

## 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 11th Sun. of Luke in the Second Mode

By faith didst Thou justify the Forefathers, when through them Thou didst betroth Thyself aforetime to the Church from among the nations. The Saints boast in glory that from their seed there is a glorious fruit, even she that bare Thee seedlessly. By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

### Apolytikion for Hieromartyr Eleutherios and Anthia in the Fourth Mode

Being comely adorned in thy sacred priestly robes and newly drenched with the streams of thy pure and sanctified blood, thou didst soar aloft to stand before thy Master, Christ; hence never cease to intercede for those honouring with faith thy mighty and blessed contest, thou overthrower of Satan, O wise and blessed Eleutherius.

### 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, 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 Third Mode

On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to \* God the Word ineffably, \* Who was before all the ages. \* Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing \* the gladsome tidings; \* with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him \* Who is willing to be gazed on \* as a young Child Who \* before the ages is God.

### The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 1:8-18.

TIMOTHY, my son, do not be ashamed then of testifying to our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of His own purpose and the grace which He gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago, and now has manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, and therefore I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. Follow the pattern of the sound words which you have heard from me in the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus; guard the truth that has been entrusted to you by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. You are aware that all who are in Asia turned away from me, and among them Phygelos and Hermogenes. May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphoros, for he often refreshed me; he was not ashamed of my chains, but when he arrived in Rome he searched for me eagerly and found me - may the Lord grant him to find mercy from the Lord on that Day and you well know all the service he rendered at Ephesos.

### The Gospel of Luke 14:16-24

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

**+ OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE ICONS PRINTED ON THE BULLETIN, PLEASE RECYCLE RATHER THAN DISCARD IN THE GARBAGE +**

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 15 - 22, 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.

### Spiritual Reflection

*“The incorporeal and incorruptible and immaterial Word of God entered our world. In one sense, indeed, He was not far from it before, for no part of creation had ever been without Him Who, while ever abiding in union with the Father, yet fills all things that are. But now He entered the world in a new way, stooping to our level in His love and Self-revealing to us”.*

**St. Athanasios the Great**

### 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. If you are unable to step up to the solea, a priest will step down to serve the Sacrament once everyone has communed.
- + 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.
- + Prior to receiving Holy Communion, you may read the *Prayers Before Receiving Holy Communion* on page 61 in the Divine Liturgy book found in the pew. Following Holy Communion, the *Prayers of Thanksgiving* can be found on page 73.
- + 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.

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 15</b>	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Memorial for James Korompilas, (40 days)	
	Christmas Pageant	
	Poinsettia Pick-up (Fellowship Hall)	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by Parish Council	
3 p.m.	Metropolis Christmas Open House, National Hellenic Museum, Chicago	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>December 16</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5:30 p.m.	Faith/Joy Jr. GOYA GOYA Christmas Caroling @ the Greek American Rehab Center, Wheeling	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, Chapel of St. Dionysios, Holy Trinity Church, Chicago	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>December 17</b>	<b>St Dionysios   The Three Holy Youths</b>
8 a.m.	Orthros	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School Christmas Program	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>December 18</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
6:30 p.m.	Holy Unction	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>December 19</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
10:30 a.m.	Ascending in Orthodoxy Bible Study Ministry	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>December 20</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>December 21</b>	
9 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>December 22</b>	<b>Sunday Before Nativity</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	<b>St. Anastasia</b>
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

+ **THE NATIVITY FAST** culminates on December 24. If you would like to schedule the Sacrament of Confession with Fr. Sotiri, please call the Church office. The Sacrament of Holy Unction will take place on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We are honored to have as the Homilist at this service, Rev. Dr. Loukas Gikas, who will speak on "Judging Others: The Cause & The Cure."

+ **GET READY FOR OUR CHILDREN TO SET THE STAGE FOR THE NATIVITY** with three very beautiful upcoming performances. Join us after Liturgy for the annual Christmas Pageant, guaranteed to warm your heart. Following this magical performance, during coffee fellowship, we have a special presentation by members of our Byzantine Music Class who will chant Nativity hymns and Greek traditional Carols, unique and original pieces from several parts of Greece. Finally, this Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, our Greek School students will commemorate Christ's Nativity by performing Greek Christmas songs, poems and skits. We look forward to having our children shepherd in the blessed and holy miracle of the birth and Incarnation of Christ.

+ **THE ENTIRE ASCENSION PARISH IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR ASCENSION YOUTH** in bringing the Christmas spirit to residents of the Greek American Rehab Center in Wheeling on Monday, Dec. 16 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. It's always a blessing to share the spirit and true meaning of Christmas by singing Christmas carols and visiting with the residents. For any questions, please see Carol Stamas. Thank you!

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prosporo Bakers:** Sophie Beris & Tasia Alexakos

**Epistle Reader:** Frank Kazas

**Greeters:** Arianna Stevens

**Ushers:** Nick Marino (UIC), Peter Venetos, Doug Hugdahl, Frank Kazas, Tom Kiriakos, Diane Sigalos, Bill Smirles

## 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, Chris, Don, Hariklia

+ **STEWARDSHIP AT ASCENSION** Time is running out to fulfill your 2019 stewardship pledge! If you've made a pledge for 2019, but have yet to fulfill your pledge amount, don't wait! Fulfill your commitment before the end of the year to get credit on your 2019 taxes!

