



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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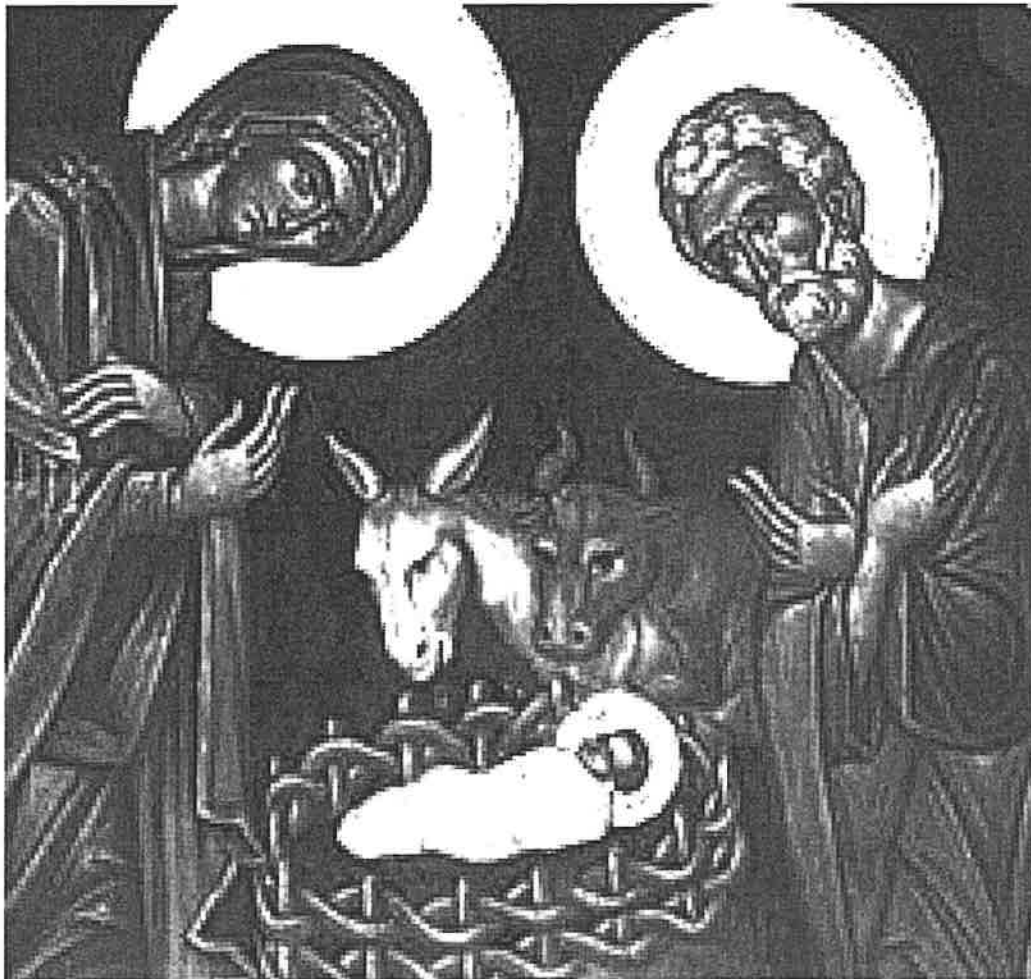
Κυριακή 22η Δεκεμβρίου 2019
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΗΣ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ
Αποσ: Εβραίουσ. 11:9-10, 32-40
Ευαγγ: Ματθαίου 1:1-25

Sunday Before Nativity
Today's Readings
Epistle: Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40
Gospel: Matthew 1: 1-25



Christ is Born ... Glorify Him!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΓΕΝΝΑΤΑΙ...ΔΟΞΑΣΑΤΕ!



CHRISTMAS – THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST

The Feast of the Nativity of Jesus is one of the most joyful days of the Orthodox Church. The Feast of the Birth of Jesus is also known as the "Incarnation of Christ." This means that Jesus became a man and came into the world to save us.

