

Apolytikion for Pentecost in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Blessed are You, O Christ our God. You sent down the Holy Spirit into the fishermen, and You gave them knowledge and wisdom in everything; and through them, as in a net You caught the whole world. O Lord who loves humanity, glory to You!

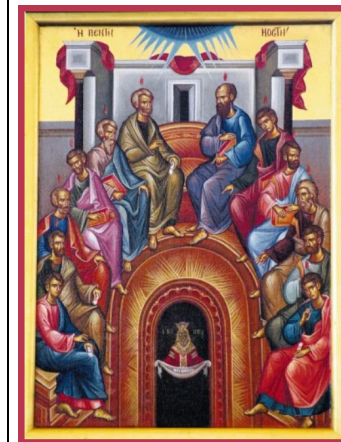
Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

When the Most High God came down and confused the tongues, * He divided the nations. * When He distributed the tongues of fire, * He called all to unity. * And with one voice we glorify the all-holy Spirit.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11.

WHEN THE DAY of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. And they were amazed and wondered, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontos and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians, we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God."

The Gospel of John 7:37-52; 8:12



On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

When they heard these words, some of the people said, "This is really the prophet." Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" So there was a division among the people over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but no one laid hands on Him.

The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why did you not bring Him?" The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this man!" The Pharisees answered them, "Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in Him? But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed." Nikodemos, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them, "Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" They replied, "Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee." Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE ICON PRINTED ON THE BULLETIN, PLEASE RECYCLE RATHER THAN DISCARD IN THE GARBAGE

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church

1207 Riverwoods Road – Lincolnshire, Illinois 60069

Fr. Sotirios P. Malamis, Proistamenos

Fr. James S. Gordon, Emeritus

TEL: (847) 482-1200 | www.ascensiongoc.com

Office e-mail: info@ascensiongoc.com

WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN May 31 – June 7, 2026

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. Sotirios and with members of the Parish Council. They will answer questions and provide you with information regarding Ascension's ministries and vibrant parish life.

COMMUNION GUIDELINES: To partake of Holy Communion, one must be a Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christian and be in good standing with the church. Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and regular participation in Holy Confession are welcome to receive communion. One should also be present at the Liturgy before the Scripture readings. Please follow the directions of the ushers during Holy Communion, and, also please allow the Sunday Church School staff and students to commune first so they can make their way to class and promptly begin their lessons. Thank you.

Spiritual Reflection

"The Holy Spirit lives only in pure hearts, and only to them does He grant His Divine grace, His holy gifts, for He is the 'Treasury of good things' - all the true and most precious goods that the human heart could possibly possess."

St. Luke, Archbishop of Crimea

Weekly Calendar

Sunday
8:15 a.m.
9:30 a.m.
11 a.m.

May 31
Orthros
Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling Vespers
Fr. Jim Gordon Golden Ordination Anniversary Celebratory Brunch, Anagnos Fellowship Hall

Holy Pentecost

This week is a **FAST FREE WEEK** due to the celebration of Pentecost

Monday
8 a.m.
9 a.m.
11 a.m.
6:30 p.m.

June 1
Orthros
Divine Liturgy followed by Agiasmos
40-Day Blessing for the daughter of Elisavet & Matthew Agin
Faith/JOY Bowling Night and End-of-Year Gathering, Bowlero, Buffalo Grove

Monday of the Holy Spirit

Tuesday
6:30 p.m.

June 2
Celebration of Giving Dinner, Dover Straits, Mundelein

Saturday
11 a.m.

June 6
Baptism: Christiana, Daughter of Alex & Angelica Baczek
Sponsor: Maria Fay Karras
Wedding: Samantha Santiago & Robert Tountas
Sponsor: Lisa Tountas
Wedding Rehearsal
Great Vespers @ All Saints Church, Jolieet

Sunday
8:15 a.m.
9:30 a.m.

June 7
Orthros
Divine Liturgy
Graduate Sunday Program
Wedding: Alyssa Georgeopoulos & Dean Kartsimas
Sponsors: Nicholas & Niki Poteres

The Sunday of All Saints

+ **STEWARDS, THE SPRING PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE in two weeks on Sunday, JUNE 14th.** Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A notice along with the agenda will be sent to stewards in early June.

+ **PASTORAL NEEDS, HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING/REHAB AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS:** If you have a pastoral need or emergency and would like to speak to Fr. Sotiri, or know of someone who would like to schedule a pastoral visit, please contact Father via the office.

