



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, DECEMBER 1, 2019

Κυριακή 1η Δεκεμβρίου 2019
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΔ' ΛΟΥΚΑ
Αποσ: Προς Εφεσιους 2:14-22
Ευαγγ: Λουκα 18: 35-43

14th Sunday of Luke
Today's Readings
Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22
Gospel: Luke 18: 35-43

BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK

Today's Gospel lesson tells us about our Lord visiting the town of Jericho. A blind man, heard a commotion and asked what was going on. Those around told him "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." The blind beggar realizing the opportunity of his life was about to pass right in front of him, he grasped it. He cried out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Bystanders tried to stop him. The reading tells us that those who were in front told him to be silent, but he just shouted louder. He was determined to come face to face with Christ. Nothing would stop him. He refused to be silent and his sense of need drove him relentlessly into the presence of Jesus. He wanted a miracle and he wasn't going to stop until he got it.

The result was that he was very successful. The Gospel writes that "Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to Him..." Everything in the universe stopped in its course; the world beyond our world is brought to attention, in all its healing power, by one cry of human need. God is always stopped by an honest cry of faith. Prayer has the power to stop God and center His attention upon one person - just one person. What if the blind man had not prayed? Jesus might have just passed him by. How many needs are there in our lives that are not met, simply because we have not prayed? How many times has God passed us by because we did not ask Him to stop? We have heard many times "ask and you shall receive" and we should know that the limit God places is not on His ability or willingness to give, but on our willingness to ask and our capacity to believe. No greater moment comes into the life of any person than when, out of recognition of need and faith in Christ's power to meet that need, that they fall on their knees in humility and begin to pray.

This man whose prayer stopped Jesus wasn't the ruler of the country, nor some very prominent or influential person; he was a mere beggar. He was a man who was on the very bottom of the social ladder. But in the face of the need of just one person, the Son of God stopped, gave him His full attention, and made available His mighty power.

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Jesus asked him what he wanted, to which he replied, 'Lord, let me receive my sight.' And Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight, your faith has made you well.' And immediately he received his sight and followed Him..." Jesus opened his eyes. He restored his sight. When the blind beggar received his sight "he followed Jesus." Now he would live in the presence of Him who was and is and will ever be "the light of the world."

When the blind beggar heard that "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by," he seized life's greatest opportunity and he received his sight. Life's greatest opportunity for us, too, is that Jesus of Nazareth is passing by – today and now! He continually knocks on the door of our hearts. He reveals Himself to us in the Bible. He speaks to us through the Church. He offers Himself to us through the Sacraments. He is always just a prayer away from us.

Are we, like the blind beggar, aware that Jesus is passing by? If we let Jesus pass us by, we will remain blind beggars who missed out on the opportunity that would have given us sight, light, happiness, joy and fulfillment beyond our highest expectation, leading on to life eternal as joint heirs of Jesus. To miss Christ is to miss all. To gain Christ is to gain all. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock," says Jesus. Let us all open the door to our hearts.

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.



THE FEASTDAY OF St. Barbara the Great Martyr

Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian.

She was the daughter of a certain idolater named Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool. (When the Synaxarion of Saint Barbara was written, the marble of the bath-house and the cross inscribed by Saint Barbara were still preserved, and many healings were worked there.) When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

www.goarch.org



"The giver of every good gift has called upon us to mimic *His* giving by Grace, through Faith and this is not for ourselves."

- St. Nicholas of Myra



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΔ' ΛΟΥΚΑ

(Λουκά κεφ. ιη' στίχοι 35-43).

Η θεραπεία του τυφλού στην Ιεριχώ.

Η Εκκλησία με τη σημερινή περικοπή θέλει να μας διδάξει ότι: α) Ο Ιησούς Χριστός είναι ο Θεάνθρωπος και παντοδύναμος Κύριος μας, β) το θαύμα είχε σκοπό να φανερώσει την ζωντανή πίστη του τυφλού και γ) το παράδειγμα του τυφλού βοήθησε όλο το λαό να αναγνωρίσει το Θεάνθρωπο Σωτήρα και να προσφέρει δοξολογία στο Θεό.

Η Ιεριχώ ήταν πόλη της Γαλιλαίας που βρισκόταν όχι μιά από τη βόρεια ακτή της Νεκρής Θάλασσας. Σ' αυτή την ζούσε ο τυφλός του Ευαγγελίου και φαίνεται πως ήταν ίσως δυστυχισμένος άνθρωπος. Η φοβερή τύφλωση δεν του επέτρεπε να εργάζεται και έτσι ήταν αναγκασμένος για να ζήσει κάνει το ζητιάνο. Είναι μια εικόνα που δυστυχώς τη διαπιστώσουμε σ' όλες τις εποχές, ακόμα και σήμερα.

Ο τυφλός είχε μεγάλη πίστη στον Ιησού Χριστό. Γι' αυτό και φώναζε: «Ιησού, Υιέ Δαβίδ ελέησε με». Παρόλο που δεν είχε μάτια, όμως έβλεπε με τα μάτια της ψυχής του τον Κύριο και τον δεχόταν ως αληθινό Θεό και Σωτήρα του κόσμου. Ο κόσμος τον μάλωνε που φώναζε, αλλ' αυτός όμως ομολογούσε την πίστη και την αγάπη του στο Χριστό πολύ δυνατώτερα από πριν. Ο Κύριος είδε τη λαχτάρα του τυφλού και έδωσε εντολή να τον φέρουν κοντά του. Η πράξη αυτή δείχνει την άπειρη αγάπη, στοργή και συμπάθεια του Κυρίου για τον τυφλό.

