



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2020

Κυριακή 9η Φεβρουαρίου 2020
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ
Αποσ: Β' Τιμοθέου: 3: 10-15
Ευαγγ: Λουκα 18:10-14

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee
Today's Readings
Epistle: 2 Timothy: 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14

THE TALE OF TWO MEN

Two men went up into the temple to pray. One a Pharisee, highly respected, a man of prestige, a very devout and religious person. The other a tax collector, an outcast of society, no one would describe him as a friend, but rather, most would consider him dishonest and a traitor. In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus compares these two people. It seems as if He is comparing a saint and a gangster. The comparison becomes very revealing as we overhear their personal prayers.

As they separated themselves from the busy world, they are deep in their devotions. From the vantage point of a distance, we watch them as they pray without their suspecting that they are being watched. What we will see will be quite striking and give us much to learn.

"The Pharisee stood and prayed". He "stood" when he prayed which was the normal Jewish position for prayer, but we can see that this was a person that had no objection to being seen. He was thinking about himself and the impression he would make on others. He even "prayed with himself." In other words, he talked to himself instead of God. True prayer is always offered to God and to God alone. Not so with the Pharisee. His prayer was self-congratulatory. Two men went up to pray, but upon assessment, you might be more apt to assert that one went to brag, the other went to pray.

The Pharisee's prayer begins well, but he spoils it when he uses his thankfulness to God to exalt himself. He thanks God that he is not like other men. He boasts about all of his achievements. It is as if he is saying "Look at me — how good I am!" In our own lives, we see many who fall into the same temptation, those who are thankful that they are better than others.

Looking at the tax collector, he is standing alone, he did not dare to lift up his eyes to heaven; he was too full of shame. Instead, he looked down to the ground and offered prayer. He prays, "God, be merciful to me, the sinner." He regarded himself as the example of sinners. Just as the Pharisee had singled himself out as the only holy one in the world, so the tax collector singles himself out as the greatest of sinners. In the end this man who knew his own sin got nearer to God than the Pharisee who could see nothing but his own perception of virtue.

We could never dare to stand before the throne of God and ask that we be given what we deserve. Our only plea is, "Lord, have mercy" (*Kyrie Eleison*). And the miracle is that there is mercy. At the very heart of the universe beats God's love. This is why we pray so often, "Lord, have mercy." This prayer, offered with the smallest particle of faith, will open the way for God's forgiveness and for the coming of His kingdom in our hearts.

For our Lord's story today is not really about two men who went up into the temple to pray. It is about God, and how He looks at sin and righteousness — how He looks at us, you and me. "I tell you, this man went down to the house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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

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)

"Give, and it shall be given unto you"

-Luke 6:38



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ

Ευαγγ. ανάγνωση: Λουκ. 18, 10-14

Η πρώτη Κυριακή του Τριωδίου είναι αφιερωμένη στην διδακτική παραβολή του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου, την οποία ο Κύριος διηγήθηκε, προκειμένου να διδάξει την αρετή της ταπεινώσεως και να στηλιτεύσει την έπαρση.

Η τάξη των Φαρισαίων εκπροσωπούσε την υποκρισία και την εγωιστική αυτάρκεια και έπαρση. Τα μέλη της απόλυτα αποκομμένα από την υπόλοιπη ιουδαϊκή κοινωνία, αποτελούσαν, λαθεμένα, το μέτρο σύγκρισης της ευσέβειας και της ηθικής για τους Ιουδαίους. Αντίθετα οι τελώνες ήταν η προσωποποίηση της αδικίας και της αμαρτωλότητας.

Ως φοροεισπράκτορες των κατακτητών Ρωμαίων διέπρατταν αδικίες, κλοπές, εκβιασμούς, τοκογλυφίες και άλλες ειδεχθείς ανομίες και γι' αυτό τους μισούσε δικαιολογημένα ο λαός. Δύο αντίθετοι τύποι της κοινωνίας, οι οποίοι εκπροσωπούσαν τις δύο αυτές τάξεις, ανέβηκαν στο ναό να προσευχηθούν. Ο πρώτος ο νομιζόμενος ευσεβής, έχοντας την αυτάρκεια της δήθεν ευσέβειάς του ως δεδομένη, στάθηκε με έπαρση μπροστά στο Θεό και άρχισε να απαριθμεί τις αρετές του, οι οποίες ήταν πραγματικές. Τις εξέθετε προκλητικότερα εις τρόπον ώστε απαιτούσε από το Θεό να τον επιβραβεύσει γι' αυτές. Για να εξαναγκάσει το Θεό έκανε και αήθη σύγκρισή του με άλλους ανθρώπους και ιδιαίτερα με τον συμπροσευχόμενο του τελώνη.

