

### 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 All Saints in the Fourth Mode

Adorned in the blood of Thy Martyrs throughout all the world as in purple and fine linen, Thy Church, though them, doth cry unto Thee, O Christ God: Send down Thy compassions upon Thy people; grant peace to Thy commonwealth, and great mercy to 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 Plagal Fourth Mode

As the first-fruits of our nature to the Planter of created things, the world presenteth the God-bearing martyred Saints in off'ring unto Thee, O Lord. Through their earnest entreaties, keep Thy Church in deep peace and divine tranquillity, through the pure Theotokos, O Thou Who art greatly merciful.

### The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2.

Brethren, all the saints 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. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

### The Gospel of Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN June 23 - 30, 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

*"He who wishes to overcome temptations without prayer and patient endurance will not succeed in driving them away, but will, in fact, become more entangled in them."*

St. Mark the Ascetic

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>June 23</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Memorial for Evangelos Simos (6 months) Philoptochos Board takes Oath of Office Girls' Chanting Practice Coffee Fellowship hosted by Parish Council	<b>All Saints</b>
<b>Monday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m.	<b>June 24</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy	<b>Nativity of St. John the Baptist</b> <b>Apostles Fast through 6.28.19</b>
<b>Thursday</b> 10 a.m.	<b>June 27</b> Fr. Sotiri serves Liturgy at the Greek American Rehab Center, Wheeling	
<b>Friday</b> 7 p.m.	<b>June 28</b> Great Vespers @ SS Peter & Paul Church, Glenview	
<b>Saturday</b> 8:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	<b>June 29</b> Orthros & Divine Liturgy @ SS Peter & Paul Church, Glenview Baptism: Polymnia Anna, Daughter of Jason and Vickie Diamond <i>Sponsors: Jason &amp; Vicki Vranas</i> Wedding: Katie Carson & Colin Hart <i>Sponsors: Matthew and Kristie Stegen</i> Great Vespers @ Holy Apostles Church, Westchester	<b>SS Peter &amp; Paul</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>June 30</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy	<b>Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles</b>

+ **THE APOSTLES FAST BEGINS TOMORROW** and lasts through Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>. Fish, wine and oil are permitted on all days except the strict fast days of Wednesday and Friday.

## The Apostles Fast

Orthodox Christians around the world observe four fasting seasons during the year: Great Lent, the Dormition Fast, the Nativity Fast and the Fast of the Apostles. In America the Fast of the Apostles is probably the least well known, but is among the oldest of Christian traditions. The fast begins the day after All Saints and ends with the observance of the Feast of SS. Peter and Paul, which is held on June 29. The length of the fast varies each year since the Sunday of All Saints varies according to Pascha. For faithful Orthodox today, the Fast of the Apostles can be an occasion for reflection upon the lives and example of the Holy Apostles. On the Sunday of All Saints, we remember and celebrate the lives of all those who have gone before us in the faith: our fathers, forefathers, the apostles, preachers, evangelists, teachers, hierarchs and martyrs. The readings which are appointed for that day (Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2, and Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30) remind us that countless worshippers of God have sacrificed their lives for the faith which we have inherited. The Apostles left behind their parents, their children, and their possessions in order to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to people who did not know Him. Christian missionaries around the world are still doing this today. During the Fast of the Apostles we are reminded to pray for them all, and for Orthodox mission everywhere.

*Source: Orthodox Christian Network: What is the Apostles Fast, June 17, 2014 (<http://myocn.net/what-is-the-fast-of-the-apostles/>)*

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Tasia Alexakos & Iliana Radaios  
**Epistle Reader:** Bill Athenson  
**Greeters:** Mary & Gust Gatsis  
**Ushers:** **Nick Marino (UIC)**, Tom Papastefan, Bill Athenson, David Rutkowski, Kathie Rutkowski, Steve Sintetas

## 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, Ignacio, Alexander, Anthony, Matina, Panagiotis, Evangelos, Paraschos, Stefanos

## Announcements

- + **A SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON JULY 7<sup>th</sup>**, following Liturgy in the newly renovated Fellowship Hall. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting.
- + **WEEKLY "SANCTUARY VIGIL LIGHT" DONATIONS** may be offered for the health of individuals, family members or in memory of departed loved ones. Vigil lights burn perpetually in the altar. A \$75.00 donation for each week's vigil lights is requested. Names will be acknowledged in the Sunday Bulletin. Call the Church Office to reserve your week.
- + **THE CHURCH IS OPEN DURING SERVICES** but not to daily regular traffic yet while interior work continues. We kindly ask that unless you are attending a service that was announced in the June parish calendar, please do not visit the church during the week until further notice. If you need to reach the office, please phone first as we will be transitioning between locations in the coming week. Thank you for your cooperation while we are settling into our new routines.
- + **HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AVAILABLE:** We have equipped our new church with a hearing assistance system. Please ask the ushers for a receiver and assistance.
- + **STEWARDSHIP 2019: PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION** We are home! What a blessing the last few weeks have been as we opened the doors to our new church and started a new, exciting chapter as a parish family. To echo Fr. Sotiri's words, our journey is not done - it's just beginning. Our ministries will now have the space to continue doing God's works and spreading His Word, but they will need help from every one of us whether through our unique talents, our treasures, or both to continue growing. What better way to demonstrate our thanks to God for making our new church home possible than by offering a portion of what He has blessed us with to support the Ascension parish in our new home. Be sure to pick up a stewardship card from the pews or the table in the Narthex!
- + **BOOKSTORE UPDATE** We've unpacked the boxes and the books are on the new bookshelves, but the bookstore isn't complete yet! We're still in the process of getting everything together, so until we're officially open please don't remove any of the books from the shelves. If you need help with anything, please see Caity Anast during coffee hour. We will be in need of more volunteers to help staff the bookstore after coffee hour on Sundays once we're open, if you're interested, contact Caity (anast1028@gmail.com), or call the church office.
- + **ATTENTION SENIOR SYNAXIS MEMBERS:** Please save the dates of July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> for Senior Synaxis summer ministry gatherings. More information will be forthcoming!
- + **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER:** Please consider hosting coffee fellowship after Liturgy with your family, or together with another family, so that we may continue our fellowship throughout the summer. Guidance for serving as well as recommendations for simple offerings can be found on our website. You may sign up online via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you!
- + **RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** Now that we are able to enjoy coffee fellowship in our spacious fellowship hall, we are looking for ways to build upon this important ministry of the church. If you are interested in volunteering to help those who are hosting with set up and clean up before and after Liturgy on Sunday mornings, please see Kathie Rutkowski after church, or email Kathie at kittyrut@sbcglobal.net.
- + **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT** Our Philoptochos Chapter's May & June contributions included donations toward: Jr Olympics, Bishop's Welfare Fund, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Founders Fund, Orthodox Christian Fellowship, Children's Medical Fund Luncheon Sponsorship, IOCC, The SEDOL Foundation, SOS Children's Villages IL, Support a Mission Priest, Project Mexico & St. Innocent Orphanage, Gary Sinise Foundation, Relief Fund for Greece, Selah's Freedom, and Hellenic Museum.
- + **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES: MID-SUMMER SOCIAL, FAMILY PICNIC, GOLF OUTING & MEN'S RETREAT:** Please add the following dates to your calendar and stay tuned to the website and bulletin for more information: Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>: Mid-Summer Social; Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>: Parish Family Picnic; Thursday, 9/19: Golf Outing at Chevy Chase, Wheeling; and, Saturday 10/19, 2nd Annual Men's Retreat at our new Church Home!