

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the powers in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Nativity in the Fourth Mode

Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Apolytikion for Sun. before Nativity in the Second Mode

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

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 Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40.

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Gospel of Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and His name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called His name Jesus.



+ **ON BEHALF OF THE ASCENSION PARISH FAMILY, we wish you a blessed time with your families throughout this joyous Nativity season. A schedule of Divine services for Christmas and Epiphany was just sent to your homes and may also be found on our website. Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year!**

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069

Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos

TEL: (847) 482-1200 | FAX: (847) 482-9566 | www.ascensiongoc.com

Office e-mail: info@ascensiongoc.com

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN December 22 – 29, 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

“And so, my brothers, the feast of the Nativity of Christ reminds us that we are born of God, that we are sons of God (I John 3:1), that we have been saved from sin (Matt. 1:21) and that we must live for God and not sin; not for flesh and blood, not for the world which lies in evil (I John 5:19). What does the Incarnation of the Son of God require of us? It requires of us to remember and hold in sacred honor the fact that we are born of God; and if we have sullied and trampled upon this birthright with our sins, we must restore it by washing it with tears of repentance; we must restore and renew within us the image of God which has fallen and the union with God and blessedness, truth and holiness which has been destroyed. ‘Now God became man, that He may make Adam a god’”.

St. John Kronstadt

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

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	December 22 Orthros Divine Liturgy Memorial for Evangelos Simos, (1 year) Chrismation: Daniel Alvarez <i>Sponsor: Daniel Alvarez II</i>	Sunday Before Nativity St. Anastasia
Monday 9 a.m.	December 23 Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday 7:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	December 24 Great Hours followed by Vesperal-Liturgy Christmas Vespers	Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	December 25 Orthros Divine Liturgy	Holy Nativity
Thursday 8 a.m. 9 a.m.	December 26 Orthros Divine Liturgy	Synaxis of the Theotokos
Friday 8 a.m. 9 a.m. noon:	December 27 Orthros Divine Liturgy Senior Synaxis Christmas Party, Dover Straits	St. Stephanos
Saturday 5 p.m. 6 p.m.	December 28 Vespers Koinonia Men's Ministry Wine & Cheese Event	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	December 29 Orthros Divine Liturgy	Sunday After Nativity

+ **PARKING IN OUR FIRE LANE AND IN THE CIRCULAR DRIVEWAY IS ILLEGAL & UNSAFE** The entrance to the parking lot, as well as the circular driveway/drop-off area at the front of the main doors to church, is a **NO PARKING ZONE** as mandated by Police/Fire Department Ordinance. Emergency vehicles must be able to enter these areas quickly and without obstructions from parked vehicles. The Police Department has given us ample warning that they will begin to ticket cars illegally parked in the entrance area and circular fire lane. Thank you for your cooperation with this important safety matter.

+ **STEWARDSHIP - IMPORTANT REQUESTS** As 2019 begins to wind down, we have two important requests of all Ascension families: 1) If you made a pledge for 2019 but have yet to fulfill your pledged amount, please do so in December so your financial support can be deducted from your 2019 taxes! 2) If you have yet to submit your pledge for 2020, please prayerfully consider how you can support Ascension with your time, talent, and treasures! We have fewer stewardship commitments for 2020 compared to last year, and need all Ascension families to help support our parish and our new house of God in 2020 and beyond. Please submit your pledge card in the basket in the Narthex or online at www.ascensiongoc.com/aboutus/stewardship

+ **STEWARDS: PLEASE PICK UP YOUR 2020 ECCLESIASTICAL CALENDARS AND SCRIPTURE CARDS** on your way out of church today.

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Sofie Caronis & Mary Kakavas
Epistle Reader: Tom Kiriakos
Greeters: Jerry & Despina Taranko
Ushers: Peter Venetos UIC, Bill Athenson Ass't UIC, Nick Marino, Doug Hugdahl, Carol Stamas, 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, Fred, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Alexander, Anthony, Matina, Panagiotis, Evangelos, Paraschos, Chris, Don, Hariklia

Condolences

+ **OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY** to Mary Nikitas, whose loving husband, John, fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, December 9, 2019. John was the devoted father of Greg (Judge Christen Bishop) Nikitas, and loving papou of John and William. The funeral took place at Ascension on Saturday, December 14. Our sympathies extend to the entire family.

