

### **Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

### **Apolytikion for Thomas Sun. in the Grave Mode**

Whilst the tomb was sealed, Thou, O Life, didst shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and whilst the doors were shut, Thou didst come unto Thy disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Thy great mercy.

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

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

### **The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20.**

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

### **The Gospel of John 20:19-31**



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to

Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

## Resurrection Hymn

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωήν χαρισάμενος.

Christos anesti eknekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin charisamenos

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

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### WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

May 5 - 12, 2019

**Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!**  
**Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!**

## 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

*"Thomas surely was not of bad faith, nor did he believe easily. He was careful, outspoken, genuine, solid, honest and true. It was who he was. His good unbelief made Christ come to him. Christ offered Himself to him for his sincerity. He did not rebuke him, who asked to see Him, to touch Him. But eventually He blessed those who will not see and yet believe."*

*A Reflection on today's Gospel reading by Monk Moses of the Holy Mountain*

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 5</b>	<b>Sunday of Thomas</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	
2 p.m.	Chicago Greek Heritage Parade in Greektown, Halsted Street	
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May 6</b>	
5:30 p.m.	Jr. GOYA/GOYA @ Greek American Rehab Center, Wheeling	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>May 7</b>	
4:45 p.m.	Greek School	
6:30 p.m.	Thyranoixia Planning Committee Meeting	
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>May 8</b>	
6 a.m.	Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study	
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>May 9</b>	
6:15 p.m.	Adult Intermediate/Advanced Greek School	
7:45 p.m.	Adult Beginner Greek School	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>May 10</b>	
6:30 p.m.	Faith/Joy Meeting	
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>May 11</b>	
	St. John Chrysostomos Oratorical Festival, Assumption Church, Missouri	
11 a.m.	Baptism, Isabella Dionysia, daughter of Matthew & Athena Wegrzyn	
	<i>Sponsors: Daniel Slania and Jennie Slania</i>	
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>May 12</b>	<b>Sunady of Myrrh-Bearing Women</b>
8:15 a.m.	Orthros	<b>Mother's Day</b>
9:15 a.m.	Sunday Church School	
9:30 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	

## Our Sunday Volunteers

**Prospora:** Maria Karalis & Mary Kakavas  
**Epistle Reader:** Jim Anast  
**Ushers:** Nick Marino (UIC), Doug Hugdahl, Carol Stamas, Tom Papastefan, Demetri Katsulis, Mike Sutherland, Jeannie Thomas, Diane Sigalos

## 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

- + **CHRISTOS ANESTI! MAY OUR RISEN LORD** continue to bless and spiritually strengthen Ascension of Our Lord and each and every member of our Parish. We thank you most sincerely for all of your monetary donations as well as the contributions of time and creative talent you gave to our beloved Ascension throughout Great Lent and Holy Week.
- + **GREEK HERITAGE PARADE TODAY: ALL ARE INVITED** to join us this afternoon as we participate for the first time as a parish in the Greek Heritage parade and show our pride in our Greek Orthodox heritage! We have been assigned position #23 in the parade. Please allow ample time to find parking and meet us on Randolph, west of Halsted, promptly at 1:30 p.m. Participants will be lined up in order of their position in the parade. Our youth are encouraged to dress in traditional Greek costumes, or wear blue and white.
- + **IMPORTANT PARKING ANNOUNCEMENT AT CHURCH HOUSE:** If you are visiting the church house, please park only on the driveway. We can no longer use the gravel lot located between the house and the church. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your cooperation!
- + **YOU ARE INVITED TO 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 4:30 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Country Club in Wheeling the Sunday after Ascension's Feast Day! If you did not receive an invitation, please call the church office. 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!
- + **THE JR. GOYA AND GOYA VISIT TO THE GREEK AMERICAN REHABILITATION CENTER** is tomorrow, Monday, May 6th. We will gather on the first floor at 5:30 p.m. and visit the residents on each floor singing "Christos Anesti", and present each a handmade gift followed by a fellowship dinner. The residents look very forward to our visit each year!
- + **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*: Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8: Joseph of Arimathea; The Empty Tomb. Please RSVP to david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com and mark your calendars for the next session on 5/22.
- + **THE PHILOPTOCHOS BAKE SALE COMMITTEE** would like to thank all of our dedicated bakers and volunteers for making this year's bake sale a success. We greatly appreciate your time and talents! We also thank the congregation for their continued loving support of our efforts.
- + **THE PHILOPTOCHOS PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE** wishes to thank everyone who participated in the "Feed the Hungry" event, which took place this past Tuesday, April 30th at Annunciation **Cathedral** in Chicago. We would like to especially thank the women and men who volunteered to serve and clean up, as well as underwrite the luncheon expenses and a take-away bag which included another meal and other essential items. We extend a special "thank you" to the Demet family and Graziano's restaurant for their donation of beautifully prepared and tasty Greek chicken and potatoes. In all, we fed approximately 100 hungry people. Your generosity of time, talents and treasures makes this worthwhile event possible every year.
- + **ATTENTION SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS: PLEASE BRING YOUR OCMC COIN BOXES** to church as soon as possible.
- + **JR. OLYMPICS REGISTRATION FORMS NEEDED BY MAY 9th!** Jr. Olympics (for ages 7-18) takes place Memorial Day weekend and registration forms, signed by parents and participants, are required in order to meet the Metropolis deadline. You can download the forms off of our website. Return the forms ASAP to Dino Bolos via text picture or email (cell 708-203-6547; dinobolos@yahoo.com); or, stop by and see Dino after Liturgy today at the Jr. Olympics table to complete and/or turn in your forms. Also, blue Ascension shirts will be worn this year. If you or your child needs to order a shirt, please email or speak to Dino as soon as possible. For more information including scholarship opportunities, visit the youth pages of our website.
- + **KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY SAVE THE DATES:** Thursday, 9/19: Golf Outing at Chevy Chase, Wheeling. Saturday 10/19, 2nd Annual Men's Retreat at our new Church Home!
- + **STEWARDSHIP 2019: PUT YOUR FAITH IN ACTION** - Stewardship is our opportunity to give thanks to God for all He has provided us by sharing our time, talents, and treasures. What better way to demonstrate our thanks and faith in God than by offering a portion of what God has blessed us with to support His ministries and churches. We're thankful to the 260 families that have already pledged their time, talents, and treasures to Ascension for 2019! If you and your family have not yet made your pledge, please pick up a stewardship packet near the candle stand and prayerfully consider how you can support Christ's ministries at Ascension.

## Did You Know?

**DO YOU KNOW why we don't kneel between the Feast Days of Pascha and Pentecost?** To answer this, let's find out why we kneel at all. Kneeling, bowing and prostrations were conducted even in the Old Testament as a sign of deep prayer, repentance, lamentation and devout respect and worship. Even Jesus knelt before His Passion in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:29). According to a canon by the First Ecumenical Council, we are not to kneel between Pascha and Pentecost because of the "brilliant solemnity of the events which the Church commemorates" after Christ's Resurrection. We celebrate His third day Resurrection and therefore do not need to lament. St. Basil teaches us that by standing, we are reminded that we have risen from the dead together with Christ and we ought to seek the things above. Of course, the same prayers are said with reverence and fervor during this most Holy Consecration portion of the Liturgy. (Source: Orthodox Christian Information Center)