+ **THE 2026 FAITH SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP** application for HS Seniors is now available to download with a deadline submission of June 26, 2026. Visit thefaihtendowment.org/scholarships. Eligible applicants must be active members of a Greek Orthodox parish.

+ **IN HONOR OF THE FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY APOSTLE BARTHOLOMEW, PATRON SAINT OF METROPOLITAN NATHANAEL OF CHICAGO,** the Holy Metropolis of Chicago invites the faithful to Great Vespers on Wednesday, June 10th at Holy Apostles Church, Westchester at 6:30 p.m.; and the Feast Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy will take place at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago on Thursday, morning, June 11, beginning at 8 a.m.

+ **GRADUATE & JR. OLYMPICS RECOGNITION** Ascension's annual graduate tribute will take place following Liturgy next Sunday, June 14th and will honor graduates of 8th Grade, High School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate programs. We will also be acknowledging our athletes who participated in Jr. Olympics last weekend!

+ **THE CALL TO SERVE** – Please consider Stewardship of your time and talent at one of our Weekly Services. Whether it is being a Greeter, Usher, Epistle Reader, Icon Decorator or Prospora Baker, Ascension is always grateful to have parishioners be an integral part of its Liturgical life. For more information, please contact the church Office at 847.482.1200.

Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Prospora offered for Saturday of Souls
Epistle Reader: Katherine Schreiber
Ushers: UIC: Kathy Demas, Nick Poteres, Chris Chatzidakis, Spiro Maglaras, Alex Gianaras, Lou Demas

Prayer Requests

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR PERSONAL PRAYERS the servants of God: Eleni, George, Anastasia, Stella, Mitchell, Joanne, Panagiotis, Christina, Dee, Helen, Sophia, Connie, Katerini, James, Theresa, Peter, Anna, Alexander, Anthony, Magdalena, Maggie, Panagiotis, Paraschos, Chris, Don, Justin, Ignacio, Kevin, Theodore, Mary, Madison, Trinity, Evangelos, John, Rick, Robert, Tom, Georgia, Kristi, Rob, Maureen, Antonia, Christina, Constantine, Irene, Iliana, John, Carolyn, Mary, Maria, Patrick, John, Panagiota, Luci, Stephanos, Leonidas, Vasiliki, Nikki, Anastasios, Stacey, Eleni, Helen, George, Gregory, Irene, Artemis, Efstathia, Maria, Vasilios, Christina, Tom, Nick, Thomas, Nikita, Haralambos, Dean, Margarita, Steven

Stewardship 2026

Stewardship is the lifeblood of our Parish. We demonstrate our gratitude and faith in God by offering a portion of what God has blessed us with to support His ministries. Thank you to the stewards who have already set up their pledges for 2026 during our "Rise Up and Build" Campaign. To date, we thank the 316 families that have pledged \$503,000 as well as generously offer their time and talents to this Parish! As of this week, we are at 70% of our budgeted 2026 stewardship target of \$720,000. *(Please be aware that Stewardship doesn't automatically renew annually. We ask that you recommit your annual stewardship of time, talent and treasures by completing the online 2026 Stewardship Pledge form.)* If you have any questions, please contact the office. Let us draw together as a parish family to demonstrate our gratitude and lovingly serve God by supporting Ascension.

Announcements

+ **WE STILL STAND IN PRAYER TODAY DURING THE CONSECRATION** and will resume kneeling at the Kneeling Vespers, which follows the Divine Liturgy today.

+ **JOIN US IN THE ANAGNOS FELLOWSHIP HALL FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY TO CELEBRATE AN EXCEPTIONAL MILESTONE OF FATHER JIM GORDON 's 50 YEARS AS A PRIEST!** With great joy, the Ascension Parish Family invites all parishioners to come together in fellowship and love to commemorate Fr. Jim's Golden 50th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood (May 30, 1976). A delicious brunch will be served and a slide show highlighting 50 years of Fr. Jim's service to Christ and devotion to his faithful flock will be running in the background. **AXIOS!**