+ **WE ALSO EXTEND OUR CONDOLENCES** to the family of Nicholas Demet, who fell asleep in the Lord on Sunday, December 15th. Nicholas was the beloved husband of the late Sophia (Chioles); devoted father of Steven (Maria), George (Alice), and Peter (Catherine), and loving grandfather of Nicholas, Grace (Matthew) Paley, Nina (Adam) Reynolds, Christopher, Nico, Elena, Zachary and John. Nicholas' funeral took place this past Friday, December 20th, at Ascension.

+ **WE OFFER OUR DEEP SYMPATHY TO** Paul (Darcy) Anest, whose devoted father, Bill, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, December 19th. Bill was the beloved brother of Peter (Thalia) Anest. The funeral will take place tomorrow, December 23, 2019, at Ascension.

We pray that God grant John, Nicholas and Bill eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven, and comfort to their families. May their memories be eternal.

Announcements

+ **WE THANK OUR LOYAL & GIVING PARISHIONERS WHO HAVE PROVIDED ASSISTANCE FOR -- AND DURING -- THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS PAST YEAR** including Prospora bakers, Greeters, Epistle Readers, Ushers, Koliva team, and Coffee Fellowship hosts. Your love for Ascension is truly recognized and appreciated. May God bless you always.

+ **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 until Christmas. Makes a great last-minute gift idea!

+ **THANK YOU TO ALL** who supported the GOYA Poinsettia Fundraiser. Plants can be picked up by the east entrance of the church. Please make every effort to pick them up before Christmas!

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

+ **OUR ANNUAL PARISH ICE-SKATING PARTY** takes place on Monday, December 30th at 5:30 at Centennial Ice Arena at Highland Park. Cost \$10/person. Please RSVP to Denise Ditka by 12/27 at dditka@comcast.net | 847.212.6666.

+ **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. We look forward to catching up with all of you!

+ **GOYA NEW YEAR'S PARTY:** St. Demetrios of Elmhurst is hosting a "New Year's Eve GOYA Dance" (grades 6th-12th) on Sunday, December 29th from 7:30-10:30pm. \$15 entry fee. Reunite with friends, while enjoying a night of music, dancing, food and fun! Contact Anthony Ruggiero at a.ruggiero@gmail.com with questions.

+ **EPIPHANY HOME BLESSINGS** – According to the Greek Orthodox tradition, the month of January is the time for home blessings. If you wish for Fr. Sotiri to bless your home, please complete the insert and return it to the Church Office by 1/7/20.

+ **THE PANHELLENIC SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION** will accept applications from eligible Greek American college students through **January 31, 2020**. For more information on this as well as other scholarship opportunities, visit Ascension's website and click on the Orthodox Christian Fellowship link within the Ministry section.

+ **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS 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. You may sign up via our website, or by calling the office.

+ **MARRIAGE MINISTRY TRIVIA NIGHT WITH SSPP!** The Orthodox Couples Group from SS. Peter and Paul in Glenview is hosting a Trivia Night and has graciously invited the Ascension's Marriage Ministry to attend. The event is open to all Ascension married couples and will be held January 11, 2020 at 6 p.m. at SSPP. Register at <https://ssppglenview.org/events>. For more information, contact Loukas Jonson at loukasjonson@gmail.com and check out the Marriage Ministry's webpage.

+ **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. See insert for more information.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SAVE THE DATES! General Meeting** – January 26, 2020, following Liturgy; Topic "How You Can Help Save a Life"; **Annual Apokreatiko Glendi**, 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!

+ **COMING UP IN THE NEW YEAR:** Annual March for Life Chicago: January 11; Dive for the Cross: January 12; Sanctity of Life Pan Orthodox Prayer Service: January 19; GOYA Lock-In: January 24; Hellenic Letters Luncheon @ Chateau Ritz, Niles January 26; Sr. GOYA Fanari Winter Camp Jan 17 - 20; Panhellenic Scholarship Applications Due: January 31.; Metropolis Family Synaxis Men's Retreat Jan 31 – Feb 1. Stay tuned to future bulletins and our website for more information.

+ **SAVE THE DATE: KOLIVA & PROSPHORA WORKSHOP!** On January 11th, Ascension Philoptochos will be holding a workshop for anyone interested in learning how to prepare koliva and/or bake prospora. Held in our very own kitchen, the sessions (one for koliva and one for prospora) 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) 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!