

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

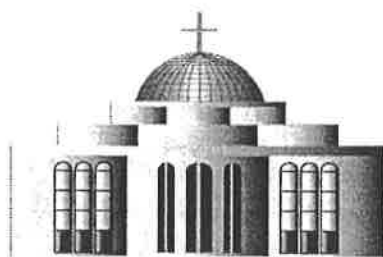
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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2018



Κυριακή 18η Φεβρουαρίου 2018

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΟΦΑΓΟΥ

Αποστ: Ρωμ. 13:11-14:4

Ευαγγ: Ματθ. 6:14-21

Cheesefare Sunday

Today's Readings

Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4

Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21



GREAT LENT – TIME TO WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN

In our lives, we spend a lot of time thinking about “starting over.” We want to be and to do better than we have been. In our hearts, we really want to get closer to Christ and to be more faithful to the Gospel and our Lord’s teachings. With Great Lent beginning tomorrow, it is a great time to make a “fresh start”, to set aside all of that “stuff of this world” and focus ourselves on getting closer to Christ – making God a bigger part of our lives. This is our time to rediscover the hand of God around us and readjust our sights. These 40 days of Lent become the time when we reassess our time, our resources and our daily activities and ultimately come to know that we depend on God.

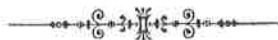
In today's Gospel lesson, the Lord Jesus offers us a three-part recipe for Lent: forgiveness, fasting and laying up treasures in heaven. In the case of forgiveness, we live in a world that has historically been built up with many walls. In fact, the talk of building even more walls, to this day, still occupies our thoughts. The many physical structures are far outnumbered by the walls that exist between us, between husbands and wives, parents and children, the list is endless. Ultimately, there are walls between us and God. The way to tear down walls is by forgiveness. These walls are built by sin. During Lent, we are called to look at the cross of Jesus and His great mercy. We are invited to come during Lent and exchange our sins for the riches of His Grace, to taste and experience for ourselves the sweetness of His forgiving love. When we receive His forgiveness, we are then called to grant forgiveness to all who have hurt us and also to seek forgiveness from those whom we have hurt. God offers us His forgiveness very graciously and generously. But His forgiveness obligates us to forgive others. This is exactly what Jesus says in today's Gospel lesson: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you; but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Forgiveness is the foundation of our Faith, and as such, Lent becomes a time for tearing down walls first between us and God and then between ourselves – to be rid of walls made by anger and hatred and finally to be destroyed by forgiveness.

The second part of our Lord's recipe for Lent consists of fasting: "When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who sees in secret: and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." There are many very good reasons for fasting but the main one is love. Love was one of the main purposes for fasting in the early Church. An early Christian, Aristides, wrote, "If there is a poor person among the Christians and they do not have the means to help him, they fast two or three days and give the food they have saved through fasting to the hungry person." This is the fast we are called upon to practice during Lent which begins tomorrow. We are called upon to fast not only for reasons of self-control and prayer, but also for reasons of love: to deny ourselves something that we may share what we have saved with a needy person.

Continued on Page 2

Following forgiveness and fasting, the third part of Christ's recipe for Lent is expressed in His words: "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." The question God puts to us in today's Gospel lesson is: What treasures have we laid for ourselves in heaven? What will we be able to claim as ours when we appear before the throne of God? Granted, God wants us to live our life upon this earth to the fullest, but He also wants us to remember that we are preparing for the new life which is to come. The question we must ask ourselves is: Are we laying up treasures in this life only? or are we using this life to lay up eternal treasures, treasures that we can take with us when we go, treasures that shall be ours for all eternity? Are we "rust collectors" for this earth or are we collecting a treasure that will never lose its value, the one that we can take with us. Have we strengthened our relationship to Christ by extra prayer every day, by reading His word daily in the Holy Bible, by frequent Communion, by attending the extra Lenten services.

Lent is for us to make time for God and our souls. Let us all "Wipe the Slate Clean" on the inside and try our best to follow Christ's three-part recipe for Lent: forgiveness, fasting and laying up treasures in heaven. As we begin the journey of Great Lent tomorrow, let us pray that it will be the perfect recipe that we are met with a resurrected Christ in all our hearts with the coming of the light shining bright.