Αντίθετα ο όντως αμαρτωλός τελώνης συναισθάνεται τη δεινή του κατάσταση και με συντριβή και ταπείνωση ζητεί το έλεος του Θεού. Αυτή η μετάνοιά του τον δικαιώνει μπροστά στο Θεό. Γίνεται δεκτή η προσευχή του, σε αντίθεση με τον υποκριτή Φαρισαίο, ο οποίος όχι μόνο δεν έγινε δεκτή η προσευχή του, αλλά σώρευσε στον εαυτό του περισσότερο κρίμα, εξαιτίας της εγωπάθειάς του.

Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας μας όρισαν να είναι αφιερωμένη η πρώτη Κυριακή του Τριωδίου στη διδακτική αυτή παραβολή του Κυρίου για να συνειδητοποιήσουν οι πιστοί πως η υπερηφάνεια είναι η αγιάτρευτη ρίζα του κακού στον άνθρωπο, η οποία τον κρατά μακριά από την αγιαστική χάρη του Θεού και πως η ταπείνωση είναι το σωτήριο αντίδοτο της καταστροφικής πορείας, που οδηγεί τον άνθρωπο η εγωπάθεια.

Πηγή: <http://www.saint.gr>

Σήμερα Αρχεται το Τριώδιο

από σήμερα μέχρι την Κυριακή του Ασώτου έχουμε κατάλυση νηστείας <εις πάντα> δηλαδή επιτρέπονται όλα τα φαγητά και την Τετάρτη και την Παρασκευή.

Τριώδιο ονομάζεται το Λειτουργικό Βιβλίο της Εκκλησίας μας το οποίο περιλαμβάνει τους Ύμνους των Κυριακών, απο την Κυριακή του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου μέχρι και το Μεγάλο Σάββατο πριν την Τελετή της Αναστάσεως. Το τριώδιο περισσότερο από όλα τα εκκλησιαστικά βιβλία που περιέχουν ιερές ακολουθίες οδηγεί τις ψυχές των πιστών τέκνων της ορθοδόξου εκκλησίας στην περισυλλογή και στην κατάνυξη. Για τον λόγο αυτό ονομάζεται και κατανυκτικό τριώδιο. Με τον κύκλο των εορτών του τριωδίου ανανεώνονται τα βιώματα της νηστείας, της εγκράτειας, της μετάνοιας, και της χαρμολύπης. *Οι Κυριακές του Τριωδίου είναι οι εξής: Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου, Ασώτου, Απόκρεω, Τυροφάγου.*

Δευτέρα - 10η Φεβρουαρίου - Του Αγίου Χαράλάμπους

"Ωρα 8:00 π.μ - "Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή - 14η Φεβρουαρίου - Χριστιανική Φιλοξενία

"Ωρα 8:00 π.μ - "Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία στον Ίερόν Ναόν του Αγίου Σπυρίδωνος
Θα ακολουθήσει γεύμα εις τήν αιθουσα της εκκλησίας

Κυριακή 16η Φεβρουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΣΩΤΟΥ

"Ωρα 8:30 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ "Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, February 10:

Feast of St. Haralambos

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

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

Tuesday February 11:

9:00 a.m. KPTA meeting

7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Thursday, February 13:

8:00 a.m. Youth Choir

Friday February 14:

8:00 a.m. Christianiki Philoxenia
Orthros/Divine Liturgy at
St Spyridon; Luncheon to follow

8:45 a.m. Koraes Prayer Service

6:45 p.m. Mighty Rights Playoffs

7:45 p.m. Minors Playoffs

8:45 p.m. Majors Playoffs

Saturday, February 15:

10:00 a.m. Philoptochos Meeting

Sunday, February 16:

Sunday of Prodigal Son

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

G.O.Y.A. Dance

Sunday February 16th

8th Grade -12th Grade

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

\$15.00 Entry

D.J., Dancing and Food

Order of AHEPA

13TH District Scholarship Available

For High School Seniors

Applications are available in the church office or

at www.ahepa.org

(follow the prompts to

“District 13 Application for Scholarship”)

MEMORIALS

40 day Anastasios Hristakos

1 year Edna (Athanasia) Costopoulos

5 year Demetrios Pitsis

† May their memory be eternal †

FUNERALS

The following funerals were held:

Mary Kouchis February 4th

John Nomikos February 7th

Nick Allen February 7th

† May Their Memory Be Eternal †

Today's Coffee Fellowship and Artoclasia
is hosted by the Pitsis Family
Please join them.

Save the Date-

**SADDLE UP - You're Invited to
A HOE DOWN**

Hosted by The St Helen Women's
Philoptochos

Saturday February 22 from 5pm-11pm

Adults \$35 (13 and over)

Children \$15 (3-12)

Children 3 and under free

See you...



...Next Sunday