



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Κυριακή 2η Φεβρουαρίου 2020
Ἡ Ὑπαπαντή τοῦ Κυρίου
Ἀποσ: Προς Ἑβραίους: 7:7-17
Εὐαγγ: Λουκά 2::22-40

Presentation of the Lord
Today's Readings
Epistle: Hebrews: 7:7-17
Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE

The Feast of the Presentation, as celebrated annually on February 2, is told in the Book of Luke 2:22-29. Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews and observed their religious customs. An important custom was for the couple to take their first-born son to the Temple. The baby was taken to the Temple forty days after his birth and was dedicated to God. In addition, if the parents were wealthy, they were to bring a lamb and a young pigeon or a turtle dove to be offered as a sacrifice at the Temple. The custom provided that if the parents were poor, they were to offer two pigeons or two turtle doves for the sacrifice.

When Jesus was forty days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. They were not wealthy, so they took two turtle doves with them to offer as a sacrifice at the Temple. As they arrived at the Temple, Mary and Joseph were met by a very old man named Simeon. He was a holy man and was noted as a very intelligent scholar. Simeon spent much time studying about the prophets of Israel. It was during his studies that he learned of the coming of the Messiah. The Jewish people were waiting for the Messiah to come and deliver Israel from their conquerors. From that time on, Simeon spent his time praying for the Messiah to come. He spent many years in prayer. Finally, while Simeon was praying he heard the voice of God. God promised Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah.

When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby in his arms and blessed the Lord and said: "Lord, now let Your servant go in peace according to Your promise, because my eyes have seen Your salvation which you have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory to your people Israel."

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Also, in the Temple was Anna the Prophetess. She had been a widow for many years. Anna was about eighty-four years old and spent her time in the Temple worshiping, fasting, and praying. When she saw the Christ Child she praised God and spoke of him to all who were awaiting the Messiah.

After Jesus was presented in the Temple, the family returned to Galilee to the town of Nazareth. The Bible tells us that Jesus grew and became strong, and was filled with wisdom.

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.ss.ch.us; (Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving)

"Giving is the Greatest act of Grace"

-Unknown

Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ

Ευαγγ. ανάγνωσμα: Λουκ. 2:22-40



Σαραντα μέρες μετά τη Γέννηση του Χριστού, στις 2 Φεβρουαρίου γιορτάζουμε την υποδοχή (υπαπαντή) που έκανε ο γέροντας Συμεών ο Θεοδόχος στο Θείο Βρέφος στον Ναό του Σολομώντα. Όπως και σήμερα έχουμε τον σαραντισμό, όπως λέμε, έτσι κάπως γινόταν και εκείνα τα χρόνια. Έπρεπε δηλαδή οι γονείς να φέρουν το παιδί στα Ιεροσόλυμα, στον Ναό. Σύμφωνα με τον Μωσαϊκό Νόμο μάλιστα, όλα τα πρωτότοκα αγόρια ήταν αφιερωμένα στον Θεό (για χάρη των πρωτότοκων που είχαν σωθεί στην Αίγυπτο). Μαζί πρόσφεραν σαν θυσία ένα ζευγάρι τρυγониών ή δύο μικρά περιστέρια, πάντα σύμφωνα με τον Νόμο του Κυρίου.

Στα Ιεροσόλυμα βρισκόταν τότε ένας άνθρωπος που τον έλεγαν Συμεών. Ήταν πιστός και ευλαβής, περίμενε τη σωτηρία του Ισραήλ και τον καθοδηγούσε το Άγιο Πνεύμα. Του είχε φανερώσει λοιπόν το Άγιο Πνεύμα ότι δεν θα πέθαινε προτού δει τον Μεσσία (το Χριστό). Κι εκείνος περίμενε, λένε, πολύ περισσότερο και από διακόσια χρόνια. Τότε του υπέδειξε το Άγιο Πνεύμα να πάει στον Ναό. Μόλις οι γονείς έφεραν εκεί το Παιδί, τον Ιησού, για να κάνουν γι' αυτό τα έθιμα του Νόμου, το πήρε στην αγκαλιά του, δόξασε το Θεό και είπε: *«Τώρα, Κύριε, μπορείς να αφήσεις το δούλο σου να πεθάνει, γιατί τα μάτια μου είδαν το Σωτήρα, που ετοίμασες για όλους τους λαούς, το Φως που θα φωτίσει όλα τα έθνη...»*

