

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women’s lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion for Chariton the Confessor in the Plagal Fourth Mode

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Chariton our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

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

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, after You filled the Disciples with joy, by promising to send them the Holy Spirit, and You blessed them and established their faith, that You are the Son of God, the 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

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10.

Brethren, working together with Him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For He says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Gospel of Luke 5:1-11



At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, He saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, He asked him to put out a little from the land. And He sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when He had ceased speaking, He said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed Him.

Ascension of Our Lord Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN September 28 – October 5, 2025

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 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

“We have heard the call of Jesus Christ. We may be like James and John, mending the broken nets of our relationships and our jobs and our studies and our marriages and our hopes and dreams, trying to knit them back together where they have come undone. We may be in the middle of something, something painful and difficult, something that is going to take a lot of work to get back together. But then we hear the call of Jesus: “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Follow Me, because I didn’t come to knit back together your broken lives but to give you new life. Follow Me, because it’s time to transcend even your sorrows and pain. Follow Me, because what you were trying to create for yourself may be good, but I have something better, something that you were meant for, that I meant for you. “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	September 28 Orthros Divine Liturgy Sunday Church School Open House <u>Memorials</u> Akrivi Zezas (40-Days) Tom (Athanasios) Tolan (40-Days) Coffee fellowship hosted by the O’Neill Family Acolyte Meeting & Outing to Par-King Skill Golf, Lincolnshire	1st Sunday of Luke
11:30 a.m.		
Monday 6:30 p.m.	September 29 GOYA Bonfire Night	
Tuesday 5 p.m.	September 30 Greek School	
Wednesday 9:30 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	October 1 Agiasmos Service for the 1 st of the Month Stewardship Committee meeting (via TEAMS)	
Thursday 10:30 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	October 2 Ascending in Orthodoxy Adult Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Adult Greek School: Intermediate/Advanced	
Saturday 11 a.m.	October 4 Baptism: Emma Rose, daughter of Daniel & Ellen DeBruin <i>Sponsors: Alexandra & Tom Delis Effie & Angelo Liosatos</i> YAL Mini-Golf Outing @ Par-King, Lincolnshire Vespers	
1:30 p.m. 5 p.m.		
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	October 5 Orthros Divine Liturgy Sunday Church School	2nd Sunday of Luke

- + 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.

+ WE ARE HIRING! Ascension seeks a detail-oriented and experienced part-time Finance Administrator to support our mission through sound financial stewardship. This role is responsible for maintaining accurate financial records and overseeing day-to-day accounting operations, including contributions, disbursements, payroll, general ledger, and financial reporting. If you, or someone you know is interested, please see the post on our website homepage.

+ WALK THE WALK FOR IOCC Next Saturday, October 4, 2025 St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, 5049 N. Sheridan Rd Chicago. For more information, visit <http://iocc.org/chicago>

+ LETTERS OF GOOD STANDING Stewards, please be advised that if you need the church office to produce a Letter of Good Standing (i.e.: for a Sacrament you may be sponsoring, etc.), the office would appreciate at least a one-month lead time. Sacraments taking place in 2026 will require a stewardship commitment for the calendar year 2026. (Stewardship 2026 program to be announced later this November.) Additionally, if the Sacrament you are sponsoring is taking place outside of the Metropolis of Chicago, there is a fee of \$100, made payable by check to the Metropolis of Chicago and processed through our office. If you have any questions, contact the church at 847.482.1200.

+ WILL YOU BRING TWO? Our Project HOPE ministry requests your help! Please participate in our current food collection project and bring two cans or boxes of food to Liturgy on Sunday mornings throughout the fall and place them in the collection bins on the way into our Anagnos Fellowship Hall.

+ SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FALL FAMILY NIGHT! All families of Ascension: save the date of Friday, November 14th and plan to join us for an evening of fun activities, fellowship, and spiritual discussion for both parents and children! Stay tuned for more details!

Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Sophia Metropulos; Giota Metropulos
Epistle Reader: Bill Gaston
Greeters: Jeannie & Jay Thomas
Ushers: UIC: Loukas Jonson, Dean Argiris, Bill Athenson, Robert Buhler, Kathy Demas, Lou Demas, Demetri Katsulis

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, Panagiotia, Luci, Stephanos, Leonidas, Vasiliki, Nikki, Anastasios, Stacey, Eleni, Helen, George, Gregory, Irene, Artemis, Efstathia, Maria, Vasilios, Bertha, Christina, Tom, Nick, Thomas, Nikita

Stewardship 2025

YOUR STEWARDSHIP SUPPORTS OUR IMPORTANT MINISTRY WORK Stewardship at Ascension provides the foundation for the active and flourishing Ministries at our Parish. Now more than ever, we need the love, commitment, and devotion of every faithful parishioner of Ascension. Christian Stewardship is not only about monetary commitment, but also includes committing our Time and Talents to our church. To date, we thank the 381 families that have pledged \$ 554,476 as well as generously offer their time and talents to this Parish! As of this week, we are at 85% of our 2025 stewardship target of \$650,000. If you have not yet made your pledge or would like more information, please visit our Stewardship webpage. *(Please be aware that Stewardship doesn’t automatically renew annually.* Please contact the office with any questions.

