



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

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**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2020**

Κυριακή 16η Φεβρουαρίου 2020  
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΣΩΤΟΥ  
Αποσ: Α΄ Κορ: 6:12-20  
Ευαγγ: Λουκα 15:11-32

Sunday of the Prodigal Son  
Today's Readings  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20  
Gospel: Luke 15:11-32

**THE RETURN TO OUR HAPPY FATHER**

The passage of the Parable of the Prodigal Son, offers us a classic literary piece, but more importantly, there is a reason that our Holy Orthodox Church gives us this very special lesson, each and every year on the Sunday after the beginning of Triodion. From the onset, we learn that there was once a man who had two sons. The younger asked his father to get from him at this time an inheritance which would be coming to him in the future. The father complied and divided the property between the two sons. It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left. He wasted everything he had and was left homeless and hungry. He was forced to take a job feeding some pigs. That brought him to his senses. He said to himself, "I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned against you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Please hire me as a worker." And so he did. While he was still a long way off, his father was waiting at the door and saw him. The father ran out and hugged him. His son kept his promise and started to ask forgiveness, but his father was so happy to see him that he called his servants, "Quick. Bring him a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. We're going to feast! We're going to have a great time! My son is here—given up for dead and now alive!" And they began to have a great time. The other brother heard the festivities but he didn't share the joy. His father explained that he should be happy because his brother was lost and now he was found. He was gone, now he is back. In just a few short words, Jesus shows us the selfishness and sinfulness of all of us sometimes.

Taking a look at the Prodigal Son, we can learn about the steps away from God and the steps that will take us back to God. He didn't just wake up one morning cleaning and feed the animals. He ended up there because he made some bad choices. He always had a good father - but he didn't appreciate that. The Bible simply says "he wasted all his money on wild living." He was free, he did what he wanted. That was...until he ran out of money. He found himself starving to death. He said to himself - Now what do I do? That's the problem with sin. Things might feel good for a while, but

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we are never truly satisfied. We might think we are happy for a second, but then we suffer. We allow ourselves to walk away from God's blessings and our lives end up a mess. The good news is: we can always come back home to the blessing that only God can give.

The son started the road back, when "he came to his senses." A real change happened, first he was saying "Give me money, give me my freedom." Now he was saying, "please, make me one of your hired servants." That's what it is to be sorry – this is what real repentance is – a complete change inside.

And with that change came the grand celebration that our Father is ready to give to all of us, His happiness when we return to Him. In the Parable of the Prodigal Son, our Lord is saying "I love you and I want you to return home." Let us all get on that road and walk back, just like the Prodigal Son and get that hug and be part of that celebration that God has waiting for all of us. AMEN

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### 40-Day Church Blessing

It is an Orthodox canonical tradition for the mother and baby to come to the church 40 days after the birth where a short service is offered for them. Therefore traditionally, the first place the baby is taken by their mother is to church on their 40 Day Blessing. To arrange for this:

- Come to Church on any Sunday by 11:00 a.m.; notify a member of the Parish Council and Fr. Tom will offer the prayers and blessing after the distribution of the Holy Antidoron.
- Contact Fr. Tom and he will offer the prayer at the conclusion of the services on Sunday while the congregation is present.
- Contact Fr. Tom for any other days/times.

## Stewardship Campaign 2020 – COME AND SEE!

Joyously we begin a New Year! What do we see in front of us? Is it with "20 20" vision? As we enter the year 2020, let's take this great opportunity for all of us to see things fresh and seek those dreams that we have always wished and hoped for!

The parish of Saints Constantine and Helen and our beloved Koraes School, is the place to "Come and See" as there are many new things happening every day, in addition to, the events that we know and love in the lives of its faithful who are always the center attraction and focus, under the Divine Care and protection of our Lord and the Patron Saints who have been entrusted by Him to guide our steps.

2020 is here! Do you have 20 20 vision to Come and See? Together, our family will see a beautiful year, and we pray and ask that we find a way to do our best to make a commitment to our Parish through the Stewardship 2020 campaign.

### **To make a One-Time Gift:**

**Online Giving:** Via PayPal or Easy Tithe; go to [www.stconstantinehelen.org](http://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](http://www.ssch.us); (Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving)

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**"Giving is not just about making a donation.  
It is about making a difference."**

-Kathy Calvin, CEO & President of United Nations Foundation



## ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΣΩΤΟΥ

### Ευαγγ. ανάγνωσμα: Λουκ. 15, 11-32



Στο σημερινό Ευαγγελικό ανάγνωσμα, ακούσαμε την παραβολή του ασώτου υιού. Η παραβολή αυτή αντικατοπτρίζει την ανθρώπινη κατάσταση. Με την αμαρτία, έχουμε χάσει την στενή εκείνη σχέση με τον Θεό για την οποία δημιουργηθήκαμε. Έχουμε χαράξει δική μας πορεία, η οποία μας οδήγησε μακριά από τον Θεό και την ζωή μας στην πτώχευση. Μπορούμε όμως να επιστρέψουμε. Αν αναγνωρίσουμε την κατάσταση στην οποία βρισκόμαστε,

έχουμε ήδη πάρει τον δρόμο της επιστροφής. Ο Θεός, όπως ο πατέρας της περικοπής, αναμένει. Κι όταν μας δει από μακριά, τρέχει να μας συναντήσει, να μας αγκαλιάσει, να μας καλωσορίσει.

