

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465
Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179
www.stconstantinehelen.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Κυριακή 25η Φεβρουαρίου 2018
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΙΑΣ
Αποστ: Εβρ. 11:24-26, 32-40
Ευαγγ: Ιωαν. 1:43-51

Sunday of Orthodoxy
Today's Readings
Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40
Gospel: John 1:43-51



SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday is the victory of the icons. In the year 843, the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

The Seventh Ecumenical Council dealt predominantly with the controversy regarding icons and their place in Orthodox worship. It was convened in Nicaea in 787 by Empress Irene at the request of Tarasios, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Council was attended by 367 bishops.

Almost a century before this, the iconoclastic controversy had once more shaken the foundations of both Church and State in the Byzantine empire. Excessive religious respect and the ascribed miracles to icons by some members of society, approached the point of worship (due only to God) and idolatry. This instigated excesses at the other extreme by which icons were completely taken out of the liturgical life of the Church by the Iconoclasts. The Iconophiles, on the other-hand, believed that icons served to preserve the doctrinal teachings of the Church; they considered icons to be man's dynamic way of expressing the divine through art and beauty.

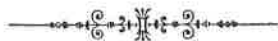
The decree of the Council for restoring icons to churches added an important clause which still stands at the foundation of the rationale for using and venerating icons in the Orthodox Church to this very day: "We define that the holy icons, whether in color, mosaic, or some other material, should be exhibited in the holy churches of God, on the sacred vessels and liturgical vestments, on the walls, furnishings, and in houses and along the roads, namely the icons of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ, that of our Lady the Theotokos, those of the venerable angels and those of all saintly people. Whenever these representations are contemplated, they will cause those who look at them to commemorate and love their prototype. We define also that they should be kissed and that they are an object of veneration and honor (timitiki proskynisis), but not of real worship (latreia), which is reserved for Him Who is the subject of our faith and is proper for the divine nature. The veneration accorded to an icon is in effect transmitted to the prototype; he who venerates the icon, venerated in it the reality for which it stands".

An Endemousa (Regional) Synod was called in Constantinople in 843, under Empress Theodora. The veneration of icons was solemnly proclaimed at the Agia Sophia Cathedral. The Empress, her son Michael III, Patriarch Methodios, and monks and clergy came in procession and restored the icons in their rightful place. The day was called "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

Continued on Page 2

Since that time, this event is commemorated yearly with a special service on the first Sunday of Lent, the "Sunday of Orthodoxy".

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Orthodox Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of Orthodox faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Orthodox churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Orthodox home is complete without an icon corner (iconostasion), where the family prays.



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.



Let us do our best for Our Home



Stewardship 2018

Sign up for monthly giving at www.ssch.us



MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...

Celebration of Icons

If you were to close your eyes and think about what life would be like without the image of Christ or the Panagia in our minds, it would be to live in the time that spanned over 100 years that the faithful were forced to live without icons. To not know what our Lord looks like, seems hard to believe today, but it was a reality that, thankfully, got rectified with the procession of the Icons that we celebrate today

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

ATTENTION: ORTHODOX HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND UNDERGRADUATES:

AHEPA Chapter 260 has established the Peter Economos Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship is open to high school seniors who are graduating in 2018, or are now undergraduate college students, who are pursuing or will pursue a post-secondary education by attending a vocational, trade or technical school or a college or university. The application is available on the scholarship website:

<http://www.petereconomos scholarship.com/scholarship.html>

The deadline date for applications is Monday, May 7, 2018. For more information contact: Nicholas Bobis at bobisnp@sbcglobal.net 708-444-8462

"Very truly I tell you, you will see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

-John 1:51



Κυριακή 25η Φεβρουαρίου
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΙΑΣ

Τό έσπέρας
Ώρα 6:30 μ.μ.
Ο Πανορθοδοξος Εσπερινός
θά τελεσθει
εις τόν Ίερόν Ναόν μας

Τρίτη 27η Φεβρουαρίου
Ωρα 5:00 μ.μ. - Κύκλος Μελέτης
Αγίας Γραφής στα Ελληνικά

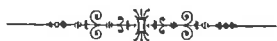
Τετάρτη 28η Φεβρουαρίου
Ωρα 6:00 μ.μ.

Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή 2η Μαρτίου
Ωρα 7:00 μ.μ.
Β' ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ



Τή υπερμάχω στρατηγώ τα νικητήρια
Ως λυτρωθείσα των δεινών ευχαριστήρια
Αναγράφω σοι η πόλις σου Θεοτόκε.
Αλλ' ως έχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητον
Εκ παντίων μέ κινδύνων ελευθέρωσον
Ίνα κράζω σοι
Χαίρε Νύμφη ανύμφευτε



Κυριακή 4η Μαρτίου
Β' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ
ΑΓ. ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ ΠΑΛΑΜΑ

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



Θα εχουμε Μελετη Αγίας Γραφης
στα Ελληνικά καθε Τριτη κατα τήν
διαρκεια τής Τεσσαρακοστης
στις 5:00 μ.μ.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΙΑΣ

Η αγία αυτή ημέρα είναι ξεχωριστή, διότι παρά το κατανυκτικό κλίμα της Μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής, εορτάζει λαμπρά η Ορθοδοξία μας, η αληθινή Εκκλησία του Χριστού. Ποιούμε ανάμνηση του κορυφαίου γεγονότος της εκκλησιαστικής μας ιστορίας, της αναστηλώσεως των ιερών εικόνων, το οποίο επισυνέβη

το 843 μ.Χ. στο Βυζάντιο, χάρις στην αποφασιστική συμβολή της βασιλίσσης και μετέπειτα αγίας Θεοδώρας, συζύγου του αυτοκράτορα Θεοφίλου (840 - 843 μ.Χ.).

