

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Second Mode

Angelic powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

### Apolytikion for 1st and 2nd Finding of the Head of the Forerunner in the Fourth Mode

The Forerunner's sacred head, having dawned forth from the earth, doth send incorruption's rays unto the faithful, whereby they find healings of their ills. From on high he gathereth the choirs of the Angels and on earth he summoneth the whole race of mankind, that they with one voice might send up glory to Christ our God.

### 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.

Ανελήφθης 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

O Father, foolishly I ran away from Your glory, and in sin, squandered the riches You gave me. Wherefore, I cry out to You with the voice of the Prodigal, "I have sinned before You Compassionate Father. Receive me in repentance and take me as one of Your hired servants."

### The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15.

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

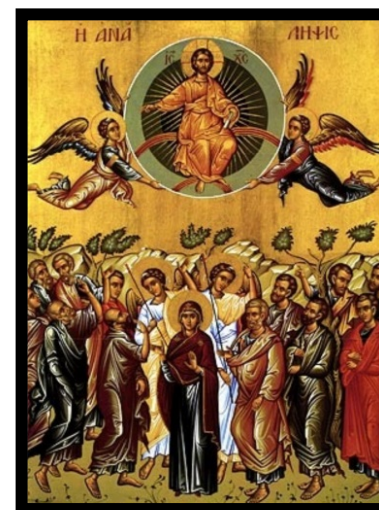
### The Gospel of Luke 15:11-32



The Lord said this parable: "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his belly with the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the

son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 24 – March 3, 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

*"Thank God every day with your whole heart for having given to you life according to His image and likeness - an intelligently free and immortal life...Thank Him also for again daily bestowing life upon you, who have fallen an innumerable multitude of times, by your own free will, through sins, from life unto death, and that He does so as soon as you only say from your whole heart: 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before Thee!'" (Luke 15:18).*

**St. John of Kronstadt**

## Weekly Calendar

<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	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by Maria Vlahos Girls' Chanting Practice	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>February 25</b>	
6 p.m.	Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>February 26</b>	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>February 27</b>	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>February 28</b>	
6:30 p.m.	OCMC Benefit Dinner, St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 2</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Souls</b>
11:30 a.m.	Orthodox Catechism Class @ church house	
5 p.m.	Vespers	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 3</b>	<b>Judgement Sunday</b> <b>Meatfare Sunday</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
4:30 p.m.	Apokreatiko Glendi, Concorde Banquets, Kildeer	

+ **PLEASE SIGN-UP TO HOST COFFEE: WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN 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.

+ **PLEASE NOTE:** This Saturday is the first Saturday of Souls. Due to our space limitations, Ascension will not be holding services this year.

+ **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS** will take place on Sunday, March 17th at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago at 6:30 p.m. His Eminence, Metropolitan NATHANAEL is the homilist.

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prosphora:** Maria Karalis & Elaine Metropoulos

**Epistle Reader:** Bill Athenson

**Greeters:** Gust & Mary Gatsis

**Ushers:** Peter Venetos (UIC), Demetri Katsulis, Carol Stamas, Tom Kiriakos, Bill Athenson, Nick Marino, Tom Papastefan, Doug Hugdahl

## 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

## SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

The Sunday of the Prodigal Son reflects on a time of repentance and a return from exile. Exile relates to how we have strayed from God and "wasted with sinners the riches that Thou gavest." Great Lent itself is a pilgrimage, a return and a focus on repentance and asking God for forgiveness for our sins. As the Prodigal Son returned to his Father, we must return to our Father as well.

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

## Announcements

+ **TODAY, FEBRUARY 24th IS THE LAST DAY TO MAKE YOUR GLENDI RESERVATION.** The Apokreatiko Glendi takes place next Sunday, March 3, 2019, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. **Please be sure to make your reservations today during coffee fellowship.** Philoptochos will be accepting cash or checks. Appetizers begin at 4:30 p.m. with dinner buffet following at 5:30. There will be dinner, dancing, games, the basket venture and fun for all! Questions and reservations may also be directed to Andrea Rogers at 847.682.4816, abrogers3@gmail.com. Join us for this treasured event!

+ **ASCENSION ORTHODOX CATECHISM CLASSES RESUME THIS SATURDAY!** Ascension's Orthodox Catechism Class will resume this Saturday, March 2nd at the church house from 11:30 – 1. 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](mailto:suzannesaric@ascensiongoc.com). Subsequent classes take place on the following dates: 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.

+ **KIDS HELPING KIDS!** Our Sunday Church School ministry is participating in an important philanthropy project for the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund to raise money for ill or fragile children whose families are unable to afford the necessary medical treatment. This week and next, SCS children are selling delicious hot chocolate cone kits after Liturgy. Please support our kids as they are learning the true meaning of philanthropy by helping children of all backgrounds throughout the Metropolis. The Fund also provides grants for innovative pediatric research, special programs and hospitals throughout our Chicago Metropolis.

+ **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY CHORALE PRESENTS RACHMANINOFF'S ALL-NIGHT VIGIL,** the great masterpiece of Orthodox music on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Alice Millar Chapel, Evanston. Admission is free and the Ascension's own Grant Papastefan will be performing! Rachmaninoff composed his *All-Night Vigil* in 1915. By 1919 Russia's new Bolshevik government had begun a systematic persecution of the Russian Orthodox Church, and the work was not performed again in Russia for nearly 70 years. This time capsule from czarist Russia is not too be missed.

+ **FANARI AND IONIAN VILLAGE REGISTRATION DATES APPROACHING!** Ionian Village offers 2 sessions this summer for students currently in 9th—12th grade: June 22—July 11 and July 21—August 9. Registration opens March 1st at noon. Fanari Camp for children entering 6th grade through 11th grade in the fall of September 2019 opens March 5th at 12 p.m. and will be offering the following four sessions this summer: Session 1: June 16-22; Session 2: June 23-29; Session 3: July 7-13; Session 4: July 14-20.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Grades K-5 please join us for a Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party on Friday, March 8th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. at the house. We will continue on with this year's theme of the Parables of Jesus and our lesson will focus on the Parable of the Prodigal Son. We will also participate in a service project and assemble health kits for IOCC. Please RSVP to [faithjoyascension@gmail.com](mailto:faithjoyascension@gmail.com) if you are able to attend. See enclosed flyer for more information.

+ **OUR NEXT MARRIAGE MINISTRY EVENT** takes place on March 8th from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at Beerhead Bar and Eatery, located at 1270 South Milwaukee in Vernon Hills. The restaurant is in close proximity to church for those parents who want to drop their children off at the Faith/Joy meeting (see above) and join us for some fellowship! We look forward to a great turnout!

+ **THIS YEAR'S FAMILY SYNAXIS LENTEN RETREAT** will take place on Saturday, March 30th at St. Nicholas Church in Oak Lawn. The one-day retreat features speaker Elissa Bjeletich, author of *Blueprints for the Little Church*. Elissa converted to Orthodoxy in 1999 and now writes and speaks primarily on parenting and Christian Education. As a wife and mother of five daughters, she is devoted to helping parents nurture their children in an Orthodox home. The retreat features dynamic workshops for adults, interactive sessions for children, "coffee talks" for teens, childcare for babies, as well as inclusion programming for children with special needs. For more information, visit [www.GOCFamilySynaxis.org](http://www.GOCFamilySynaxis.org).

+ **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.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT** Our Philoptochos Chapter's February contributions included donations toward: Saint Photios Shrine, Autism Assistance Fund, and Underwriting of the Children's Medical Fund Luncheon.