



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, Assoc. Pastor
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465
Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179
www.stconstantinehelen.org

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

Κυριακή 8η Σεπτεμβρίου 2019

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Αποστ: Γαλατας 6:11-18

Ευαγγ: Ἰωάννην 3:13-17

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Today's Readings

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: John 3:13-17

THE NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY

Our veneration of the Virgin Mary has always been rooted in her obedience to God, her willing choice to accept a humanly impossible calling. The Orthodox Church has always emphasized Mary's connection to humanity and delighted in her as the best, purest, most significant result of humanity's quest for God, for ultimate meaning of human life.

The heart of Orthodox Christian's devotion, contemplation, and joyful delight of the Virgin Mary has always been her Motherhood, her flesh and blood connection to Jesus Christ. The Church rejoices that the human role in the divine plan is pivotal. The Son of God comes to earth, appears in order to redeem the world, He becomes human to incorporate us into His divine work. If it is understood that Christ's "co-nature" with us is as a human being and forever united to us through His humanity, then devotion to the Virgin Mary also becomes understandable, for she is the one who gave Him His human nature, His flesh and blood. She is the one through whom Christ can always call Himself "The Son of Man."

Son of God...God descending and becoming man so that man could become divine, could become partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), or as the teachers of Church expressed it, "deified." It is here, in this extraordinary revelation of our authentic nature and calling, is the source that gratitude and tenderness which cherishes the Virgin Mary as our link to Christ and, in Him, to God. And nowhere is this reflected more clearly than in the Nativity of the Mother of God.

Nothing about this event is mentioned anywhere in the Holy Scriptures. But why should there be? Is there anything remarkable, anything especially unique about the normal birth of a child, a birth like any other? The Church began to commemorate the event with a special feast...because, the very fact that it is routine gives it something fresh, radiant and it gives new depth to the unremarkable details of human life. With each birth the world is itself, in a sense, created anew and given as a gift to this new human being to be their life, their path, and their creation.

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This feast is therefore a general celebration of a Human's birth, for as the Gospel says, "for joy that a human being is born into the world" (Jn. 16:21). Secondly, we know that we celebrate the Virgin Mary in all her uniqueness, beauty and grace of precisely this child, her destiny, her meaning for us and for the whole world. Thirdly, we celebrate all who prepared the way for the Virgin Mary, and therefore the Feast of her Nativity is also a celebration of human history and faith.

Amidst all this divine beauty we remember with this feast, we realize that in today's society, that goodness has almost evaporated and been replaced by cynicism and suspicion. This is what moves us to distance ourselves from the Church when it celebrates with such joy and faith of this birth of a little girl which is highlights goodness, spiritual beauty, harmony and perfection that are elements of genuine human nature. In celebrating the Virgin Mary's birth we find ourselves on the road to Bethlehem, moving toward the joyful mystery of Mary as the Mother to God.

ATTENTION!!!

Parents with Young Adults attending College

In our ongoing mission to keep in touch and continue building a relationship with our Young Adults, we are asking for some information. If you have a son or daughter who is going away to college, please let us know the school they are attending, their school mailing address and email address. If your son or daughter may be commuting or staying local, please let us know this as well. Please email Fr. Chris at cpavro@aol.com or contact the main office at (708) 974-3400 with the information.

SEPTEMBER FESTIVALS

Today All Saints, Joliet
Today SS. Constantine & Helen, Rockford
20-22 St. Iakovos, Valparaiso, IN

DOES YOUR COMPANY OFFER MATCHING GIFTS?

Many companies offer matching gifts to their employee's donations, if your business does, please contact Fr. Tom for more information or to prepare any paperwork that is required.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

Sunday School Begins
September 15

G.O.Y.A. Returns
(8th Grade and High School)

September 16 (7:00 – 8:30 p.m.)

Greek Folk Dance Practice
(8th Grade and High School)

September 9 (6:00 -7:00 p.m.)

Afternoon Greek School Begins
October 1

Please call the Church Office at
(708) 974-3400

With any address, phone number
Or e-mail changes

so that we can keep you informed of
Church Services and other events.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

John 3:17



Τρίτη 10η Σεπτεμβρίου

Ἡ Κοινότητα μας προσκαλεῖ οὖλους
τοὺς Ἑλληνορθοδόξους
ἠλικιωμένους τῶν νοτίων
προαστίων τοῦ Σικάγου στήν

ΧΡΙΣΤΙΑΝΙΚΗ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑ

Ὡρα 9.30 π.μ.

Θεία Λειτουργία καί
Επιμνημόσυνες Δεήσεις

Θά ἀκολουθήσει γεύμα.

Εἴσοδος ΔΩΡΕΑΝ

Γιά κλείσεις θέσεων
τηλεφωνήστε στο
708-974-3400

Παρασκευή 13η Σεπτεμβρίου

Ὡρα 7·00 μ.μ.

Εσπερινός εἰς τὸν ἑορτάζοντα
Ἱερὸν Ναὸν τοῦ
Τιμίου Σταυροῦ, Justice

Σάββατο 14η Σεπτεμβρίου

ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Ὡρα 8·00 π.μ.

Ὁρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία
Ἡμέρα αὐστηρῆς νηστείας.