WITH THANKS AND APPRECIATION

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the
Nickolaos Visvardis family
 For Painting the entire Church Foyer area
 (walls and ceilings)
 We thank them for their
 kindness and love for Our Home!
 May our Lord reward them manifold.



MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...

Journey of Great Lent begins tomorrow

As we begin the most holy of times, let us all find a time for us to reflect on the inside and truly grow into a closer relationship with Christ. May these days be filled with all the spiritual food that our souls are asking for.

To those who have not done so already, I would ask all of us to search our hearts to renew our commitment to our Parish for our Stewardship 2018 campaign. Let us 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

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.

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES

In addition to Sunday Divine Services,
 we will offer:

Every Wednesday: February 21, 28,
 March 7, 14, 21
Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

Every Friday: February 23,
 March 2, 9, 16, 23
Salutations at 7:00 p.m.

Σήμερα 18η Φεβρουαρίου
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΙΝΗΣ

Δευτέρα 19η Φεβρουαρίου

Αρχέται η Αγία και
Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή
ΚΑΘΑΡΑ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ

Ωρα 5.00 μ.μ. ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟ
Θα ακολουθησει αμεσως μετά το νηστήσιμο
δείπνο των Γονέων του ημερησιού
Σχολείου ο Κοραής

Τρίτη 20η Φεβρουαρίου

Ωρα 5:00 μ.μ. - Κύκλος Μελέτης
'Αγίας Γραφής στα Ελληνικά

Τετάρτη 21η Φεβρουαρίου

Ωρα 6:00 μ.μ.
Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή 23η Φεβρουαρίου

Ωρα 8:30 π.μ.
Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία

Ωρα 7:00 μ.μ.
Α' ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ

Σάββατο 24η Φεβρουαρίου

Μνήμη του διά Κολλύβων θαύματος
Αγίου Θεοδώρου
Γ' ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

Ωρα 8:00 π.μ. "Ορθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία
και Επιμνημοσυνη Δεσις

Κυριακή 25η Φεβρουαρίου
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΙΑΣ

"Ωρα 8:00 - 11:30 π.μ.
"Ορθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία
Περιφορά των Εικόνων

Τό έσπέρας
"Ωρα 6:30 μ.μ.
"Ο Πανορθόδοξος Εσπερινός
θά τελεσθει
εις τόν 'Ιερόν Ναόν μας



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ
ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΟΦΑΓΟΥ
Ευαγγ. ανάγνωσμα:
Ματθ. 6, 14-21

Σήμερα, τελευταία μέρα πριν τη Σαρακοστή, την ονομάζουμε *Κυριακή της συγγνώμης* και <<της από του Παραδείσου της τρυφής εξορίας του Πρωτόπλαστου Αδάμ>>.

Ξέρουμε ότι ο άνθρωπος πλάσθηκε για να ζει στον Παράδεισο, για την γνώση του Θεού και την κοινωνία μαζί Του. Η αμαρτία του όμως τον απομάκρυνε από την ευλογημένη ζωή και έτσι η ύπαρξή του στη γη είναι μια εξορία. Η Μ. Σαρακοστή είναι η απελευθέρωσή μας από τη σκλαβιά της αμαρτίας. (σελ. 32).

Το ευαγγελικό ανάγνωσμα αυτής της Κυριακής (Ματθ. 6, 14-21) θέτει τους όρους για μια τέτοια απελευθέρωση. Πρώτος όρος είναι η νηστεία, η προσπάθεια να ελευθερωθούμε από τη δικτατορία της σάρκας και της ύλης πάνω στο πνεύμα. Δεν πρέπει όμως η νηστεία μας να είναι υποκριτική, δηλαδή <<προς το θεαθήναι>>, να μη φαινόμαστε <<στους ανθρώπους νηστεύοντες, αλλά στον Πατέρα μας εν τω κρυπτώ>> όπως αναφέρεται στο ευαγγελικό ανάγνωσμα.

