

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Conception of the Theotokos in the Fourth Mode

Today the bonds of childlessness are loosed; for God hearkened to Joachim and Anna. And though it was beyond hope, He clearly promised them that they should bear a divine child, from whom was born the Uncircumscribable One Himself Who became a mortal, and through an Angel commanded them to cry unto her: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with thee.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin he 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, Χριστὲ 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

Today the world rejoices in the conception of Anna, wrought by God. For she bore the One who beyond comprehension conceived the Logos.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 4:22-27.

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

The Gospel of Luke 13:10-17



At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?" As He said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 9 - 16, 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

"Let's not think too much about sins or dwell on them. Let's confess them and then make changes and concentrate on good things."

Abbess Theosemni, the Holy Monastery of Chrysopiysi, Hania, Crete

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	December 9	10th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	Conception of St. Anna
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God: Demetrios Antonak (1 yr)	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by Parish Council	
	40-Day Blessing for the son of Salvatore and Briana Cardone	
3 p.m.	Pan-Orthodox Christmas Concert, St. John the Baptist	
Monday	December 10	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy @ Church House	
7 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	December 11	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:45 pm.	Greek School	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, St. Spyridon, Palos Heights	
Wednesday	December 12	St. Spyridon the Wonder-Worker
8 a.m.	Orthros	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
6:30 p.m.	Orthodoxy 101 Catechism Class	
Thursday	December 13	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
10:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ home of Marcia Moore	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Friday	December 14	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Saturday	December 15	St. Eleftherios
	<i>Please note change in schedule: No Divine Liturgy today</i>	
9 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal @ Daniel Wright (Pre-K and K practice begins at 10 a.m.)	
Sunday	December 16	11th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Christmas Pageant	
4 p.m.	Metropolis Christmas Open House, St. Demetrios, Chicago	

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Sofia Caronis & Mary Kakavas

Epistle Reader: Frank Kazas

Greeter: Maria Karalis

Ushers: Bill Athenson (UIC), Peter Venetos, Demetri Katsulis, Frank Kazas, Bill Smirles, Carol Stamas
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

Stewardship

STEWARDSHIP: DECEMBER IS THE LAST MONTH TO MAKE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE 2018 STEWARDSHIP YEAR.

To date for 2018 Stewardship, 311 Ascension families have pledged \$357,678 of which \$335,717 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.

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.

+ **THE 2018 PANORTHODOX CHRISTMAS CONCERT** takes place today 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.

+ **ASCENSION ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASSES:** Fr. Sotiri is offering an Orthodox Catechism Class that began in early October for all who desire to learn about the faith or take a refresher "Orthodoxy 101" course. Approximately 10 sessions will be held throughout the coming year at the 1221 Riverwoods house. The fourth session will take place this Wednesday evening at the church house @ 6:30 p.m. Each class will last an hour and a half and builds on previous sessions. In the new calendar year, classes will be offered on Saturday mornings. A new schedule will be announced soon. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office at 847.482.1200, or email suzannesaric@ascensiongoc.com

+ **ASCENSION'S BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY WILL MEET AT THE HOME OF MARCIA MOORE THIS THURSDAY:** Join us this Thursday, December 13th at 10:30 a.m. for Bible Study. This year we are studying the Gospel of Matthew. For questions and to RSVP, please contact marcia.moore1780@gmail.com. *Please note the meeting location is at Marcia Moore's home and not at church this Thursday.*

+ **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 this 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:** The Metropolis of Chicago Christmas Open House will be held next 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. This year, His Eminence invites all to take part in a new tradition of bringing a gift to the Open House for those in need. See the insert for more information and a list of requested gifts. For more information, please contact Carol Stamas at cestamas@comcast.net.

+ **YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN DECEMBER AND 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!

+ **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 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, to donate today. Thank you.