

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the First Mode

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the Fourth Mode

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Second Mode

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9.

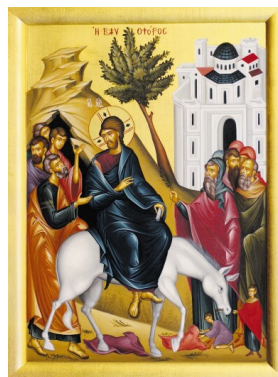
BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

The Gospel of John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with Him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples (he who was to betray Him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that He was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom He had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of Him and had been done to Him. The crowd that had been with Him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Him was that they heard He had done this sign.

On behalf of Fr. Sotirios Malamis, the Parish Council and the Ascension of Our Lord Parish Family, we wish you a blessed and merciful Holy Week at home this year. May you feel the light of Christ in your heart as we approach these sacred days of our Lord.
Kali Anastasi!



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN April 12 - 19, 2020

"The coronavirus is reminding us about a few central aspects of life:

- *Our best protection: GOD*
- *Our best refuge: HOME*
- *Our best company: FAMILY*
- *Our real time: TODAY*

We are not gods, we are not kings, we do not have the power to control everything. We are part of a whole, fragile, brittle and vulnerable world. Part of a whole something that we wanted to dominate, yet today the world is telling us: Stop, breathe, respect. Let's go back to the basics, to the essentials. Turn back to the Creator of All, our Lord God, and allow His peace that "transcends all understanding" to dwell richly in us. We are in His hands. He is in control. Let us find peace in Him."

Excerpt from insights shared this week from
Fr. Luke Veronis. Pastor of Sts. Constantine & Helen Church, Webster, MA.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	April 12 Orthros Divine Liturgy Service of the NYMPHIOS – Service of the Bridegroom	Palm Sunday
Monday 8:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	April 13 9 th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Service of the NYMPHIOS – Service of the Bridegroom	Holy Monday
Tuesday 8:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	April 14 9 th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Service of the NYMPHIOS – Service of the Bridegroom – Hymn of Kassiani	Holy Tuesday
Wednesday 8:30 a.m. 7 p.m.	April 15 9 th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Holy Thursday Matins	Holy Wednesday
PLEASE NOTE: <i>The Sacrament of Holy Unction service will take place once we are blessed to worship together again in our church.</i>		
Thursday 8:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	April 16 Vesperal-Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper The Reading of the 12 Gospels and Procession of the Crucified Christ	Holy Thursday
Friday 8 a.m. 10 a.m. 7 p.m.	April 17 Great Hours <i>Apokathelosis</i> Service (Un-nailing of Christ from the Cross) Epitaphios Service of the Lamentations	Good Friday
Saturday 8 a.m. 10 p.m.	April 18 Proti-Anastasi (Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great) Resurrection Service and Paschal Divine Liturgy	Holy Saturday
PLEASE NOTE: <i>The service will begin at 10 p.m. with “Come Receive the Light” “Δεύτε Λάβετε Φώς,” followed by the reading of the Gospel, the chanting of “Christ Is Risen”, the Orthros of Pascha, and the Divine Liturgy</i>		
Sunday 11 a.m.	April 19 AGAPE Vespers	GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

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, Alexander, Anthony, Matina, Panagiotis, Evangelos, Paraschos, Chris, Bill, Don, Hariklia, Evgenia, Justin, Ignacio

Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life!

Do not permit the spirit of laziness, curiosity, lust of power and idle talk to come into me.

Rather, grant me your servant, the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love.

Yes, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own faults and not judge my brothers and sisters,

For You are blessed now and unto the ages of ages.

Announcements

+ **AN UPDATE FROM OUR HEALTH & SAFETY TASK FORCE:** Over the last few days in Lake County, tracking data has shown a large jump in new Covid-19 cases. The Illinois Department of Public Health is urging people to stay home and not leave unless it is absolutely essential. With Holy Week and Pascha approaching, we must, now more than ever, continue our practice of 'Social Distancing'. It is natural to want to be with our extended families and friends at this special time, however please don't. Please wait until that time when we can again gather together in our Church in prayer and rejoice in the Resurrection of our Risen Lord. Remember to "Spread the Word NOT the Virus".

