# Hymns and Holy Scripture Readings

## Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal Fourth Mode

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You!

### Apolytikion for Apostle Andrew the First Called in the Fourth Mode

As first called of the Apostles and brother of Peter the Preeminent, O Andrew, intercede with the Master of all to grant peace to the whole world, and great mercy to our souls.

### **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.

Άνελήφθης ἐν δόξῃ, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, χαροποιήσας τοὺς Μαθητάς, τῇ ἐπαγγελίᾳ τοῦ ἀγίου Πνεύματος· βεβαιωθέντων αὐτῶν διὰ τῆς εὐλογίας, ὅτι σὺ εἶ ὁ Υἰός τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὁ λυτρωτὴς τοῦ κόσμου.

### Apolytikion of St. Katherine (Protectress of our Chapel)

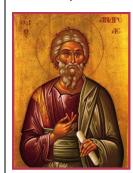
Let us praise and extol the all-lauded Bride of Christ,\* the Protectress of Sinai, divine Saint Katherine,\* as the one who gives aid and her assistance to us;\* for she brilliantly suppressed the impious orators,\*with the sword of the Spirit.\* And being crowned as a martyr,\* she asks that all receive the great mercy.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Third Mode**

On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word \* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds \* Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn Child, \* the preeternal God.

### 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 Holy Gospel according to John 1:35-51

At that time, John was standing with two of his disciples; and he looked at Jesus as he walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. Jesus turned, and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you seek?" And they said to him, "Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "Where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying; and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. One of the two who heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him, and said, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile! "Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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



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# WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN November 30 – December 7, 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

"When God's goodness radiates in the heart it changes others around us. A transformed heart radiates the goodness of God which inspires others to embrace the same. Stewardship is how we as Christians give back to God what already belongs to Him. I am convinced that the single most important factor which influences the ways we give back to God and to what extent we offer ourselves in service to others has most to do with the enlargement of the heart. To the extent that the Grace of God and His goodness radiate within, is what shows up in our work for God."

Fr. Andrew Barakos, Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, Scottsdale, AZ

# Weekly Calendar

Sunday **Andrew the First-Called Apostle** November 30 8:15 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday Church School Memorials Anna Pistas (40 days) Vasiliki Zervos (3 months); Emmanuel Zervos (20 years) Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Kozonis & Rogaris Families 40-Day Blessing, son of Peter and Veronica Dimopoulos 11:30 a.m. YAL "Pilgrimage of Discovery" Presentation, Conference Room December 1 Monday Divine Liturgy 9 a.m. 6 p.m. Jr. GOYA 7:30 p.m GOYA Tuesday December 2 St. Porphyrios 8 a.m. Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 5 p.m. Greek School Wednesday December 3 5 a.m. Divine Liturgy (note time change) 6 a.m. **Encounter the Word** Great Vespers @ St. Nectarios Church, Palatine 6:30 p.m. **Thursday** December 4 St. Barbara & St. John of Damascus 8 a.m. Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Ascending in Orthodoxy 6:15 p.m. Adult Greek School: Beginners/Advanced Beginners 7:45 p.m. Adult Greek School: Intermediate/Advanced **Friday** December 5 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 6:30 p.m. Faith/Joy 7 p.m. Great Vespers, St. Nicholas Church, Oak Lawn

+ THE NATIVITY FAST began November 15 to spiritually nourish us on the path to Christ's birth. During the Nativity Fast, we are celebrating 40 Liturgies for the faithful—Sarantaliturgo – to pray for the well-being of our parish families, as well as for the souls of the deceased. Please visit our Nativity webpage to view the service schedule, submit names for Sarantaliturgo, stay in touch with upcoming events, and read reflections about this beautiful period in the life of our Church. May God bless us during this blessed advent season.

December 6

Divine Liturgy

December 7

Divine Liturgy

Sunday Church School

Orthros

Vespers

Orthros

Saturday

8 a.m

9 a.m.

5 p.m.

Sunday

8:15 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

- + DONATIONS FOR THE NATIVITY SEASON: During the upcoming Nativity Fast, additional Ecclesiastical supplies, as well as poinsettia plants, will be purchased to use in worship and to adorn the Church. We humbly request any contributions to offset these costs. To make a donation, please contact Lenora Vasilopoulos in the Church office, or visit the Nativity or Giving webpages.
- **+ 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.