Κυριακή 15η Σεπτεμβρίου

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ

Ὡρα 8·30 π.μ. - 11·15 π.μ.
Ὁρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία



ΠΡΩΤΕΣ ΗΜΕΡΕΣ

ΤΟΥ ΚΑΤΗΧΗΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ
15η ΣΕΠΤΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

ΤΟΥ ΑΠΟΓΕΥΜΑΤΙΝΟΥ
ΣΧΟΛΕΙΟΥ

Τρίτη 1η ΟΚΤΩΒΡΙΟΥ

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΥΨΩΣΕΩΣ ΤΟΥ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ



Το 326 μ.Χ. ἡ Ἁγία Ελένη πήγε στὴν Ἱερουσαλήμ γιὰ νὰ προσκυνήσει τοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους καὶ νὰ εὐχαριστήσει τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τοὺς θριάμβους τοῦ γιου τῆς Μεγάλου Κωνσταντίνου. Ὁ Θεὸς ζήλος ὁμως, ἔκανε τὴν Ἁγία Ελένη νὰ ἀρχίσει ἐρευνες γιὰ τὴν ἀνεύρεση τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ.

Ἐπάνω στο Γολγοθά υπήρχε εἰδωλολατρικὸς ναὸς τῆς θεᾶς Ἀφροδίτης, τὸν ὁποῖο γκρέμισε καὶ ἀρχισε τὶς ἀνασκαφές. Σὲ κάποιον σημεῖο, βρέθηκαν τρεῖς σταυροί. Ἡ συγκίνηση υπήρξε μεγάλη, ἀλλὰ ποῖος ἀπὸ τοὺς τρεῖς ἦταν τοῦ Κυρίου; Τότε ὁ ἐπίσκοπος Ἱεροσολύμων Μακάριος με ἀρκετοὺς Ἱερεῖς, ἀφοῦ ἔκανε δέηση, ἀγγίξε τοὺς σταυροὺς τὸ σῶμα μίας εὐσεβέστατης κυρίας ποὺ εἶχε πεθάνει. Ὅταν ἦλθε ἡ σειρά καὶ ἀγγίξε τὸν τρίτο σταυρὸ, ποὺ ἦταν πραγματικὰ τοῦ Κυρίου, ἡ γυναίκα ἀμέσως ἀναστήθηκε.

Ἡ εἶδηση διαδόθηκε σαν ἀστραπή σὲ ὅλα τὰ μέρη τῆς Ἱερουσαλήμ. Πλήθη πιστῶν ἀρχισαν νὰ συρρέουν γιὰ νὰ ἀγγίξουν τὸ τίμιο ξύλο. Ἐπειδὴ, ὁμως, συνέβησαν πολλὰ δυστυχήματα ἀπὸ τὸ συνωστισμό, ὑψωσαν τὸν Τίμιο Σταυρὸ μέσα στο ναὸ σὲ μέρος υψηλὸ, γιὰ νὰ μπορέσουν νὰ τὸν δουν καὶ νὰ τὸν προσκυνήσουν ὅλοι.

Αὐτὴ, λοιπὸν, τὴν ὑψωση καθιέρωσαν οἱ ἅγιοι Πατέρες, νὰ γιορτάζουμε στὶς 14 Σεπτεμβρίου, γιὰ νὰ μπορέσουμε κι εμεῖς νὰ υψώσουμε μέσα στὶς ψυχές μας τὸ Σταυρὸ τοῦ Κυρίου μας, ποὺ ἀποτελεῖτο κατ' ἐξοχίην "ὄπλον κατὰ τοῦ διαβόλου".

Ορισμένοι Συναξαριστές, αὐτὴ τὴν ἡμέρα, ἀναφέρουν καὶ τὴν ὑψωση τοῦ Τιμίου Σταυροῦ στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολη τὸ 628 μ.Χ. ἀπὸ τὸν βασιλιά Ἡράκλειο, ποὺ εἶχε νικήσει καὶ ξαναπῆρε τὸν Τίμιο Σταυρὸ ἀπὸ τοὺς Ἀβάρους, οἱ ὁποῖοι τὸν εἶχαν ἀρπάξει ἀπὸ τοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους.

Ἀπολυτικίον

Σώσον Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον
τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς Βασιλεύσι
κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τό σὸν φυλάττων διὰ
τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, September 9:

6:00 p.m. Greek Folk Dance Practice
(8th Grade and High School)

Tuesday, September 10:

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy / Christianiki
Philoxenia Luncheon to follow

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Friday, September 13:

10:00 a.m. Koraes School Prayer Service

7:00 p.m. Vespers at Holy Cross, Justice

Saturday, September 14: *Strict Fast Day* *Feastday of the Elevation of the Holy Cross*

8:00 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 15:

Sunday After the Elevation of the Holy Cross

8:30-11:15 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

✝ MEMORIALS ✝

Memorials are not permitted today.

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP / BAKE SALE

Today's Coffee Fellowship is hosted by the
St. Helen Women's Philoptochos.

Please join them.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

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

Saturday, September 7, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

Elena, daughter of
Edward & Alexandra Westfall

Sponsor: James Papadopoulos

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Let us all do our Best for Our Church...

The needs of our Parish are many!
Please make your commitment now
to our Stewardship 2019 Campaign.

You may do so in person,
by mail or online at:
www.stconstantinehelen.org

SAVE *the*
DATE

NOVEMBER 9, 2019

THE ODYSSEY VENUE
TINLEY PARK
6pm

Celebrating
110 *Years*

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Invitation to Follow



See you...

...Next SUNDAY!