

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

### Apolytikion for Theophany Afterfeast in the First Mode

When Thou wast baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest; for the voice of the Father bare witness to Thee, calling Thee His beloved Son. And the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ our God, Who hast appeared and hast enlightened the world, glory be to Thee.

### Apolytikion of the Church in the First 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 Fourth Mode

You appeared to the world today, and Your light, O Lord, has left its mark upon us. With fuller understanding we sing to You: "You came, You were made manifest, the unapproachable light."

### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13.

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

### The Gospel of Matthew 4:12-17



At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN January 13 - 20, 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

*"Avoid harmful dealings and your soul will always be very calm."*

**Saint Efraim the Syrian**

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>January 13</b> Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Parish Vasilopita Cutting hosted by Philoptochos Coffee Fellowship hosted by Bill & Iliana Gaston Girls' Chanting Practice	<b>Sunday After Theophany</b> Dive for the Cross, Highland Park Rec Center Metropolis Vasilopita Cutting, SS Constantine & Helen
<b>Monday</b> 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<b>January 14</b> Jr. GOYA GOYA	
<b>Tuesday</b> 4:45 p.m.	<b>January 15</b> Greek School	
<b>Wednesday</b> 6 a.m. 10 a.m. 7 p.m.	<b>January 16</b> Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study HOPE Great Vespers, Chapel of St. Anthony @ Metropolis	
<b>Thursday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 11 a.m. 7 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	<b>January 17</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Senior Synaxis Meeting/Vasilopita Cutting Great Vespers, St. Athanasios, Aurora Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	<b>St. Anthony the Great</b>
<b>Friday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m.	<b>January 18</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy	<b>St. Athanasios the Great</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>January 20</b> Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke   St. Euthymios</b>

+ **CONSTRUCTION FUNDING UPDATE:** As we look toward occupying our new church by Pascha, we are within reach of our final funding to be in our new spiritual home debt-free: a final \$250,000 in new pledges needs to be raised, and a total of \$315,000 on existing pledges needs to be collected, to be mortgage-free. The time has come to donate if you have not yet donated. We need your help! Please consider donating today! Also, if you have had an existing pledge, but have not yet had an opportunity to fulfill it, we would be grateful if you were able to do so as soon as possible. Every dollar spent on paying down debt is money taken away from growing our ministries. Be sure to visit our website at [ascensiongoc.com](http://ascensiongoc.com) to view an exciting video tour of the construction progress to date of our new church! Please contact Fr. Sotirios at 847-482-1200, or by email at [frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:frsotirios@ascensiongoc.com), to donate today. Thank you.

+ **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 158 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:** Sofia Caronis & Mary Kakavas  
**Epistle Reader:** Bill Athenson  
**Greeter:** Elaine Stevens  
**Ushers:** Nick Marino UIC, Bill Athenson, Peter Venetos, Doug Hugdahl, David Rutkowski, Kathy Rutkowski, Bill Smirles, 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, Janet, Anthony, Fred, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Ignacio, Alexander

## Announcements

+ **OUR ANNUAL PARISH VASILOPITA CUTTING TRADITION**, hosted by Philoptochos, takes place directly following Liturgy. Philoptochos will be taking a collection to benefit St. Basil Academy in Garrison, NY, a group home for children in need.

+ **METROPOLIS VASILOPITA CUTTING THIS EVENING:** Please join Metropolitan Nathanael, Metropolis Clergy and fellow Orthodox Christians this evening for the 2019 Metropolis Vasilopita Cutting to be held at SS Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church, 11025 South Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL beginning at 6 p.m. The annual event benefits the children at St. Basil Academy, Garrison, NY, a group home for children in need.

