

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



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
June 8 - 15, 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

“Let us extol the grace of the Holy Spirit in spiritual hymns, since grace has, on this day, manifested itself to us from heaven. Even though our words are inadequate to express the magnitude of this grace, we shall praise its power and activity insofar as we’re able. For the Holy Spirit delves into all things, even the profundities of divinity.”

Excerpt from St. John Chrysostom Homily on Pentecost

Weekly Calendar

<u>Sunday</u> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<u>June 8</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy followed by Kneeling Vespers Coffee Fellowship hosted by Daughters of Penelope, Dione Chapter #316	<u>Pentecost</u>
This week is a FAST FREE WEEK due to the celebration of Pentecost		
<u>Monday</u> 8 a.m. 9 a.m. 7 p.m.	<u>June 9</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy VCS Planning Meeting	<u>Monday of the Holy Spirit</u>
<u>Tuesday</u> 7 p.m.	<u>June 10</u> Great Vespers for Metropolitan’s Nameday, St. Haralambos Church, Niles	
<u>Wednesday</u> 8:30 a.m.	<u>June 11</u> Orthros & Divine Liturgy @ Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago In celebration of Metropolitan Nathanael’s Feast Day Small Paraklesis	<u>Bartholomew the Holy Apostle</u>
<u>Thursday</u> 6:30 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:45 p.m.	<u>June 12</u> Philoptochos Celebration of Giving, Dover Straits, Mundelein Adult Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners Adult Greek School: Intermediate/Advanced	
<u>Friday</u> 11 a.m.	<u>June 13</u> Parish Golf Outing & Family Dinner	
<u>Saturday</u> 11 a.m.	<u>June 14</u> Baptism: Caroline, Daughter of Michael & Jennifer Schnur <i>Sponsors: Christina Anderson & Peter Salek</i> PanHellenic Scholarship Awards Ceremony & Gala, Hilton Chicago	
<u>Sunday</u> 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	<u>June 15</u> Orthros Divine Liturgy	<u>The Sunday of All Saints</u> Father’s Day

+ **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 this Tuesday, June 10th at St. Haralambos Church, Niles, at 7 p.m.; and the Feast Day Orthros & Divine Liturgy will take place at the Annunciation Cathedral in Chicago on Wednesday morning beginning at 8:30 a.m.

+ **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.

+ **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!

+ **STILL HAVEN’T SIGNED UP FOR FANARI CAMP?** There are still spots available for rising 6th to 12th grade kids to attend Fanari Summer Camp! Visit <https://www.fanari.camp/summer-camp> for availability and to register. Financial assistance is also available through the Carol Stamas Fanari Scholarship. Contact the Church Office for more information.

+ **GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL?** Lighthouse, a week-long summer camp ministry, is for you! This program, which will take place June 21-28 in Waukesha, WI, will help you gain an Orthodox understanding of vocation and arm you with the tools you need to keep and grow your faith during college. Visit <https://chicago.goarch.org/lighthouse/> for more information and to register.

+ **WE ARE IN NEED OF COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS THIS 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 GREEK FEST SEASON IS OFFICIALLY UP AND RUNNING AGAIN!** Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greekstyle! Dates are posted on the Metropolis of Chicago Events Page: <https://chicago.goarch.org/events/>.

Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Prospora offered from Saturday of Souls
Epistle Reader: David Rutkowski
Greeters: Michael and Ellen Kaitson
Ushers: UIC: Nick Marino, Dean Argris, Bill Athenson, Doug Hugdahl, Loukas Jonson, 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, 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

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 333 families that have pledged \$511,310 as well as generously offer their time and talents to this Parish! As of this week, we are at 79% 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

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

+ **FINAL CHANCE TO REGISTER 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.

+ **PUSHPAY – OUR NEW PLATFORM:** As you have read in previous bulletins and emails and heard last Sunday, 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, will also receive an email with steps to move the recurring gift over to Pushpay. If you did not receive an activation email, then please read the simple instructions in the flyer explaining how to create an account and how to download our new app. For assistance, there is a Pushpay resource page on our website at www.ascensiongoc.com/pushpay. Thank you for your patience during this transition and your generosity and involvement in our community. We're very excited about these new tools and believe they will help us build community engagement and simplify the giving process If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the office or email stewardship@ascensiongoc.com.

+ **JR. OLYMPICS:** Over 60 youth athletes represented Ascension at the annual Metropolis of Chicago Junior Olympics over a beautiful Memorial Day weekend at Sts. Constantine & Helen in Palos Hills. Most notably, our co-ed softball team won gold in their tournament! In track, the girls 4x100m relay team won silver, and Ascension athletes also brought home over a dozen individual medals by the end of the weekend! Congratulations to all our athletes! We commend them for representing Ascension with integrity and character in each sporting event. We also thank our dedicated coaches Laina Krabbe, Faith Krabbe, Kathy Demas, Dina Boufis, John Zouras, Pete Metropoulos, Alex Karahalios, Alex Karkazis, Tom Christopoulos, Angelic Menegatos, Nick Poteres; and of course, Fr. Sotirios, for devoting their time, talent and enthusiasm to this event. Finally, a huge thank you to Anna Goldenstein who organized the effort for our parish, with loyal assistance from Youth Director John Anton, ensuring that the event went very smoothly and was filled with fun and fellowship.

+ **GRADUATE & JR. OLYMPICS RECOGNITION** Ascension’s annual graduate tribute will take place following Liturgy next Sunday, June 15th 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!

+ **PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES**

- **CELEBRATION OF GIVING DINNER THIS THURSDAY** - 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.

+ **WE CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD MEMBERS** who were appointed as **Officers** last Sunday after the new 2025/27 Board took the Oath of Office following Divine Liturgy: Maria Karalis, President; Patricia Metropoulos, 1st VP; Faye Kopplin, 2nd VP; Mary Ellen Esser, Treasurer; Jessica Hallam, Assistant Treasurer; Lisa Karkazis, Recording Secretary, Kathy Gianaras, Corresponding Secretary; and, Debbie Katsulis, Advisor. We congratulate **new** board members: Tina Anagnos, Demetra Macheras, Dana Nikoloulis, Peggy Kontos, Helen Logarakis, Diane Voelker, and Mary Chiakulas-Gough, and thank those who are staying on for another term: Kathie Rutkowski, Andrea Rogers, Mary Beth Theodore and Dina Boufis. We pray our Lord continues to bless and guide the charitable works of Ascension's beloved Philoptochos chapter.

+ **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.

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.