

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 Great Martyr Plato in the Fourth Mode

Thy Martyrs, O Lord, in their courageous contest for Thee received as the prize the crowns of incorruption and life from Thee, our immortal God. For since they possessed Thy strength, they cast down the tyrants and wholly destroyed the demons' strengthless presumption. O Christ God, by their prayers, save our souls, since Thou art merciful.

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 Fourth Mode

Today, the most pure temple of the Savior, the precious bridal chamber and Virgin, the sacred treasure of God, enters the house of the Lord, bringing the grace of the Divine Spirit. The Angels of God praise her. She is the heavenly tabernacle.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7.

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

The Gospel of Luke 12:16-21



The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN November 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

"A rich man is not one who has much, but one who gives much. For what he gives away remains his forever."

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	November 18	9th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Coffee Hour hosted by Presvytera Stefanie and the Ladies of Philoptochos in honor of Fr. Sotiri's 10-year anniversary to the priesthood. AXIOS!	
3 p.m.	Baptism: Ioannis, son of Kostantenos & Ekaterine Douvogiannis. <i>Sponsors: Vito and Elaine Raimondi</i>	
Monday	November 19	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday	November 20	
8 a.m.	Divine Liturgy (note time change)	
Wednesday	November 21	Entrance of the Theotokos
10 a.m.	Divine Liturgy in Chapel at Greek America Rehab Center	
	Church Office Closes at noon	
Thursday	November 22	Thanksgiving Day
	Church Office Closed	
Friday	November 23	
	Church Office Closed	
Saturday	November 24	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers @ St Katherine Chapel of Assumption Church	
Sunday	November 25	13th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	St. Katherine the Great Martyr
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

PARISH PERSPECTIVE

Why are you a Steward at Ascension?

Loukas and Triseyeni Rogaris

"Our parents were the ones who introduced us to Ascension of our Lord over 10 years ago and we have been attending services there ever since. We are stewards at Ascension as we have been treated like family from the first time we attended Holy Liturgy. The Church has meant so much to our family that we had our wedding ceremony and both our children were baptized there. We appreciate all the ministries the Church has to offer as it gives us the opportunity to meet fellow parishioners and discuss various things that we all go through in our daily lives. We can't wait for our kids to be old enough to attend Sunday School, Joy, Goya and Junior Olympics so they too can grow with the Church and build friendships that will last a lifetime. We are also excited about the new Church and that our family will be a part of it from day 1!"

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prophora: Elaine Stevens
Epistle Reader: Caity Anast
Greeters: Ellen & Michael Kaitson
Ushers: Nick Marino (UIC), Peter Venetos, Demetri Katsulis, Frank Kazas, Mia Connolly, Carol Stamas, Doug Hugdahl, 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, Kiriaki

Psalm of Thanksgiving

**I give You thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the angels I sing Your praise;
I bow before Your holy presence and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness;
For You have exalted above everything Your name and Your word.
On the day I called, You answered me;
my strength of soul You increased. Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
You preserve my life;
You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my adversaries,
and Your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me;
Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.**

Psalm 138:1-3,7-8

Announcements

+ **2019 STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF - ALL HANDS ON DECK!** The first three Sundays of November mark the beginning of our 2019 Stewardship campaign and the response to date has been excellent! Thank you to the ~65 families who brought their 2019 stewardship pledge cards to church last week. Along with making a commitment of their time and talents to our ministries, they pledged more than \$120,300. Let's keep the momentum going! If you are a new or existing steward of Ascension and haven't submitted your 2019 pledge yet, *please complete the pledge card that was mailed to you a few weeks ago and submit it during the month of November.* Ascension is hoping to ascend to new heights in stewardship participation this coming year, both fiscally and with active participation in our ministries. By handing in your completed pledge card during our kick-off campaign, you will help our parish build strong momentum going into what will be a historic 2019! Intervene in 2019 – it's an exciting time to be involved in the heart of this parish; and, the opportunities to work for the glory of God are endless.

+ **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. Please see insert for the service schedule and prayer request form. May God bless us as we enter the Nativity Fast, and grant us the ability to focus on Christ's birth through additional prayer, fasting and almsgiving during this blessed advent season.

+ **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!

+ **HANDMADE ORTHODOX ADVENT CALENDARS FOR SALE BY SCS:** Do you know which saint was given the name "God-Bearer" because he always had the name of Jesus in his heart and on his lips? How about where the shape of candy canes came from? Find the answers on your family's very own Orthodox Advent calendar. The Sunday Church School will be selling a limited quantity of advent calendars as a Capital Campaign fundraiser. Pick up an educational, interactive, and reusable calendar for \$15 during coffee hour today!

+ **DO YOU CELEBRATE THE FEASTDAY OF ST. KATHERINE?** Next Sunday, November 25th falls on the Feastday of St. Katherine the Great Martyr. Coffee fellowship will be hosted that day by those in our parish who wish to celebrate or honor a loved one who bears the Saint's name. If you would like to participate, please bring your platter of fasting goodies, fruit, or whatever you wish to share with the parish to the fellowship area on Sunday morning prior to Liturgy. The Sunday after that – December 2nd -- coffee fellowship will be hosted by those in our parish who wish to celebrate or honor a loved one who bears the name of St. Nicholas. ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ to all!

+ **THE NEXT MARRIAGE MINISTRY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE** at the church house Friday November 30th at 7 pm. Father Sotiri will lead the discussion. If you have any questions, contact Loukas at loukasjonson@gmail.com. Hope to see you there!

+ **2019 PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD:** JOIN THE MANY FAMILIES of our Parish in expressing Christmas greetings to all members and friends of our Ascension Church. Return the insert by December 5th to take part in our 2018 Christmas greeting card.

+ **OUR PARISH SERVICE PROJECT AT FMSC** - On Monday, November 12th, 40 members of our parish including Jr. GOYA, GOYA, Philoptochos and Men's Ministry assembled 11,664 meals at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville. This is true Christian stewardship and philanthropy! Thank you for giving of your time and talents, especially in advance of the Nativity Season.

+ **THE 2018 PANORTHODOX CHRISTMAS CONCERT, "Make a Joyful noise to God all the Earth."** (Psalm 65:1) will take place on 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

+ **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS** through *The PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation*, which posted its 2018/19 application at <https://www.panhellenicsf.org/apply/> (due January 31, 2019). For more information on available scholarship programs, visit Ascension's website and click on the Orthodox Christian Fellowship link within the Ministry section.