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS ANNUAL VASILOPITA CUTTING** will take place on Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> @ 11 a.m. at LightSource Unlimited, 980 Corporate Woods Pkwy, Vernon Hills (224.543.4000). A light lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Elaine Beck at 847.367.5227 by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

+ **COFFEE HOUR APPEAL:** Coffee hour offers us a valuable opportunity each week to spend time in fellowship with each other after we worship together as a parish family. We appreciate everyone who has graciously hosted in the past. Let's keep the momentum going so we may keep this ministry vibrant! To host coffee fellowship with your family, or together with another family, please sign up via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you in advance for offering your love and commitment to this important ministry.

+ **THERE'S STILL ROOM FOR YOU TO JOIN US TODAY AT OUR 4th ANNUAL DIVE FOR THE CROSS EVENT** from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the Highland Park Rec Center Pool, 1207 Park Ave West. Diving is reserved for K-12th graders and is \$10 per diver. Divers should bring a swimsuit and towel. A parent or guardian must be present. We look forward to celebrating this historic tradition!

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY 1/16: 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 17:12-19: The Ten Lepers*. The following session will take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please RSVP to [david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com](mailto: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.

+ **MARRIAGE MINISTRY ANNOUNCES A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY:** Please join us on Thursday, January 24th at 6:30 p.m. to welcome Dr. Ary Christofidis back as the guest speaker at the annual Ascension Marriage Ministry speaking event. Dr. Christofidis is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a frequent visitor to Ascension who has led some very thought-provoking presentations for us the past few years. The event will be held at LightSource Unlimited, 980 Corporate Woods Pkwy, Vernon Hills. Please RSVP to Luke Jonson at [loukasjonson@gmail.com](mailto:loukasjonson@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you all there!

+ **GOYANS: Save the Date** for the 2019 Ascension GOYA Retreat at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center, January 25-26. Stay tuned for more information.

+ **PAN-ORTHODOX SACNTITY OF LIFE SERVICE:** Orthodox Christian Clergy Association is holding the Annual Pan-Orthodox Sanctity of Life Prayer Service and presentation on Sunday, January 20th @ 6:30p.m. SS. Peter & Paul Church in Burr Ridge.

+ **THE HELLENIC LETTERS LUNCHEON** "Αριστεῖον το Ἄγραφον" Awards Ceremony will take place on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Chateau Ritz in Niles. Please contact Maria Theodoropulu ([mariatheod@hotmail.com](mailto:mariatheod@hotmail.com)) if you are interested in attending.

+ **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE:** Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago and the Metropolis of Chicago Archons invite the faithful to a lecture and discussion entitled, "Existential Threats Confronting The Ecumenical Patriarchate: Why Americans Should Care." The presentation will take place on January 31<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m. at the University of Illinois I Hotel and Convention Center in Champaign, IL. For more information, see insert and/or please email [adpdeli@yahoo.com](mailto:adpdeli@yahoo.com)

+ **LOOKING FOR CAREGIVERS FOR YOUNG & OLD:** From time to time, Ascension's office receives requests from parents of young children as well as children of elderly parents who are looking for some assistance with sitting, carpooling/driving, and overall caregiving. Requests have ranged from needing assistance one day per week to needing full-time help. In order to assist our parish members in locating caregivers to interview, the office can keep a potential list of people who are interested in providing these services for children and for seniors. To be included as a caregiver, please send an email to [info@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:info@ascensiongoc.com) with your name, whether you are available to assist with youth or seniors; and, your general availability. Thank you!

+ **SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY SYNAXIS WOMEN'S RETREAT:** January 25-26, 2019, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The retreat leader is Mother Macrina of the Dormition of the Mother of God Orthodox Monastery in Rives Junction, Michigan. She has served the monastery for over 20 years, and is a warm and devout servant of God, and a gifted speaker. Registration is open via the Family Synaxis website, [www.gocfamilysynaxis.org](http://www.gocfamilysynaxis.org)

+ **SAVE THE DATE: FAMILY SYNAXIS MEN'S RETREAT:** February 22-23, 2019, Friday evening through Saturday afternoon at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center. The retreat leader will be Rev. Dr. Perry Hamalis. Stay tuned for more details.