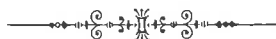
Δεύτερος όρος είναι η συγγνώμη: <<Εάν αφήτε στους ανθρώπους τα παραπτώματά τους, θα αφήσει και τα δικά σας ο ουράνιος Πατέρας>>. Η συγχωρητικότητα είναι η επιστροφή στην ενότητα, στη σύμπνοια, στην αγάπη. Έτσι στον Εσπερινό αυτής της Κυριακής, στο τέλος της ακολουθίας, όλοι οι πιστοί πλησιάζουν τον ιερέα και ο ένας τον άλλο, ζητώντας την αμοιβαία συγχώρεση.

Ουσιαστικά από τον Εσπερινό αυτό αρχίζει η Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή. Αρχίζει η ακολουθία με τον ιερέα ντυμένο στα λαμπερά άμφια και τα τροπάρια αναγγέλουν τον ερχομό της Μ. Σαρακοστής και πέρα απ' αυτή, τον ερχομό του Πάσχα. Κατόπιν γίνεται η είσοδος του Ευαγγελίου με τον εσπερινό ύμνο <<Φως ιλαρόν αγίας δόξης>> και ο ιερέας προχωρεί στην Ωραία Πύλη για να αναφωνήσει το Προκείμενο που πάντα αναγγέλει το τέλος της μιας μέρας και την αρχή της άλλης. Η θαυμάσια μελωδία: <<Μη αποστρέψεις το πρόσωπό σου από του παιδός σου, ότι θλίβομαι, ταχύ επάκουσόν μου, πρόσχες τη ψυχή μου και λύτρωσε αυτήν>> λέγεται πέντε φορές, τα φώτα σβήνουν και τα χρωματιστά άμφια αλλάζουν.

Από αυτό το σημείο ξεκινάει η Μεγάλη Σαρακοστή: συναισθάνομαι ότι είμαι εξόριστος από την ομορφιά της Βασιλείας Του και θλίβομαι. Τελικά παραδέχομαι ότι μόνο ο Θεός μπορεί να με βοηθήσει σ' αυτή τη θλίψη. Μετάνοια πάνω απ' όλα είναι το απελπισμένο κάλεσμα για τη Θεία βοήθεια. Στη συνέχεια διαβάζεται η προσευχή του Αγίου Εφραίμ που συνοδεύεται από μετάνοιες. Καθώς οι πιστοί πλησιάζουν τον ιερέα, ο χορός ψάλλει πασχαλινούς ύμνους. Από τώρα βλέπουμε να λάμπει στο τέλος το φως της Ανάστασης, το φως της Βασιλείας του Θεού.

Πηγή: <http://www.monipetraki.gr/triodio4.html>

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



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Monday, February 19:

† The Beginning of Great Lent †
9:15 a.m. Koraes Prayer Service
5:00 p.m. Great Compline - followed by a
Community Lenten Dinner
Sponsored by the KPTA

Tuesday, February 20:

5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Class – Greek
5:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class - English

Wednesday, February 21:

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir
6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, February 23:

8:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy – Youth Choir sings
7:00 p.m. 1st Salutations to the Theotokos

Saturday, February 24:

*Feastday of the Great Martyr Theodore's miracle
of the Koliva - 3rd Saturday of Souls*
8:00 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy/Memorials

Sunday, February 25: Sunday of Orthodoxy

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy /
Procession of the Icons
6:30 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at our Parish

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

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

† MEMORIAL †

40th Day Vasilios Limberopoulos
† May his memory be eternal †

FUNERALS

The following funerals were held recently.

Tom Papoutsis – February 12th

Stephen Gatses - February 14th

† May their memory be eternal †

BAKE SALE

Today's Bake Sale is sponsored
by our Youth Choir.
Please support them!

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

We welcome the following into the Orthodox
Faith and we pray that God grant them many,
many years!

Saturday, February 17 at 12:00 p.m.

Edward Michael, son of
Brendon & Denise Kelly

Sponsor: *Dionisios Pappas*

Saturday, February 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Katerina Eugenia, daughter of
Dorey & Sophia Newman

Sponsor: *Christina Yalcin*

• ADULT BIBLE CLASSES on TUESDAYS
Explore the Themes of the Sundays of Lent



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

See you...

...Next SUNDAY!

