

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the First Mode

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the Fourth Mode

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Second Mode

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9.

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gospel of John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.



On behalf of Fr. Sotirios Malamis, the Parish Council and the Ascension of Our Lord Parish Family, we wish you a blessed and merciful Holy Week. May you feel the light of Christ in your heart as we approach these sacred days of our Lord.

Thank you for your patience during our construction period.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN April 21 – May 5, 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.

Holy Communion Etiquette

- + If you are either baptized and/or confirmed as an Orthodox Christian and have spiritually prepared to receive Holy Communion, please come up with reverence and humility, row by row, and depart as directed by the ushers. Please remain in your rows until an usher indicates your row should move forward. If you are standing in the back of the nave, please wait until an usher directs you.
- + In receiving Communion, you should place the cloth under your chin, recite your CHRISTIAN NAME, and wipe your mouth after receiving. If you are wearing lipstick please remove it prior to receiving Communion.
- + Whether you are an Orthodox Christian or not, please come forward at the dismissal to receive the blessed bread which is offered to everyone who worships with us. May the blessings of Christ be with you.

Spiritual Reflection

"Because all their kings had mostly been unjust and covetous and subjected them to wars ... he said to them, 'Trust me, I am not like them. I am gentle and mild.' He demonstrated this by the manner of his entrance, not entering at the head of an army but simply riding on a donkey."

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	April 21 Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Palms Philoptochos Bake Sale	Palm Sunday
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	April 23 Greek School	Holy Tuesday
Thursday 7 a.m.	April 25 Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper (@ Church House Chapel)	Holy Thursday
Friday 8 a.m. 7 p.m.	April 26 Royal Hours (@ Church House Chapel) Service of the Lamentations (@ Daniel Wright Middle School)	Good Friday
Saturday 8 a.m. 10:45 p.m.	April 27 Proti-Anastasi (Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil the Great) Resurrection Service and Paschal Divine Liturgy (Paschal Fellowship – following Services)	Holy Saturday (services @ Daniel Wright)
Sunday 11 a.m.	April 28 AGAPE Vespers (@ Daniel Wright)	Holy Pascha
Monday 8 a.m. 9 a.m.	April 29 Orthros Divine Liturgy (@ Church House Chapel)	Bright Monday George the Great Martyr
Tuesday 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 10 a.m. 4:45 p.m.	April 30 Orthros (@ Church House Chapel) Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Feed the Hungry @ Annunciation Cathedral Greek School	Bright Tuesday / SS Raphael, Nicholas, & Irene
Thursday 10:30 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	May 2 Ascending in Orthodoxy Bible Study Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School Adult Beginner Greek School	Bright Thursday
Friday 9 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	May 3 <i>Services will be held at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center</i> GOYA Pascha Greek Night, Demetri's Restaurant	Bright Friday / Theotokos of the Life-Giving Font
Saturday 5 p.m.	May 4 Vespers @ Church House Chapel	Bright Saturday
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 2 p.m.	May 5 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Chicago Greek Heritage Parade in Greektown, Halsted Street	Sunday of Thomas

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prospora: Tasia Alexakos & Anastasia Anton
Epistle Reader: Caity Anast
Greeters: Elaine & Harry Metropoulos
Ushers: Bill Athenson (UIC), Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, David Rutkowski, Kathie Rutkowski, Nick Marino, Steve Sintetas, Andrea Rogers, Jeannie Thomas

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, Fred, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Ignacio, Alexander, Anthony, Matina, Panagiotis, Evangelos, Paraschos, Stefanos

