

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Presentation in the First Mode

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Memorial Hymn

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have 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.

Ἀνελήφθῃς 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.

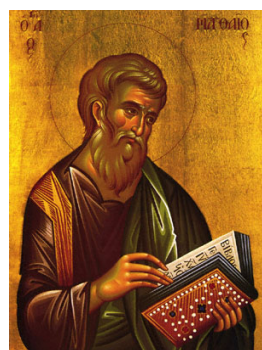
Seasonal Kontakion in the First Mode

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10.

Brethren, working together with Him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30



The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.'" As he said these things he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 3 - 10, 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

"Disbelief comes from pride. Proud people reckon they always know best, through their mind and through science, but knowledge of God is always beyond them, because God can be known only through revelation by the Holy Spirit. The Lord is revealed to humble souls. It is to these that He shows His works, which are incomprehensible to our mind. With our natural mind we can understand only earthly things and even these no more than partially, whereas God and the things in heaven are known through the Holy Spirit."

Saint Silouan the Athonite

Announcements

Weekly Calendar

Sunday	February 3	16th Sunday of Luke
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
	Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God:	
	Penelope Maheras (5 yrs), Panagioti Maheras (3 yrs)	
	Coffee Fellowship hosted by Sunday Church School	
	Families of Pre K – 3 rd grade	
Monday	February 4	
6 p.m.	Jr. GOYA	
7:30 p.m.	GOYA	
Tuesday	February 5	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
6:30 p.m.	Koinonia Men's Ministry Meeting, LightSource, Inc.	
	Vernon Hills	
Wednesday	February 6	
6 a.m.	Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study	
10 a.m.	HOPE	
Thursday	February 7	
10:30 a.m.	Bible Study	
6:15 p.m.	Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners	
7:45 p.m.	Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Saturday	February 9	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, St. Haralambos Church, Niles	
Sunday	February 10	Sunday of the Canaanite
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	St. Haralambos
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
11:30 a.m.	Philoptochos Meeting	
noon	SCS Teachers' Meeting	

+ **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 162 families that have pledged their time, talent and treasures to Ascension this year, but 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: Elaine Stevens & Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Jim Anast
Greeters: Jayne & Chris Chatzidakis
Ushers: Nick Marino UIC, Diane Sigalos, Mia Connolly, Tom Papastefan, Carol Stamas, Steve Sintetas, Mike Sutherland & 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

+ **WE EXTEND OUR WARMEST WELCOME** to Rev. Fr. George Lamberis, who is celebrating the Divine Liturgy today. May God grant you many years. Fr. Sotiri is at St. Demetrios, Elmhurst, today with his entire family to honor and celebrate the 50th anniversary of his father, Rev. Fr. Panagiotis K. Malamis', ordination to the priesthood! To this blessed milestone and this faithful servant of God, the Ascension Parish Family proclaims: **AXIOS!**

+ **ATTENTION ALL MEN OF ASCENSION (not just Koinonia Members): YOU'RE INVITED TO KOINONIA KICKOFF 2019** Join the Men's Ministry this Tuesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. as it approaches the new year from a spiritual and physical health perspective! *Koinonia has invited one of its very own -- Dr. Demetrios Kyriacou -- to present "Cardiovascular Health Strategies – Keeping Your Numbers Low."* Dr. Kyriacou is Professor of Emergency Medicine and Preventive Medicine at the Northwestern. He will team up with Fr. Sotiri to present this important topic from the integrated perspective of physical and spiritual well-being. The meeting, which includes a heart-healthy dinner, takes place at LightSource Unlimited, Vernon Hills. Please RSVP to Demetri Katsulis (847) 370-3719, dtk111@comcast.net

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY 2/6: 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: Matthew 15: 21-28 -- *The Gentile With Great Faith*. The following session will take place on February 20th. 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.

+ **ASCENSION'S BIBLE STUDY MINISTRY WILL MEET AT THE CHURCH HOUSE THIS THURSDAY:** Join us this Thursday, February 7th 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. Mark your calendar for the following Bible Ministry gatherings in February: 21 and 28.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS IS HOLIDNG ITS NEXT GENERAL MEETING** immediately after services next Sunday, February 10th. We will update everyone on upcoming events and hear about the Women's Health Initiative from Carol Stamas while enjoying a healthy snack. Please join us!

+ **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH:** 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.

+ **MEN'S KOINONIA COOKING EVENT** - Get your aprons ready! We're going to a Cooking Class at Tastebuds in Bannockburn. Saturday, 2/16, 4:30-6:30. \$65/person, in teams of 2. Spouses are welcome! Great fun and fellowship. Signup deadline is Wednesday 2/6. Class size is limited, so act fast! Contact Demetri Katsulis for more info dtk111@comcast.net, or (847) 370-3719.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON** on Thursday, February 21st at 12 noon at PUB 83 in Long Grove. Please RSVP by Friday, February 15 to Elaine Beck, 847.367.5227.

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT DINNER:** Save the date for this year's benefit dinner which takes place on Thursday, February 28th @ 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 is hoping to fill a table for the event.** Contact the office at 847.482.1200 with your reservation.

+ **DIVORCE REBUILDERS : SPRING OFFERING:** Saints Peter and Paul's Divorce Rebuilders is offering its program this spring at **St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church, Chicago**, starting on Monday, February 11th through March 16th from 7-8:30 p.m. Divorce Rebuilders offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. This group provides a place where one can learn, heal and rebuild from the hurt of divorce. Discussion, feedback and support are integral components of this program. In addition, the group participates in ongoing social activities. Leader: Maria Boyle, Counseling, Northwestern University. To enroll in this program, please email: sspp.divorcerebuilders@gmail.com and please note in the subject heading: *Divorce Rebuilders*. There is no cost for this program. "No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS INVITES YOU TO 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 will be available to download and print on the Philoptochos page of Ascension's website. Reservations will also be taken after Liturgy on Sundays. Questions and reservations may be directed to Andrea Rogers at 847.682.4816, abrogers3@gmail.com. Philoptochos is also seeking donations for this year's Basket Venture. For more information, contact Faye Kopplin at 847.561.2324, koppfm@gmail.com. Please join us!

+ **GREAT ESCAPE WINTER CAMP 2019** Registration is now open for Fanari Winter Camp 2019, which will be held March 22-24th at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The camp is open to 6th – 11th graders and is limited to 75 spaces on a first come first serve basis. To register, visit: <https://fanaricamp.wordpress.com/winter-camp-2019-registration>.