



**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](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2019**

Κυριακη 15η Δεκεμβρίου 2019

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΑ΄ ΛΟΥΚΑ

Αποσ: Προς Β΄ Τιμοθέους 1: 8-18

Ευαγγ: Λουκα 14: 16-24

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Today's Readings

Epistle: Timothy 1: 8-18

Gospel: Luke 14: 16-24

**COME! ALL IS READY!**

In today's Gospel lesson, we are witness to the preparations of a Grand Banquet, a feast to end all feasts, an event that there isn't a person who wouldn't beg to be a guest. The master of the feast made absolutely sure that the guests received the invitations. He issued two invitations to each: the first was to tell each one that they were invited; the second, on the day of the dinner, to announce that all was ready and waiting.

"Come!" The Gospel is not so much a command as an offer; not so much a demand as a gift — an invitation to share in the unbelievable joy of the kingdom.

"Come!" God is expecting you! He is ready for everyone, the poor, the blind, the lame. He is ready for those who have spent their lives in every imaginable corner of life. He invites everyone: "Come; for all is now ready."

As a shepherd seeks the lost sheep and as a parent waits for the lost child to come home, so God is ever seeking, calling, inviting.

St. John Chrysostom wrote, "Christ's invitation is one of kindness. His goodness is beyond description. 'Come to me' not only the rulers but also their subjects, not only the rich, but also the poor, not only the free but also the slaves, not only men but women, not only the young but also the old, not only those of sound body but also those who are with sickness, to everyone, He says, come! For these are the Master's gifts; He doesn't distinguish between any of us, all such earthly inequality is cast aside. 'Come!' He says.

The Lord came, He was born in a stable and He died on the cross. He came to prepare the banquet of salvation for us. And now - today - He sends His servants to extend us His invitation: "Come, for all is now ready."

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We are told to come as we are — with all of our sins and sorrows, weaknesses and failures, problems and anxieties. Come to the only One who can forgive and heal. The ten lepers came; they were healed. The blind came; they received their sight. The woman bend over came; she was made straight. Sinners came; they were forgiven. Coming to Jesus is a way of life. It involves daily commitment, repentance, obedience, worship, prayer, spiritual nourishment, and regular Communion. It involves a daily walk with Christ. It involves not only "Come!" but also "Go!" "Go out into the world and be my disciples. Be servants. Be lights." None of us will ever know the wonder of the brightly lighted banquet hall, the goodness of the food, and the joy of being a part of this amazing fellowship unless we lay aside our excuses and dare to accept the invitation.

Let us all "Come to Him now" and be assured that on the last day He will direct to us the greatest "Come" of all: "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

The 59<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the  
*"Cutting of the Vasilopita"*

Will be held on  
Sunday, January 12, 2020  
At 6:00 p.m.

With the blessings of  
His Eminence Metropolitan Nathanael  
The Metropolis of Chicago Philoptochos Board  
Invites you to join them for a most  
Memorable evening at the parish of  
St. George Greek Orthodox Church  
2701 N. Sheffield – Chicago, IL

## The Hieromartyr Saint Eleftherios, a Young Bishop



This wonderful saint was the son of noble and prominent parents. He was born in Rome, where his father was an official in the imperial service, though he died in the saint's childhood. His mother, Anthia, had

heard the Gospel from Saint Paul and was, in fact, baptized by him. Given the fact that she was a widow, she entrusted her son's education to the Bishop of Rome, Anacletus. The Bishop saw how promising the young boy was and how he was illumined by the grace of God and so ordained him deacon when he was no more than fifteen, priest at eighteen and bishop at twenty.