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

- + **THE PHILOPTOCHOS PASCHA BAKE SALE IS TODAY!** Please stop by our tables immediately after the Divine Liturgy and select treats for your Paschal celebration. Once again, we thank you for your generosity and appreciate your continued support!
- + **OUR TRADITIONAL GOOD FRIDAY PREPARATION WILL BE SCALED DOWN:** Due to the fact that we will not have to clean and prepare our church for services this year, we unfortunately do not have a need for children to come and help on Good Friday morning/early afternoon. There will only be a small group of women from Philoptochos preparing the Kouvouklion for Good Friday's evening service. We apologize especially to our youth and look forward to resuming this beautiful tradition in our new church home for years to come!
- + **LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO DYE RED EGGS:** Please email or call Debbie Katsulis (debrakatsulis@yahoo.com | 847.370.4215) if you are able to dye two dozen hardboiled eggs red for our parish Paschal celebration and bring them to the home we are renting at 1221 North Riverwoods Road on or before April 25th (Holy Thursday). We would be very grateful.
- + **PARKING & SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE:** Arrangements have been made at Banner Day Camp to accommodate overflow parking. If the lot at Daniel Wright is full, please proceed north to Banner (1225 Riverwoods Rd). A complimentary shuttle bus will be available. Arrangements have also been made to accommodate an overflow crowd in the school.
- + **PASCHAL CELEBRATION:** Immediately following the Resurrection Service, Parish Council invites everyone to come together as a parish family to joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior and proclaim "Christos Anesti"!
- + **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A HISTORIC FAMILY DINNER DANCE** to celebrate the completion of our glorious new House of Worship! Appropriately called *DOME SWEET HOME*, this celebration will take place on June 9, 2019, at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling the Sunday after Ascension's Feast Day! The event will feature fun activities for the entire family and promises to be a spectacular event celebrating the fulfillment of a dream come true: Our Faith + Our Church + Our Legacy. The time is drawing near for us to be home under our beautiful new dome. Invitations were mailed out this past week!
- + **FEED THE HUNGRY" PROGRAM @ ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL** - Our Philoptochos will "Feed the Hungry" on Tuesday, April 30th at 10 a.m. at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. We are planning to feed 150+ hungry men and women, most of whom are homeless. Support can be shown by bringing the requested items listed on the flyer to the church house before 4/29; donating to offset the cost of the food, or volunteering to go downtown to help serve. Please contact Kathie Rutkowski @ 847-421-8267 to volunteer or donate.
- + **YOUNG ADULT RETREAT THIS MAY:** This year's retreat for young adults ages 18-35 takes place May 3-5 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The theme is "Who Am I Becoming: Living Our Life in Christ." For more information and to register, contact the Youth and Young Adult Ministry at Y2AM@chicago.goarch.org.
- + **THE JR. GOYA AND GOYA VISIT TO THE GREEK AMERICAN REHABILITATION CENTER** will be on Monday, May 6th. We will gather on the first floor at 5:30 p.m. and visit the residents on each floor singing "Christos Anesti", and present each a handmade gift followed by a fellowship dinner. The residents look very forward to our visit each year!
- + **GREEK HERITAGE PARADE – SAVE THE DATE!** This year for the first time Ascension Parish will participate in Chicago's Greek Heritage Parade that will take place on Sunday May 5th, at 2:30 pm at the Greektown area on Halsted street. You are all invited to join this event that is full of joy and pride for our Greek orthodox heritage. More details to come.
- + **THE MIDWEST HELLENIC DANCE FESTIVAL**, in conjunction with Anemos Dance Troupe of St. George Chicago, presents the first Spring Dance Workshop to be held *Saturday, May 4th at St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago!* Open to all in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago and beyond! All ages, all levels welcome! For more information, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3dpb6f8>.
- + **JR. OLYMPICS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND MAY 24-26:** Team Ascension is recruiting players and coaches! Interested? Contact Dino Bolos @ dinobolos@yahoo.com
- + **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES:** Thursday, 9/19: Golf Outing at Chevy Chase, Wheeling. Saturday 10/19, 2nd Annual Men's Retreat at our new Church Home!
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT** Our Philoptochos Chapter's April contributions included donations toward: Hellenic College Holy Cross; \$860 collected from our generous parishioners, GARC Hellenic Legacy Gala, Sts. Peter & Paul Quiltathon, St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Oratorical Festival.
- + **ARE YOU RECEIVING OUR EMAIL BLASTS?** In addition to print materials like the bulletin, Ascension also regularly communicates with the Parish via email. If you are not on our email list, please visit the homepage at www.ascensiongoc.com and follow the prompts to sign up. You can also follow Ascension on Facebook (www.facebook.com/AscensionGOC); Twitter (@Ascension_GOC) and Instagram (ascension_lincolnshire).

+ **STEWARDSHIP 2019: PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION** - Stewardship is our opportunity to give thanks to God for all He has provided us by sharing our time, talents, and treasures. As we approach Holy Week and walk with Christ from Palm Sunday to His Crucifixion and His Resurrection, we are reminded of the sacrifices Jesus made in order to save each and every one of us. What better way to demonstrate our thanks and faith in God than by offering a portion of what God has blessed us with to support His ministries and churches. We're thankful to the 249 families that have already pledged their time, talents, and treasures to Ascension for 2019! If you and your family have not yet made your pledge, please pick up a stewardship packet near the candle stand and prayerfully consider how you can support Christ's ministries at Ascension.

+ **WE THANK YOU MOST SINCERELY FOR ALL DONATIONS (monetary, time & talents)** for our Great Lent and Holy Week. May God bless you and your families for the devotion you show to our beloved Parish.