# Sunday Volunteers

**Prosphoro Bakers:** Voula Nicolaou, Mary Paganis

Epistle Reader: Caity Anast

**Greeters:** Elaine Metropoulos, Voula Nicolaou **Ushers: UIC: Alex Gianaras,** Dean Argiris, Vicki Betsios, Bruce Carlson, Doug Hugdahl, Steve Sintetas

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

# **CONDOLENCES**

WE OFFER OUR SINCEREST CONDOLENCES to the family of beloved Hierarch - Bishop Timothy Bakakos, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 20, 2025. His Grace will be remembered by his brothers Gregory D. (Siree) Bakakos and Michael D. (Amy) Bakakos. He was a loving uncle to Christopher, Nicholas, Alex, Sephanie (Dominick), Antonia (Christopher) and Timothy. His funeral took place this past Tuesday, November 25, 2025 at Assumption Panagia Church in Chicago. We thank His Grace for his pastoral care and love to our community. May his memory be eternal.

WE ALSO EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Alice Nicolau, who peacefully fell asleep in the Lord surrounded by family on Monday, November 24, 2025. Alice was the beloved wife of the late Mike Nicolau; and, the devoted mother of Joachim "Jimmy" (Paula) Nicolau, Maria (Michael) Kaiser, Christo (Cindy) Nicolau, and Peter (Diane) Nicolau. She was the cherished grandmother of Aliki (David), Alexis (Andrew), Michael, Joseph, Christo, Steven, and Angela. Her visitation takes place this Tuesday, 12/2 from 3-9 pm at Colonial Wojciechowski Funeral Home, 8025 W. Golf Rd., Niles. Her funeral will take place at Ascension on Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. May God comfort her family and may her memory be eternal.

# STEWARDSHIP: As 2025 begins to wind down, we have two important requests of all Ascension Families:

1. If you made a pledge for 2025 but have yet to fulfill your pledged amount, **please do so as soon as possible** on the Stewardship webpage or by calling the office. To date, we thank the 399 families that have pledged \$577,975 to date, as well as their time and talents.

St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

10th Sunday of Luke

2. If you have yet to submit your pledge card for our 2026 "Rise up and Build: Building Up the Body of Christ" campaign, please prayerfully consider how you can support Ascension with your time, talent, and treasures and either pledge online or bring the enclosed stewardship time/talents/treasures form with you to church next Sunday, 12/7. At the end of Liturgy, we will place a basket on the solea to accept pledge forms from our parishioners and stewards.

Please be aware that Stewardship doesn't automatically renew annually. We ask that you recommit your annual stewardship of time, talent and treasures by completing the 2026 Stewardship Pledge form in today's bulletin or online.

# Announcements

- + UNWRAP THE GIFT OF GOD'S WORD THIS SEASON: Beginning tomorrow, December 1st, we invite all Ascension parishioners to join in a Parish tradition by reading one chapter from the Gospel of Luke each evening. There are 24 Chapters. By Christmas Eve you will have read an entire account of our Lord's life and your gift Christmas morning will be the blessing of knowing WHO and WHY we celebrate! Let's bring peace to this fast-paced season as we prepare to receive the greatest gift of all!
- + DEADLINE TOMORROW FOR THE 2025 PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD: Join the many families of our Parish in expressing Christmas greetings to all members and friends of our Ascension Church. Please visit our website, or see enclosed flyer and QR code for information on how to participate. Forms are due in the office no later than tomorrow, December 1st. Thank you for continuing to support Ascension!
- + LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR THE YOUTH FUNDRAISER START: Decorate your home and office for the holiday season with beautiful poinsettias while supporting our Ascension Youth Ministries! Orders will be taken following Liturgy today and next Sunday in the Anagnos Fellowship Hall, and plants will be ready for pickup on Sunday, December 7 after Liturgy. You can also order online by scanning the QR code on the flyer. This is a pre-order sale only!
- + REGISTRATION FOR FANARI WINTER CAMP OPENS TOMORROW AT NOON One session for all Fanari Campers (5th-12th grade) will be offered January 16-19, 2026 (MLK weekend) at the St. lakovos Retreat Center. Activities include night dance, and much more! Worship, Orthodox Life, Winter Olympics, tubing & skiing, Sunday night diner and more! Visit www.fanari.camp/wintercamp
- + PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 7 FOR STEWARDS after the Divine Liturgy. See the insert for the slate of nominees for the 2026-27 Parish Council. Information about the election process was emailed to stewards this past Friday.

