

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Mode

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

### Apolytikion for Apodosis of the Dormition in the First Mode

You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

### 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.

### Apolytikion of St. Katherine (Protectress of our Chapel)

Let us praise and extol the all-lauded Bride of Christ,\* the Protectress of Sinai, divine Saint Katherine,\* as the one who gives aid and her assistance to us;\* for she brilliantly suppressed the impious orators,\*with the sword of the Spirit.\* And being crowned as a martyr,\* she asks that all receive the great mercy

### Seasonal Kontakion in the Second Mode

The Theotokos is undying in intercession.\* Immovable is our hope in her for protection. \* Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. \* As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, \* the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb.

### The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 9:2-12.

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

### The Gospel of Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN August 23 - 30, 2020

### Spiritual Reflection

*“The answer to our anxiety is not drugs, alcohol, tranquilizers or psychiatric treatment. It will not be cured by Yoga or some new age or eastern meditation practice. The problem is that we have lost God as the center of our lives. Once we make our love of God the primary focus of our lives and allow His grace to work through us, then no matter what circumstance we encounter in life we will be comforted and embraced in His love. All anxiety disappears. This is the aim of the Orthodox way of life - **To put God first and seek the Holy Spirit.** The anxieties of modern life are only symptoms of our separation from God.”*

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>August 23</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>
<b>Wednesday</b> noon	<b>August 26</b> COVID Parish Safety Team Zoom Meeting	
<b>Saturday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 5 p.m.	<b>August 29</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Vespers	<b>Beheading of St. John the Baptist</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	<b>August 30</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Youth Ministry Kick-Off	<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>

## Stewardship in COVID-19 Times

It is very clear that times are difficult for our parishes and more so with our sister churches that depend on dedicated fundraising events to meet their operating budgets and support their ministries. Dinner Dances, Golf Outings and Greek Festivals are the sources of financing up to 50% of their budget for many sister communities. For our Ascension community that has little dependence on fundraising events, our stewardship contributions are immensely important.

We are also depending on tray and candle donations but with services with limited worshipping population, these sources depend heavily on online giving through our website portal. If you have not done so, please explore this method as part of your virtual worshipping experience.

Please also consider to be more generous with your stewardship of treasures to help our community operate without deficits until we get back to pre-virus times. Please also reach out to people you know who have supported our Ascension community in the past and ask them to pledge online to consider supporting their beloved parish now more than ever. Thank you.

current health & safety protocols and duties. If you are interested in serving the church in this important role, please call Parish Council President Nick Marino at 847.508.5800 or the office. We thank our current ushers for all they do -- especially at the present time with all of the measures they are taking to enable us to worship safely in our church!

+ **SIGN UP FOR ONLINE GIVING:** Please note that until further notice, trays will not be passed; change is not available in the Narthex and all donations brought to church must be placed inside an envelope. In an effort to minimize the handling and exchanging of currency inside the church, please consider making your one-time or recurring gifts electronically! Ascension offers easy, safe and secure electronic giving through our **WEBSITE** [ascensiongoc.com/giving/](http://ascensiongoc.com/giving/); **MOBILE APP:** [ascensiongoc.com/ascension-app/](http://ascensiongoc.com/ascension-app/); and **TEXT TO GIVE:** simply text the word "Give" to 847.443.9995 and follow the one-time set up prompts. We thank you in advance.

+ **HELP THOSE IN NEED BY SUPPORTING THE ORTHODOX STORE** Ascension is participating in a new Metropolis of Chicago humanitarian outreach ministry to aid parishioners in need and others in nearby locations. Ascension volunteers can create and donate COVID Kits, Care Kits, Dinner Bags, Non-Perishable Food items & Jewel Gift Cards for weekly drop off at Ascension in tubs located at the east entrance. The kits will be distributed throughout our parish community and to families and individuals in need throughout the Greater Chicagoland area. Please visit our website for more information and to sign up! Questions about this new ministry may be directed to [ascensionorthodoxstore@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionorthodoxstore@gmail.com) **Jewel Gift Cards** are especially appreciated at this time – any denomination is welcome!

## Ushers

**David Rutkowski, UIC.** Peter Venetos, Carol Stamas, Steve Sintetas, Nick Marino, Bruce Carlson, Frank Kazas

## 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, Kevin, Andreas

## Stewardship

We thank the 288 families that have pledged \$386,633 to date to support our Ascension parish. Please join these stewards and submit your pledge online today at [ascensiongoc.com/stewardship](http://ascensiongoc.com/stewardship)

+ **USHERS NEEDED** - Everyone has the talent to smile and help people! With the added safety measures due to the pandemic, we have a need for more Usher support during our services. Ushers are assigned on a rotating basis and will be fully briefed on Ascension's

## Announcements

+ **YOUTH MINISTRY KICKOFF NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 30<sup>th</sup>:** Attention all 6<sup>th</sup>-12 graders! Please join us after Divine Liturgy next week to kick off the new school year with food, fun and games! Bring a change of clothes and your masks! Pre-packaged food will be provided. For questions and to RSVP, contact Justin Glavanovits @ [justinglav@ascensiongoc.com](mailto:justinglav@ascensiongoc.com).