He more than made up in wisdom what he lacked in years, and became Bishop of the Illyricum province, with his seat in Valona, in what is now Albania. His flock increased, but the Emperor Hadrian (117-138), persecuted Christians and sent a commander called Felix, with a detachment of soldiers, to fetch Eleftherios to Rome. Felix arrived in Valona and went into the church there, but when he saw and heard Eleftherios, his heart softened and he became Christian. When Eleftherios arrived in Rome, he was subjected to dreadful tortures, but withstood them so well that Choribus, the governor in charge of his punishment, was also persuaded to become a Christian. Both he and Felix were tortured and beheaded. Then it was Saint Eleftherios' turn to be martyred. His mother Anthia found the remains of her dead son and embraced them, before also being beheaded. This was in about the year 126.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR PARISH FAMILY

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.



## ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΑ΄ ΛΟΥΚΑ

(Λουκά κεφ. ιδ' στίχοι 16-24)

Η παραβολή του Δείπνου

Ένα Σάββατο ο Κύριος προσκλήθηκε και κάθισε στο σπίτι κάποιου Φαρισαίου για φαγητό. Κι ένας απ' αυτούς που ήταν στο τραπέζι, του είπε: Μακάριος είναι εκείνος που θα φάει γεύμα στη Βασιλεία του Θεού. Ο Κύριος τότε πήρε αφορμή για να μιλήσει για την αιώνια ευφροσύνη της Βασιλείας του Θεού με την παραβολή του Μεγάλου Δείπνου. Κάποιος άνθρωπος, είπε, έκανε μεγάλο βραδινό συμπόσιο και κάλεσε πολλούς. Κι έστειλε το δούλο του για να πει στους προσκεκλημένους: Ελάτε, όλα πλέον είναι έτοιμα για το μεγάλο δείπνο.

Οι προσκεκλημένοι της Παραβολής σαν να ήταν συνεννοημένοι άρχισαν να αρνούνται το κάλεσμα του οικοδεσπότη και να δικαιολογούν την απουσία τους από το δείπνο. Ο πρώτος είπε: Αγόρασα ένα χωράφι και πρέπει να πάω εκεί να το δω. Σε παρακαλώ, θεώρησε δικαιολογημένη την απουσία μου. Άλλος πάλι είπε: Αγόρασα πέντε ζευγάρια βόδια και πηγαίνω να τα δοκιμάσω. Σε παρακαλώ, δικαιολόγησε την απουσία μου. Κι ο τρίτος απάντησε πιο ψυχρά: Πριν από λίγο έκανα το γάμο μου και δεν μπορώ να έλθω.

Όταν επέστρεψε ο δούλος στον κύριό του και του διηγήθηκε τα όσα έγιναν, εκείνος θύμωσε και του είπε: Βγες γρήγορα στις πλατείες και τα στενά και φέρε εδώ μέσα τους πτωχούς και τους σακάτηδες, τους χωλούς και τυφλούς. Ύστερα από λίγο επέστρεψε πάλι ο δούλος και είπε: Κύριε, έγινε όπως διέταξες. Υπάρχει όμως ακόμη χώρος στο σπίτι. —Βγες λοιπόν έξω απ' την πόλη στους δρόμους και παρακίνησε επίμονα όσους βρεις να 'ρθουν εδώ, να γεμίσει το σπίτι μου, του είπε ο οικοδεσπότης. Κι έκλεισε ο Κύριος την παραβολή λέγοντας: Κανείς από τους ανθρώπους που αρνήθηκαν το κάλεσμα, δεν θα γευθεί το δείπνο μου.

Βέβαια μέσα από την Παραβολή ο Κύριος θέλει να υποδηλώσει ότι οι Εβραίοι, που θεωρούσαν ότι έχουν πρώτοι το δικαίωμα στη Βασιλεία του Θεού, τελικά αποκλείστηκαν απ' αυτήν για να την απολαύσουν οι εθνικοί. Όμως η Παραβολή αυτή έχει και γενικότερη εφαρμογή στον καθένα μας. Διότι ο Θεός καλεί όλους μας. Και είναι φοβερό να αρνηθούμε την κλήση του προβάλλοντας τις ανόητες προφάσεις των αρνητών της Παραβολής. Είναι προφάσεις μικρές και υποκριτικές, που ξεσκεπάζουν την κακή διάθεση των προσκεκλημένων. Διότι όλοι τους είχαν ειδοποιηθεί από καιρό για το δείπνο αυτό. Θα μπορούσαν να είχαν ρυθμίσει το πρόγραμμά τους, ώστε να μπορέσουν να συμμετάσχουν. Αυτές οι προφάσεις όμως επιπλέον δείχνουν πόσο μας περισπούν και μας δένουν οι φροντίδες της ζωής, η εργασία μας και οι οικογενειακές μας υποχρεώσεις.

