



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2017

Κυριακή 3η Δεκεμβρίου 2017

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΔ' ΛΟΥΚΑ

Αποστ: Εφ. 5:8-19

Ευαγγ: Λουκα. 18:35-43

14th Sunday of Luke

Today's Readings

Epistle: Eph. 5:8-19

Gospel: Luke 18:35-43



ETERNAL BLESSINGS

The birth of Christ is one great Feast that all of Christian world can celebrate together. Within a month, all of us will receive the Newborn Lord and all of the many blessings and gifts that He bestows upon us every single day. Among these gifts, He offers us the Beatitudes, which was part of the Sermon on the Mount which many consider to be the greatest sermon ever preached. Especially at this time of year, the time that joy should be spread all over the Earth, it is easy to neglect those who are less fortunate, those who are lonely, those who are hurting, and those who are grieving. In this sermon, Jesus lifts up and blesses people who are in every situation in life. He sees those who are struggling in the ways of the world: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst for righteousness. And then He blesses those people who help others: the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted for righteousness sake. Jesus pays special attention to lift up those that the world has put down.

In the times when we find ourselves in one of these groups: the persecuted, the poor in spirit, or the ones who mourn, it is especially hard to see where the blessing is in the midst of our hardships. Today, of course, the Beatitude about those who mourn stands out for us, as we gather to remember our loved ones who've died in the past year, and to remember all of our loved ones who've died over the years. Today, Jesus' words about "Blessed are those who mourn," can feel harsh and cold to us, especially if our grief is still fresh. This is because we don't feel very blessed in the midst of mourning the loss of the people we love. We don't feel very fortunate in the midst of the pain and emptiness of their absence in our lives. But we need to remember that Jesus tells us that those who mourn will be comforted. Unfortunately, knowing that we will find comfort sometime down the road, isn't the comfort we need right now. Where is the blessing in mourning?

There's something deeply moving about remembering those people who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Especially, those without whom, we could never exist. Because of this, remembering gives us a sense of our roots. It helps us see how we fit into a bigger picture and where we come from. And when we remember those who have died, they continue to live on in our memory. When we remember our loved ones and the memories that we cherish, we also are looking forward. Because we know our

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loved ones have gone on before us. When we remember them, we find hope in the knowledge that they will also be in our future when we ourselves go home to God. They are now where we will be going. Remembering our loved ones, helps us to remember who we are, and whose we are. We know that all things in Heaven and on earth rest in God, and that we belong to God.

This is where we can find comfort and blessing in our mourning. Truly there are blessings in remembering. There is blessing in remembering that God is with us in our times of pain and sorrow. There is blessing in remembering our loved ones who now stand in the great cloud of witnesses as the saints do, watching over us and encouraging us to persevere through life's challenges. There is blessing in remembering our loved ones as it reminds us of who we are. And there is blessing in remembering our loved ones because we know that death is not the final word for any of us. We know that in God, we will be united again with the ones for whom we now mourn.

In these days, as we prepare for Christmas, and our minds go to the many gifts that we will be blessed with, let us remember our dearly departed loved ones with the words spoken many times by Father Byron: The tears shed today are tears of thanksgiving to God for giving such a good person to be in our lives. Today, let us be thankful to God that these people were in our lives, that they gave to us such beautiful memories, and that God has given us the gift of hope in eternal life.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Church Custodial Position- Part Time

Hours of Work: 9am -1PM

Days of the Week: Monday -Friday

Responsibilities include maintaining the cleanliness of the church proper, managing inventory of all needed supplies, other duties as assigned.

If interested please call Sandra Chakonas at the church office 974-3400. Submit your resume via email to schakon@att.net or drop off a copy to the church office, Attention: Sandra Chakonas.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...



Christmas is approaching!

As the day of Christmas approaches, let us be mindful of the words of the angel who told the shepherds, "This very day in David's town your Savior was born--Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11). As we prepare to celebrate the "big day", we must not forget who Christ is. Looking into the face of our Saviour we can see and meet the holiness, the grace and the love of our eternal and heavenly Father.

