

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews and the soldiers were guarding Thine immaculate Body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Saviour, granting life unto the world. Wherefore, the powers of the Heavens cried out to Thee, O Lifegiver: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ. Glory to Thy Kingdom. Glory to Thy dispensation, O only Friend of man.

Apolytikion for Gregory the Illuminator in the Fourth Mode

As a sharer of the ways and a successor to the throne of the Apostles, O inspired of God, thou foundest discipline to be a means of ascent to divine vision. Wherefore, having rightly divided the word of truth, thou didst also contest for the Faith even unto blood, O Hieromartyr Gregory. Intercede with Christ our 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 Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto thee: Hasten to intercession and speed thou to make supplication, O thou who dost ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor thee.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11.

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

The Gospel of Luke 6:31-36



The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN September 30 – October 7, 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

"Christians ... should strive in all things and ought not to pass judgment of any kind on anyone, not on the prostitute nor on sinners nor on disorderly persons. But they should look upon all persons with a single mind and a pure eye so that it may be for such a person almost a natural and fixed attitude never to despise or judge or abhor anyone or to divide people and put them into boxes ... For this is purity of heart, that, when you see the sinner and the weak, you have compassion and show mercy to them."

St. Makarios the Great

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	September 30 Orthros Sunday Church School Open House Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Soul of the Servant of God: Mary Korompilas (40 Days) Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Angelos Family Philoptochos POP Breast Cancer Walk	2nd Sunday of Luke
Monday 5:45 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	October 1 Jr. GOYA GOYA	
Tuesday 9 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	October 2 Clergy Meeting, Holy Apostles, Westchester Greek School, Daniel Wright Middle School	
Wednesday 10 a.m.	October 3 HOPE	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	October 4 Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Friday 3:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	October 5 Wedding Rehearsal Wedding Rehearsal @ St. Demetrios, Libertyville	
Friday - Sun	October 5 - 7 Midwest Hellenic Dance Festival, Oakbrook Choir Federation Conference, St. Nectarios, Palatine	
Saturday 10 a.m. 3:30 p.m.	October 6 Orthodox Catechism Class, Church House Wedding: Andrea Bologeorges and Jason Esveld <i>Sponsor: Zachary Bologeorges</i>	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	October 7 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy	3rd Sunday of Luke

Our Sunday
Volunteers

Prospora: Despina Taranko & Tasia Alexakos
Epistle Reader: Frank Kazas
Greeter: Elaine Stevens
Ushers: Bill Athenson (UIC), Nick Marino, Steve Demet, Peter Venetos, Alex Marx, Carol Stamas, Bill Smirles, Mike Sutherland

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

DID YOU KNOW?

The use of incense in Christian worship goes back to the Old Testament. In the Orthodox Church, incense is a very significant part of our worship. As incense heats up, it releases a sweet smell which symbolizes the sweetness of God's love. As the smoke surrounds us, it reminds us we are surrounded by God and protected by the embrace of His loving care. Incense is also a reminder not only of what we receive from God, but also what we offer to God. As the smoke rises, we should ask ourselves ... do we rise up to God? Do our thoughts, words and deeds fill the world with sweetness? Do we rise up like incense to serve those in need? The priest censures us because we are called to be Holy – to love God and neighbor -- to pray, fast, serve and perfect our hearts. We are called to rise to God.

*Adapted from Youth and Young Adult Ministry,
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

+ **ANNOUNCING ASCENSION'S NEW PART-TIME YOUTH DIRECTOR!** We are blessed to welcome John Anton, a recent graduate of Hellenic College, to our staff at Ascension beginning tomorrow, October 1st. John will work at Ascension on a part-time basis as the Director of our GOYA and Jr. GOYA programs. He is currently also involved in a number of Metropolis of Chicago projects and served in the past 3 years as a counselor at Fanari. We look forward to John bringing a wealth of experience, energy and creativity to our youth ministries. Let us warmly welcome John to our parish family and pray that God will bless and guide him as he serves our Lord in these new positions.

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2018:** In today's Epistle reading, St. Paul reminds us to be a "cheerful giver" based on the blessings God has provided us. He goes on to say: "He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness." By providing our time, talents, and treasures, we are helping to multiply God's blessings in the service of others through our ministries and our Church, and we "will be enriched in every way for great generosity." If you haven't pledged your Stewardship for 2018, or if you have pledged but haven't fulfilled your financial or time/talent commitment, please do so now! Ask a Parish Council member or find a pledge card near the candle stand.

+ **ANNOUNCING A NEW BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY:** Please join us for a new bible study group. The first meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18th at 10:30 a.m. This year we will be studying the Gospel of Matthew. No preparation for the class is required and everyone is welcome. The group discussion will be led by Helen Theodoropoulos, PhD, MA (Doctor of Theology from University of Chicago and Masters from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology). She is an Adjunct Professor at St. Sava Serbian Orthodox School of Theology. Subsequent sessions will be held on Thursdays Nov. 1, 15, 29 and Dec. 13. Please RSVP to marcia.moore1780@gmail.com who will then follow up with more information on location, etc.

+ **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP: ENCOUNTER THE WORD:** Also beginning this fall, a Men's Bible Study Group will meet on Wednesday mornings from 6 am -7 am at the Church House. The meetings, which will be led by Fr. Sotiri, will be held on October 24, November 7, December 5 and 19. Please RSVP to david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com.

+ **THERE'S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL AND ALL OF OUR YOUTH MINISTRIES** If you haven't registered your child(ren) yet, please do so as soon as possible on the website. A description of each ministry as well as a calendar of events and registration information is available at www.ascensiongoc.com.

+ **ANNOUNCING ASCENSION ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASSES:** Fr. Sotiri will be offering an Orthodox Catechism Class beginning 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 with the first 4 meetings taking place: October 6 @ 10 am | Oct. 17 @ 6:30 pm | Nov. 17 @ 10:30 am | December 12 @ 6:30 p.m. Each class will last an hour and a half and will build on the one prior to it so participants are encouraged to make a commitment to the entire program. If you are interested, please contact the church office at 847.482.1200, or email suzannesaric@ascensiongoc.com no later than Oct. 1. The first class is next Saturday at the church house.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS FEASTDAY LUNCHEON:** Reservations are being taken for the annual Ascension Philoptochos Luncheon that will take place on Sunday, October 28th immediately following Liturgy at the Royal Melbourne Country Club. This event has sold out every year so make your reservations today during coffee hour. \$35 for adults and \$20 for children 12 and under. You can also buy your chocolate bar raffle for \$20. One lucky parishioner will win a prize basket that includes gold Liberty earrings, a sterling silver cross and Chicago Bulls tickets! Visit the Philoptochos table during coffee hour!

+ **SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OF HELLENIC DESCENT** through the Hellenic Link-Midwest Board (applications due October 15, 2018). Scholarships are \$2,000 or more and applicants must have completed one year of college. For more information on available scholarship programs, visit Ascension's website and click on the Orthodox Christian Fellowship link within the Ministry section.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT:** Thanks to many of you, during the 2017-2018 year Philoptochos was able to donate more than \$28,000 to help those in need locally, nationally, and internationally. September is the start of our new year. Look for our snapshots monthly in the bulletin. **SEPTEMBER DONATIONS:** Summer 2018 Fires in Greece relief; Luncheon prepared for children enrolled in Camp Hope; Hellenic College/Holy Cross Scholarship Fund; Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteres Benevolent Fund.