Αν όλοι οι άνθρωποι ιεραρχούσαμε σωστά τα πράγματα και εκτιμούσαμε την πρόσκληση του Θεού, θα λέγαμε: Με καλεί ο Θεός στη Βασιλεία του. Κανένα εμπόδιο δεν μπορεί να σταθεί ικανό να μου στερήσει τον Παράδεισο. Διαφορετικά περιφρονώντας την πρόσκληση και τη χάρη του Θεού κινδυνεύουμε να τη χάσουμε για πάντα. Κινδυνεύουμε να χάσουμε όχι κάτι μικρό, αλλά το μεγαλύτερο, το άπειρο, τον ίδιο τον Θεό. Κι αν χάσουμε τον Θεό, χάσαμε τα πάντα. Καμία πρόφαση λοιπόν να μη σταθεί εμπόδιο στο δρόμο μας προς τη Βασιλεία του Θεού. Δεν θα έχουμε καμία δικαιολογία.

<https://xfgd.gr/keimena>

Παρασκευή 20η Δεκεμβρίου

Ώρα 9:00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Ώρα 1:30 μ.μ. - Χριστουγεννιάτικο πρόγραμμα του σχολείου μας

Κυριακή 22α Δεκεμβρίου - Κυριακή Προ Της Χριστού Γεννησεως

Ώρα 8:30 - 11:15 π.μ. - Ώρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

### Today, December 15: - G.O.A.L. Basketball

Away vs St. Demetrios (Elmhurst)

1:45 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

2:30 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

3:15 p.m. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

4:15 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

5:15 p.m. Girls Division

6:15 p.m. High School Boys Division

### Monday, December 16:

7:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A.

### Tuesday, December 17 :

6:30 p.m. G.O.A.L. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>; 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup>; 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Basketball Practices

6:30 p.m. G.O.A.L. Girls Basketball Practice

8:00 p.m. G.O.A.L. H.S. Boys Basketball Practice

### Friday, December 20:

9:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy

Koraes Students will attend

1:30 p.m. Koraes School Christmas Program

### Sunday, December 22: *Sunday before The Nativity*

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

### G.O.A.L. Basketball

Away vs St Nectarios (Palatine)

1:45 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

2:30 p.m. 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

3:30 p.m. 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Division

4:30 p.m. Girls Division

5:30 p.m. High School Boys Division

*"Then the Master told his servant,  
'Go out to the roads and country  
lanes and compel them to come in,  
so that my house will be full."*

-Luke 14:23

## MEMORIALS

1 year Georgia Tsakalakis

1 year Andreas Liveratos

3 year Peter (Petros) Tsakalakis

† May their memory be eternal †

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's coffee fellowship is hosted by the  
Tsakalakis Family in memory of  
Georgia Tsakalakis and Peter Tsakalakis  
Please Join Them

Metropolis of Chicago

### *Christmas Open House Today*

Today, December 15, 2019

3 pm to 7pm

Light appetizers and refreshments will be served.

No reservations necessary. This event

is our gift to our community.

For more information please email

[kathas@hellenicmuseum.org](mailto:kathas@hellenicmuseum.org)

The National Hellenic Museum

333 S. Halsted Street Chicago, Illinois

## 2019 STEWARDSHIP

As the year is quickly coming to a close,  
we would like to take this opportunity to thank  
our parish families for all that you do for our  
beloved *Saints Constantine and Helen Church  
and Koraes School!*

*If you have not contributed your 2019 Stewardship,  
please do so prior to year end.*



**See you...**

**...Next Sunday**