Αναφερόμαστε στη μεγάλη εικονομαχική έριδα, η οποία συντάραξε κυριολεκτικά την Εκκλησία μας για περισσότερα από εκατό χρόνια. Το 726 μ.Χ. ο αυτοκράτωρ Λέων ο Γ' ο Ίσαυρος (717 - 741 μ.Χ.) αποφάσισε να επιφέρει στο κράτος ριζικές μεταρρυθμίσεις. Μια από αυτές ήταν η απαγόρευση προσκύνησης των ιερών εικόνων, επειδή, παίρνοντας αφορμή από ορισμένα ακραία φαινόμενα εικονολατρίας, πίστευε πως η χριστιανική πίστη παρέκκλινε στην ειδωλολατρία.

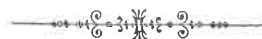
Μεγάλες πατερικές μορφές ανάλαβαν να υπερασπίσουν την ορθόδοξη πίστη. Στα 787 μ.Χ. συγκλήθηκε η Ζ' Οικουμενική Σύνοδος, η οποία διατύπωσε με ακρίβεια την οφειλόμενη τιμή στις ιερές εικόνες. Σε αυτή επίσης διευκρινίστηκαν και άλλα δυσνόητα σημεία της χριστιανικής πίστεως, έτσι ώστε να έχουμε πλήρη αποκρυστάλλωση του ορθοδόξου δόγματος και να ομιλούμε για θρίαμβο της Ορθοδοξίας μας.

Η εικόνα στην Ορθοδοξία μας δεν αποτελεί αντικείμενο λατρείας, αλλά λειτουργεί αποκλειστικά ως μέσον τιμής του εικονιζόμενου προσώπου. Ακόμα και ο Χριστός μπορεί να εικονισθεί, διότι έγινε άνθρωπος. Μάλιστα όποιος αρνείται τον εικονισμό του Χριστού αρνείται ουσιαστικά την ανθρώπινη φύση Του! Οι μεγάλοι Πατέρες και διδάσκαλοι της Εκκλησίας μας, που αναδείχθηκαν μέσα από τη λαίλαπα της εικονομαχίας, διατύπωσαν το ορθόδοξο δόγμα με προσοχή και ευλάβεια. Η ευλογία και η χάρη που λαμβάνει ο πιστός από την προσκύνηση των ιερών εικόνων δίνεται από το ζωντανό ιερό πρόσωπο και όχι από την ύλη της εικόνας.

Η εικόνα έχει τεράστια ποιμαντική χρησιμότητα. Μια εικόνα, σύμφωνα με γλωσσική έκφραση, αξίζει περισσότερο από χίλιες λέξεις. Αυτό σημαίνει ότι μέσω της εκκλησιαστικής εικονογραφίας οι πιστοί βοηθούνται να αναχθούν στις υψηλές πνευματικές θεωρίες και στο θεϊόν. Στα 843 η ευσεβής αυτοκράτειρα Θεοδώρα, επίτροπος του ανήλικου γιου της Μιχαήλ του Γ', έθεσε τέρμα στην εικονομαχική έριδα και συνετέλεσε στο θρίαμβο της Ορθοδοξίας.

Οι Πατέρες όρισαν να εορτάζεται ο θρίαμβος του ορθοδόξου δόγματος την πρώτη Κυριακή των Νηστειών για να δείξει στους πιστούς πως ο πνευματικός μας αγώνας θα πρέπει να συνδυάζεται με την ορθή πίστη για να είναι πραγματικά αποτελεσματικός.

Πηγή: <http://www.saint.gr>



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

This Evening, February 25:

6:30 p.m. Our Parish is hosting this year's
Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Monday, February 26:

7:30 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday, February 27:

5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Class – Greek

5:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class - English

Wednesday, February 28:

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 1:

1:30 p.m. Koraes Prayer Service

Friday, March 2:

7:00 p.m. 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos

Sunday, March 4:

2nd Sunday of Lent / St. Gregory Palamas

8:00 - 11:30 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

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

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES

In addition to Sunday Divine Services,
we will offer:

Every Wednesday: February 28
March 7, 14, 21

Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

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

† MEMORIALS †

40 Day Demetrios Loukoutos

40 Day Eleanor Tsakalakis

† May their memory be eternal †

FUNERALS

The following funerals were held recently.

Aglaia Papoutsis – February 19th

Helen Jerbich – February 23rd

Steve Sideris – February 23rd

† May their memory be eternal †

St. Helen Women's Philoptochos Coming Events

Seventeenth Annual

Maria Pazoles Memorial Quilt-a-thon

March 17, 2018 * 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

See enclosed flyer for details

Pascha Bake Sale

It's that time again! Order all of your Pascha
baked goods. Pre-orders are due by March 25th.
Pick up orders on Palm Sunday, April 1st.

See enclosed flyer for details

Our Parish is hosting this year's Sunday of Orthodoxy



PAN- ORTHODOX VESPERS

TONIGHT

at 6:30 pm

Please see the enclosed flyer for details

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!