



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

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, Assoc. 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, FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

Κυριακή 23η Φεβρουαρίου 2020

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ

Αποσ: Α΄ Κορ: 8:8-9:2

Ευαγγ: Ματθαίου 25:31-46

Meatfare Sunday

Today's Readings

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

**"Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me."**

Who is a sheep and who is a goat? We may think we have a clear view of that distinction, and a solid basis on which to judge others, but in today's parable of the Last Judgement our Lord seeks to correct us of that self-righteous notion and turn the spotlight on our own actions. The three parables that precede this one: The Parable of the Faithful Servant, The Parable of the Ten Virgins, and the Parable of the Talents all stress waiting for and preparing (or not) for the return of Christ. This parable takes listeners forward to the moment the Son of Man comes in glory. The nations are assembled and the sheep are separated from the goats. This parable is similar to the Rich Man and Lazarus in that the time to repent and be converted, the time to care for the poor on one's doorstep, is past. Judgment has arrived. The parable emphasizes the connection between seeing a need and acting on it. It is reminiscent of the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke. The parable says that all three observers of the man in the ditch "saw him." The first two engaged in a twofold action. They "saw him" and then, in response to that sighting, they "passed by on the other side." The response of the third person is threefold. He "saw him," he was "moved with pity," and then he took concrete action to express his compassion and assist the injured man. The sequence of seeing, having compassion, and acting is a common one in the gospels. In Luke's Gospel, when Jesus "saw" the woman weeping at the death of her only son, he "had compassion for her," and brought her son to life. When the father "saw" the prodigal son "still far off . . . he was filled with compassion" and ran and embraced him. The Gospels of Matthew and Mark repeatedly tell us that Jesus himself, when he saw the crowds, had compassion on them and healed, fed, and taught them. Here in the parable of the Last Judgment what makes some blessed is the fact that, though they didn't realize it, in seeing the poor and helping them, they saw and helped Jesus Christ. By contrast, what makes others cursed is that they never really did see Jesus suffering and in need because they never really saw the poor. The king addresses each of two groups as either blessed or cursed and announces the consequences—enter into the kingdom or depart from him. He states his criterion for making these assignments, a need that they either met or did not meet: "I was hungry, thirsty, a stranger, naked, sick, or in prison and you fed, gave me drink, welcomed me clothed me, visited me, came to see me." Then the blessed ask the "when" question? "When did we see you hungry, etc. and meet your needs?" Of course, those who are accursed ask the same question, but for a different reason, to attempt to excuse themselves from their punishment. The answer to both the blessed and the accursed group is the same. "Truly I tell you, just as you did it (or did not do it) to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me".

*Continued on Page 2*

Continued from Page 1

The kingdom of heaven shows up where we least expect it. The presence of Jesus is hidden in the sick, the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, and the imprisoned. They are not only the "brothers and sisters" of Jesus; Jesus identifies himself with them. As in the Good Samaritan, the one who both saw and acted with compassion was the neighbor to the man in the ditch, so here it is the group that both saw and met the needs of the suffering that is blessed. Blessedness comes from active compassion toward those that society has judged as accursed. The parable points out that we as individuals, as people, and as a society, are often not very good at judging others. We are too harsh or we are too lax. We judge by appearances, or we make assumptions about the depths of others' feelings and experiences that are not ours to make. We exclude and we make allowances on other grounds than those set forth in this parable. We need a better, wiser judge than ourselves and that judge is Jesus Christ. Now the season is upon us to take Christ's words to heart and apply the teachings of the Church and His Saints to our daily lives. Now is the time for us to ready ourselves and to purge the passions and sin from our lives, as we continue to struggle and grow to love and serve Him, His Church, and our fellow human. If we are to make the most of this holy season, we need to prepare ourselves, our families, our home life now so that we are ready to go into the desert with Christ during the 40 days of our Lenten journey with Him. Now is the time to prioritize Christ and His Church on our schedules. Now is the time to make preparations for our participation in the services and fasting so that we can make the most of this opportunity for deification, growth, healing, and salvation. Christ, our Lord, beckons us, "Come!" Let us begin and continue on our road to repentance so that, on that Last Day, by God's grace, we'll hear from Christ's own lips those joyous words, "Come blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you." Amen.

