

Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

Apolytikion of Great and Holy Pascha in the Plagal First Mode
Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Fourth Mode
When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, “Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!”

Apolytikion for Mid-Pentecost in the Plagal Fourth Mode
O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the living waters of right belief. You, O Savior, proclaimed to everyone, “Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink.” You are the fountain of life, O Christ our God. Glory to You! [

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, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἱός 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 Plagal Fourth Mode
Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out “Rejoice” to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30.
In those days, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

The Gospel of John 4:5-42
At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with His journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked Him and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when He comes, He will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Just then His disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to Him.

Meanwhile the disciples besought Him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me, and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

Christ is risen from the dead, by death, trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs, He has granted life.

Χριστός ανέστη εκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, και τοις εν τοις μνήμασι ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

Christos anesti eknekron, thanato thanaton patisas, ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin charisamenos

Ascension of Our Lord
Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN
May 18 - 25, 2025
Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθώς Ανέστη!
Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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

“Through what He – voluntarily – suffered, the Lord gave us examples of silence, patience, forbearance and love.”

St. Anthimos of Chios

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	May 18 Orthros Divine Liturgy <u>Memorials</u> Petros Basharis (1 yr) & Androniki Basharis (3 yrs) Mary Maris (3 yrs) & Theodore Maris (26 yrs) Sunday Church School End-of-Year Recognition & Celebration Coffee Fellowship co-hosted by Maria Karalis & Stacy Rankin; and also Jayne & Chris Chatzidakis in memory of Jayne's mom SCS Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Demetri’s Restaurant Baptism: Maria, daughter of Chritoss Tsekos & Katerya Kozytska Sponsors: Bill & Jaime Tsekos	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman
11:30 a.m. 2 p.m.		
Monday 6 p.m. 7 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	May 19 Jr. GOYA Parish Council GOYA	
Tuesday 6 p.m.	May 20 Greek School End of Year & Graduation Program	
Wednesday 8 a.m. 9 a.m.	May 21 Orthros Divine Liturgy 40-Day Blessing, Daughter of Daniel & Ryan Desio Philoptochos Board Meeting	SS Constantine & Helen
6 p.m.		
Thursday 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	May 22 Adult Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Adult Greek School: Intermediate/Advanced	
Saturday	May 24 Jr. Olympics through Sunday @ SS Constantine & Helen Church	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	May 25 Orthros Divine Liturgy	Sunday of the Blind Man

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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.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND OUR END-OF-YEAR GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM AND GRADUATION this Tuesday, May 20th at 6 pm in our Anagnos Fellowship Hall. Our theme will be “Colors of Greece”. Our students will perform Greek poems, songs and traditional dances. Join us to celebrate the end of a fruitful school year.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL RETURNS THIS SUMMER! Please save the date for Ascension’s Vacation Church School 2025! VCS will take place July 28 – August 1 for K-8th graders. More information will be announced very soon!

THE NEXT PARISH ASSEMBLY MEETING TAKES PLACE SUNDAY, JUNE 1st. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this important meeting immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The agenda will be sent to Stewards early this week.

JOIN OUR PARISH AT THE MISSION TEAM CHICAGO BENEFIT dinner on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 @ 6 p.m. at SS Peter & Paul Church in Glenview. The keynote, Rev. Fr. Luke Veronis, will share the wisdom, missionary zeal and life of Archbishop Anastasios of Blessed Memory. Suggested donation is \$40 per person. Ascension has reserved 2 tables for the event. To join our parish at the table, please contact John Anton at janton@ascensiongoc.com; or 847.482.1200, x4 to RSVP and make your donation.

WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS THIS SPRING & SUMMER Please volunteer to host coffee with your family, or together with another family, so that we may continue our fellowship after Liturgy throughout the summer months. You may sign up via our website, or by calling the church office. Thank you to those parishioners who have signed up!

The 2025 FAITH SCHOLARSHIP FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE application is available to download with a deadline submission of June 24, 2025. Visit thefaithendowment.org/scholarships. Eligible applicants must be active members of a Greek Orthodox parish and graduating high school seniors.

Sunday Volunteers

Prosphoro Bakers: Nectaria Zouras & Voula Nicolaou
Epistle Reader: Tom Kiriakos
Greeter: Voula Nicolaou
Ushers: **UIC: Steve Sintetas**, Jessie Roberts, Doug Hugdahl, Chris Chatzadakis, Vicki Betsios, Kathy 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, Finn, 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, Bertha, Christina

Vigil Lights

Altar Vigil lights offered by Dean Kurtis in loving memory of Peter and Katherine Kurtis.

Stewardship 2025

The theme of the 2025 Stewardship Campaign is, “Your own from Your own.” Let us draw together as a parish family to demonstrate our gratitude to God and lovingly serve Him by supporting Ascension. What better way to demonstrate our thanks and faith in God than by offering a portion of what God has blessed us with to support His ministries. Stewardship is the lifeblood of our Parish. To date, we thank the 312 families that have pledged \$500,260 as well as generously offer their time and talents to this Parish! As of this week, we are at 77% of our 2025 stewardship target of \$650,000. *(Please be aware that Stewardship doesn’t automatically renew annually.* Please contact the office with any questions.