The story of the Nativity of Christ is beautifully told in the Holy Scriptures in Matthew 1:18-25 and in Luke 2:1-20. As the story is told by the Apostles, the Roman Emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken in all his lands. He needed to know how many people lived in the empire so he could tax them. Everyone had to go to the town of their family's origin to register for the census. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They were descendants of King David and Bethlehem was the City of David.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth and it was a great distance from Bethlehem. It was about 100 miles over very rugged roads. Moreover, Mary was expecting the baby and it was almost time for her to give birth. Bethlehem was a small town and there were many descendants of David who had come to register for the census. By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem there was no place for them to stay. There was no room at the inn. Finally, Joseph found a cave-like place where they could rest. It was here that Mary gave birth to Jesus. The baby was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in the straw in the manger.

Now, that night the shepherds were out in the fields guarding their sheep. Suddenly, there was a bright light which startled them. Soon an angel appeared and calmed them. The angel said: "Fear not for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour; which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:11-12).

Then a larger group of angels appeared. They praised and glorified God and sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, and good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). The shepherds decided that they wanted to see for themselves what the angels had told them. When they got to Bethlehem, they found Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. They fell to their knees and adored Jesus.

Some Wise Men came from the East for they knew of the coming of Jesus. They had seen a star that told them that a new king had been born. When King Herod learned the Wise Men were looking for the child, he asked them to find Him so that he, too, could worship Him, but this was an act of deception. When the Wise Men found Jesus, they fell to their knees and worshipped Him, giving gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Wise Men returned to their land, not returning to Herod, as they had a dream that warned them that Herod wanted to harm Jesus.

And every year, we too make the pious journey in our souls to receive the best Gift ever offered in our lives, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He is truly the best gift because He is many gifts in one. Through Him we receive the gift of being members of God's family, the gift of a loving heavenly Father, the gift of God who knows us by name and cares about each of us, the gift of the Holy Spirit abiding within us, and the gift of a place in God's heaven. May we all have a Blessed Christmas and receive the Greatest Gift of All!



ΤΟ ΝΟΗΜΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ



Σε λίγες μέρες γιορταζουμε την Άγια Ημέρα των Χριστουγέννων η μεγάλη εορτή της Γέννησης του Θεανθρώπου. Οι ετοιμασίες μας όμως στρέφονται κυρίως γύρω από το γιορταστικό τραπέζι, τα πλούσια φαγητά, το στολισμό του δέντρου, το φωτισμό των μπαλκονιών. Όλα αυτά είναι ασφαλώς ευχάριστα και μας βοηθούν να νιώσουμε διαφορετικά, να ξεφύγουμε από την ανιαρή καθημερινότητα και να βρεθούμε πιο κοντά στους δικούς μας ανθρώπους.

Το πραγματικό όμως νόημα των Χριστουγέννων δεν βρίσκεται εδώ, αλλά είναι πολύ πιο βαθύ, πολύ πιο δυνατό, πολύ πιο μεγαλειώδες. Ο Χριστός παίρνει την ανθρώπινη φύση, γίνεται τέλειος άνθρωπος, έρχεται να γεννηθεί στο ταπεινό σπήλαιο της Βηθλεέμ, να διδάξει και αργότερα να σταυρωθεί μόνο και μόνο από αγάπη για τον άνθρωπο και με αποκλειστικό σκοπό τη σωτηρία του. Στη φτωχική φάτνη, μέσα από την απέριτη εικόνα του Βρέφους, της Παρθένου, των ποιμένων και των μάγων, αναβλύζει το μήνυμα της αγάπης και της προσφοράς. Πράγματι, τα Χριστούγεννα συμβολίζουν το θρίαμβο της έμπρακτης και ανιδιοτελούς αλληλεγγύης, τη νίκη της παλλόμενης καρδιάς πάνω στον ψυχρό, ορθολογιστικό νου.