## 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)

---

**"Only when you give from the heart  
does it make the giving whole."**

- Stephen Richards



Σαββατο 29η Φεβρουαρίου  
Β΄ ΨΥΧΟΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ.

Όρθρος - Θεία Λειτουργία  
Επιμνημόσυνη Δέησης

Κυριακή 1η Μαρτίου  
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΤΥΡΙΝΗΣ  
ΑΓΙΑΣΜΟΣ

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

Δευτέρα 2η Μαρτίου  
Αρχέται η Αγια και  
Μεγάλη Τεσσαρακοστή  
**ΚΑΘΑΡΑ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ**

Ώρα 5.00 μ.μ.

**ΜΕΓΑ ΑΠΟΔΕΙΠΝΟ**

Θα ακολουθησει αμεσα μετά  
Το νηστήσιμο δείπνο των Γονέων  
του ημερησίου Σχολείου ο Κοραής



**Κατα τήν διαρκεια  
τῆς Τεσσαρακοστής**

Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία  
Κάθε Τετάρτη - Ώρα 6:00 π.μ.  
Μαρτίου 4, 11, 18, και  
Απριλίου 1

ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ

Κάθε Παρασκευή - Ώρα 7:00 π.μ.  
Μαρτίου 6, 13, 10, 27

ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤΟΣ ΥΜΝΟΣ  
και 3η Απριλίου



**Κατα τήν διαρκεια  
τῆς Τεσσαρακοστής,  
καθε Τριτη  
θα εχουμε Μελετη Αγιας  
Γραφης στα Ελληνικα  
στις 5:00 μ.μ.  
(αρχιζει 3η Μαρτίου)**



**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ**

**Η Δευτέρα Παρουσία**

Στη σημερινή ευαγγελική περικοπή θα δούμε πως ο Θεός δεν είναι μόνο φιλόανθρωπος, αλλά και δίκαιος. Η Εκκλησία μας διαβάζει σήμερα το ευαγγέλιο της Δευτέρας και ενδόξου Παρουσίας του Ιησού Χριστού.

Η περικοπή μας διδάσκει, πως θα έλθει μια μέρα όπου όλοι μας θα δώσουμε λόγο στο Θεό για τις πράξεις που κάναμε πάνω στη γη κατά τη διάρκεια της ζωής μας. Δεν πρέπει ο άνθρωπος να ξεχνάει πως ο Χριστός θα έλθει και πάλι στη γη κατά τη δευτέρα και ένδοξη Παρουσία του «κρίναι ζώντας και νεκρούς», όπως ομολογούμε στο Σύμβολο της Πίστεως μας. Ο Κύριος την πρώτη φορά ήλθε στη γη ως ταπεινός άνθρωπος, τη δεύτερη φορά θα έλθει ως Βασιλέας και Κριτής. Την πρώτη φορά μας έδωσε αγάπη για να σωθούμε όλοι, τη δεύτερη θα μας κρίνει με δικαιοσύνη.

Ο Κύριος μας παρουσιάζει πώς θα μαζευτούν όλοι οι άνθρωποι μπροστά του και πώς θα ξεχωρίσει όλους τους ανθρώπους, όπως ο τσοπάνης ξεχωρίζει τα πρόβατα από τα κατσίκια. Ένα και μοναδικό κριτήριο θα έχει, που θα κρίνει τον κάθε άνθρωπο χωριστά. Είναι η εντολή της αγάπης και ο τρόπος που την εφάρμοσε ο κάθε άνθρωπος στη ζωή του. Πολύ απλά πράγματα θα ζητήσει εκείνη την ημέρα ο Κύριος από τους ανθρώπους. Θα δει αν δώσαμε ένα κομμάτι ψωμί στον πεινασμένο. Ένα ποτήρι νερό στο διψασμένο. Ένα ρούχο στο γυμνό. Μια φιλοξενία στον άστεγο. Μια προστασία στη χήρα και το ορφανό. Μια επίσκεψη στον άρρωστο και το φυλακισμένο. Ο Χριστός περιορίζεται στα λίγα πράγματα για να μη δικαιολογηθεί κανείς πως δεν μπορούσε να προσφέρει στους άλλους κάτι περισσότερο, επειδή και ο ίδιος δε θα είχε.

