

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One; to burial of three days hast Thou submitted that Thou mightest free us from our passions. O our Life and Resurrection, Lord, glory be to Thee.

Apolytikion for Presentation of Our Lord in the First Mode

Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, O Virgin Theotokos, for from thee hath risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, enlightening those in darkness. Rejoice, thou also, O righteous Elder, as thou receivest in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, Who also granteth unto us the Resurrection.

Seasonal Kontakion in the First Mode

Your birth sanctified a Virgin's womb and properly blessed the hands of Symeon. Having now come and saved us O Christ our God, give peace to Your commonwealth in troubled times and strengthen those in authority, whom You love, as only the loving One.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 7:7-17.

BRETHREN, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

The Gospel of Luke 2:22-40

At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Symeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Your people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about Him; and Symeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of Him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the Child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon Him.

On today's Feast of The Meeting of Our Lord, the following hymn to the Theotokos will be chanted in place of Axion Estin.

Hymn to the Theotokos. Ode ix. Heirmos. Mode 3.

Theotokos, as the hope * of us Christians, one and all, * guard and shelter and protect * those who put their hope in you. O believers, come let us perceive * a type in the law, and the shadow and the letter. * Every male that opens the womb shall be holy to God. * So the unoriginate Father's firstborn Logos and Son, * who is the firstborn of the Mother who knew not man, we magnify.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 2 - 9, 2020

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

"What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. They need to become saints in their relations to their children through their mildness, patience, and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children. And the joy that will come to them, the holiness that will visit them, will shower grace on their children."

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	February 2 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Extended Celebratory Fellowship in honor of our Youth!	The Meeting of Our Lord Youth Sunday
Monday 6 p.m. 6 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	February 3 Maintenance Committee Meeting Jr. GOYA GOYA	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m. 5 p.m.	February 4 Greek School St. Anna's Orthodox Mothers' Ministry	
Wednesday 6 a.m. 10 a.m.	February 5 Encounter the Word Men's Bible Study HOPE	
Thursday 10:30 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	February 6 Ascending in Orthodoxy Bible Study Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Friday 3 p.m.	February 7 Servant Leadership Award Nominations due to church office	
Saturday 4 p.m. 5 p.m.	February 8 Byzantine Music Class Vespers	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	February 9 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy	Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee Triodion Begins

+ **2020 STEWARDSHIP:** This week we are celebrating our youth with Youth Sunday, where our young parishioners will be helping with greeting, ushering, reading, and passing trays. Seeing our youth in action is a reminder of the impact our stewardship of time, talent, and treasures has on our community, and especially on our children. Ascension is blessed with many thriving ministries for our youth, and it is every family's commitment to stewardship that enables our parish to provide these important and impactful ministries to help guide our youth throughout their lives. If you haven't yet, please complete and submit the 2020 Stewardship card or complete your stewardship online to continue supporting our vital youth programs at Ascension!

+ **PHILOTOCHOS INVITES YOU TO THIS YEAR'S APOKREATIKO GLENDI**, which takes place on Sunday, February 23, 2020, at the Concorde Banquets in Kildeer. In an effort to go green, Glendi invitation/reservation forms will be available to download from the Philoptochos page of Ascension's website. Reservations will also be taken today after Liturgy. Questions about reservations may be directed to Mary Beth Theodore at mbtheodore@aol.com or 847-687-8649. Philoptochos is also seeking donations for this year's Basket Venture. For more information on donating a basket, contact Sandi Fotopoulos at smfoto13@gmail.com. Please join us for a fun family event!

+ **LOOKING FOR CAREGIVERS FOR YOUNG & OLD:** From time to time, Ascension's office receives requests from parents of young children as well as children of elderly parents who are looking for some assistance with sitting, carpooling/driving, and overall caregiving. Requests have ranged from needing assistance one day per week to needing full-time help. In order to assist our parish members in locating caregivers to interview, the office can keep a potential list of people who are interested in providing these services for children and for seniors. To be included as a caregiver, please send an email to info@ascensiongoc.com with your name, whether you are available to assist with youth or seniors; and, your general availability. Thank you!

+ **ATTENTION: LOST & FOUND** baskets are located on top of the coatrack in the hallway across from the restrooms. If you find something – or lose something – check that area out.

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Tasia Alexakos & Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Lexi Hugdahl
Greeters: Catherine Greub
Ushers: GOYANs with assistance from Carol Stamas, Demetri Katsulis, Doug Hugdahl

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

+ **ATTENTION PARISH COMMUNITY: THE CHURCH MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE** is seeking parishioners who are certified plumbers or electricians to help our committee. If you can lend some expertise, please contact Dave Tegel at Dtegel@gmail.com. We would truly appreciate any help we can obtain from within our Parish.

