

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 Theotokos' Nativity Forefeast in the Fourth Mode

Unto us is born today Mary the child of God, * as the branch from Jesse’s root, and as the fruit of David’s loins, * and all creation is re-created and deified. * O heaven and the earth, rejoice in unison. * Sing praises unto her, O all you Gentile clans. * Joachim is exultant, and Anna is keeping festival, crying out: * “The barren woman bears the Theotokos, * the nourisher of our Life.”

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 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 Third Mode

On this day the virgin Maid, Mary the true Theotokos, * the inviolate bridal room of the heavenly Bridegroom, * by the will of God is born of a barren woman, * to prepare to be the carriage of God the Logos, * as for this she had been destined, * to be the gateway of God and Mother of Life.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18.

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.



The Gospel of John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."

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

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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN
September 7 - 14, 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

“For the Christian, the cross gradually becomes lighter and more joyful, while for the nonbeliever it becomes heavier and more burdensome. Why is this so? Because where one carries their cross with faith and devotion to God, the other carries it with grumbling and anger.”

Saint Innocent of Alaska

Weekly Calendar

<u>Sunday</u> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<u>September 7</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy Sunday Church School Parish Family Picnic, Banner Day Camp	<u>Sunday before Holy Cross</u>
3:30 p.m.	Wedding: Chrisoula Manokas & Nick Kitsopoulos <i>Sponsor: Sophia Manokas</i>	
<u>Monday</u> 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 6 p.m.	<u>September 8</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy Jr. GOYA & GOYA Agiasmos & Welcome Barbeque	<u>Nativity of the Theotokos</u>
<u>Tuesday</u> 5:30 p.m.	<u>September 9</u> Greek School Open House & Ice Cream Social	
<u>Wednesday</u> 6 a.m.	<u>September 10</u> Encounter the Word	
<u>Thursday</u> 7 p.m.	<u>September 11</u> Adult Greek School Open House & Registration	
<u>Friday</u> 10 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	<u>September 12</u> HOPE Group Faith/JOY	
<u>Saturday</u> 7 p.m.	<u>September 13</u> Great Vespers @ Holy Cross Church, Justice	
<u>Sunday</u> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<u>September 14</u> Orthros Procession of the Holy Cross Divine Liturgy	<u>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u>

+ **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.

+ **FALL ORTHODOX CATECHISM COURSE:** Ascension is once again teaming up with SS. Peter & Paul Greek Orthodox Church to offer classes on the Orthodox faith. Classes are open to all, but especially to those interested in joining the Church through Baptism and/or Chrismation. The 12-week course will take place on Tuesday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at SSPP in Glenview beginning September 16th to December 9th. For more info and to register, visit <https://ssppglenview.org/education/orthodoxy/>, or call 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.

+ **COFFEE FELLOWSHIP DATES JUST ADDED TO OUR ONLINE SIGN-UP FORM:** Please consider hosting coffee fellowship after Liturgy with your family, or together with another family. Recommendations for SIMPLE offerings can be found on our website. You may sign up on online via our website home page, or by calling the office. Look for the picture of the coffee cup. Thank you for volunteering for this important ministry.

+ **BASIL FOR CHRIST’S CROSS:** Through September 13, parishioners are welcomed to bring sweet Basil plants to church for the September 14 Exaltation of the Cross Feast Day. What a beautiful way to honor and respect Christ’s Cross.

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of beloved steward, Panagiota (Pat) Vlahos, who fell asleep in the Lord on August 31, 2025. Pat was the beloved wife of the late Steve Vlahos, and loving mother of Maria Vlahos, Nicholas (Anita), and Peter (Maria). She was the proud yiayia of Eric Steven, Paul, Panagiota “Naya,” Efstratios “Strat,” and Andreas “Andy.” Pat’s funeral took place at Ascension this past Friday, September 5. May her memory be eternal.

Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Mary Paganis, Despina Taranko
Epistle Reader: Bill Athenson
Greeters: Elaine Metropoulos, Voula Nicolaou
Ushers: UIC: Kathy Demas, Dean Argiris, Vicki Betsios, Dina Boufis, Lou Demas, Alex Marx

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

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 373 families that have pledged \$545,000 as well as generously offer their time and talents to this Parish! As of this week, we are at 82% 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.

NEW YEAR | NEW OPPORTUNTIES
Worship | Serve | Gather | Celebrate | Belong

Ascending in Orthodoxy: 9/4
Sunday Church School: 9/7
Koinonia Men’s Ministry: 9/7
Jr. GOYA & GOYA: 9/8
Encounter the Word: 9/10
FAITH/JOY: 9/12
HOPE: 9/12
Greek School (Youth): 9/16
Senior Synaxis: 9/18
Adult Greek School: 9/18
Young Adult League (YAL): 9/24
Philoptochos: 9/25

Ongoing:
Stewardship
Coffee Fellowship | Hospitality
Bookstore
Project HOPE
Acolytes
Girls’ Chant Group

Announcements

+ **WE WELCOME OUR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL STUDENTS BACK TO CLASS TODAY** and wish our Pre-K – 8th grade students, their teachers and assistants an inspiring and educational year grounded in the teachings of Christ. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” (Proverbs 22:6).