Ο διάλογος του Κυρίου με τον τυφλό είναι θαυμάσιος. Αφού ο Κύριος τον ακούμπησε, τον ρώτησε: «Τι θέλεις να σου κάμω;» Ο Κύριος τον ρωτά, γιατί θέλει να ακούσει από το ίδιο το στόμα του τυφλού την επιθυμία του. Ο τυφλός απαντά: «Κύριε, ίνα αναβλέψω». Θέλει να αποκτήσει το φως των ματιών του. Απευθύνεται στον Κύριο και πιστεύει ακράδαντα, πως μόνον αυτός έχει τη δύναμη να θεραπεύσει όχι μόνο το σκοτάδι των ματιών, αλλά και το σκοτάδι της ψυχής, δηλαδή την αμαρτία, που είναι πολύ χειρότερο από την τύφλωση των ματιών.

Ο Κύριος αναγνωρίζει και φανερώνει την πίστη του τυφλού σ' όλους τους παρευρισκόμενους ανθρώπους. «Η πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε» του λέγει. Δηλαδή «η πίστη σου είναι τέτοια, που σου προσφέρει τη συχώρηση των αμαρτιών σου και την άπειρη αγάπη μου που σε οδηγεί στη σωτηρία». Για να καταλάβουν και οι άλλοι άνθρωποι το γεγονός της σωτηρίας, που συμβαίνει στην ψυχή του τυφλού, πραγματοποιεί τη θαυματουργική θεραπεία της σωματικής του τυφλώσεως. Όλος ο κόσμος και πριν απ' όλους ο τυφλός άρχισαν να δοξολογούν το Θεό. Αυτή τη σωτηρία είχε δει με τα μάτια του και ο γέροντας Συμεών, όταν η Παναγία με τον Ιωσήφ έφεραν το βρέφος Ιησού στο ναό του Σολομώντα. Είδαν τα μάτια μου τη σωτηρία, που είναι ο Χριστός βροντοφωνεί ο Συμεών. Μακάρι και μείς να αξιωθούμε να δούμε τη μεγάλη αυτή ευεργεσία του Θεού, δηλαδή να υποδεχτούμε το Σωτήρα Κύριο στην καρδιά μας.

Πηγή: <http://paroutsas.jmc.gr>

Τετάρτη 4η Δεκεμβρίου - Της 'Αγίας Βαρβάρας

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ. Ώρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Πέμπτη 5η Δεκεμβρίου

Ώρα 7:00 μ.μ. Έσπερινός εις τόν εορτάζοντα Ιερόν Ναόν του 'Αγίου Νικολαου - Oak Lawn

Παρασκευή 6η Δεκεμβρίου - Του 'Αγίου Νικολαου

Ώρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία εις τόν εορτάζοντα 'Ιερόν Ναόν του Αγίου Νικολαου - Oak Lawn
ΔΕΝ θα λειτουργήσουμε εις τόν δικόν μας Ιερόν Ναόν

Κυριακή 8η Δεκεμβρίου - Κυριακή Γ' Λουκά

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

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, December 2:

5:45 p.m. Feed My Starving Children
Schaumburg, IL.

Tuesday, December 3:

6:00 p.m. St Helen Women's Philoptochos
Christmas Festival of Tables
and Stewardship Party

Wednesday, December 4:

Feastday of St. Barbara

8:00 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy
7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Thursday, December 5:

7:00 p.m. Vespers at St. Nicholas Church -
Oak Lawn

Friday, December 6:

Feastday of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

8:30 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy
at St Nicholas Church - Oak Lawn

5:30 p.m. J.O.Y. Rookies Camp 4 (PreK-K)

6:45 p.m. J.O.Y. Mighty Mights Game 3
(1st-3rd)

7:45 p.m. J.O.Y. Minors Game 3 (4th-5th)

8:45 p.m. J.O.Y. Majors Game 3 (6th-8th)

Sunday, December 8: 10th Sunday of Luke

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

G.O.A.L. Basketball

Home vs St. Demetrios (Hammond)

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

3:30 p.m. High School Boys Division

DCFS Toy Drive Gifts DUE TODAY!!

All Gifts for the DCFS Toy Drive are DUE TODAY!!
Please see Fr. Chris following the Liturgy to turn
in the gifts you have committed to purchasing.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

We wish to congratulate Mr. Mark Dinos on
his recent election to the Metropolis Council.
AXIOS!

MEMORIALS

40 Days Vivian Paris

† May her memory be eternal †

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's coffee fellowship is hosted by
St Helen Women's Philoptochos
Please Join Them

With warmest greetings for
A joyous, blessed, and Holy Festal Season
***His Eminence Metropolitan NATHANAEEL
of Chicago***

The Metropolis Council and the Philoptochos Board
Cordially invite you to attend the
Annual Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 15, 2019
3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

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 Korae School!*

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



See you...

...Next Sunday