Ο Ιωσήφ και η Μητέρα του Ιησού θαύμασαν για όσα λέγονταν γι' Αυτόν. Ο άγιος Συμεών τους ευλόγησε και είπε προφητικά στη Μαριάμ, τη Μητέρα Του: *«Αυτός θα γίνει αιτία να σωθούν πολλοί· πολλοί πάλι δεν θα τον πιστέψουν και θα καταστραφούν... Όσο για σένα, ο πόνος που έχεις να περάσεις για το παιδί σου, σαν δίκικο μαχαίρι θα σου τρυπήσει την καρδιά».*

Ο Θεός ήταν εκείνη την ώρα στο Ναό του Σολομώντα κι όμως κανείς άλλος δεν πήρε είδηση ούτε μαζεύτηκε κόσμος (γιατί ο Θεός δεν προσφέρει θέαμα ή εντυπωσιακά ακούσματα, π.χ. μ' ένα ξεχωριστό θαύμα, αλλά ζητάει κάτι βαθύτερο: την καρδιά μας, την αγάπη μας).

Εκεί ήταν μόνο μια πολύ ηλικιωμένη γυναίκα, που την έλεγαν Άννα. Είχε δώσει όλη την καρδιά της στον Θεό κι είχε αφιερώσει όλη τη ζωή της σ' Αυτόν. Είχε ζήσει επτά χρόνια με τον άνδρα της στο γάμο και τώρα, 84 χρονών χήρα, δεν έφευγε από τον Ναό, αλλά νύχτα και μέρα λάτρευε το Θεό με νηστείες και προσευχές. Αυτή παρουσιάστηκε εκείνη την ώρα δοξολογώντας τον Θεό, προφήτευε και μιλούσε για το Παιδί στην Ιερουσαλήμ σε όλους όσους περίμεναν τη λύτρωση.

Η Εκκλησία τη μέρα αυτή την έχει ορίσει ως γιορτή της μητέρας και στους ναούς ψάλλεται προς τιμή της Παναγίας: *Θεοτόκε, ή έλπίς πάντων τῶν χριστιανῶν, σκέπε, φρούρει, φύλαττε τούς ἐλπίζοντας εἰς σέ .*

Πηγη: pemptousia.gr

Κυριακή 9η Φεβρουαρίου - ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ - Αρχεται το Τριόδιον

Ώρα 8:30 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ Ώρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία

ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

Ἡ μεγαλύτερη εὐγένεια εἶναι ἡ εὐγνωμοσύνη.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, February 3:

6:00 p.m. G.O.Y.A. Soup Kitchen

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

Wednesday February 5:

3:00 p.m. Koraes Prayer Service

Thursday, February 6:

8:00 a.m. Youth Choir

Friday February 7:

5:30 p.m. Rookies Camp

6:45 p.m. Mighty Mights

7:45 p.m. Minors

8:45 p.m. Majors

Sunday, February 9 – Triodion Begins

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

8:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. Orthros/Divine

Liturgy

PARISH ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL AND ARTS FESTIVAL

Open to ALL Youth

7th - 9th Grade and 10th -12th Grade

Oratory / Essay / Poetry / Iconography &
Vocal Performance

Please contact Fr. Chris for Topics & Details

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

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Coffee Fellowship is hosted
By Our St Helen Women's Philoptochos
Please join them.

FUNERAL

The funeral of *Clara (Kalliope) Paliatsos*
was held Friday, January 31st
† May Her Memory Be Eternal †

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

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

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Ourania (Reign), daughter of
Jake and Jaime Holler

Sponsor: Andrew Kantsedal

Order of AHEPA

13th District Scholarship Available

For High School Seniors

Applications are available in the church office or
at www.ahepa.org/ and follow the
prompts to "District 13, Application for
Scholarship"



See you...

...Next Sunday