+ **REGISTRATION DEADLINE EXTENDED TO AUGUST 27<sup>th</sup> FOR ASCENSION'S YOUTH & ADULT/ADOLESCENT GREEK SCHOOL** The first semester of the 2020-21 Ascension Greek School program will operate remotely via Zoom meetings that will promote organized and structured distance learning. This decision was made based on current health and safety protocols issued by local and state governments and the Metropolis of Chicago, as well as feedback from our Greek School families and students of our Adult Greek School program. The decision to return to in-person learning later in the year will be evaluated in light of current health and safety protocols. Presently, distance learning will provide continuity to our Greek School program and is an excellent and safe way to enable our students to continue making progress in learning the Greek language. More information is available on the [Greek School webpage](#). Online registration is open until Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. Register for the youth program [HERE](#) and the Adult/Adolescent program [HERE](#).

+ **SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT COMING SOON** Stay tuned for an announcement about plans currently being made for the Sunday Church School ministry.

+ **ENCOUNTER THE WORD MEN'S BIBLE MINISTRY WILL RESUME** this fall on Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6 a.m. via Zoom. After a brief summer hiatus, the Bible Study Group is eager to resume studying God's Word. We will continue exploring the Acts of the Apostles. Please join us on this journey as it is truly a blessed way to begin the day!

+ **SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS YEAR'S MEN'S RETREAT:** October 17, 2020. More information to follow!

+ **PHILOTOCHOS UPDATES:**

- **Please join Philoptochos members** for a combined "Celebration of Giving" and Fall Kick-off Meeting and Luncheon on Saturday, September 12 at 12:30pm. This year's event will be held at Dover Straits, Mundelein. Social distancing and capacity constraints will be in place so reservations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. Please rsvp to [ascensionphilo@gmail.com](mailto:ascensionphilo@gmail.com), if you are able to attend. In support of the *Operation Classroom* initiative, school supplies for under-funded schools will be collected at the meeting or can be dropped off at Church in the boxes outside the office marked Operation Classroom
- **Ascension 1<sup>st</sup> Women's Retreat - Saturday, October 3** The theme will be *A Life Beyond Amazing: Understanding the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit*. Please join your Sisters in Christ for a day of in person fellowship and enlightenment as we learn to draw upon the Holy Spirit within us to strengthen and guide us through these challenging times and beyond. The retreat will begin at 8 a.m. and will be held in Church. Please save the date and stay tuned for further details.
- **Metropolis VIRTUAL Fundraiser – September 19:** The annual Metropolis Fall Fundraiser (in lieu of the luncheon) will be a virtual event live streamed from the Iakovos Retreat Center. **Scatter Kindness is this year's theme, which will take place from noon - 1:30pm.** Though this year's event will be quite different, the commitment to benefit charities remains the same. "No Kid Hungry", the Iakovos Retreat Center and Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Endeavors will be the recipients of this year's charitable giving. Virtual ticket reservations are available for \$25. Please call Pat Gerbanas (773) 415.7818 or Christina Hiotis (847) 699.7463 to reserve your spot. Raffle tickets and sponsorships are available for those interested. Checks should be made payable to Metropolis of Chicago.

+ **PLEASE SUPPORT OPERATION CLASSROOM**, a National Philoptochos initiative designed to offer assistance to teachers and students in underfunded communities. This year, we are collecting new school supplies for an elementary school in Waukegan IL. Supplies requested include pencils (#2 and colored), tissues, hand sanitizer, vinyl folders, wide-ruled spiral notebooks, yellow highlighters, glue sticks, crayons, markers, sticky notes, dry erase markers, pink erasers and disinfecting wipes. Please bring the items to the church Monday-Friday 9am to 3 pm by September 13, 2020. There are boxes marked Operation Classroom in the foyer of the front entrance. Contact Faye Kopplin at [koppfm@gmail.com](mailto:koppfm@gmail.com) or 847-561-2324 with any questions.

+ **GOT AN OLD IPAD HANGING AROUND AT YOUR HOUSE?** We are seeking an iPad to help with control of the camera and our streaming technology. If anyone has an old iPad they are not using anymore and wishes to donate it to the office, it will be put to good use! Please contact the office for more information.