Announcements

+ **WE WELCOME FR. KOSMAS KALLIS TO ASCENSION TODAY ON YOUTH SUNDAY** and thank him for helping us celebrate and honor the youth of our parish. Fr. Kosmas is the Director of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries for the Metropolis of Chicago. We pray that God continues to guide him as he develops this vital Ministry for the youth and young adults in our Metropolis. We are so pleased to be holding Youth Sunday in our very own church after having to postpone it the past few years during construction. It's wonderful to see members of our youth ministries serve our parish as greeters, ushers, readers, altar boys and chanters! Please join us to honor the important role they play in this parish during a special fellowship hour following Liturgy.

+ **SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS** This new Metropolis of Chicago recognition program recognizes laypersons nominated from parishes throughout the Metropolis who have distinguished themselves by their acts of service, leadership, and innovation on behalf of our Holy Church. Ascension will accept nominations for this program until February 7, 2020, and an awards committee will select and recognize one recipient from our parish for the Metropolis Bronze Cross *based on the information submitted on the nomination form*. Please note, nominations may also be submitted online via a link on Ascension's homepage.

+ **ST. ANNA'S ORTHODOX MOTHERS' MINISTRY** will meet **this Tuesday at 5 p.m.** We are trying to offer this gathering at different times throughout the winter and spring to give as many mothers as possible an opportunity to participate. This inspiring new ministry is dedicated to St. Anna and formed for Ascension moms to support one another in raising our children in our holy Orthodox faith. If you have any questions, please email ascensionmomsministry@gmail.com.

+ **ENCOUNTER THE WORD:** Join us this Wednesday morning at 6 a.m. for the Men's Bible Study Group. This week we will study chapter seven in the Book of Acts. For questions or to RSVP, please contact david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com.

+ **ASCENDING IN ORTHODOXY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY** will meet this Thursday, 2/6 at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the Gospel of Matthew, Chapters 14-15. If you can't attend but wish to call in, please contact Bess Bollegeorges at bessbo@ameritech.net.

+ **MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT DINNER:** Save the date for this year's benefit dinner which takes place on Thursday, February 13th @ 6:30 p.m. at St. John the Baptist, Des Plaines. The keynote speaker will be His Eminence, Metropolitan THEODOSIUS of Kananga. For more information, email MTCBenefit@yahoo.com, or call us at (317) 709-0168.

+ **GET YOUR APRONS READY!** Men's Koinonia is inviting all Ascension members to a Cooking Class at Tastebuds in Bannockburn, Saturday, 2/15, from 3:30-6 p.m. A few spots are still open. Please see insert!

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS WILL BE HOLDING ITS ANNUAL VALENTINE'S LUNCHEON** on Thursday, February 20th at 11:30 a.m. at Jameson's Charhouse, 151 Townline Rd., Vernon Hills. Please RSVP by Friday, February 14 to Elaine Beck, 847.367.5227.

+ **THE HELLENIC AMERICAN ACADEMY ANNUAL GALA** takes place on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, beginning at 6 p.m. We are delighted to announce that our very own Harold Anagnos will be honored at this year's event as the recipient of the Heritage Award. For more information, or to reserve a seat, please contact the Academy at 847.317.1063.

+ **ASCENSION OF OUR LORD 2020 ALASKA MISSION TRIP:** In partnership with the Orthodox Christian Mission Center, Ascension is planning a mission trip to Newhalen Alaska, August 6th – 17th. It has been over two hundred years since the Orthodox Christian faith was proclaimed on the shores of Alaska! Space is limited for this life-changing opportunity. If you are interested, please contact David Rutkowski: David.rutkowski55@yahoo.com, (847)650-0559, who will give you much greater detail about this mission.

+ **THE 13th DISTRICT AHEPA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** is currently accepting applications until March 15th: www.ahepa.org.

+ **THE METROPOLIS FAMILY SYNAXIS HAS OPENED REGISTRATION FOR THE WOMEN'S RETREAT**, which takes place at the St. Iakovos retreat center on February 7-8. This year's workshop theme is *Kindling the Divine Spark*, based on the book by St. Theophan the Recluse. Also save the date for the Lenten Retreat on March 21 @ St. Athanasios Church. More information and registration is available at www.gocfamilysynaxis.org.

+ **DIVORCE REBUILDERS: SPRING OFFERING:** Saints Peter and Paul's Divorce Rebuilders recently announced that it will be offering this program beginning Monday, **February 17th through March 23**, at 7:45 -9 p.m. for six consecutive weeks at **Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church**, 2501 S. Wolf Rd., Westchester. Divorce Rebuilders offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. To enroll in this program or for more information, please email: sspp.divorcerebuilders@gmail.com, and please note in the subject heading: *Divorce Rebuilders*. There is no cost for this program. "No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone."

+ **PHILOTOCHOS WOULD LIKE TO THANK** Carol Stamas and Cheri and Bill Smirles for presenting at Sunday's general meeting, "How You Can Help Save A Life". The presentation was very informative and the collective knowledge of our presenters was impressive! Those in attendance feel better prepared to address emergency situations that may arise in church or at home. Thank you again!!