

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the First Mode

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, \* and Your all-immaculate body being guarded by soldiers, \* You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. \* Then the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, \* “Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! \* Glory to Your eternal rule! \* Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!”

Apolytikion for Afterfeast of the Dormition in the First Mode

You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

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

The Theotokos is undying in intercession.\* Immovable is our hope in her for protection. \* Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. \* As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, \* the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16.

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

The Gospel of Matthew 17:14-23



At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Ascension of Our Lord  
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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN  
August 17 - 24, 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

*“Don’t run ahead of God. Let Him guide your steps. He has His own plans. He has His own time. God’s clock is never late, it always strikes right on time....”*

Dorotheus of Gaza

Weekly Calendar

<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>August 17</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy <u>Memorials</u> James John Kaulentis (6 mos Adriane (Athanasia) Adams (6 months) Christine Vasilopoulos (2 years)  Coffee Fellowship hosted by Chrys Kaulentis in memory of her brother, James John Kaulentis, and dear friend Adriane Adams  40-Day Blessing for the son of Matt & Corey O’Neil 40-Day Blessing for the daughter of Alexia & Jahnaine Jackson	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>
<b>Tuesday</b> 7 p.m.	<b>August 19</b> Parish Council	
<b>Wednesday</b> 6:30 p.m.	<b>August 20</b> Sunday Church School Teachers’ Meeting	
<b>Thursday</b> 11:30 a.m.	<b>August 21</b> Senior Synaxis Annual Picnic @ Lake Forest Beach (meet in Church Parking Lot)	
<b>Friday</b> 8 p.m.	<b>August 22</b> YAL Kick-Off: Country Night, Sundance Saloon, Mundelein	
<b>Saturday</b> Noon	<b>August 23</b> Wedding: Simone Stamelos & Michael Furla <i>Sponsor: Stephen Coorlas</i> Baptism: Mia Rose, Daughter of Alex & Rachel Loukas <i>Sponsors: Alanna Loukas &amp; Ethan Hendricks</i> Vespers	
<b>Sunday</b> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<b>August 24</b> Orthros Divine Liturgy	<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew</b>
Donations accepted in our free-will collection basket on our coffee fellowship table will be donated to the Northern Illinois Food Bank each week. Every \$1 donated can provide up to \$8 in groceries. Thank you for your generous spirit.		

- + **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.
- + **WILL YOU BRING TWO?** Our Project HOPE ministry requests your participation in our current food collection project where we ask parishioners to bring two cans or boxes of food with them to Liturgy on Sunday mornings throughout the summer and place them in the collection bins on the way into church.
- + **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!
- + **IN THREE WEEKS! JOIN US FOR THE PARISH FAMILY PICNIC!** On September 7th, directly following Divine Liturgy at Banner Day Camp, the Koinonia Men’s Ministry warmly invites everyone to their annual Parish Family picnic. Come and enjoy delicious food & sweets, music, fun games for the kids, and of course wonderful fellowship! Save the date and plan to join us!

Sunday Volunteers

**Prosphoro Bakers:** Mary Paganis & Despina Taranko  
**Epistle Reader:** Nick Papastratatkos  
**Greeters:** Mary & Gust Gatsis  
**Ushers: UIC: Demetri Katsulis,** Vicki Betsios, Tom Kiriakos, Kathy Demas, Alex Marx, Nick Poteres

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

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 360 families that have pledged \$544,850 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.