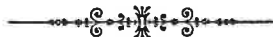
Η παραβολή του ασώτου παρουσιάζει την επιστροφή του ανθρώπου από την εξορία. Ο άσωτος, λέει το Ευαγγέλιο, πήγε σε μια μακρινή χώρα και εκεί σπατάλησε την περιουσία του στις ασωτείες. Μια μακρινή χώρα, ένας μοναδικός ορισμός της ανθρώπινης κατάστασης που πρέπει να αποδεχτούμε καθώς αρχίζουμε την προσέγγισή μας στο Θεό. Αν νοιώθουμε άνετοι σ' αυτόν τον κόσμο, στη ζωή του κόσμου, στην κατάσταση αυτή της πνευματικής πτώχευσης, δεν θα καταλάβουμε ποτέ τι σημαίνει μετάνοια – επιστροφή.

Η μετάνοια δεν είναι η απαρίθμηση αμαρτιών. Είναι το αίσθημα της αποξένωσης από τον Θεό, από την χαρά της κοινότητας μαζί Του, από την αληθινή ζωή όπως την δημιούργησε και μας την έδωσε Εκείνος. Είναι να παραδεχτούμε ότι έχουμε λερώσει, έχουμε χάσει την πνευματική μας ομορφιά, ότι είμαστε πολύ μακριά από το πραγματικό μας σπίτι. Μετάνοια είναι η βαθιά επιθυμία επιστροφής, να αποκτήσουμε ξανά το χαμένο μας σπίτι. Λάβαμε από τον Θεό θαυμαστά πλούτη. Πρώτα απ' όλα τη ζωή και τη δυνατότητα να τη χαιρόμαστε, να την ομορφαινουμε με νόημα, αγάπη και γνώση. Με το Βάπτισμα λάβαμε νέα ζωή εν χριστώ, τη δωρεά του Αγίου Πνεύματος, την ειρήνη και τη χαρά της ουράνιας Βασιλείας, τη δύναμη να είμαστε τέκνα Θεού. Όλα αυτά τα χάσαμε και τα χάνουμε διαρκώς, όχι μόνο με συγκεκριμένες αμαρτίες, αλλά με την μεγαλύτερη αμαρτία, την απομάκρυνση της αγάπης μας από τον Θεό, προτιμώντας την «μακρινή χώρα» από το όμορφο σπίτι του πατέρα.

Η Εκκλησία όμως μας θυμίζει τι έχουμε εγκαταλείψει, τι έχουμε χάσει. Και καθώς μας τα υπενθυμίζει, αισθανόμαστε βαθιά αυτά που εκφράζονται στο κοντάκι της ημέρας: «Της πατρώας δόξης σου, αποσκιρτήσας αφρόνως, εν κακοίς εσκορπίσα, ον μοι παρέδωκας πλούτον, όθεν σοι την του Ασώτου φωνήν κραυγάζω. Ήμαρτον ενώπιόν σου, ουκέτι ειμί άξιος κληθήναι υιός σου, ποιήσόν με ως ένα των μισθίων σου.»

Καθώς αναλογιζόμαστε αυτά, βρίσκουμε μέσα μας την επιθυμία της επιστροφής και «αναστάς πορεύσομαι προς τον Πατέρα μου και ερώ αυτό, Πάτερ, ήμαρτον εις τον ουρανόν και ενώπιόν σου, ουκέτι ειμί άξιος κληθήναι υιός σου, ποιησόν με ως ένα εκ των μισθίων σου.»

Στο ταξίδι αυτό είμαστε όλοι συνοδοιπόροι. Όλοι έχουμε ανάγκη μετανοίας. Ο Πατέρας ο ουράνιος περιμένει να πάρουμε τον δρόμο της επιστροφής, περιμένει με ανοιχτή αγκαλιά να μας δεχτεί. Πηγή: <http://www.orthodoxos.com.gr>

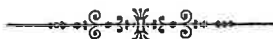


**Σάββατο 22η Φεβρουαρίου - Α΄ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ**

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ - Όρθρος - Θεία Λειτουργία - Επιμνημόσυνη Δέησης

**Κυριακή 23η Φεβρουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ**

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



## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

**Monday, February 17:**

**Presidents Day** – Koraes School Closed  
No GOYA

**Thursday, February 20:**

8:00 a.m. Youth Choir  
6:00 p.m. Koraes Trivia Nite

**Friday February 21:**

**J.O.Y. Basketball Championships**

6:00 p.m. Mighty Mights  
7:00 p.m. Minors  
8:00 p.m. Majors  
9:00 p.m. Awards and Pizza Party

**Saturday, February 22: - 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Souls**

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy / Memorials  
5:00 p.m. Philoptochos Event

**Sunday, February 23: - Meat Fare Sunday**

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

### Order of AHEPA

#### 13<sup>TH</sup> District Scholarship Available

For High School Seniors

Applications are available in the church office or at [www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)

(follow the prompts to

“District 13 Application for Scholarship”)

### BOWLING PARTY

Hosted by KORAES Class of 2020

Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m.

Rolling Lanes Countryside, IL

Adults \$20 Children \$15(14 & Under)

Dinner Buffet Included

Reservations visit [www.KORAES.org](http://www.KORAES.org) or contact Anna Manasses 708-743-9598

## MEMORIALS

9 day Steven Sweiss

† May his memory be eternal †

## FUNERALS

The following funerals were held:

**William Conway** - February 12<sup>th</sup>

**Virginia Drousius** - February 13<sup>th</sup>

**Evangeline Bithos** - February 14<sup>th</sup>

† May Their Memory Be Eternal †

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Coffee Fellowship

is hosted by the KPTA

Please join them.

## SACRAMENTS

### WEDDING

We congratulate the following who have joined their lives together and we pray that God grant them many years of Christian happiness and love!

**Sunday, February 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.**

*Noelle Procaccio and George Cheliotis*

*Sponsors: Dimitrios and Reem Kametas*

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are available in the Church Office for those who are interested.

**See you...**



**...Next Sunday**