

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

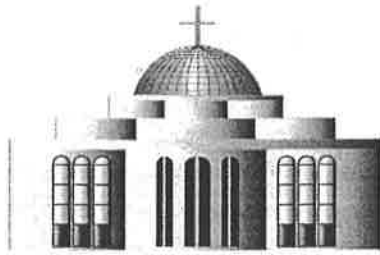
Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2018



Κυριακή 11η Φεβρουαρίου 2018

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ

Αποστ: Α΄ Κορ. 8:8-9:2

Ευαγγ: Ματθ. 25:31-46

Meatfare Sunday

Today's Readings

Epistle: 1 Cor. 8:9-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46



WHERE WILL WE BE AT THE SECOND COMING?

Today's gospel reading, tells us about the Second Coming of Jesus. When Christ came the first time, He came as a very humble infant to the stable of Bethlehem. The second time He will come in His glory and greatness. The first time He came, many people did not understand His arrival and instead of giving Him a throne to sit on, they put Him on the Cross. Next time He will come, He will be sitting on the throne of His glory to judge the living and the dead. St. Paul more vividly describes the picture of His second coming, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with the cry of command, with the angels' call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16). Why will He be escorted by the angels? St. John Chrysostom answers: "Because the angels brought to men the messages and commandments of God which concern their salvation." What will follow is the resurrection of the dead and the gathering of all people of the entire world, everyone since Adam and Eve. As it says in the reading: "Before Him, everyone will be gathered."

What will follow the resurrection? The separation of the sheep from the goats. The sheep, in their goodness, gentle disposition, and their cooperative manner in giving their milk and wool characterize the first group. The goats, because of their undomesticated, rough and destructive ways characterize the second group. The law and basis on which the separation will be based is LOVE — not knowledge, education, science, or wealth — but the love of people with each other. The first group, the sheep, will hear, "I was hungry and you gave me food," and the second group, the goats, will hear, "I was hungry and you gave me no food ... gave me no drink ... did not clothe me ... did not visit me." Blessed are the first who were full of love, and cursed are the second who did not have any trace of love but lived only for themselves. The first inherit and the second are disinherited from the Heavenly Kingdom. Whatsoever the first and the second sowed, they will reap; the righteous will inherit as children of the heavenly Father, the natural inheritance.

Christ does not demand great and difficult things of us except love and understanding to the needs of others such as extending a piece of bread, a glass of water, clothing for the naked, visiting the sick and a good word to those who are lonely or jailed. Love as "giving" and as "offering" has no boundaries, as everyone can give according to their abilities.

In today's Gospel lesson, we are provided our Lord's directive. Our lives must reflect that directive in our actions to our neighbors and to anyone who is in need of our help. How different the present world would be if we Christians observed and practiced things as described in today's gospel. We all have some ways and means to help each other. If we do not have the material means, a good word or good company to the one who needs it is the role we must undertake. The Lord does not demand anything which is beyond our powers and means. Our eternal destination is at stake, if we choose to follow our Lord's directive, then we pray to be chose to be in the group selected to live an eternity with Him in His Holy Kingdom.



2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Let us all do our Best for Our Home...

Stewardship is giving to "Our Home" our best, which is a portion of the many gifts that our Lord gives to us. "Our Home" needs our support to maintain and grow its vital ministries. Stewardship is a spiritual offering that appeals to our generosity.

Our parish is committed to an open stewardship program, without minimums or dues. We ask that everyone search their hearts (those who are able) to increase our Stewardship 2018 Commitment which will enable us to expand our programs and address capital improvements.

Everything we have is a result of the many blessings from God. "Our Home" needs our support in many ways. The life and success of "Our Home" relies on everyone's commitment and participation to the many activities that we offer.

To make a One-Time Gift:

Online Giving: Via PayPal or Easy Tithe; go to www.stconstantinehelen.org

In Person: Stop into the Church Office and you may pay by Cash, Check or Credit Card;

Use the Kiosk located in the Lobby of the Church complex and pay by Credit Card

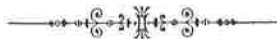
By mail: Mail your check or credit information to the Church office (do not mail cash!)

By phone: Call (708) 974-3400 and provide the necessary information

To set up Recurring Giving:

Online Giving:

Set up recurring contributions via Paypal or Easy Tithe; go to www.ssch.us; (Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving)



13th District AHEPA Scholarship Foundation

Applications for 2018 Awards are available in the church office or by visiting the District webpage at www.ahepa.org/ and follow the prompts to District 13. Application deadline is March 15, 2018.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...



Let us all join together this month for the needy of our greater Palos community and support the Sunday Church School who have organized a Food Drive that will be collecting canned and non-perishable items the entire month of February!

May we search our hearts to renew our commitment to our Parish in our Stewardship 2018 campaign. Let us all do our best for Our Home.