+ **HUNGRY FOR SOME DELICIOUS GREEK FOOD? CRAVING A FRAPPE? GOT A SWEET TOOTH? JOIN US AFTER LITURGY AT ASCENSION’S ANNUAL FAMILY PICNIC FOR GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP** on the grounds of Banner Camp, 1177 Riverwoods Rd, just north of the Church. We thank our hosts -- Ascension’s Koinonia Men’s Ministry -- for carrying on this wonderful tradition each year, which provides our parish family true “koinonia”. Members of the Men’s Ministry will be operating a golf cart between the lot and the picnic grounds to facilitate those who need assistance. **Don’t forget to visit the Frappe Stand** where our Sunday Church School will be selling their legendary Frappes for \$5! Your contributions will help raise funds for our SCS program.

+ **GREEK SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE:** Interested in learning more about Ascension's Greek School program? Attend the Open House meetings that will showcase this enriching, multifaceted program! The Tuesday evening program for children ages 4-15 will hold its Open House and Ice Cream Social this Tuesday, September 9th at 5:30 p.m. The Thursday evening program for Adults/Adolescents will host its Open House this Thursday, Sept. 11th at 7 p.m. For more information, visit our webpage!

+ **ENCOUNTER THE WORD MEN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY** The Men’s Bible Study Group will reconvene from 6 am - 7 am at the church beginning this Wednesday, September 10th. The ministry, which will be led by Fr. Sotiri, will continue its exploration of the Gospel of St. John the Evangelist. We encourage newcomers! Visit the ETW webpage under Adult Ministries on our website for the Fall schedule and to register. For more information, contact David Rutkowski (david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com).

+ **ASCENSION’S HOPE GROUP** kicks off the year with a Meet & Greet this Friday, September 12th from 10 -11 a.m. This growing ministry is for children ages 40 days - 4 years old and their moms and/or yiayias, and it’s a wonderful way to get your child(ren) acquainted with the life of the church from a young age. This year, our theme will be “God’s Wonders”, taught through hymns, books, crafts and prayer. For more information and this year’s calendar, visit the HOPE webpage under Youth Ministries.

+ **FAITH/JOY KICKOFF MEETING** - All K-5th graders are encouraged to join us at our first meeting of the year this Friday, September 12th from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at church! For more information about this active and fun youth ministry, visit our webpage under Youth Ministries.

+ **NEXT SUNDAY: IT’S MINISTRY MANIA:** Our Ministry Mania Fair is an opportunity to learn more about the vibrant Youth and Adult ministries that are at the heart of Ascension’s parish life! This year, Ministry Mania takes place on Sunday, September 14th when all Ascension ministries will be present to talk about the exciting plans scheduled in the upcoming 2025-26 Ecclesiastic year and take on-site registrations.

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES**

- **CELEBRATE, CONNECT AND SERVE** with joy: Philoptochos invites you to SAVE THE DATE for our annual Kick-Off Chapter Meeting on Thursday, September 25 at 6:30 p.m. in Anagnos Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars for Souvlaki, Spritzers and Sisterhood! See the enclosed flyer and membership form for details!

+ **ANNOUNCING ASCENSION’S 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 online by September 22 to receive the early bird special! Questions? Contact David Rutkowski at 847.650.0559 | david.rutkowski55@yahoo.com

+ **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. With the new Ecclesiastical year starting soon, we'll be 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 page on 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.

+ **FINAL POST: CALLING ALL BARISTAS AND HOSPITALITY AFICIONADOS:** The Coffee Fellowship Ministry Needs You - Please join this wonderful group of volunteer parishioners who assist the weekly Coffee Fellowship hosts by setting up the table in the fellowship hall with plates, cups and utensils, and prepares our delicious coffee. No experience necessary – just a hospitable spirit! If you’re interested in **helping once or twice every few months**, please contact Kathie Rutkowski at rutkowskik57@gmail.com. We would love to have you!

Did You Know?

Why is the procession of the Cross next week taking place before the Divine Liturgy and not at the end? It is often moved to the end of the Divine Liturgy so more people can attend, but the end of Orthros is actually its original and proper place! For one thing, the "Holy God..." that we chant during the procession is actually the ending of the Great Doxology at the end of Orthros. Also, during the Divine Liturgy, it does not make sense to chant "We venerate your Cross..." instead of "Holy God..." when the Cross has not yet been processed. Liturgical Scholar Ioannis Phountoulis explains that theologically, processing and elevating the Holy Cross prior to the Divine Liturgy "shifts the weight of the theological meaning of the [feast] to the summation of the Lord's redemptive work, to the eternal Pascha of the Church." In short, the procession, elevation, and veneration of the Cross is performed at the start of the Divine Liturgy to logically lead us later toward the Resurrection and Life we receive in the Holy Eucharist; receiving the Body and Blood of Christ must be the climax of our Sunday worship, not the Holy Cross.