+ **STAY IN TOUCH WITH ASCENSION'S COVID-19 RESOURCE PAGE** for the latest updates, resources, spiritual reflections and correspondence from Fr. Sotiri and our Hierarchs. This week, activities and ideas were added to help support and engage us in worship as we journey through Holy Week and celebrate Pascha in our homes. www.ascensiongoc.com/news/covid-19-resource-page

+ **ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS TO HOLD VIRTUAL TOWN HALL TOMORROW, THE SATURDAY OF LAZARUS** April 11th at 2 p.m. CST to express his pastoral love and support to the faithful as Holy Week commences. Although the webinar will be simulcast on the Archdiocese YouTube and Facebook channels, you must be registered for the webinar to ask a question. To register, visit <https://bit.ly/pastoral-word>.

+ **THE OFFICE IS AVAILABLE TO YOU FOR ASSISTANCE:** Please call 847.482.1200 or contact us by email (info@ascensiongoc.com). Although our staff is working from their homes, messages are returned promptly.

+ **MINISTRIES ARE MINISTERING ONLINE!** We are blessed that the ministry work at our parish continues with tenacity and technology. Please keep an eye on the Parish Google Calendar on our website homepage for the most up-to-date calendar. It's never too late to join one of Ascension's ministries!

+ **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP: ENCOUNTER THE WORD:** Join us for our next Bible Study on Wednesday, April 29 at 6 a.m. More details to follow.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS:** As we approach Palm Sunday and Holy Week, Philoptochos hopes your Lenten journey has been both spiritual and reflective. It has certainly been a time we will remember for many years to come. We continue to pray that all parish families are well and making the best of social distancing and quarantining during this difficult time. God willing, we will be back to normal soon. As a reminder, if you are need of assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to any Philoptochos Board Member. You can reach me (Andrea Rogers) at 847-682-4816. Philoptochos volunteers are ready to help! In the meantime, wishing you a Blessed Holy Week and may God continue to keep us strong. Kalo Pascha to all.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: MARCH and APRIL DONATIONS INCLUDE:** Orthodox Christian Missions, Support a Mission Priest, Hellenic College Holy Cross, Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Philanthropy Fund, St. Iakovos Retreat Center, Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy, International Orthodox Christian Charities, Bishop's Welfare Fund, 75th Anniversary Founders Fund, and Orthodox Christian Fellowship. We thank our generous donors for contributions made on Missions Sunday.

+ **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR KATHERINE SCHREIBER:** To SCS teachers, aides, parents and children: These challenging times have put all of us to the test, but we remain strong in our faith. We may not be together in person, but we are together in our hearts. I pray you all stay safe and observe the Livestream Services of Holy Week with your families. The schedule of services, as well as wonderful activities our families can do together during Holy Week, are posted on Ascension's COVID-19 webpage. May your Lenten journey culminate in joy with the Resurrection of Our Lord. Καλή Ανάσταση

+ **GREEK SCHOOL CALENDAR UPDATE:** Please note the following schedule until further notice:
TUESDAYS: 4:00 pm -1st Grade & 5th/6th Grade | 4:45 pm -2nd Grade | 5:30 pm -3rd/4th grade
WEDNESDAYS: 5 p.m.: PreK and K

+ **POSTPONED or CANCELLED:** The following events have either been cancelled or postponed. Stay tuned for updated information in light of the rapidly changing developments with COVID-19.

Philoptochos Bake Sale (cancelled)	Jr. Olympics (cancelled)
Philoptochos Veterans' Dinner (postponed)	Metropolis Inaugural Servant Banquet (postponed to 11/6)
Ascension Youth Lenten Retreat (cancelled)	Ionian Village (cancelled)
Ascension Youth Plant Sale (cancelled)	Lighthouse Camp (postponed)
Oratorical Festival (Submission date postponed to 4/29)	Patriarch Visit to U.S. (cancelled)
	National Clergy-Laitv Conference (postponed)

+ **ALL HOLY WEEK SERVICES WILL BE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE** Per the directive of His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael, and in accordance with Civil Authorities, there can only be a maximum of 4 people in Churches for Holy Week, Pascha and Bright Week services. Thus, the church doors will be locked during these services. To enable you to participate from home, Ascension will stream the services live on our website; on our Facebook Page; and on our YouTube channel. You may access all platforms as well as a schedule of services at www.ascensiongoc.com/livestream.

Furthermore, per an April 6, 2020 communiqué issued by the Holy Eparchial Synod, there will be no distribution of the traditional material offerings to the faithful, including palms, candles, Holy Unction, Holy Communion, Holy Confession, flowers, eggs and the Paschal Light.

Please understand that these directives are for the protection of the faithful during the COVID-19 health crisis.