#### + PHILOPTOCHOS UPDATES

- LAST CHANCE to make your reservations for Breakfast with Santa! This not-to-be-missed event will take place next Sunday, December 7 following Divine Liturgy, in the Anagnos Fellowship Hall. FINAL reservation forms and orders will be taken at today's Coffee Hour. Questions? Contact Patty Metropoulos at pmetropoulos@hotmail.com or call 847-710-0256.
- TIDINGS OF COMFORT & JOY: The Philoptochos Membership Christmas Party is set for Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm at the home of Helen Logarakis, 172 N. Ridge Rd., Lake Forest. See the flyer for important details on what to bring. Not a member yet? No worries, the membership form is on the back of the flyer. Come join us! Do not forget to RSVP!
- KITS OF HOPE will provide people in need with essential hygiene items this Christmas season. How can you help? Bring travel-size toiletries to our collection box at the Ascension, and the Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos will take it from there! Read the flyer for details—and thank you for providing basic comfort this Christmas!
- SNAPSHOT OF SUPPORT: During November, our Chapter sent donations to the Dress A Girl initiative, National Sisterhood of Presvyteres, the Patriarchate Fund—and served 280 meals during Ascension's day to host the "Feed the Hungry" program at Annunciation Cathedral.
- + SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES: December 14<sup>th</sup>, Metropolis of Chicago Christmas Open House from 4 8 p.m. at The Carlisle in Lombard (see flyer). Sunday, December 14 for our Sunday Church School Christmas Pageant (practice will take place the day before, Saturday, 12/13 @ 10 a.m.) Tuesday, December 16 for Ascension's Youth Greek School Christmas program.
- + THE ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS LEAGUE OF CHANTERS invites you to celebrate the Feast Day of their patron saint, St. John of Damascus, this Wednesday, December 3rd. Great Vespers, with a reflection offered by our very own Pastoral Assistant John Anton, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at St. Nectarios Church, Palatine. For more information, visit sidsyllogo.com.
- + KOINONIA MEN'S MINISTRY invites our Parish to participate in our 2025 TOY DRIVE at Children's Hospital UIC. Please find it in your hearts to drop off any brand-new unwrapped toys at the church Monday thru Friday from 9-3; or on Sunday mornings before or after services at our designated toy box near the Anagnos Fellowship Hall. Monetary donations can also be made through our Giving webpage to Koinonia Men's Ministry and we will purchase toys for you. Questions, contact Loukas Jonson (loukasjonson@gmail.com).
- + THE PANHELLENIC FOUNDATION 2025-2026 APPLICATION IS OPEN! The Foundation will accept applications for its 2025-2026 Scholarship program from eligible undergraduate students of Hellenic through January 31, 2026. Each year the Foundation awards \$250,000 in Scholarships. For more information regarding eligibility, and to link to the application, visit www.panhellenicsf.org/apply
- + YOUNG ADULT CHICAGO CONFERENCE 2026: Registration for the 2026 YAL Chicago Conference opened November 3 at 7 PM. This year's conference will take place February 13-16 at The Hilton Chicago Downtown. Don't wait: the conference fills up quickly!
- **SUBMITTING PAYMENT BY CHECK?** Please remember to include a brief note in the *memo* section indicating what the check is for (e.g., Stewardship, Christmas Card, Memorial, event fees, etc.). This greatly helps the office process your payment accurately. Thank you!

# Did You Know?

Saint Barbara, whose feast we celebrate on December 4, is honored as the patron saint of the Greek Army's Artillery. In the life of the saint, we read that her father, a pagan, imprisoned her in a tower to hide her beauty from the eyes of strangers. Only pagan teachers were allowed to see her, but from the window of her tower, she saw the beauty of the created world and devoted her life to Christ, the Creator of all things. She was baptized, and for this her father subjected her to many tortures and ultimately her martyrdom. But Divine Justice was swift, and he was struck by lightning and killed. This association with sudden, destructive power, like that of the artillery, led to her veneration among artillerymen. Her image is often found in artillery units and on military insignia.