

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

### Apolytikion for Apodosis of the Forerunner in the Second Mode

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more ven'erable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

### 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.

### 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 Fourth Mode

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

### The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 15:1-11.

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

### The Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

## Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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## WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN August 30 – September 6, 2020

### Spiritual Reflection

*“Keep our faith, which is eternal and beyond doubt.”*

St. Luke the Doctor

## Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>August 30</b> <b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy Memorial for Georgia Balookas and her family Blessing of Phanouropitas Youth Ministry Kick-Off
11:30 a.m.	
<b>Tuesday</b> 8 a.m. 9 a.m.	<b>September 1</b> <b>Beginning of the new Ecclesiastical Year</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Agiasmo
<b>Wednesday</b> noon	<b>September 2</b> COVID Parish Safety Team Zoom Meeting
<b>Saturday</b> 2 p.m. 3 p.m.	<b>September 5</b> 40 Day Blessing, Son of Thomas and Eleni Lamson Wedding: Steve Parashos & Maria Spina <i>Sponsor: Pete Haralambopoulos</i> Vespers
5 p.m.	
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>September 6</b> <b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy

+ **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.

+ **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.

## 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 on line to consider supporting their beloved parish now more than ever. Thank you.

## Ushers

**Nick Marino,** Peter Venetos, Bill Athenson, Carol Stamas, Bill Smirles, Doug Hugdahl, 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, 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)

## Announcements

+ **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 9th 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!

+ **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.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES:**

- **AXIA! Ascension Philoptochos is proud to have nominated Arianna Stevens for the prestigious AGAPE Award.** Agape is defined as the highest form of love, charity and the love of God for man and of man for God. The AGAPE Award (All Generations Accomplishing Philanthropic Endeavors) was established to honor and recognize outstanding women from the Greek Orthodox Philoptochos Society who embody the true spirit of Philanthropia. Arianna's many selfless contributions, love for Philoptochos and our beloved Church make her most deserving of this prestigious award. "Arianna gives from her heart, seeking the best for everyone else, before herself, expecting nothing in return. Congratulations to Arianna!
- **Please join Philoptochos** 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. Physical 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. *Operation Classroom* school supply donations 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.
- **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.

+ **THANK YOU! THE PHILOPTOCHOS PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE** offers its gratitude to all who donated to the "Feed The Hungry" Brown Bag Lunch program on Tuesday, August 18 at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago. Ascension was able to prepare and distribute 75 bags which each included 3 brown-bagged meals - a sandwich, a beverage, fruit, chips, cookie and package of nuts. We also distributed a bar of soap, a washcloth and a poncho. We especially wish to thank the Demet family and Graziano's restaurant for their donation of delicious and hearty chicken sandwiches. Our parish family's generosity of time, talents and treasures make this worthwhile event possible every year.