

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Sun. of St. John Climacus in the Plagal Fourth Mode

With the streams of thy tears, thou didst cultivate the barrenness of the desert; and by thy sighings from the depths, thou didst bear fruit a hundredfold in labours; and thou becamest a luminary, shining with miracles upon the world, O John our righteous Father. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

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 Plagal Fourth Mode

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20.

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Gospel of Mark 9:17-31



At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when

he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN March 18 - 25, 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

“Deal with everything with good thoughts. No other ascetic practice helps as much as good thoughts.”

St. Paisios the Athonite

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	March 18 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God, Georgia Katz (3 months), John Nikellys (1 yr), Athanasios Nikellys (6 yrs), Don Dadas (1 yr), Chris Economy (10 yrs), Helen Economy (17 yrs) Greek School Independence Day Program Coffee Fellowship hosted by HOPE Ministry GOYA Lenten Bake Sale Girls' Chanting Practice	Sunday of St. John Climacus
Monday 5 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	March 19 Great Compline JOY/Jr. GOYA GOYA	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	March 20 Greek School	
Wednesday 10 a.m. 6 p.m.	March 21 HOPE Great Canon of St. Andrew	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	March 22 Great Canon of Andrew of Crete Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced (@ 1221 House)	
Saturday 11 a.m. 1 p.m. 7 p.m.	March 24 Enthronement of His Eminence, Metropolitan Nathanael, Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago Luncheon Reception, Chicago Hilton Great Vespers @ Annunciation Churches of Chicago, Racine, Decatur, Kankakee & Milwaukee, WI	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	March 25 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Doxology	Annunciation

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Elaine Stevens & Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Nick Papastratakos
Greeters: Mary & Thomas Gough
Ushers: Carol Stamas (UIC), Bill Athenson, Peter Venetos, Doug Hugdahl, Nick Marino, Bill Smirles, Chris Chatzidakis

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, George, James, Theresa

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life!

Do not permit the spirit of laziness, curiosity, lust of power and idle talk to come into me.

Rather, grant me your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love.

Yes, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own faults and not judge my brothers and sisters,

For You are blessed now and unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

Announcements

+ **HOLY WEEK SERVICES:** We are blessed to announce that we have secured University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary in Mundelein for our Holy Week and Pascha services beginning Palm Sunday, April 1st through Pascha, April 8th. University of St. Mary of the Lake is a spiritual and special hidden gem in Lake County dating back 95 years that just within the last 16 months opened its campus to the public. Please see insert for more information on the schedule and location and stay tuned for additional information next week. Your support during this temporary situation and time of transition is greatly appreciated. This year's Holy Week will be a memorable chapter in Ascension's rich parish history. Let us walk the journey and celebrate Christ's glorious Resurrection together as one united Parish Family.

+ **CONFESSIONS:** Fr. Sotiri will hear confessions throughout Lent up until the week before Holy Week. Please call the Church office to make an appointment.

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE: The time has come! Please, if you have not yet contributed to the capital campaign fund, the time is now!** We are at a critical juncture and need to raise the final \$1.65M to build our new church. *Debt-free*. Every donation matters, no matter how big or small! We ask that you open your hearts, have a family discussion, and consider this unique opportunity to pledge. Our Donor Recognition Wall will forever profile each family donor's name and we want you to be a part of it. Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or email at frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com. We thank you in advance for your love to building *Our Church - Our Faith - Our Legacy*.

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2018:** Our 2018 Stewardship theme is: "Work at it with All Your Heart." Stewardship contributions cover operating expenses for our church and provide the annual funding needed to operate the vibrant ministries of this Parish. Our 2018 Operating Fund is budgeted at \$500,000.00. This Fund is separate from our capital campaign fundraising initiative to build our new church and community center facilities. To date, the total pledged for Ascension in 2018 is \$285,534 by 181 families. Let us work to keep the momentum going for this Parish and for the glory of God.

+ **ASCENSION'S GREEK SCHOOL** will present our annual Celebration of Greek Independence Day program today, directly following the Divine Liturgy. Our students look forward to performing in honor of the March 25th commemoration.

+ **THE GOYA LENTEN BAKE SALE IS TODAY!** Please stop by during coffee fellowship and purchase some tasty Lenten treats made by our GOYANS in an effort to raise money for their spring trip to New York. Thank you for your support.

+ **THE HOLY WEEK SERVICE BOOK** is available for purchase from the bookstore for \$25. Please see Caity Anast during coffee hour today.

+ **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY PACHAL GREETING CARD:** Once again this year, Koinonia Men's Ministry will be offering the Parish the opportunity to extend Paschal greetings to fellow parishioners through its annual Pascha card fundraiser. See enclosed insert for more information. Note the March 27th submission deadline.

+ **PALM CROSS MAKING:** On Saturday, March 31st at 10:30 a.m., Senior Synaxis invites the entire parish to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. We will meet at Lightsource, 980 Corporate Woods Parkway in Vernon Hills and a light Lenten lunch will be served. Please join us as we prepare together as a Parish Family for Holy Week.

+ **PLEASE CONSIDER HOSTING A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR.** We are in need of hosts next Sunday and after Pascha. Visit our website for more details and simple, peanut-free and Lenten serving ideas! You may sign up on our website, on the sign-up list by the coffee table, or by calling the office. Thank you!

+ **THE CHICAGO PAN-ORTHODOX AKATHIST HYMN** will take place Tuesday, March 27th at 7 p.m. at Holy Protection of the Mother of God Serbian Orthodox Monastery, Lake Villa and St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, Palos Heights.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS ONE-DAY PASCHA BAKE SALE** will take place on Palm Sunday, April 1st following the Divine Liturgy at University of St. Mary's of the Lake. For more information, please see the insert.

+ **OUR ANNUAL GOYA YOUTH SUNDAY** will take place on Sunday, April 15 at which time our GOYANS will serve as the Greeters, Ushers and Epistle Reader. Following the Divine Liturgy, please join them at the Youth Sunday Brunch to be held at the Royal Melbourne Club in Long Grove. We will be taking reservations next Sunday. GOYA thanks you for your support of this annual tradition.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent - St. John Climacus

Our venerable and God-bearing Father John Climacus, also known as John of the Ladder, John Scholasticus, and John Sinaites, was a seventh century monk at St. Catherine's monastery at the base of Mount Sinai. The Orthodox Church celebrates his feast day on March 30. He came to the monastery and became a novice when he was about 16 years old, and when he died in 649 he was the monastery's abbot. He wrote a number of instructive books, the most famous of which is *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*. (It is because of this book that John is known as "Climacus," which means "of the ladder".) It describes how to raise one's soul to God, as if on a ladder. This book is one of the most widely read among Eastern Orthodox Christians, especially during the season of Great Lent which immediately precedes Pascha (Easter), and on the fourth Sunday of Great Lent he is especially commemorated.

Excerpt taken from "Coffee with a Little Stewardship" series by the Serbian Orthodox Church