

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 Sun. of the Holy Fathers in the Plagal Fourth Mode

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.

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 Letter to Titus 3:8-15.

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned.

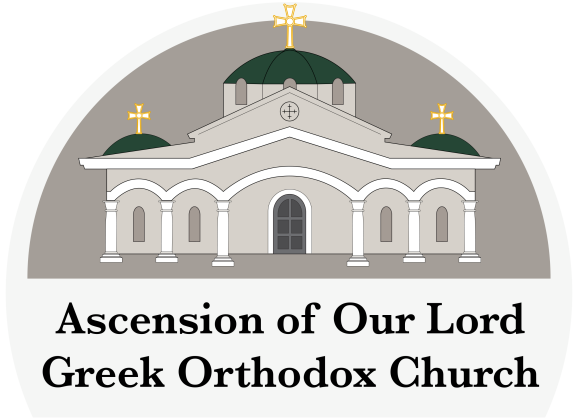
When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

The Gospel of Matthew 5:14-19



The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Ascension of Our Lord
Greek Orthodox Church



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WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN
July 13 - 20, 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

“You should know that, hidden away in sorrows and sufferings, in patience and faith are God’s promises, as also are His glory and the acquisition of the heavenly blessings. Because even the wheat that’s sown in the earth first has to rot and seemingly decay before we can enjoy its beauty and the multiplication of its yield. If it isn’t subjected to this rotting and decaying, there’s no harvest.”

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	July 13 Orthros Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship hosted by Kathie Rutkowski in honor of David’s 70 th milestone birthday Baptism, Mia, daughter of Tasos & Kendell Jean Stavropoulos. Sponsors: John Stavropoulos & Amanda Pawlenty: Wedding: Greg Gough & Jessica Marie Barnas <i>Sponsor: Alexander Gough</i>	Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Fourth Ecumenical Council
Noon		
2 p.m.		
Thursday 11:30 a.m.	July 17 Senior Synaxis Meeting & Light Lunch	
Saturday 10:30 a.m.	July 19 Chrismation: Erica Kyriacou <i>Sponsor: Christal Karnaze</i>	
11 a.m.	Baptism: Jabbar Michael Elwanni <i>Sponsor: Anthony Pashos</i>	
Sunday 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	July 20 Orthros Divine Liturgy	6th Sunday of Matthew

+ **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.

+ **PLEASE CONSIDER HOSTING A SIMPLE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP THIS SUMMER** 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!

+ **JUST OPENED: REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ASCENSION’S YOUTH AND ADULT GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAMS!** Visit the Greek School webpage on our website to learn about, and register for, the 2025/26 Greek School program. Informational open houses will take place for both the Youth and Adult Greek School in the beginning of September (dates are posted on the Greek School webpage <https://www.ascensiongoc.com/parish-ministries/youth-ministries/greekschool/>). Please register online no later than July 31st to secure enrollment so we can adequately prepare for classes prior to the first day. Payment details are set forth in the registration material. 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.)

Condolences

WE EXTEND OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES to the family of Mary Nikitas, who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, July 3, 2025. Mary was the beloved wife of the late John Nikitas, and devoted mother of Greg (Judge Christen Bishop) Nikitas. She was the loving grandmother of John and William. Her funeral was held at Ascension this past Friday, July 11, 2025. May her memory be eternal.

Sunday Volunteers

Prosporo Bakers: Tasia Alexakos & Sophie Beris
Epistle Reader: Caity Anast
Greeters: Anna & Rick Duros
Ushers: UIC: Bill Athenson, Bruce Carlson, Bill Gaston, Doug Hugdahl, Tom Kiriakos

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, Efsthathia, Maria, Vasilios, Bertha, Christina, Tom, Nick

Vigil Lights

Vigil lights offered in honor of David Rutkowski's 70th birthday and Kathie & David's 47th anniversary.

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 355 families that have pledged \$519,960 as well as generously offer their time and talents to this Parish! As of this week, we are at 80% 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

+ **SENIOR SYNAXIS WILL BE GATHERING THIS THURSDAY, JULY 17** in the Anagnos Fellowship Hall for their monthly meeting, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Please RSVP to Kay James at 847.533.1225 by tomorrow so lunch plans may be finalized.

+ **LAST CALL: DID YOU MISS THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL?** Ascension is overjoyed with the response to this summer's Vacation Church School: "We Believe! One God, One Church, One Creed", which will take place July 28-August 1. We look forward to spending a fulfilling week together with our youth immersed in worship, outdoor activities, arts & crafts, and hands-on learning. If you missed the deadline, please be sure to visit our website and register online by this Friday, July 18. They won't want to miss out!

+ **A VIGIL COMMEMORATING ST. PARASKEVI** will take place on Friday, July 25th, beginning at 7 p.m., on the eve preceding the Saint’s July 26th Feast Day. Please see flyer for more information.

+ **IN TWO SUNDAYS ON JULY 27th: STICK AROUND TO ENJOY OUR ANNUAL MID-SUMMER SOCIAL** Sponsored by Men’s Koinonia, this annual gathering gives the families and youth in our Parish the opportunity to enjoy ice cream, hotdogs, fun and fellowship immediately following Liturgy.

+ **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 read the quick 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. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the office or email stewardship@ascensiongoc.com.

+ **“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.

+ **ATTENTION NURSING MOTHERS:** If you need a quiet space to nurse/pump other than the Cry Room during Liturgy, the conference rooms are open in the summer while Sunday School is out of session. Please see an usher if you would like to be directed to a conference room. We will have another location available come fall when Sunday School is back in session.

+ **THE GREEK FEST SEASON IS WELL UNDERWAY!** Support our local Metropolis Churches and celebrate summer Greekstyle! Dates are posted on the Metropolis of Chicago Events Page: <https://chicago.goarch.org/events/>.

+ **LOOKING FOR CAREGIVERS FOR YOUNG & OLD:** From time to time, Ascension’s office receives requests from stewards with elderly parents who are looking for some assistance with sitting, driving, and overall caregiving. Requests have ranged from needing assistance one day per week to needing full-time help. In order to assist our beloved parish members in locating caregivers to interview, the office keeps a potential list of people who are interested in providing these services for seniors. Likewise, we also like to keep a list of contacts who provide child care. If you would like to be either added to the list as a caregiver; or you have a reliable recommendation that we can pass along, please contact the office.