

### **Apolytikion for Pentecost in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Blessed art Thou, O Christ our God, Who hast shown forth the fishermen as supremely wise by sending down upon them the Holy Spirit, and through them didst draw the world into Thy net. O Befriender of man, glory be to Thee.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

Once, when He descended and confounded the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; and when He divided the tongues of fire, He called all men into unity; and with one accord we glorify the All-holy Spirit.

### **The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.**

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."



### **The Gospel of John 7:37-52; 8:12**

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

+ OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE ICONS PRINTED ON THE BULLETIN, PLEASE RECYCLE RATHER THAN DISCARD IN THE GARBAGE +

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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### **WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN**

**June 16 - 23, 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

*"Let us extol the grace of the Holy Spirit in spiritual hymns, since grace has, on this day, manifested itself to us from heaven. Even though our words are inadequate to express the magnitude of this grace, we shall praise its power and activity insofar as we're able. For the Holy Spirit delves into all things, even the profundities of divinity."*

*Excerpt from St. John Chrysostom Homily on Pentecost*

## Weekly Calendar

**REMINDER – This week is a FAST FREE WEEK due to the celebration of PENTECOST**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 16</b>	<b>Holy Pentecost</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	<b>Father's Day</b>
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling Prayers 40-Day Blessing, Son of Sarah and Trent Blasco Girls' Chanting Practice Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Blasco/Kotarinos Family	
7 p.m.	Great Vespers, Holy Trinity Church, Chicago	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>June 17</b>	<b>Monday of the Holy Spirit</b>
<b>Monday – Friday: Fr. Sotiri at Fanari Camp</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>June 20</b>	
5 p.m.	Wedding rehearsal	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>June 21</b>	
4 p.m.	Wedding: Catherine Athenson & Jesse Roberts <i>Sponsor: Maria Theodore</i>	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>June 22</b>	
11 a.m.	Enthronement of Archbishop Elpidophoros of America Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New York	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>June 23</b>	<b>All Saints</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Elaine Metropoulos & Elaine Stevens  
**Epistle Reader:** Kathie Rutkowski  
**Greeters:** Julia Economy  
**Ushers:** Peter Venetos (UIC), Bill Athenson, Frank Kazas, Demetri Katsulis, Carol Stamas, Nick Marino, Jeannie Thomas, Andrea Rogers, 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, Fred, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Ignacio, Alexander, Anthony, Matina, Panagiotis, Evangelos, Paraschos, Stefanos

## Announcements

- + **WE STILL STAND IN PRAYER TODAY DURING THE CONSECRATION** and will resume kneeling at the Kneeling Vespers, which follows the Divine Liturgy.
- + **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 from last week, 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!
- + **WE TRANSFORMED A BIG BALLROOM INTO OUR DOME SWEET HOME DINNER DANCE:** The timing couldn't have been more perfect last Sunday as we gathered in fellowship at Chevy Chase Country Club to celebrate the historic and momentous events that transpired days prior at our beloved new church. We extend our gratitude to Lisa Karkazis and her committee for choosing a wonderful venue and creating a beautiful and truly celebratory atmosphere. Thank you also to the generous donors and to all who attended this festive occasion. As we move forward into all the "new" aspects of parish life, let the memorable moments we just witnessed together as a parish family continue to enlighten and invigorate us.
- + **A LITTLE BIT OF CHURCH HOUSEKEEPING:** As we settle into our new home and thank God for the overall smooth transition, our attention is focused on areas that need adjustment. To list just a few... Please be assured that we are working on the air-conditioning and other aspects of making our worship space comfortable. Ushers will be available on the solea steps to ensure your safety during Holy Communion. Please maintain the reverent atmosphere when exiting the church after receiving Antidoron. If needed, our new "cry room" as well as the chapel are available to our parents with young children. Please do not park on the grass or nearby residential streets. Our offices are still located next door as work continues during the week on the interior of the building so 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. Thank you for your cooperation while we are settling in to 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.
- + **WE WISH ALL OF OUR YOUTH ATTENDING FANARI CAMP SESSIONS AS WELL AS IONIAN VILLAGE THIS SUMMER** an uplifting, safe, fun and blessed experience. May God grant you safe travels and spiritually guide you while you are away from home.
- + **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!
- + **ASCENDING INTO ORTHODOXY** Women's Bible Study Ministry will not be meeting during the summer months. The group will resume in September. Details will be forthcoming later this summer.
- + **THE GREEK FEST SEASON IS UP AND RUNNING:** Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greek-style!  
June 14 -16: St. Demetrios, Elmhurst  
June 15 - 16: Assumption Church, Chicago  
June 15-16: St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn  
June 21 -23: Annunciation, Chicago  
June 21-23: Annunciation, Milwaukee, WI  
June 21-23: Kimissis Tis Theotokou, Racine, WI  
June 21-23: Holy Cross Greek Fest, Justice  
June 21-23: St. Nectarios, Palatine

## Feast of Pentecost

Every Feast Day in the Orthodox Church is beautifully unique and brings with it great depth and symbolism. The same is true of Pentecost, with its annual Kneeling Prayers. The Feast Day of Pentecost marks the end of the Paschal period and returns us now to the ordinary time in our cycle of the Church year. According to the late Father Alexander Schmemmann, in the Pentecostal Prayers, we are invited to kneel and it's our first kneeling since Pascha. The joy of Pascha has been completed and we once again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy, presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Just like the Apostles on Pentecost, we gain strength from the Holy Spirit to seek Divine help in our daily lives.

All of this is revealed in the three prayers that are read as we all kneel. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance and increased appeal for forgiveness of sins. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.