Announcements

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SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL WILL BE CELEBRATING THE END OF A BLESSED YEAR TODAY. We look forward to acknowledging our students who had perfect attendance and extending our gratitude to all SCS teachers and assistants who have contributed their love and talent to this program. A very special thank you to our creative and dedicated Director, Katherine Schreiber, who devotes her love and time to enrich and grow this ministry, and truly exemplifies the virtues of a Christian steward. Information about the 2025-26 program will be announced mid-summer.

JR. OLYMPICS NEXT WEEKEND – LET’S RALLY AROUND OUR ATHLETES! Fans – get ready to cheer our athletes on at the 44th annual Jr. Olympics, which will take place over Memorial Day Weekend at SS Constantine & Helen Church, Palos Hills. Visit the JO webpage to access the schedule of events next weekend.

MEMORIAL DAY GRAVE BLESSINGS - Fr. Sotiri will conduct Trisagion Services on Monday, May 26 at Ridgewood Cemetery from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.; and, at Memorial Park by appointment only that morning. Please call the church office to arrange.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR FEASTDAY SERVICES: Hierarchical Great Vespers will take place the evening of Wednesday, May 28th and Orthros & Divine Liturgy will take place on Thursday morning, May 29th. Please reserve these important dates in your calendar so we can be present as a parish family in prayer.

FLOWERS TO DECORATE THE ICONS FOR OUR FEAST DAY: If you wish to donate the flowers that will adorn the icons at our Great Vespers service on May 28, and on the Feast of Ascension the following day, please call Lenora in the Church office at 847.482.1200. Thank you in advance for your love of our Parish.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS! Volunteers are needed the week of May 26th to help prepare for the reception we are offering after Great Vespers, Wednesday, May 28th. We are also especially seeking assistance to help host, serve and clean-up during our beautiful Feast Day luncheon following Divine Liturgy on May 29. If you are able to devote some time or financial assistance to help extend our Parish’s hospitality to the many parishioners who come to celebrate this important Feast of the Lord, please contact the church office at 847.482.1200.

PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

 - Celebration of Giving Dinner** - June 12th @ 6:30pm at Dover Straits restaurant. Come celebrate all the wonderful people and organizations Philoptochos has been able to help this Ecclesiastical Year. See flyer for details. Please contact Kathie Rutkowski at rutkowskik57@gmail.com or 847-421-8267 with questions.

DEADLINE COMING UP TO SUBMIT YOUR GRADUATE’S INFO Ascension’s annual graduate tribute will take place following Liturgy on Sunday, June 15th and will honor graduates of 8th Grade, High School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate programs. Please email the following information **no later than Friday, May 30th** to suzannesaric@ascensiongoc.com: Name(s) of your graduate(s); parent’s names; school from which they are graduating; full name/location/major of school they plan to attend; university or post-graduate degree earned (and if applicable, post-baccalaureate program if they're going on); and, most importantly, a photo (.jpg portrait/headshot). We look forward to recognizing and honoring our graduates at the conclusion of the June 15th Divine Liturgy!

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2025 ASCENSION GOLF OUTING! The Koinonia Men's Ministry will be hosting the 26th annual Ascension Golf Outing and Family “Fast-Free” Dinner on Friday, June 13th at The Arboretum Club, Buffalo Grove. Please plan to join us for this great day of fellowship and help make our annual Golf Outing a success! Don't play golf? Join us for fellowship and dinner. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3k5jzku9> for all the information. For questions, or to learn more about Sponsorship Opportunities, please contact Steve Sintetas, sas1@me.com, or Demetri Katsulis, dtk111@comcast.net.

UPCOMING PARISH ACTIVITIES – SAVE THE DATES Greek School End-of-Year Program & Graduation 5/20 | Jr. Olympics, May 24-25 | Great Vespers for Ascension 5/28 | Ascension Feast Day 5/29 | Spring Parish Assembly 6/1 | Mission Team Chicago Benefit Dinner 6/3 | Pentecost 6/8 | Philoptochos Celebration of Giving 6/12 | Parish Golf Outing 6/13 | Grad Sunday 6/15 | Vacation Church School week of 7/28

EXCITING NEWS: WE'RE UPGRADING OUR GIVING & CHURCH MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE! To better serve our Parish Family, Ascension will be transitioning to a new and improved giving platform called Pushpay, launching June 1st. This upgrade introduces new features that make it easier to stay engaged with parish life at Ascension, while also streamlining the giving process - making it quicker and simpler. A new app is also coming soon, loaded with information and tools to connect and interact. Stay tuned—simple setup instructions will be coming to your inbox soon. We thank you in advance for your patience as we go through this transition, and we are very grateful for your continued generosity and involvement in our community.

Did You Know?

St. Constantine's success as an emperor comes from the power of the Holy Cross! In 306 AD, when Constantine's father (the ruler of the western parts of the Roman empire) died, Constantine was proclaimed successor to his throne. Maxentius and Maximinius then joined forces against him, so Constantine marched to Italy and met them for a crucial battle. Leading his troops, he saw in the sky after midday, beneath the sun, the sign of the cross with the words EN TOYTΩ NIKΑ ("By this sign, conquer). That night, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power and significance of the Cross. The next morning, Constantine immediately ordered that a banner be made in the form of a cross with the name of Christ inscribed on it. The ensuing battle mightily conquered Maxentius, and Constantine entered Rome in triumph.