

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

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, τῆ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

Seasonal Kontakion in the First Mode

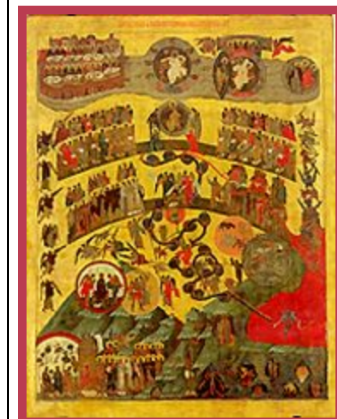
O God, when You come upon the earth in glory, the whole world will tremble. A river of fire will bring all before Your Judgment Seat and the books will be opened, and everything in secret will become public. At that time, deliver me from the fire which never dies, and enable me to stand by Your right hand, O Judge most just.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2.

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Gospel of Matthew 25:31-46



The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with Him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will place the sheep at His right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then He will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then He will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN February 23 – March 1, 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

"...The day will come when we shall stand before God and be judged, but as long as our pilgrimage continues, as long as we live in the process of becoming, as long as there is ahead of us this road that leads to the full measure of the stature of Christ which is our vocation, judgment must be pronounced by ourselves."

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	February 23 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Memorial for Mike Nicolau (1 yr); Aspasia Giourdas (1 yr); Constantine D. Xintaris (1 yr); John Stavroplous (2 yrs) Coffee Fellowship hosted by The Nicolau Family Apokreatiko Glendi	Judgment Sunday Meatfare Sunday
Monday 6 p.m.	February 24 Jr. GOYA & GOYA Paddle Ball, Winter Club, Lake Forest	
Tuesday 4:45 p.m.	February 25 Greek School	
Wednesday 10 a.m.	February 26 HOPE Cheesefare Lunch	
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	February 27 Greek School Beginners/Advanced Beginners Greek School Intermediate/Advanced	
Friday 6:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	February 28 Faith/Joy Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party Marriage Ministry meets @ Pinstripes, Northbrook	
Saturday 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 4 p.m. 5 p.m.	February 29 Orthros Divine Liturgy Byzantine Music Class Vespers	2nd Saturday of Souls
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 5 p.m.	March 1 Orthros Sunday Church School Divine Liturgy Forgiveness Vespers	Forgiveness Sunday Cheesefare Sunday

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies to Elouise and her brother Michael Kouimelis whose mother, Georgia, fell asleep in the Lord. The funeral was held at Holy Apostles, Westchester, on Friday. We pray that God grant Georgia eternal rest in the Kingdom of Heaven and comfort to her family. May her memory be eternal.

Vigil Lights

In the Memory of Lenka Lacmanovic (TETA LELA) who forever lives in our hearts.
May her Memory be eternal.
The Kalb-Panos Family

Our Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Prospora offered for Saturday of Souls
Epistle Reader: Elaine Simos
Greeter: Olga Kalis
Ushers: Peter Venetos (UIC), Nick Marino, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Kiriakos, Demetri Katsulis, Bill Athenson, Carol Stamas, Chris Chatzidakis

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

The Sunday of the Last Judgment | Meatfare Sunday

The Sunday of the Last Judgment is the third Sunday of a three-week period prior to the commencement of Great Lent. During this time, the services of the Church have begun to include hymns from the Triodion, a liturgical book that contains the services from the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee, the tenth before Pascha (Easter), through Great and Holy Saturday. On this day, focus is placed on the future judgment of all persons who will stand before the throne of God when Christ returns in His glory. This is also the last day that we may consume meat products before the beginning of Great Lent.

Excerpt taken from "Coffee with a Little Stewardship" series by the Serbian Orthodox Church

Announcements

+ **THE 2nd SATURDAY OF SOULS** is this Saturday, February 29th. Names of your deceased loved ones and koliva can be prepared and given to the ushers as you enter church, so that through your presence at the Divine Liturgy, you may offer prayers for the souls of your departed loved ones.

+ GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH PRAYER +

- Forgiveness Vespers will take place next Sunday, 3/1 at 5 p.m.
- Kathara Theftera (Clean Monday), 3/2: 8:30 a.m.: Reading of the Hours | 6 p.m. Great Compline
- Tuesday, Great Compline at 5:30 p.m.
- The 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will take place on Wednesday, 3/4, beginning at 5 p.m.
- The First Salutations to the Theotokos is on Friday, 3/6 at 7 p.m.

+ **FLOWERS FOR THE THEOTOKOS** The Salutations for the Theotokos begin on Friday, March 6th. For the five consecutive Fridays, we adorn the Icon of the Theotokos with flowers. The dates of the Salutations are 3/6, 3/13; 3/20; 3/27, and 4/3. The cost of the flowers for each Friday is \$100.00. If you wish to donate the flowers that adorn the Icon of the Theotokos for any Friday, please call Renee Maltezos in the Church Office. We thank you in advance.

+ **ATTENTION KOINONIA MEMBERS:** we need your help in planning our biggest fundraiser of the year - our Golf Outing. We're having a quick meeting today during coffee fellowship in the conference room. Please see Doug Hugdahl with any questions. The golf outing is scheduled for June 12th this year – save the date!

+ **A WONDERFUL FAMILY OPPORTUNITY IS OPEN TO US -- THIS YEAR'S FAMILY SYNAXIS LENTEN RETREAT** will take place on Saturday, March 21st at St. Athanasios Church, Aurora. The one-day retreat features speaker Fr. Alex Goussetis, Director of the Archdiocese Center for Family Care, who will speak about "Conflict & Resolution in our Relationships." The retreat features dynamic workshops for adults, interactive sessions and/or childcare for children, as well as inclusion programming for children with special needs. For more information and to register, visit www.gocfamilysynaxis.org.

+ **ST. ANNA'S ORTHODOX MOTHERS' MINISTRY MARCH EVENTS:** The ministry will meet and pray together at the Tuesday March 3rd Compline Service at 5:30 p.m. On Tuesday, March 31st, we will be taking a field trip to St. John Chrysostomos Monastery in Pleasant Prairie, WI. We welcome all mothers of young children and teenagers to join us! For more information, please contact ascensionmomsministry@gmail.com.

+ **FAITH AND JOY** Grades K-5 please join us for a Cheesefare Friday Pizza Party on Friday, February 28th from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. We will also participate in a service project and assemble health kits for IOCC. Please RSVP to faithjoyascension@gmail.com.

+ **SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY PAN-ORTHODOX VESPERS** will take place on Sunday, March 8th at St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church in Cicero at 6:30 p.m. The V. Rev. Fr. Dr. Milos M. Vesin is the homilist.

+ **ATTENTION 7th -12th GRADERS – ORATORICAL FESTIVAL:** Don't miss the opportunity to show your God-given talents as a writer, speaker, artist and vocalist by participating in the 2020 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. If you are in 7th – 12th grade, you are encouraged to participate in this program, which gives you the opportunity for reflection during the Lenten season. **Submissions are due to the church office by March 16th.** Please contact Justin Glavanovits, our Parish coordinator, with questions at justinglav@ascensiongoc.com. All of the details, including this year's topics, can be found on the Youth Pages of our website.

+ **THE GREEK AMERICA FOUNDATION** recently announced its 2020 Greek America Corps Volunteer Program and is accepting applications to volunteer in various programs this summer in Greece. Each program consists of various volunteer duties and cultural immersion experiences such as excursions to historic, religious site as well as local celebrations and festivities. The deadline for most programs is March 7, 2020. For more information, visit <https://greekamericafoundation.org/gacorps-2020/>

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

+ **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. Items that remain will be donated on a quarterly basis beginning at the end of this March.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: FEBRUARY DONATIONS INCLUDE:** National Philoptochos Autism Assistance Fund, Saint Photios Shrine, and Metropolitan Nathanael's request for Australia Fire Relief Efforts.