But if this is to happen, we must abandon, if even for a short time, the "stuff" of this world and follow the example of the shepherds who "hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger." (Luke 2:16). And having come and met the child, they realized that they were gazing at God who came to this earth for our sake. That is why "the shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen." (Luke 2:20).

Let us make this Christmas the day in which we come to meet God in the person of Jesus Christ, and prove to ourselves that Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23). When the shepherds came, they discovered that "It had been just as the angels had told them." (Luke 2:20).

KORAES SCHOOL NEWS

Koraes students have just completed their first trimester of the year concluding with Parent/Teacher Conferences. We are thankful for the growth our students are making and for the opportunity to work with the students on their goals. Our school received some exciting news regarding a grant we applied for over the summer from the Hellenic Foundation. The Hellenic Foundation awarded Koraes a grant to support technology efforts in our school. This award is an outstanding way to end the calendar year. On Friday, December 22 we will celebrate the birth of Jesus with our Christmas Program. All are welcome to attend. Koraes is grateful for small things, big things, and everything in between. Blessings for a beautiful holiday season.



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 ι) από τη βόρεια ακτή της Νεκρής Θάλασσας. Σ' αυτή την ζούσε ο τυφλός του Ευαγγελίου και φαίνεται πως ήταν ίς 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 δυνατότερα 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.

Γηγητ <http://paroutsas.jmc.gr>

Τρίτη 5η Δεκεμβρίου

Ώρα 7:00 μ.μ. - Εσπερινός εις τόν εορτάζοντα 'Ιερών Ναόν του Αγίου Νικολάου - Oak Lawn

Τετάρτη 6η Δεκεμβρίου -Του Αγίου Νικολάου

Ορθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία εις τόν εορτάζοντα 'Ιερών Ναόν του Αγίου Νικολάου - Oak Lawn

ΔΕΝ θα λειτουργήσουμε εις τόν δικόν μας Ιερών Ναόν

Κυριακή 10η Δεκεμβρίου - Κυριακή Γ' Λουκα

Ώρα 8:00 - 11:15 π.μ. - Ώρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, December 3:

- GOAL B-Ball Games - St. Andrew's/St. George (Home)
1:45 p.m. 3rd/4th Grade School Division
2:30 p.m. Biddy Division
3:30 p.m. High School Boys
4:30 p.m. Girls' Division vs. St. John's

Monday, December 4:

- 6:00 p.m. St. Helen's Philoptochos Christmas Party, at Country House Restaurant
7:00 p.m. GOYA - Pajama and Movie Night

Tuesday, December 5:

- 6:30 p.m. 3rd/4th Biddy/Grade School B-Ball practice
7:00 p.m. Vespers at St. Nicholas Church, Oak Lawn
8:00 p.m. High School Boys B-Ball practice

Wednesday, December 6:

- Feastday of St. Nicholas - Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church, Oak Lawn
3:30 p.m. Youth Choir

Thursday, December 7:

- 6:00 p.m. Girls' B-Ball practice
6:30 p.m. Koraes School Board Meeting

Friday, December 8:

- 9:30 a.m. Toddler Play Group – See details →
5:30 p.m. Rookies Camp
6:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Mighty Rights Game 1
7:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Minors Game 1
8:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Majors Game 1

Saturday, December 9:

- GOAL B-Ball Games at Holy Apostles (Away)
2:30 p.m. Grade School Division
3:30 p.m. High School Boys
4:30 p.m. Grade School Division

Sunday, December 10: 10th Sunday of Luke

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

MEMORIALS

- 6 Month His Eminence Metropolitan Iakovos
25 Years George Kamberos
25 Years John Maheras

† May their memory be eternal. †

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP and RECEPTION

Today's Coffee Fellowship is by the Orrico Kourelis families in memory of all deceased members of our parish family. Please join them!

Toddler Play Group Holiday Presentation The Polar Express



Date: Friday, December 8th

Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: East Room

All Toddlers and Pre-School Children Invited

It is more BLESSED
to GIVE
than to RECEIVE

Acts 20:35

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!