

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Apolytikion of St. Nicholas Planas in the First Mode

Let us praise our protector, the godly Nicholas; * as one endowed with blest virtue, he shone forth as a true priest * of the Most High God, and was His fervent worshipper. * For, by his holy life on earth, * he hath left us most sublime, divine and unfeigned teachings * of long-suffering, meekness, patience, unfeigned humility and true Godlike love.

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.

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 First Mode

O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2.

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

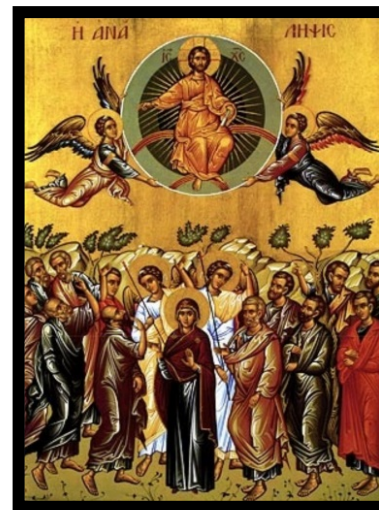
Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46



The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in His glory and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN March 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

"...The day will come when we shall stand before God and be judged, but as long as our pilgrimage continues, as long as we live in the process of becoming, as long as there is ahead of us this road that leads to the full measure of the stature of Christ which is our vocation, judgment must be pronounced by ourselves."

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	March 3 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for the Souls of the Servants of God: Mary Kelly (1 yr) and Anton Axotis (19 years) Coffee Fellowship hosted by Dee Christ & Family Girls' Chanting Practice 4:30 p.m. Apokreatiko Glendi, Concorde Banquets, Kildeer	Judgement Sunday Meatfare Sunday
Monday 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	March 4 Jr. GOYA Pizza and Trivia Night @ church House GOYA Pizza and Trivia Night @ church House	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	March 5 Greek School	
Wednesday 6 a.m. 10 a.m.	March 6 Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study HOPE Cheesefare Lunch	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	March 7 Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Friday 6:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	March 8 Faith/Joy Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party Marriage Ministry, Beerhead Bar/Eatery, Vernon Hills	
Saturday	March 9 2nd Saturday of Souls 40 Holy Martyrs	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	March 10 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers, St. Haralambos Church, Niles	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Sunday

+ **LENT BEGINS MONDAY, MARCH 11th.** The Ascension of Our Lord wishes you a blessed and reflective Lenten journey. Due to space and parking restrictions in our temporary home, many of the services traditionally offered at Ascension throughout Lent will not take place this year. Please stay tuned to our bulletin, E-Newsletter and website for more information on the location of Holy Week services as well as other announcements related to this most sacred season.

+ **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: Elaine Stevens & Iliana Radaios

Epistle Reader: Katherine Schreiber

Greeters: Anna & Rick Duros

Ushers: Nick Marino (UIC), Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, David Rutkowski, Jeannie Thomas, 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, Janet, Anthony, Fred, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Ignacio, Alexander, Anthony

STEWARDSHIP WISDOM

"If you help a poor person in the name of the Lord, you are making a gift and at the same time granting a loan. You are making a gift because you have no expectation of being reimbursed by that poor person. You are granting a loan because the Lord will settle the account. It is not much that the Lord receives by means of the poor, but He will pay a great deal on their behalf. "They who are kind to the poor lend to the Lord." (Proverbs 19:17)

St. Basil the Great

Announcements

+ **FANARI CAMP REGISTRATION MOVED TO MARCH 19th:** Fanari Camp for children entering 6th grade through 11th grade in the fall of September 2019 opens March 19th at 11 a.m. at FANARI.ORG 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.

+ **THIS WEDNESDAY 3/6: 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 6: 14-21: Forgiveness, Fasting and Trusting in God. 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. Future sessions will take place on: March 20th, April 3rd and April 17th.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Grades K-5 please join us for a Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party this 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 if you are able to attend.

+ **OUR NEXT MARRIAGE MINISTRY EVENT** takes place this Friday, 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!

+ **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 is the last Sunday 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 9th 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 to be missed.

+ **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.

+ **ATTENTION 7th -12th GRADERS – ORATORICAL FESTIVAL:** Don't miss the opportunity to show your God-given talents as a writer, speaker, artist and vocalist (new this year) by participating in the 2019 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. If you are in 7th – 12th grade, you are encouraged to participate in this program, which gives you the opportunity for reflection leading into the Lenten season. **Submissions are due to the church office by March 15th.** Please contact John Anton, our Parish coordinator, with questions at johnlanton@hotmail.com. All of the details, including this year's interesting topics, can be found on the Youth Pages of our website.

+ **CELEBRATION OF BOOKS** - The annual celebration of books will take place at Holy Apostles Church in Westchester beginning Monday, March 25th with the theme, "Being Sanctified by God's Grace." This year's keynote speakers will be the Very Reverend Dr. Josiah Trenham, St. Andrew Orthodox Church, Riverside CA; and, Rev. Fr. Nicholas Palis from St. Nicholas Church, Bethlehem, PA. For more information, see insert and/or visit: www.holyapostleschurch.com

+ **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR A HISTORIC FAMILY DINNER DANCE** to celebrate the completion of our glorious new House of Worship! Appropriately called *DOME SWEET HOME*, this celebration will take place on June 9, 2019, at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling the Sunday after Ascension's Feast Day! The event will feature fun activities for the entire family and promises to be a spectacular event celebrating the fulfillment of a dream come true: Our Faith + Our Church + Our Legacy. The time is drawing near for us to be home under our beautiful new dome. Stay tuned, as more details will be revealed soon!