



**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church**  
**THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN**

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, 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 27, 2020**

Κυριακή 27η Δεκεμβρίου 2020

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΕΤΑ ΤΗΣ ΓΕΝΝΗΣΕΩΣ

Αποστ: Πραξ. 6:8 – 7:5, 47-60

Ευαγγ: Ματθαιου 2:33-42

Sunday After the Nativity

Today's Readings

Epistle: Acts 6:8 – 7:5, 47-60

Gospel: Matthew 2:33-42



**THE NEW YEAR – ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY**

Another New Year is on our doorstep, and it is normal that we give extra thought to the new time frame. We all make the customary New Year's resolutions, only to have them short-lived. To this, there could only be one answer, and this was spoken by the Lord: "The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." (Matthew 26:41) Our intentions may be honorable, but we so easily fall to the established routine of life, simply because we do not make the sufficient effort to move ourselves to follow the Christian course, which holds the fulfillment we all desire.

We hear people say that it is so often difficult to do the right thing, especially in a materialistic world where the competition is so great. It may be difficult, but not impossible. The Lord made no sugarcoated promises. He stated that, "the gate is narrow which leads unto life, whereas the gate is wide and the way is broad which leads unto destruction!" (Matthew 7:13-14)

One of the main problems in our life as Christians is that we do not give equal time to the needs of our soul. We often take extra pain to take care of our physical needs. And yet we just don't think very often about our spiritual needs.

We all seek happiness in life, but happiness does not mean the same thing to all people. People have to come to grips with themselves, and at the same time take life more seriously. When this happens, they will be convinced that happiness does not come from things that we may acquire. Happiness has its roots from deep within our soul. It has to source from the soul.

The proof of this is that as we mature and approach the golden years of life, we realize that the things that seemed so important in our youth are now only incidental, and the things we took for granted, in which we didn't place much importance, are the things that in the end become very precious to us.

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued from page 1*

Our Lord Jesus does not command us. But He is forever reaching out, inviting us to follow Him. He asks us to unburden our heavy hearts and to take up our cross and follow Him. When we have the Lord with us, and truly believe this, no earthly burden will be too heavy to bear. We have to truly understand the great privilege it is to be a Christian. To believe and grow in Christ is a life-long process. Flowers do not bloom in a day nor does fruit ripen on the trees in a week. In the same gradual way, we can ascend the ladder of a Christian life.

May this New Year give us the great opportunity to give true substance to our faith. The choice is ours, and if this does happen, then we can say as did St Paul, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor the present, nor the future, nor evil forces above or beneath, nor anything in creation shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is Christ our Lord."



### **ST. BASIL THE GREAT**

Saint Basil the Great was born about the end of the year 329 in Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family renowned for their learning and holiness. Basil studied in Constantinople under the sophist Libanius, then in Athens, where also he formed a friendship with the young Gregory, a fellow Cappadocian, later called "the Theologian." Through the good influence of his sister Macrina (see July 19), he chose to embrace the ascetical life, abandoning his worldly career. He visited the monks in Egypt, in Palestine, in Syria, and in Mesopotamia, and upon returning to Caesarea, he departed to a hermitage on the Iris River in Pontus, not far from Annesi, where his mother and his sister Macrina were already treading the path of the ascetical life; here he also wrote his ascetical homilies.

About the year 370, when the bishop of his country reposed, he was elected to succeed to his throne and was entrusted with the Church of Christ, which he tended for eight years, living in voluntary poverty and strict asceticism, having no other care than to defend holy Orthodoxy as a worthy successor of the Apostles. The Emperor Valens, and Modestus, the Eparch of the East, who were of one mind with the Arians, tried with threats of exile and of torments to bend the Saint to their own confession, because he was the bastion of Orthodoxy in all Cappadocia, and preserved it from heresy when Arianism was at its strongest. But he set all their malice at naught, and in his willingness to give himself up to every suffering for the sake of the Faith, showed himself to be a martyr by volition. Modestus, amazed at Basil's fearlessness in his presence, said that no one had ever so spoken to him. "Perhaps," answered the Saint, "you have never met a bishop before." The Emperor Valens himself was almost won over by Basil's dignity and wisdom. When Valens' son fell gravely sick, he asked Saint Basil to pray for him. The Saint promised that his son would be restated if Valens agreed to have him baptized by the Orthodox; Valens agreed, Basil prayed, and the son was restored. But afterwards the Emperor had him baptized by Arians, and the child died soon after. Later, Valens, persuaded by his counsellors, decided to send the Saint into exile because he would not accept the Arians into communion; but his pen broke when he was signing the edict of banishment. He tried a second time and a third, but the same thing happened, so that the Emperor was filled with dread, and tore up the document, and Basil was not banished. The truly great Basil, spent with extreme ascetical practices and continual labours, at the helm of the church, departed to the Lord on the 1st of January, in 379. at the age of forty-nine.

His writings are replete with wisdom and erudition, and rich are these gifts he set forth the doctrines concerning the mysteries both of the creation (see his Hexaemeron) and of the Holy Trinity (see On the Holy Spirit). Because of the majesty and keenness of his eloquence, he is honoured as "the revealer of heavenly things" and "the Great."

## Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΣ Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ



Ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος, μία ἀπὸ τὶς μεγαλύτερες μορφές τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, γεννήθηκε περὶ τὸ 330 μ.Χ. στὴν Καισάρεια τῆς Καππαδοκίας. Ἐλαβε τὴν πρώτη χριστιανικὴ διαπαιδαγώγησή του ἀπὸ τὴ μητέρα καὶ τὴ γιαγιά του καὶ διδάχθηκε τὰ πρῶτα γράμματα ἀπὸ τὸν πατέρα του. Σπούδασε στὶς σχολές τῆς Καισαρείας τῆς Καππαδοκίας καὶ τοῦ Βυζαντίου, καὶ τέλος διδάχθηκε στὴν Ἀθήνα ρητορικὴ, φιλοσοφία, ἀστρονομία, γεωμετρία καὶ ἰατρικὴ. Ἐπέστρεψε στὸν Πόντο, περὶ τὸ 356 μ.Χ., καὶ βαπτίσθηκε Χριστιανὸς ὑπὸ τοῦ Ἐπισκόπου Καισαρείας Διανίου.

Τὸ 362 μ.Χ., χειροτονήθηκε πρεσβύτερος ἀπὸ τὸν Ἐπίσκοπο Καισαρείας Εὐσέβιο. Τὸ ἔτος 370 μ.Χ., ἐξελέγη Ἐπίσκοπος Καισαρείας. Ἀγκάλιασε τοὺς γέροντες, τὰ παιδιά, τὶς γυναῖκες καὶ τοὺς ἄνδρες, τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς καὶ φρόντιζε καθημερινὰ γιὰ τὴν τροφή τους. Οἰκοδόμησε κοντὰ στὴν Καισάρεια ἓνα συγκρότημα πτωχοκομείου καὶ νοσοκομείου, τὴ Βασιλειάδα, ποὺ ἔγινε τὸ ταμεῖο τῆς εὐσέβειας καὶ τῆς ἀγάπης.

Γιὰ τὴν Ὁρθόδοξη Ἀνατολικὴ Ἐκκλησία τὸ μεγαλύτερο ἔργο τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου εἶναι ἡ Θεία Λειτουργία αὐτοῦ, ποὺ τελεῖται καὶ σήμερα σὲ καθορισμένες ἡμέρες τοῦ λειτουργικοῦ ἔτους: τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς μνήμης τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου, τὶς παραμονές τῶν τριῶν μεγάλων Δεσποτικῶν ἑορτῶν, Χριστουγέννων, Θεοφανείων καὶ Πάσχα (Μέγα Σάββατο), τὶς πέντε Κυριακές τῆς Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστῆς καὶ τὴ Μεγάλη Πέμπτη.

Ὅταν πλησίαζε ἡ ὥρα νὰ παραδώσει τὴν ἀγία του ψυχὴ στὸν Θεό, προσήλθαν στὴν κλίνη του ὄλοι σχεδὸν οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τῆς πόλεως. Ἐκεῖνος τοὺς δίδασκε καὶ τοὺς εὐλογοῦσε. Προσευχόμενος στὸν Κύριο εἶπε: «Εἰς χεῖρας Σου Κύριε, παραθήσομαι τὸ πνεῦμα μου», καὶ κοιμήθηκε.

---

Παρασκευὴ 1η Ἰανουαρίου - ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ  
ΜΝΗΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΠΡΩΤΟΧΡΟΝΙΑ

Ὑψρα 9:00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακὴ 3η Ἰανουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΠΡΟ ΤΩΝ ΦΩΤΩΝ

Ὑψρα 9:00 π.μ. - 10:30 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

---

Ὁ π. Αθανάσιος, ὁ Πρόεδρος καὶ τὰ μέλη τοῦ Διοικητικοῦ Συμβουλίου, τὸ προσωπικὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας καὶ τοῦ σχολείου ἐπὶ τὴ ἑναρξῆ τοῦ νέου ἔτους εὐχόνται στὰ μέλη καὶ σὲ ὄλους τοὺς πιστοὺς τὴν εὐλογία καὶ τὴ χαρὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὑγεία καὶ εἰφνην στό καθένα καὶ στὰ σπίτια τους

**ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΠΟΛΛΑ καὶ ΕΥΤΥΧΕΣ ΤΟ ΝΕΟ ΕΤΟΣ**

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

**Friday, January 1:**

**FEASTDAY OF THE NAMING OF CHRIST  
and  
FEASTDAY of ST. BASIL THE GREAT**  
9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy

The Church office will be closed in  
Observance of the New Year Holiday

**Sunday, January 3:**

**Sunday Before the Epiphany**  
9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy



### ***Apolytikion of the Feastday of the Naming of Christ***

Our human form hast Thou taken on Thyself  
without change, O greatly-compassionate  
Master, though being God by nature; fulfilling  
the Law, Thou willingly receivest circumcision  
in the flesh, that Thou mightest end the  
shadow and roll away the veil of our sinful  
passions. Glory be to Thy goodness unto us.  
Glory be to Thy compassion. Glory, O Word, to  
Thine inexpressible condescension.

#### ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ

#### ΠΕΡΙΤΟΜΗ ΤΟΥ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

Μορφήν αναλλοιώτως ανθρωπίνην  
προσέλαβες, Θεός ών κατ' ουσίαν,  
πολυεύσπλαγχνε Κύριε, καί Νόμον εκπληρών,  
περιτομήν, θελήσει καταδέχη σαρκικήν, όπως  
παύσης τά σκιώδη, καί περιέλης τό κάλυμμα  
τών παθών ημών, Δόξα τή αγαθότητι τή σή,  
δόξα τή ευσπλαγχνία σου, δόξα τή  
ανεκφράστω Λόγε συγκαταβάσει σου.



## † MEMORIALS †

1 Year Anastasios Christakos

† May his memory be eternal †



**Fr. Tom, together with  
Mr. Demetrios Stavrou, President  
and all the  
members of the Parish Council  
and the  
Church and Koraes School personnel,  
wish to extend to each and everyone  
a very Happy New Year  
filled with God's blessings.**

**see you...**



**...Next Sunday**