



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020

Κυριακή 23η Αύγουστου 2020
ΙΑ΄ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Αποστ: Α΄ Κορ: 9:2-12
Ευαγγ: Ματθαιου: 18:23-38

11th Sunday of Matthew
Today's Readings
Epistle: 1 Corinthians: 9:2-12
Gospel: Matthew 18:23-38



"SINCE I'VE FORGIVEN YOU, YOU HAVE TO FORGIVE OTHERS."

In today's Gospel lesson, our Lord outlines what the Kingdom of Heaven will look to all of us. When we get that vision in our minds, we are therefore reminded of how we should think, what we should feel, what is important and how we should be. This parable is about how we should live, and it contains a deep moral meaning. Everyone knows the basics of it. If someone forgives you, then you should forgive others. God has forgiven us so we should forgive others.

We must understand what these talents are - These are the talents that we owe to the Lord. We must respond to the Lord's forgiveness. And we owe - I say, we, because the man in the parable is you and me - we owe ten thousand talents, we have sins, so many ways that they cannot even be counted. Ten thousand is a big number we pull out of the air. Actually, what would it be? It might be ten, a thousand or Ten million? There are lots.

When the man is forgiven by the Lord of his ten thousand talents there is a command that the Lord gives him. He doesn't say it. But at the end, it's clear that He intended this command to be understood. And that is: Since I've forgiven you, you have to forgive others. And because God loves what He made, our highest expression of love, is that we forgive others.

Now, many times, this is harder to do than we think. If we forgive people their trespasses against us, we are talking about the things that we don't like that they've done to us, that they have said to us, that they've hurt us in some way, or that they've lied to us. This happens to us all the time, when people have hurt us, either purposely or accidentally, without any real thought behind it. If we can do that, it is the highest of all things.

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The purpose of God's forgiveness is to help us to become good. It is when we have learned to truly forgive that we can truly act out with love towards others, even those that we don't know, as well as those that we do know. The way that our Lord does to us with love, we must do to others. It's as simple and as plain as that.

So, after reading today's Gospel, we can say that it simpler said than done. Imitate the Lord. He forgives, so we should forgive. The only way we can truly feel what God does for us is by working to follow the Commandments though the trials and struggles of our every day. That's when we can really feel a true empathy and compassion for our fellow man who is in the same situation that we're in. Once we do that, then we too can see ourselves in the Kingdom of Heaven, but first let us forgive those who have wronged us in any way, and then, we too will see the true picture of the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

2020 Stewardship Campaign

To make a One-Time Gift:

Online Giving: Go to
www.stconstantinehelen.org

In Person: Stop into the Church Office and you may pay by Cash, Check or Credit Card;

By mail: Mail your check or credit information to the Church office (do not mail cash!)

By phone: Call (708) 974-3400 and provide the necessary information

To set up Recurring Giving:

Online Giving: Set up recurring contributions online on our website. Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving.

Beheading of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John Feastday, August 29th



The glorious Prophet and Forerunner John the Baptist is also referred to as John the Forerunner because he was the forerunner of Christ.

He was an ascetic and great prophet, who baptized Christ and became one of the most revered

saints in the Orthodox Church. Because he baptized Christ, he is the patron saint of godparents. He is sometimes called the *Angel of the Desert*; because of this title, he is sometimes depicted with wings.

As an adult John started to preach in public, and people from "every quarter" were attracted to his message. The essence of his preaching was the necessity of repentance and turning away from selfish pursuits. He denounced the Sadducees and Pharisees as a "generation of vipers," and warned them not to assume their heritage gave them special privilege (Luke 3:8). He warned tax collectors and soldiers against extortion and plunder. His doctrine and manner of life stirred interest, bringing people from all parts to see him on the banks of the Jordan River. There he baptized thousands unto repentance.

The fame of John reached the ears of Jesus in Nazareth (Matt. 3:5), and he came from Galilee to Jordan to be baptized by John, on the special ground that it became him to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). John's special office ceased with the baptism of Jesus, who must now "increase" as the King come to his kingdom. He continued, however, for a while to bear testimony to the Messiahship of Jesus. He pointed him out to his disciples, saying, "Behold the Lamb of God." His public ministry was suddenly (after about six months probably) brought to a close by his being cast into prison by Herod, whom he had reproved for the sin of having taken to himself the wife of his brother Philip (Luke 3:19). He was shut up in the castle of Machaerus, a fortress on the southern extremity of Peraea, 9 miles east of the Dead Sea, and here he was beheaded at the instigation of Herodias; later tradition also implicates Salomé. His disciples, having consigned the headless body to the grave, went and told Jesus all that had occurred (Matt. 14:3-12). John's death occurred apparently just before the third Passover of Jesus' ministry.

