shepherds * in giving glory; * with a star the Magi travel upon their journey; * for our sakes is born a young Child, * He that existed * before the ages as God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19.

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

The Gospel of Matthew 2:13-23



When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

December 30, 2018 – January 6, 2019

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

"Christians, have we understood the great responsibility that we have taken on before God through baptism? Have we come to know that we must conduct ourselves as children of God, that we must align our will with the will of God, that we must remain free from sin, that we must love God with all our hearts and always patiently await union with Him? Have we thought about the fact that our heart should be so filled with love that it should overflow to our neighbor? Do we have the feeling that we must become holy and perfect, children of God and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven? We must struggle for this, so that we may not be shown unworthy and rejected. Let none of us lose our boldness, nor neglect our duties, nor be afraid of the difficulties of spiritual struggle. For we have God as a helper, who strengthens us in the difficult path of virtue."

(St. Nektarios of Aegina, The Path to Happiness, 2)

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	December 30	Sunday Before Theophany
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God: Kiriaki Leiva (40 days)	
	Coffee Fellowship Hosted by Marcia and Eric Moore, Cynthia, Mina and Jolie Wrasman	
noon	College/Young Adult Brunch, Strawberry Fields, Lincolnshire	
Monday	December 31	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, St. Basil, Chicago	
Tuesday	January 1, 2019	St. Basil The Great & Circumcision of Our Lord
8:15 a.m.	Orthros @ Daniel Wright	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Doxology for the New Year	
Friday	January 4	Synaxis of the 70 Holy Apostles
8:30 a.m.	Great Hours of Epiphany	
Saturday	January 5	Saturday Before Epiphany
8 a.m.	Orthros @ House Chapel	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
Sunday	January 6	Holy Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by the Great Blessing of the Waters	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers @ St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines	

Christ is born! Glorify Him!

ON BEHALF OF THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY, WE WISH YOU A BLESSED AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

+ **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. Please consider making a year-end charitable contribution 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 to view an exciting video tour of the construction progress to date of our new church! Please contact

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Anastasia Anton & Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Katherine Schreiber
Greeters: Doug & Andrea Rogers
Ushers: Bill Athenson (IUC), Doug Hugdahl, Frank Kazas, Tom Kiriakos, Nick Marino, Bill Smirles, Mike Sutherland, Andrea Rogers

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 Maria Simos, whose loving husband, Evangelos, devoted father of Demetri (Lisa) Simos, Elaine (Don Van Eycke) Simos, and Youla (Niko Ftikas) Simos; fell asleep in the Lord on December 21st. The funeral took place on Wednesday, December 26th at SS Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church, Glenview. We pray that God grant His servant, Evangelos, eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven and comfort to his family. May his memory be eternal.

Announcements

- + **WE THANK OUR DEVOTED PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE FOR AND DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS PAST YEAR** including Chanters, Altar Boys, Ushers, Prospora bakers, Greeters, Epistle Readers, Koliva Preparers and Coffee Fellowship hosts. Your love for the Ascension Parish is truly recognized and appreciated. God bless you and your loved ones always.
- + **2018 STEWARDSHIP: THANK YOU!** THANK YOU to the 300+ individuals and families that have contributed their time, talent and treasures to Ascension in 2018! We had a very successful stewardship year in 2018 and we're hoping to keep that strong momentum going into 2019 as we open the doors to our new church. If you have questions about how to become a steward of Ascension, please ask one of our Parish Council members or call the church office at (847) 482-1200.
- + **COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS – HEAD OVER TO BRUNCH TODAY AFTER LITURGY** to join Fr. Sotiri, Carol Stamas, and Caity Anast at Strawberry Field Cafe, 410 Milwaukee Ave., Lincolnshire. Hope to see you there!
- + **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.
- + **STEWARDS: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2019 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS & SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of Church today.
- + **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. 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.
- + **JOIN US AT OUR 4th ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** on Sunday, January 13th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool. This year our sister parish, St. Demetrios, Libertyville, will once again join us to celebrate this historic tradition! 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. Please rsvp to ddpetros@comcast.net by January 11th if you are able to attend.
- + **GOYANS: Save the Date** for the 2019 Ascension GOYA Retreat at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, January 25-26. Stay tuned for more information.
- + **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.
- + **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE:** Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago and the Metropolis of Chicago Archons invite the faithful to a lecture and discussion entitled, "Existential Threats Confronting The Ecumenical Patriarchate: Why Americans Should Care." The presentation will take place on January 31st at 2:30 p.m. at the University of Illinois I Hotel and Convention Center in Champaign, IL. For more information, email adpdeli@yahoo.com
- + **COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR:** Dive for the Cross: January 13; Annual March for Life Chicago: January 13; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 20; GOYA Retreat: January 25-26; Hellenic Letters Luncheon @ Chateau Ritz, Niles January 27; Metropolis Department of Religious Education Trivia Night, Greek Islands, Lombard: January 31st, Panhellenic Scholarship Applications Due: January 31. Stay tuned to our website for more information.
- + **SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY SYNAXIS WOMEN'S RETREAT:** January 25-26, 2019, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The retreat leader is Mother Macrina of the Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan. She has served the monastery for over 20 years, and is a warm and devout servant of God, and a gifted speaker. Registration will open Friday, Jan. 4, 2019 via the Family Synaxis website, www.gocfamilysynaxis.org
- + **SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY SYNAXIS MEN'S RETREAT:** February 22-23, 2019, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The retreat leader will be Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis. Stay tuned for more details.
- + **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!