

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal First Mode

Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

### Apolytikion for Great Martyr Theodore the Tyro in the Second Mode

Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the holy Martyr Theodore rejoiced; for having been made a whole-burnt offering in the fire, he was offered as sweet bread unto the Trinity. By his prayers, O Christ God, save our souls.

### 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.

### Kontakion for Publican & Pharisee. Mode 4

Let us flee the Pharisee's \* exalted parlance; \* let us learn the Publican's \* humble demeanor, and with sighs \* unto the Savior cry out and say, \* To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord.

### The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15.

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

### The Gospel of Luke 18:10-14



The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

### February 17 - 24, 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

*"A man went into the forest to choose a tree from which to make roof-beams. And he saw two trees, one beside the other. One was smooth and tall, but had rotted away inside, and the other was rough on the outside and ugly, but its core was healthy. The man sighed, and said to himself: "What use is this tree to me if it is rotten inside and useless for beams? The other it is rough and ugly, is at least healthy on the inside and so, if I put a bit more effort into it, I can use it for roof-beams for my house." And, without thinking any more about it, he chose that tree. So will God choose between two men for His house, and will choose not the one who appears outwardly righteous, but the one whose heart is filled with God's healthy righteousness."*

**St. Nikolai Velimirovich**

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 17</b>	<b>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	<i>Triodion Begins   Fast Free Week</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 18</b>	<b>President's Day</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 19</b>	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 20</b>	
6 a.m.	Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
10 a.m.	Clergy Synodes Meeting	
6:30 p.m.	Koinonia Men's Ministry Healthy & Spiritual Kick-Off Meeting & Presentation, LightSource, Vernon Hills	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 21</b>	
10 a.m.	Fr. Sotiri serves Liturgy @ Greek American Rehab Center, Wheeling	
10:30 a.m.	Bible Study @ 1221 House	
noon	Senior Synaxis Valentine's Day Luncheon	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>February 24</b>	<b>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

+ **2019 STEWARDSHIP – All Things Are Possible to the One Who Believes in Christ!** Stewardship has been defined as faith in action. It provides us an avenue to humbly thank God for all the gifts he has given us by sharing these gifts to do God's work. Offering our time, talent, and treasures to support His churches truly demonstrates our belief because we are actively supporting God's work in helping those in need and teaching His Word. As we move ever closer to opening the doors to our new church, we need everyone at Ascension to answer the call of stewardship in whatever capacity each of us can. We're thankful for the 201 families that have pledged \$262,585 as well as their time and talent to Ascension this year. We need everyone's help. If you haven't yet, please complete the 2019 Stewardship card and submit it as soon as possible. Put your faith in action and help support Ascension in reaching new heights in 2019!

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Mary Kakavas & Tasia Alexakos  
**Epistle Reader:** Tom Kiriakos  
**Ushers:** Demetri Katsulis (UIC), Carol Stamas, Diane Sigalos, Bill Athenson, Tom Papastefan, Bill Smirles, Andrea Rogers, Steve Demet, 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, Alexander, Anthony

## THE SUNDAY OF THE PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE

The Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the first Sunday of a three-week period prior to the beginning of Great Lent. It marks the time of preparation for the spiritual journey of Lent, a time for Orthodox Christians to draw closer to God through worship, prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is also on this day that the Triodion is introduced, a liturgical book that contains the services from this Sunday, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), to Great and Holy Saturday.

*Excerpt taken from "Coffee with a Little Stewardship" series by the Serbian Orthodox Church*

## Announcements

+ **PLEASE SIGN-UP TO HOST COFFEE: WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN FEBRUARY, MARCH AND THROUGHOUT LENT:** Please consider hosting coffee fellowship with your family, or together with another family so that we can continue to spend time in fellowship with each other after we worship together. You may sign up via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you for offering your love and commitment to this important ministry.

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY 2/20: MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP: ENCOUNTER THE WORD:** Join us this Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. at the Church house for the next Men's Bible Study Group. The topic, which will be led by Fr. Sotiri, is Study the Sunday Gospels: Luke 15:11-32: The Prodigal Son. Please RSVP to david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com. If you have an Orthodox Study Bible, (or are able to download the Orthodox Study Bible app), please bring it along. Dates for upcoming sessions will be announced soon.

+ **ASCENSION'S BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH HOUSE THIS THURSDAY:** Join us this Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to noon for Bible Study. This year we are studying the Gospel of Matthew. For questions and to RSVP, please contact Marcia Moore at marcia.moore1780@gmail.com. The next Bible Ministry gathering will take place on February 28th.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON** on Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon at PUB 83 in Long Grove. For more information, please contact Elaine Beck at 847.367.5227.

+ **LAST WEEK TO CALL IN YOUR RESERVATION FOR MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT DINNER:** This year's benefit dinner takes place on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines. The keynote speaker will be Jesse Brandow, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) Long-Term Missionary to Guatemala and Southern Mexico. All proceeds will go to support the work of OCMC in Guatemala, Southern Mexico and throughout the world. Suggested cost of admission is \$35 per person. **Ascension would like to fill a table for the event.** Contact the office by February 24<sup>th</sup> with your reservation.

+ **RESERVATION DEADLINE OF FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> IS QUICKLY APPROACHING FOR THIS YEAR'S APOKREATIKO GLENDI,** which takes place on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. In an effort to go green, Glendi invitation/reservation forms are available to download and print on the Philoptochos page of Ascension's website. Questions and reservations may be directed to Andrea Rogers at 847.682.4816, abrogers3@gmail.com. Please visit the Philoptochos reservation table after Liturgy, or send your reservation form and check by next Sunday to Andrea at the address on the form.

+ **MARRIAGE MINISTRY SCHEDULE UPDATE:** The next Marriage Ministry meeting will be held Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more details!

+ **ASCENSION ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASSES RESUME IN MARCH:** Ascension's Orthodox Catechism Class will resume in March at the church house on the following dates: March 2 @ 11:30 a.m. -1 p.m.; March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:30 a.m. – noon; April 13 from 10:30 a.m. - noon; Wednesday, May 8 from 6:30 p.m. – 8; and May 22 from 6:30 p.m.- 8. Fr. Sotiri is using the book, *Introducing the Orthodox Church* by Fr. Anthony Coniaris to supplement the course, which began in early October. Catechism classes are open to all who desire to learn about the faith or take a refresher "Orthodoxy 101" course. If you are interested in attending and haven't participated to date, please contact the church office for more information at 847.482.1200, or email suzannesaric@ascensiongoc.com.

+ **SAVE THE DATE OF APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> FOR ASCENSION'S PILGRIMAGE TO ASSUMPTION CHURCH, HOMER GLEN, TO VENERATE THE MIRACULOUS ICON OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:** To enrich our journey through Lent, Ascension will be holding a Paraklesis service to St. John the Baptist at Assumption Homer Glen on April 6, 2019. The Icon of St. John has been miraculously streaming myrrh at Assumption for several years. The Parish Family field trip will take place on Saturday, April 6 from 9 -3. Bus transportation will be provided from Lincolnshire and following the service, we will stop at a restaurant to enjoy fellowship and a Lenten lunch. Please save the date and stay tuned for all the details.