We'd like to thank the 100 families that have already committed their time, talent, and treasures for 2020! We need all Ascension families to help support our parish and our new house of God in 2020 and beyond, so if you haven't pledged for 2020, please do so as soon as possible. You can submit your pledge card to the church office or use our new online form at [www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/stewardship](http://www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/stewardship)

## Announcements

+ **ASCENSION ORNAMENT** Preserve the memory of the opening of our new church with a beautiful, boxed commemorative ornament of Ascension. Philoptochos is selling the ornaments for \$25 each every Sunday after Liturgy while supplies last. Ornaments will also be available this Thursday at the Philoptochos Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange!

+ **ASCENDING IN ORTHODOXY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will meet this Thursday, 12/19 at 10:30 am until noon and will discuss the Gospel of Matthew - Chapter 10, 11. Contact Bess Bologeorges ([bessbo@ameritech.net](mailto:bessbo@ameritech.net)) prior to the meeting if you cannot attend but wish to call in. If you are new to the group, contact Marcia Moore ([marcia.moore1780@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.moore1780@gmail.com)) to be added to the group email communications.

+ **ATTENTION K-2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE FAMILIES:** Ascension is putting together a Kindergarten-2nd grade basketball team to participate in a tournament at Ss. Peter & Paul on the weekend of 12/28-12/29. More details to follow. If you have a son or daughter in grades K-2nd that would like to participate, please contact Vasilike Bolos asap (773-454-4617) or email [vasilikebolos@gmail.com](mailto:vasilikebolos@gmail.com).

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS IS HOLDING ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Friday, Dec 27th at Dover Straits at 12 p.m. Family and friends are always welcomed. To RSVP, please call Elaine Beck by 12/20 at (847) 367-5227. Please join us for this joyous and festive gathering.

+ **OUR ANNUAL PARISH ICE-SKATING PARTY** takes place on Monday, December 30th at 5:30 at Centennial Ice Arena at Highland Park. Please see the insert for more details.

+ **ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS AND YOUNG ADULTS:** You are invited to join Fr. Sotiri, Justin Glavanovits, Carol Stamas, and Caity Anast for brunch on Friday, January 3rd at 10:30 a.m. at Eggspresso Restaurant, 2545 Waukegan Rd, Bannockburn. Please RSVP to Caity by December 28th at [anast1028@gmail.com](mailto:anast1028@gmail.com). We look forward to catching up with all of you!

+ **YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN DECEMBER & 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. Dates throughout the rest of December until the beginning of Lent are available. You may sign up via our website, or by calling the church office.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS THANKS** all who attended the Gingerbread House Decorating and Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Ascension's fellowship hall transformed into a magical Christmas scene when more than 50 children and their families decorated masterpiece gingerbread homes and enjoyed a delicious Lenten breakfast with Santa & Mrs. Claus, prepared in our very own kitchen by Philoptochos members. Thank you to Maria Vlahos, Sophia Metropulos, Arianna Stevens, Jayne Chatsidakis and everyone else who helped out behind the scenes. A special thank you to Santa and Mrs. Claus who made the festivities so very special!

+ **A HOLLY JOLLY TIME** was had by all at the Philoptochos Membership Christmas Party on Thursday evening! Thank you to all who attended and shared delicious appetizers and desserts, and brought generous gifts for the young mothers and children at the Martha and Mary Maternity House. Our ornament exchange was lively and great fun for all, as always. We continue to be thankful for one another and for all of our blessings. Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and our very best wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

+ **SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 5th ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** We will celebrate this historic tradition along with St. Demetrios Church, Libertyville, on Sunday, January 13th from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool. Diving is reserved for K-12th graders.

+ **LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY FOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis recently announced this new ministry and is offering a camp at Carthage College, WI, on June 7-14<sup>th</sup>. Registration opened on December 5<sup>th</sup> at [www.chicago.goarch.org/](http://www.chicago.goarch.org/)

+ **FANARI WINTER CAMP** offers two sessions, the first for Senior GOYANs (High Schoolers) January 17-20, 2020; and the second for Junior GOYANs (Middle Schoolers) February 28 - March 2, 2020. Visit [www.fanari.camp/winter-camp](http://www.fanari.camp/winter-camp) for registration & information.

+ **FANARI CAMP REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup> at NOON** for rising 6<sup>th</sup> grade through rising 12<sup>th</sup> graders. Five sessions will be offered this year: June 14-20; June 21-27; June 28 - July 4; July 5-11; July 12-18. Please stay in touch with the Fanari website for more information: [www.fanari.camp/summer-camp](http://www.fanari.camp/summer-camp)

+ **SAVE THE DATE: KOLIVA & PROSPHORA WORKSHOP!** On January 11<sup>th</sup>, Ascension Philoptochos will be holding a workshop for anyone interested in learning how to prepare koliva and/or bake prosphora. Held in our very own kitchen, the sessions (one for koliva and one for prosphora) will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 12:30, with more details to follow. Please RSVP to Jeannie Thomas ([jgt1009@gmail.com](mailto:jgt1009@gmail.com)) by Jan. 5 if you'd like to attend. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn about these sacred and transformative traditions of our Orthodox Faith!

+ **SAVE THE DATE! ASCENSION OF OUR LORD'S ANNUAL APOKREATIKO GLENDI** will be held on Sunday, February 23, 2020, 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!