Σήμερα, πάνω από δύο χιλιάδες χρόνια μετά, το λαμπρό αστέρι της Άγιας Νύχτας μάς οδηγεί στον ίδιο πάντοτε δρόμο, μας καλεί να ακολουθήσουμε την ίδια πορεία: να ανοίξουμε την καρδιά μας στο συνάνθρωπο, στον οποιοδήποτε συνάνθρωπο, ανεξάρτητα από καταγωγή, εθνικότητα, κοινωνική θέση ή οικονομική κατάσταση, να σταθούμε ο ένας δίπλα στον άλλο, να νιώσουμε και να πραγματώσουμε την « έν ανθρώποις εὐδοκία ». Μόνον έτσι τα Χριστούγεννα θα βρουν το πραγματικό τους νόημα. Κι αυτό το νόημα το έχουμε τόσο ανάγκη σε μια εποχή άκρατου ατομισμού, ηθικής και οικονομικής κρίσης, σύγχυσης και αδιαφορίας για τον πλησίον.

Πηγή: <http://www.new.marist-leonteios.gr>

Τρίτη 24η Δεκεμβρίου - ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Ώρα 7:30 π.μ. Ἀνάγνωσης Βασιλικῶν Ὁρῶν

Ώρα 8:30 - 10:00 π.μ. Ἑσπερινός, Θεία Λειτουργία τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου

Τό εσπέρας Ώρα 7:00 μ.μ.

Πρώτη Χριστουγεννιάτικη Θεία Λειτουργία

Τετάρτη 25η Δεκεμβρίου - Η ΓΕΝΝΗΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ - 10:45 π.μ. - Ὁρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 29η Δεκεμβρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΩΝ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΩΝ

Ώρα 8:30 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ. - Ὁρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία

Ὁ π. Αθανάσιος, ο π. Χρήστος, ὁ Πρόεδρος καί τά μέλη του Διοικητικοῦ Συμβουλίου, τό προσωπικό τῆς ἐκκλησίας καί του σχολείου εὐχονται στά μέλη καί σέ ὅλους τοὺς πιστοὺς

Κ Α Λ Α Χ Ρ Ι Σ Τ Ο Υ Γ Ε Ν Ν Α

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Today, December 22: - G.O.A.L. Basketball

Away vs St Nectarios (Palatine)

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

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

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

4:30 p.m. Girls Division

5:30 p.m. High School Boys Division

Tuesday, December 24: *Christmas Eve* :

7:30 a.m. Royal Hours of Christmas

8:30 -10:00 a.m. Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil

7:00 p.m. 1st Christmas Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, December 25: *Christmas Day*

The Nativity of the Lord Jesus Christ

8:00-10:45 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy

The Church Office will be closed on December 25th

The Church Office will be open

9:00am-3:00p.m.

Thursday, December 26 thru Tuesday December 31

Sunday, December 29:

Sunday After the Nativity

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

WITH THANKS AND APPRECIATION

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to

***Constantine and Joanne Kapsaskis
and their family***

For the beautiful poinsettia plants that decorate our church during this festive season

Thank you for your kindness and love for our Church!



FASTING NOT REQUIRED

Those who strive and struggle are rewarded, therefore fasting is not required beginning December 25th through January 4th, however, Sunday January 5th is a STRICT FAST DAY

MEMORIALS

40 Days Steve (Stavros) Martinovich

5 Year Helen Pecoulas Asikin

10 year Arthur Parhas

† May their memory be eternal †

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Loukoumades sale is hosted by the St Helen's Philoptochos
Please Join Them

FUNERALS

The following funerals were recently held.
Mary Shannon – Wednesday, December 18th
George Panos- Thursday December 19th
† May their memory be eternal †

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 the year end. Please be advised that our 2020 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN will begin in January.

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

We notify our parishioners that Mr. Mark Dinos, submitted his resignation as Parish Council President, announcing that he will step down as President of the Parish Council and relinquished his position on the Parish Council. In accordance with our Parish Bylaws, the position must be filled by the First Vice President. As of November 20th, the President of our Parish Council is
Mr. Demetrios (Jim) Stavrou



See you...

...Next Sunday