Please remember that whatever your pastoral need - **I am at your service** - please contact me in the Church Office at (708) 974-3400 or email at Tomdemed@aol.com

KORAES SCHOOL NEWS

January and the start of February have been weeks filled with blessings! Koraes celebrated science at our annual Science Fair in January. We have started our second round of clubs and activities too! Art Club, Greek Geography Club, Math Games, Typing and Coding, and Chess. Koraes Student Council had an extremely successful First Annual Trivia Night. The Student Council students ran the entire event and were supported by our sponsor Presv Georgia. The students exceeded their fundraising goal and all monies raised will be donated to building improvements around the school. Our school is being honored at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago by President Spyropoulos as she will present Koraes Elementary School with a resolution (proclamation) in honor of our school's continued effort in the teaching of the Greek language. We are so very blessed with all of the great things that are happening at our most beloved school. Stop by for a tour - we would love to show you around.

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES begin February 20th for all TUESDAYS during GREAT LENT

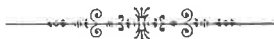


GREEK LANGUAGE at 5:00 pm
ENGLISH LANGUAGE at 5:30 pm



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ

Ευαγγ. ανάγνωσμα: Ματθ. 25, 31-46



Η ώρα είναι μοναδική και συγκλονιστική. Ο Θεάνθρωπος Κύριος έρχεται μέσα στη θεϊκή του δόξα για να κρίνει την ανθρωπότητα. Τον συνοδεύουν οι αμέτρητες στρατιές των αγίων αγγέλων. Μπροστά στον ένδοξο θεϊκό του θρόνο έχουν συγκεντρωθεί όλοι οι άνθρωποι όλων των αιώνων. Κι ο μέγας Κριτής χωρίζει τους ανθρώπους, όπως ο βοσκός χωρίζει τα πρόβατα από τα γίδια. Στα δεξιά του βάζει τους δίκαιους και στα αριστερά του τους αμετανόητους αμαρτωλούς. Εκείνη τη φοβερή ώρα ακούγεται η θεϊκή φωνή του ουρανού Κριτού προς τους δικαίους:

Ελάτε, οι ευλογημένοι του Πατρός μου, να κληρονομήσετε τη Βασιλεία που είναι ετοιμασμένη για εσάς από τότε που δημιουργήθηκε ο κόσμος. Διότι πείνασα και μου δώσατε τροφή, δίψασα και μου δώσατε νερό, ήμουν ξένος και με φιλοξενήσατε, γυμνός και με ντύσατε, άρρωστος και με επισκεφθήκατε, φυλακισμένος και ήλθατε να με παρηγορήσετε. Και οι δίκαιοι με έκπληξη και απορία θα πουν: Κύριε, πότε Σε είδαμε πεινασμένο, διψασμένο, ξενιτεμένο, γυμνό, άρρωστο, φυλακισμένο και Σου δείξαμε αγάπη; Και θα αποκριθεί ο Κριτής: Εφόσον το κάνατε στους άσημους αδελφούς μου, είναι σαν να το κάνατε σε μένα. Ελάτε λοιπόν στη Βασιλεία μου.

Πώς όμως θα είναι αυτή η Βασιλεία του Θεού; Όποιες λέξεις κι αν χρησιμοποιήσουμε δεν θα μπορέσουμε να περιγράψουμε την ασύλληπτη ωραιότητα της Βασιλείας των ουρανών, όπως ακριβώς ένας εκ γενετής τυφλός δεν μπορεί να περιγράψει την ωραιότητα της φύσεως. Η ζωή του Παραδείσου όχι μόνο δεν μπορεί να περιγραφεί, αλλά ούτε και να συγκριθεί με καμιά άγια χαρά του κόσμου αυτού. Από τη ζωή εκείνη θα απουσιάζει κάθε «όδύνη, λύπη και στεναγμός». Εκεί δεν θα υπάρχουν αδικίες, αρρώστιες, θάνατος. Εκεί θα έχουν σβήσει όλα τα πάθη. Εκεί όλα θα είναι γεμάτα χαρά. Όλα θα είναι φως. Η μεγαλύτερη όμως χαρά και ευτυχία μας θα είναι ότι θα βλέπουμε διαρκώς «πρόσωπον προς πρόσωπον» το απαστράπτον πρόσωπο του Χριστού.

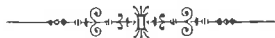
Τα μάτια μας δεν θα χορταίνουν να βλέπουν τη δόξα του· τα αυτιά μας να ακούν τη φωνή του και τις γλυκύτερες ψαλμωδίες των αγγέλων και των αγίων, το στόμα μας να δοξολογεί ακατάπαυστα τον βασιλέα μας· τα χέρια μας να υψώνονται προς Αυτόν. Εκεί θα λάμπουμε όλοι όπως ο ήλιος και θα μοιάζουμε στη μορφή και τη δόξα με τον Χριστό μας. Εκεί θα γίνουμε κατά χάριν θεοί. Εκεί... Αλλά μέχρι να φθάσουμε εκεί, ας στραφούμε προς τα εκεί κάθε μέρα το νου μας κι ας πλημμυρίσει την καρδιά μας ο πόθος της Βασιλείας του Θεού.