Announcements

- + **YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES ARE BACK!** Registration is now open on our parish website for Ascension's many vibrant youth & young adult ministries, including HOPE, Faith/JOY, Jr. GOYA, GOYA, YAL, and Acolytes. All of these vibrant ministries begin after Labor Day, and you can also find calendars and information for the upcoming year online. We can't wait for another fun and exciting year together, so be sure to register as soon as possible to secure your child's spot and help us prepare to make the most of these ministries. Please see the flyer for more details.
- + **NEXT SUNDAY AUGUST 24: IT’S BRING YOU BACKPACKS TO CHURCH DAY!** Announcing our inaugural Backpack Blessing, which will take place at the end of Divine Liturgy on August 24. The date falls on the Feast Day of St. Kosmas Aitolos who was a passionate teacher and founder of many schools across Greece. All students are invited to bring their backpacks to church on August 24 for a special blessing for the start of the new academic school year.
- + **REGISTRATION FOR SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL IS OPEN!** Registration for the 2025/26 SCS program is open and classes begin September 7th. Our teachers are excited to have your children back and look forward to a truly special learning environment! SCS is open to Pre-K – 8th graders. For more information and to register, visit our website or contact SCS Director, Katherine Schreiber at katherineschreiber6@gmail.com
- + **GODSPEED TO OUR YOUNG ADULTS WHO ARE RETURNING TO SCHOOL OR HEADING TO COLLEGE THIS FALL!** We wish you a fulfilling year and pray that God guides all your pursuits. College and Postgraduate Students: Please send your email address to Pastoral Assistant John Anton (janton@ascensiongoc.com) so we can keep in touch with you throughout the year.
- + **YOUTH AND ADULT GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAMS ACCEPTING REGISTRATION THROUGH TODAY** Visit the Greek School webpage to learn about, and register for, the 2025/26 Greek School program. Please complete your online registration by today, August 17 so we can prepare for classes prior to the first day. Our Greek School teachers are looking forward to welcoming former and new students to our dynamic program! (Adult/Adolescent Greek School classes will be hybrid.)
- + **THE ANNUAL PICNIC FOR SENIOR SYNAXIS MEMBERS** IS THIS THURSDAY, at Lake Forest Beach! PLEASE MEET HERE IN ASCENSION’S PARKING LOT at 11 a.m. in order to carpool together to the beach. So that we may plan appropriately, please RSVP to Kay James by tomorrow please, Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 847.533.1225, or yiayia.kayjames@gmail.com.
- + **THE FEAST DAY OF ST. PHANOURIOS** In honor of this popular Saint, whom we celebrate on Wednesday, August 27th, Phanouropitas will be blessed next Sunday, August 24th following Divine Liturgy. If you or your families keep the tradition of baking a loaf of sweet bread in memory of St. Phanourios and his mother, please bring it to church that Sunday morning, along with your prayer list of names for the health of the living, and hand it to an usher who will place it on the solea for blessing following services. Orthros and Divine Liturgy will also be offered on the Feast of St. Phanourios, Wednesday, August 27th. Phanouropita will be blessed on the Feast Day as well. See the flyer for more information!
- + **WE ARE HIRING!** Ascension seeks a detail-oriented and experienced 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.
- + **MEN’S RETREAT: SAVE THE DATE!** Please mark your calendars for the 8th annual Koinonia Men's Retreat, which will take place on Saturday, October 18th at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center in Kansasville, WI. Save the date and stay tuned for more information!
- + **PUSHPAY – OUR NEW PLATFORM:** Ascension launched Pushpay on June 1st, a new giving and engagement platform to better serve our Parish family. Most every one of you have already received an email to activate your account. We ask that each adult in your family activate their own account as soon as possible. Some of you who have a recurring gift in our former system, ParishSoft, also received an email with simple directions to move the recurring gift over to Pushpay. If you did not receive an activation email, then please visit our Pushpay resource page on our website at [www.ascensiongoc.com/pushpay](http://www.ascensiongoc.com/pushpay), or contact the office. Directions on how to download our new App can also be found on our resource page.

Did You Know?

Did you know that Mount Athos is known as the Garden of the Panagia? One tradition tells us that the Theotokos was once sailing with St. John the Theologian to visit Lazarus in Cyprus, when a storm brought their ship to the shores of Mount Athos. As soon as she stepped onto the land, she was moved by its beauty and stillness — the sea, the forests, the cliffs. She prayed to her Son and asked Him to give this land to her. Christ answered her with love: “Let this be your garden, your inheritance, a place of peace for those who seek salvation.” Since then, Mount Athos has belonged to her. The thousands of monks who have lived there over the centuries often speak of her not just as a distant figure, but as someone close, someone present. They will tell you she walks among them, watches over the monasteries, and comforts their hearts in silence. That’s why no women go there — not because women are unwelcome, but because the Panagia is the only woman who reigns there, lovingly and fully. Every Athonite monastery is blessed with one or more wonderworking icons of the Theotokos. In all these ways, the Garden of the Panagia has truly become a place of prayer, repentance, stillness — and a quiet, radiant love that speaks without words.