<http://www.goarch.org>

Greek Fest To-Go 2020



Σήμερα Κυριακή, 23 Αυγούστου
11:00 π.μ. - 8:00 μ.μ.

Δευτέρα 24η Αυγούστου ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΔΙΟΝΥΣΙΟΥ ΖΑΚΗΝΘΟΥ

Ωρα 9:00 π.μ.- Θεία Λειτουργία

Τετάρτη 26η Αυγούστου Πρώτη Ημέρα του ημερίσιου σχολείου μας Ο ΚΟΡΑΗΣ

Πέμπτη 27η Αυγούστου ΟΣΙΟΥ ΦΑΝΟΥΡΙΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ

Ωρα 9:00 π.μ.- Θεία Λειτουργία

Σάββατο 29η Αυγούστου ΜΝΗΜΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΤΟΜΗΣ ΤΗΣ ΤΙΜΙΑΣ ΚΕΦΑΛΗΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ (ημέρα ανστηλής νηστείας)

Ωρα 9:00 π.μ.- Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 30η Αυγούστου ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΒ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ

Ωρα 9:00 π.μ.- Θεία Λειτουργία

ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

Εύτυχημένο σπίτι

- * Εύτυχημένο τό σπίτι, οπου ολοι προσεύχονται.
- * Εύτυχημένο τό σπίτι, οπου ο ένας υποχωρει γιά χάρι του αλλου.
- * Εύτυχημένο το σπίτι, που εχει αόρατο οικοδεσπότη του τόν Ιησού Χριστό.
- * Εύτυχημένο το σπίτι, όπου κάθε περιττό αγαθό δέν μένει ανάμεσα στους τοίχους του, άλλα πηγαίνει στους φτωχούς.

Κυριακή ΙΑ' Ματθαίου

*«οὗτω καὶ ὁ Πατήρ μου ὁ ἐπουράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν,
ἐάν μὴ ἀφήτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ
ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ὑμῶν τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν».*

Μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ, κηρύχθηκε σὲ ὅλα τὰ ἔθνη τὸ μήνυμα τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τῆς ἀνεξικακίας. Τὸ μήνυμα αὐτὸ ἔρχεται νὰ μᾶς ὑπενθυμίσει καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας μὲ τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ σκληρόκαρδου δούλου, ποῦ ἀκούσαμε σήμερα.

Ἀφορμὴ γιὰ νὰ πεῖ ὁ Ἰησοῦς αὐτὴ τὴν παραβολὴ ἦταν μία ἐρώτηση τοῦ Ἀποστόλου Πέτρου: «Κύριε πόσες φορές νὰ συγχωρήσω τὸν ἀδελφὸ μου, ἐάν ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ μοῦ κάνει κακό;» Τὸ συνηθισμένο ὄριο γιὰ τοὺς Ἰουδαίους ἦταν τρεῖς φορές. Ὁ Πέτρος λοιπὸν, πιστεύοντας ὅτι ξεπερνάει τὸ ὄριο ποῦ ὄριζε ὁ Μωσαϊκὸς νόμος καὶ πῶς ἔφτασε σὲ ὕψη μακροθυμίας, τὸ ὑπερδιπλασιάζει προτείνοντας «ἕως ἑπτὰ φορές». Ἀλλὰ ἡ ἀπάντηση τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔρχεται νὰ συντρίψει γιὰ πάντα ὁποιοδήποτε ὄριο, «ὄχι μόνον ἑπτὰ φορές ἀλλὰ ἑβδομήντα φορές τὸ ἑπτὰ, δηλαδὴ ἀπεριόριστα». Μᾶς διδάσκει λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς τὸν τρόπο τῆς συγχωρήσεως, ὑποδεικνύοντάς μας συγχρόνως καὶ τὸ πῶς αὐτὴ πρέπει νὰ πραγματοποιεῖται: «ἀπὸ τῶν καρδιῶν ἡμῶν». Τότε μόνον, μᾶς λέει, ἔχει πραγματικὰ ἀποτελέσματα, ὅταν προέρχεται «ἀπὸ τὰ βάθη τῆς ψυχῆς μας».