Announcements

+ SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE TODAY! PARENTS: Please proceed to your child’s classroom immediately following the conclusion of Divine Liturgy for Open House. Our teachers are looking forward to presenting their plans for the year and meeting you! *Please note:* Pre-k and Kindergarten-main level hallway, last room on the right; 6th-8th grade - main level hallway on the left just past the elevator; Grades 1-5 are in lower level with each grade consistent with room number.

+ TODAY’S ACOLYTE OUTING: Following Liturgy today, our acolytes will be meeting with Pastoral Assistant John Anton and Fr. Sotiri to welcome new altar boys to this integral ministry, and discuss the sacred privilege and duties of serving in the altar. Following the meeting, the group will have lunch and head to Par-King Skill Golf in Lincolnshire for some friendly competition outdoors! We thank Koinonia Men’s Ministry for sponsoring this annual tradition for our ministry!

+ STILL ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 8th ANNUAL MEN’S RETREAT! Hosted by Koinonia Men’s Ministry, we invite all men to join us for a day retreat with the theme "Stillness in the Storm: Becoming Men of God in a Hectic World." Through this retreat, we will uncover how our faith in Christ can transform our busy lives into peace and purpose by living with and through Him. Our session leaders this year are our parish Proistamenos, Fr. Sotiri Malamis, and our Pastoral Assistant, John Anton. Please join us on Saturday, October 18 at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI. See enclosed flyer and register before the October 6th deadline. Questions? Contact David Rutkowski at 847.650.0559 | david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

- KEFI & KINDNESS** abounded at our annual Kick-off Meeting on Thursday, September 25. Enthusiastic new and returning Philoptochos members discovered ways to get involved this year, while they celebrated Souvlaki, Spritzers and Sisterhood! It’s not too late to join us—check the Parish Ministry Wall outside Anagnos Fellowship Hall for a membership form and more information.
- JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS ON OUR ANNUAL CANCER WALK.** On Sunday, October 12th, following Divine Liturgy, our Ascension parish family will walk for one hour together down Riverwoods Road. Please help Philoptochos meet our goal to raise \$4,000 to support the Wig Program for cancer patients at NM Lake Forest Hospital. Put on your gym shoes and join the team! To donate to this worthy cause, see enclosed flyer or stop by our table in the Anagnos Fellowship Hall on Sundays in October.
- OUR SEPTEMBER SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT:** Earbuds added to Operation Classroom donation.

+ FALL FANARI CAMP REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN: Fanari Fall Camp will take place for 5th – 8th graders on October 24 – 26. Fall camp takes all the fun of Summer Camp and packs it into one weekend filled with worship, Orthodox Life, softball, Fall fest and more! Visit and register at www.fanari.camp/fallcamp.

+ FINAL POST: OUR SENIOR SYNAXIS MEMBERS THANK THE HELLENIC FOUNDATION on behalf of Fr. Sotiri and our Ascension Parish, for renewing the Golden Circle Senior Bus funding grant to cover bus travel expenses for their group outings this Ecclesiastic Year. The Hellenic Foundation developed the Golden Circle program to encourage socialization and fellowship among seniors, and we are grateful to the Foundation for supporting and expanding our wonderful fellowship opportunities!

+ PUSHPAY PLATFORM Ascension's new software platform, Pushpay, is in full swing. If you haven't done so, please log in to the Pushpay system to ensure your family's details and contact information are correct. We are using the new platform to register for ministries and to gather stewardship pledges for next year. If you need help logging in, please visit the Pushpay resource table during coffee fellowship. You can also visit our website at www.ascensiongoc.com/pushpay, or contact the office. Directions on how to download our new App can also be found on our resource page.

+ DIVORCE REBUILDERS: SS. Peter and Paul’s Divorce Rebuilders offers support, guidance and hope to those who are separated and divorced. Meetings this Fall will be held in the church library at Sts. Peter & Paul, Glenview beginning on Monday, October 13 – November 17, from 7-8:30 p.m. Zoom will be available for those who cannot attend in person. This group provides a place where you can learn, heal and rebuild from the hurt of divorce. Leader: Maria Harduvel Boyle, Counseling, Northwestern University. There is no cost for this program. To enroll, please email: sspp.divorcerebuilders@gmail.com or mariaharduvel4@gmail.com and note in the subject heading: Divorce Rebuilders. “No Christian should walk through the pain of divorce alone.”

Did You Know?

Which translation of the Bible should I read? There are many different translations of the Holy Bible into English, which can make reading the Holy Scriptures—an essential exercise in our spiritual lives, which we all must undertake in our own time—into a daunting task. The best approach would be with the Orthodox Study Bible (OSB), a publication that includes helpful footnotes, maps, icons, and informational pages that help with reading the Bible in the Orthodox tradition. Can't find a copy? The New Testament in the OSB is actually the New King James Version (NKJV), which is widely available on its own. Other comparable translations are the older KJV and the more readable RSV, which we use during church services. Beyond these versions, there is a danger in reading translations of translations that lose the meaning of the original text, or otherwise reading translations that alter the text and introduce heresy. Whenever possible, it is best to read the original Greek text, which remains unchanged from its composition by the apostles in the first century A.D.