Κατόπιν ο Κύριος θα στρέψει το βλέμμα Του αριστερά στους αμετανόητους αμαρτωλούς και θα τους πει: Φύγετε από κοντά μου στο πυρ το αιώνιο, που έχει ετοιμαστεί για τον διάβολο και τους δαίμονες. Διότι επείνασα, και δεν μου δώσατε τροφή, δίψασα, και δεν μου δώσατε νερό, ήμουν ξένος, και δεν με φιλοξενήσατε, γυμνός και δεν με ντύσατε, άρρωστος, και δεν με επισκεφθήκατε, φυλακισμένος, και δεν ήλθατε να με παρηγορήσετε.

Πώς θα ζουν αλήθεια οι άνθρωποι στην αιώνια κόλαση; Ό,τι και να πει κανείς, ελάχιστα μπορεί να περιγράψει τη φρίκη της κολάσεως. Εκεί οι κολασμένοι θα υποφέρουν φρικτά. Το μεγαλύτερο όμως μαρτύριο των κολασμένων θα είναι ότι θα ζουν χωρίς Θεό. Και δεν υπάρχει μεγαλύτερη φρίκη από την αιωνιότητα χωρίς τον Χριστό! Δεν υπάρχει μεγαλύτερη κόλαση από το να χάσουμε την Χριστό, ο Οποίος είναι όλος φως, όλος ζωή, όλος ωραιότητα.

Εκείνο λοιπόν το οποίο πρέπει κυρίως να φοβόμαστε ως προς την κόλαση είναι η αιώνια στέρση της αγάπης του Θεού. Γι' αυτό ας αγαπήσουμε από τώρα τον Κύριο και τις άγιες και σωτήριες εντολές του κι ας αγωνιζόμαστε καθημερινά να ζούμε όπως θέλει Εκείνος. Για να αντικρίσουμε κι εμείς το ολοφάνετο πρόσωπό του και να ακούσουμε τη γλυκύτερη φωνή του να μας καλεί κοντά του.

Πηγή: <http://www.xfd.gr>



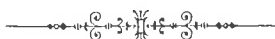
Σαββατο 17η Φεβρουαρίου - Β΄ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ - Ορθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία, Επιμνημόσυνη Δεησις

Κυριακή 18η Φεβρουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΟΦΑΓΟΥ

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Θα έχουμε Μελετη Αγίας Γραφής στα Ελληνικά κάθε Τριτη κατα τήν διάρκεια τής Τεσσαρακοστής στις 5:00 μ.μ. (αρχίζει 20 Φεβρουαριου)



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, February 11:

GOAL Basketball League Finals (our Parish will host)

2:30 pm Bidy Division

3:30 pm. Grade School Division

4:30 p.m. Girls Division

5:30 pm. High School Boys Division

6:30 pm. Men's League Division

Monday, February 12:

7:30 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday, February 13:

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 14:

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir

5:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Rookies Camp /
Awards & Pizza Party

6:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Mighty Mights Game #10

7:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Minors Game #10

8:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Majors Game #10

Thursday, February 15:

6:30 p.m. Handmaidens Workshop

Friday, February 16:

5:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Mighty Mights 3rd Place/Finals

6:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Minors 3rd Place/Finals

7:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Majors 3rd Place/Finals

8:30 p.m. Pizza Party and Trophy Presentation

Saturday, February 17:

2nd Saturday of Souls

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy / Memorials

1:00 p.m. St. Helen's Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday, February 18: Cheesefare Sunday

8:00 – 11:15 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

† MEMORIALS †

40 Day Alexandria Gialamas

3 Month Vasilios Manikas

2 Years Domina Tingos

3 Years Demetrios Pitsis

Saturday, February 10:

3 Years Aristotle Kyroudis

† May their memory be eternal †

FUNERALS

The following funerals were held recently.

Elli Sikaras – February 7th

† May her memory be eternal †

Monday, February 19th is

KATHARA DEFTERA

† The Beginning of Great Lent †

Great Compline 5:00 p.m.

Followed by

A Community Lenten Dinner

In the East Room sponsored by the KPTA

FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE

Organized by our Sunday Church School

**"If you can't feed a hundred people, then
just feed one."**

-Mother Theresa



Our parish is sponsoring a
Food Drive
(non-perishable items)
for the entire month of
February.

Food may be dropped off at the Church or East
Room lobbies at any time.

Our Parish is hosting this year's
Sunday of Orthodoxy



PAN- ORTHODOX VESPERS
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018
at 6:30 pm

Please see the enclosed flyer for details

See you...

...Next SUNDAY!