Συγχώρεση καὶ μακροθυμία, δύο μεγάλες ἀρετὲς, τὶς ὁποῖες πρέπει νὰ καλλιεργοῦμε σὰν πιστοὶ μαθητὲς τοῦ Κυρίου, γιὰ νὰ ἔχουμε κατόπιν τὸ θάρρος, ὥστε νὰ ζητοῦμε κι ἐμεῖς ἀπὸ τὸν Θεὸ τὴν ἄφεση τῶν δικῶν μας ἀμαρτιῶν. Διότι ἂν δὲν μάθουμε νὰ συγχωροῦμε τοὺς ἀδελφούς μας, ὅπως μᾶς τὸ εἶπε σήμερα ὁ Χριστὸς, τότε οὔτε ὁ Θεὸς θὰ συγχωρέσει τὰ δικά μας παραπτώματα, ὅσο μικρὰ κι ἂν εἶναι αὐτά.

Τὸ αἰώνιο παράδειγμα συγχωρήσεως καὶ ἀγάπης εἶναι Αὐτὸς ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Κύριος, ὁ ὁποῖος πάνω στὸ σταυρὸ συγχωροῦσε τοὺς ὑπαίτιους τοῦ μαρτυρίου Του, δείχνοντάς τους ἀγάπη καὶ συμπόνια. Ἄπειρα ἐπίσης εἶναι καὶ τὰ παραδείγματα τῶν ἁγίων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας, οἱ ὁποῖοι καλλιέργησαν τὴν συγχώρεση, κατορθώνοντας νὰ φτάσουν σὲ μεγάλα ὕψη ἀρετῆς.

Ὅταν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ζητᾷ νὰ συγχωροῦμε τοὺς ἀδελφούς μας, τὸ κάνει ὄχι γιὰ τὴ δικὴ Του ἱκανοποίηση, ἀλλὰ γιὰ τὴ δικὴ μας καταξίωση, ἀφοῦ ἀγαπῶντας τοὺς ἐχθρούς μας ἀποκτοῦμε τὴν καλύτερη ἐμπειρία τῆς σχέσεώς μας μὲ τὸ Θεό. Τούτῃ τὴν ἀλήθεια ἐκφράζει ὁ λόγος τοῦ Χριστοῦ: «Ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθρούς ὑμῶν...ὅπως γέννησθε υἱοὶ τοῦ Πατρὸς ἡμῶν τοῦ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς», «ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθρούς σας...γιατὶ μόνον ἔτσι θὰ γίνεταί παιδιὰ τοῦ Πατέρα μου ποῦ βρίσκεται στοὺς οὐρανοὺς».

Ὅσο βαθιὲς κι ἂν εἶναι οἱ πληγές μας, ἄς προσφέρουμε τὴν ἀγάπη μας σὲ αὐτοὺς ποῦ μᾶς ἔκαναν νὰ πονέσουμε. Ἔτσι μόνον θὰ ἔχουμε τὸ δικαίωμα νὰ ὀνομαζόμεστε χριστιανοί, φορεῖς καὶ συνεχιστὲς τῆς συγγνώμης, οἱ ρίζες τῆς ὁποίας βρίσκονται στὸν Γολγοθᾶ, ποῦ εἶναι ποτισμένος μὲ τὸ Αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Εἶθε ὁ Θεὸς νὰ συγχωρεῖ καὶ τὰ δικά μας παραπτώματα. Ἀμήν.

Πηγή: <http://imsk.gr/>

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Today, Sunday 23rd:

Greek Fest To-Go 2020

11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Monday, August 24th:

Feastday of St. Dionysios

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, August 26th:

First Day - Koraes Elementary School

Thursday, August 27th:

Feastday of St. Phanourios

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 29th:

Beheading of St. John Baptist

Strict Fast Day

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sunday, August 23th:

12th Sunday of Matthew

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

† FUNERAL †

The following funeral
was recently held

Peter Ladias – August 20th

† May his memory be eternal †

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following into the
Orthodox Faith and we pray that God
grant them many, many years!

Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Konstandinos, son of

Petros and Nicole Drimonas

Sponsors: Sofia and Corey Newman

Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

Haralambos, son of

Peter and Tami Dremonas

Sponsors: Ryan and Ashley Neuner



GREEK FEST
TO-GO
2020

PRE-ORDER
ONLINE OR
DRIVE THRU
PICK UP

Gyros, Souvlaki, Loukoumades & more!

Drawing
\$20

Grand Prize: \$5,000
2nd Prize: \$2,000
3rd Prize: \$1,500
4th Prize: \$1,000
5th Prize: \$500

AUGUST
22nd & 23rd
11AM – 8PM

Hosted by Sts. Constantine and Helen Church
11025 Roberts Road, Palos Hills
www.Paloshillsgreekfest.com

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*“Be kind and compassionate
To one another,
Forgiving each other,
Just as in Christ
God forgave you.”
-Ephesians 4:32*

— — — — —

See you...



...Next Sunday