Το σπουδαιότερο όμως είναι πως ο άνθρωπος προσφέρει στο συνάνθρωπο του κάτι, επειδή τον αγαπά. Και αγαπά τον πλησίον, επειδή αγαπά το Θεό και το Χριστό. Αυτή τη μεγάλη αλήθεια μας παρουσιάζει ο Κύριος, όταν λέγει: «Σας βεβαιώνω πως ό,τι εκάματε σ' έναν από τους πιο τελευταίους αδελφούς μου, σ' εμένα το εκάματε». Αυτό μας διδάσκει πως ο Χριστός συνδέει τον εαυτό του με κάθε άνθρωπο ιδιαίτερα. Δεν υπάρχει μεγαλύτερη αλήθεια που να ενισχύει και να παρηγορεί τον καθένα μας.

Η σημερινή ευαγγελική περικοπή μας καλεί όλους να αρχίσουμε από σήμερα τα έργα της αγάπης μας. Στην οικογένεια, στο σχολείο, στη γειτονιά, στο δρόμο, που περπατάμε και όπου αλλού βρεθούμε, συναντάμε ανθρώπους που έχουν ανάγκη από τη δική μας αγάπη. Μια βοήθεια, μια καλοσύνη, λίγο φαγητό στο φτωχό της γειτονιάς, μια επίσκεψη στον άρρωστο, μια συμπαράσταση στον πονεμένο, όλα αυτά θα μας βοηθήσουν από τώρα να νιώσουμε έμπρακτα την αγάπη στην καρδιά μας. Έτσι δε θα έχουμε λόγο να φοβόμαστε την ημέρα της κρίσεως, που ο Κύριος θα μας αποδώσει δικαιοσύνη. Θα την περιμένουμε σαν την ημέρα εκείνη, που ο Χριστός θα μας βραβεύσει και θα μας πει: « Ελάτε οι ευλογημένοι από τον πατέρα μου να κληρονομήσετε τη Βασιλεία των ουρανών».

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

### Monday, February 24:

7:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A.

### Thursday, February 27:

8:00 a.m. Youth Choir

6:00 p.m. Handmaidens-Koliva Preparation

### Saturday, February 29: - 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of Souls

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

### Sunday, March 1: Cheese Fare Sunday/Agiasmos

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

### Monday March 2: Kathara Deftera-Lent Begins

5:00 P.M. Great Compline

KPTA Lenten Dinner following services

### **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

### **WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES**

In addition to Sunday Divine Services,  
we will offer:

Every Wednesday: March 4, 11, 18 & April 1

**Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.**

Every Friday: March 6, 13, 20, 27 & April 3

**Salutations at 7:00 p.m.**

## MEMORIALS

40 day Spiros Gofis

2 Year Irini Theodoropoulos

† May their memory be eternal †

## FUNERALS

The following funerals were held:

***Voula Kourafas*** - February 17<sup>th</sup>

***Betty Verges*** - February 21st

***Katherine Loxas*** - February 21st

† May Their Memory Be Eternal †

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Coffee Fellowship  
is hosted by the Gofis family in memory of

***Spiros Gofis***

Please join them.

**Monday, March 2nd is**

**KATHARA DEFTERA**

† The Beginning of Great Lent †

Great Compline 5:00 p.m.

Followed by a Community Lenten Dinner

Free will giving

In the East Room sponsored by the KPTA



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES**  
on **TUESDAYS** during Lent

**GREEK LANGUAGE** at 5:00 pm

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE** at 5:30 pm

**See you...**



**...Next Sunday**