+ **WE EXTEND A WARM AND GRACIOUS WELCOME** to the clergy and Presbyteres who have joined us today on the occasion of Fr. Jim Gordon's 50th anniversary as a priest in the Holy Orthodox Church. May God grant you and your families many years! We also welcome Fr. Jim's immediate family and good friends who have surrounded him with love and support throughout his life. Along with Fr. Jim, and in a very special way, we honor and give thanks for Presbyteria Nasia, whose faithful presence beside Fr. Jim for more than 50 years has been a profound source of unwavering love, strength, wisdom, and grace. Through her quiet sacrifices, steadfast faith, hospitality, encouragement, and devoted partnership in ministry, she has touched countless lives and helped nurture the spiritual life of the Ascension parish community. **AXIOS!**

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- **CELEBRATE GIVING AT OUR YEAR-END DINNER!** Our **Celebration of Giving Dinner** at Dover Straits is coming up on Tuesday, June 2 at 6:30 p.m. Don't miss this year-end event—walk-ins are welcome and may pay at the door.
- **PHILANTHROPY TEAM REVEALS YEAR-END DISBURSEMENT PLAN.** Each year, our Philoptochos mission as friends of the poor is to raise funds for those in need. Now, at the end of our ecclesiastical year, our diligent Philanthropy Team has compiled recommendations from the Philoptochos members who researched and submitted charitable organizations in need. The full board recently reviewed and voted on the team's plan at its year-end disbursement meeting. **THANK YOU** to the members who took time to put forth a submission! The complete listing and disbursement plan will be available during our Celebration of Giving dinner on June 2.

+ **REGISTRATION OPEN FOR VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL:** Ascension is excited to announce the theme of this summer's Vacation Church School: "**LEVEL UP! Equip the Full Armor of God**" which will take place July 27-31. The week-long program is designed for rising Kindergarteners through 8th graders, and will focus on how to equip ourselves for spiritual struggle by strengthening ourselves as St. Paul tells us in Ephesians 6. Please see the flyer for more information and to register. We look forward to spending a fulfilling week together with our youth immersed in worship, outdoor activities, arts & crafts, and hands-on learning.

+ **FORE! SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 27th ANNUAL ASCENSION GOLF OUTING** on **Saturday, August 22nd**, at The Aboretum Club in Buffalo Grove. Sponsored by our Koinonia Men's Ministry, the Shotgun Start is at 12:30 pm, followed by a dinner in the early evening which is open to all! This is Koinonia's Main Fundraiser for the year, and proceeds will help support the ministries of the church, as well as local charities. More info to follow in upcoming weeks, including a price break incentive for those who register early. Please contact Steve Sintetas, Koinonia President at sas1@me.com or (630) 774-3512 if you can help plan this year's annual Golf Outing, as we are in need of volunteers.

+ **SPOTS STILL OPEN FOR FANARI and LIGHTHOUSE:** FANARI Summer Camp Registration is open for rising 6th grade through rising 12th graders. Spots are especially open for Weeks 3-5. The dates are June 28–July 4; July 5–July 11; and July 12–July 18, 2026. Lighthouse Camp for High School Seniors, which will take place Saturday, June 13–June 20, 2026 at Carroll University in Milwaukee, is also taking registrations. For more information, visit www.fanari.camp

+ **THE GREEK FEST SEASON IS READY TO LAUNCH – A TRUE SIGN OF SUMMER!** Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greekstyle! Dates are posted on the Metropolis of Chicago Events Page: <https://chicago.goarch.org/events/>.

Did You Know?

Every Feast Day in the Orthodox Church is beautifully unique and brings with it great depth and symbolism. The same is true of Pentecost, with its annual Kneeling Prayers. The Feast Day of Pentecost marks the end of the Paschal period and returns us now to the ordinary time in our cycle of the Church year. According to the late Father Alexander Schmemmann, in the Pentecostal Prayers, we are invited to kneel and it's our first kneeling since Pascha. The joy of Pascha has been completed and we once again have to wait for the dawn of the Eternal Day. Yet, knowing our weakness, humbling ourselves by kneeling, we also know the joy, presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Just like the Apostles on Pentecost, we gain strength from the Holy Spirit to seek Divine help in our daily lives. All of this is revealed in the three prayers that are read as we all kneel. In the first prayer, we bring to God our repentance and increased appeal for forgiveness of sins. In the second prayer, we ask the Holy Spirit to help us, to teach us to pray and to follow the true path. Finally, in the third prayer, we remember all those who have achieved their earthly journey, but who are united with us in the eternal God of Love.