



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

## THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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**SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021**

Κυριακή 17η Ἰανουαρίου 2021

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ἸΒ' ΛΟΥΚΑ - ΤΟΥ ἉΓΙΟΥ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΥ

Ἀποσ: Εβρ 13:17-21

Εὐαγγ: Λουκα 17:12-19

12<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke – St. Anthony the Great

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 13:17-21

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

### GOD'S MERCY IN OUR HEARTS

Our Gospel lesson today is about the Healing of the Ten Lepers. In this miracle, like most of the miracles in the Gospel, it is presented to us with an inner meaning and outer meaning. The inner meaning is about what true faith really is, and also about the unfaithfulness and lack of thankfulness of the people. The outer meaning seems to be clear, that we should in all things give thanks to God, particularly when we are given great gifts, and only one man in today's reading gave thanks to God for this great blessing that he was given, this healing from the terrible disease of leprosy.

Leprosy was an affliction that would indicate uncleanness. A leper was completely separated from their community, it was as if they were in exile among their own people. These 10 lepers were "far off." They were far off because we cannot approach God, when we are full of sins. Leprosy is a metaphor for our sins. A person who has sins is far off from God. When the men lifted up their voices to ask God to have mercy, they were insistent, they had to shout loudly and often, to make their voices known. At least they knew what situation they were in. So many of us don't understand how far away we truly are, and how much we need to call out to God, and ask forgiveness for our sins.

It is quite an incredible event, and symbolic of Christ's mercy, and His constant cleansing of us. "And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving Him thanks." This man uses his head, or more accurately, he uses his heart. He was ordered to go to the priest, and then he was cleansed on the way. He knew that the Great High Priest had healed him, so he obeyed the command. He then went to the Great High Priest and worshipped Him. This man understood. He had eyes to see, and ears to hear. He saw what a great miracle had been worked, and he knew that only God would be able to do such a thing. This man was a thoughtful man. The other nine, however, even upon witnessing and being a part of all of

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this, were not thoughtful. It did not occur to those who were cleansed, and who they had just encountered. They had just seen God, and been healed by His mercy, and yet they did not really understand.

What can we learn from this passage in just a few lines? We can certainly see that one should give thanks to God, but more fundamentally, the inner meaning is that this leper had eyes to see, and ears to hear, and saw God, and ACTED upon what he learned and what he knew. It was then, that God TRULY healed him, and made him filled with knowledge, so that he would grow to fruition. It is the same principle for us. The Church gives us so many wonderful gifts, so many incalculable riches, and many times, we do not value them very much at all. We don't understand what a great thing we have been given. On an intellectual level, we might understand, but we don't act with fervent faith because of the apparent understanding. The gifts we have been given are so tremendous that they should spur us on, and make us live in Christ. For us, just as for this leper, this comes through labor and effort. The leper was sick and had to endure much for a long time. Unfortunately, so do we, mostly because of our sins. So, let us endure, let us proceed, and let us try to capture God's mercy in our hearts, and let it warm us and enlighten us.



**“Rise and go your way,  
Your faith has made you well.”  
Luke 17:19**

## Saints Constantine & Helen LEGACY BRICK CAMPAIGN

PAVING OUR FUTURE



**Be a part of our church's history and leave your  
mark of faith and love!**

Show your support by donating a personally engraved brick paver(s), which will be used to pave our church's walkway.

**Brick Pavers are available in two sizes:**

4" x 8" for \$175

8" x 8" for \$300

\$1,200 to donate a premium seating wall with engraved plaque. **(SOLD OUT)**

Each brick paver can be engraved in 3 ways:

**Heritage:** Engraved with your individual, family, company or group name.

**Tribute:** Engraved with name in memory of a loved one.

**Inspiration:** Engraved with a short saying or sentiment.

There is no limit on the number of pavers you can purchase. All funds raised through this effort will go towards our church beautification projects and capital improvements.

Contact us with any questions  
at [sschlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:sschlegacy@gmail.com)

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## Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΑΝΤΩΝΙΟΣ



Ο Αντώνιος γεννήθηκε γύρω στο 250 στην πόλη Κομά της Άνω Αιγύπτου, από γονείς εύπορους και ευλαβείς. Από την παιδική του ηλικία ήταν ολιγαρκής και αυτάρκης κι έδειξε ενδιαφέρον για τη λατρευτική ζωή της εκκλησίας.

Σε ηλικία 20 ετών έχασε και τους δύο γονείς του. Έξι μήνες αργότερα μοίρασε τα υπάρχοντά του στους φτωχούς, υπακούοντας στην ευαγγελική περικοπή του πλούσιου νεανίσκου, και αποσύρθηκε σε σπήλαιο της ερήμου, όπου έζησε ασκητικό βίο για 25 συναπτά έτη.

Το έτος 311, κατά το διωγμό του αυτοκράτορα Μαξιμίνου (307-313), κατήλθε στην Αλεξάνδρεια, για να ενθαρρύνει και να βοηθήσει τους πιστούς της τοπικής εκκλησίας. Όταν έπαυσε ο διωγμός, ο Αντώνιος επανήλθε στην έρημο.

Κατά τη διάρκεια του ασκητικού βίου του δεν άλλαξε ποτέ ένδυμα, ούτε έπλυνε το σώμα ή τα πόδια του με νερό. Δίδασκε τους μαθητές του να μη θεωρούν τίποτε ανώτερο από την αγάπη του Χριστού και να μη νομίζουν ότι επειδή απέχουν από τα κοσμικά αγαθά, στερούνται κάτι αξιόλογο.

Ο Άγιος Αντώνιος, ο επονομασθείς από την εκκλησία Μέγας, κοιμήθηκε το 356 σε ηλικία 105 ετών, έχοντας απόλυτη σωματική και πνευματική υγεία.

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## Ο ΑΓΙΟΣ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΣ Ο ΜΕΓΑΣ



Ο Άγιος Αθανάσιος γεννήθηκε το 293; στην Αλεξάνδρεια, από γονείς χριστιανούς. Εκεί μορφώθηκε θεολογικά και φιλοσοφικά σε ονομαστές σχολές, και σχετίστηκε κατά τη νεανική του ηλικία με τον ιδρυτή του μοναχισμού Αντώνιο, με τον οποίο και συνασκήτησε στην έρημο.

Το 328, ο Αθανάσιος, με απόφαση κλήρου και λαού, χειροτονήθηκε επίσκοπος, ένεκα του μεγάλου ζήλου και της φήμης, που είχε αποκτήσει ως ανυποχώρητου μαχητή. Χειροτονήθηκε σε ηλικία τριάντα τριών χρόνων, στις 8 Ιουλίου.

Ο Μέγας Πατήρ και Στύλος της Ορθοδοξίας, Αθανάσιος, διεξήγαγε πολλούς αγώνες για την Ορθόδοξη πίστη. Για το λόγο αυτό και για το απαράμιλλό του ήθος ο Άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος, σε εγκωμιαστικό του λόγο τον ταυτίζει με την αρετήν. Λέγει, Αθανάσιον επαινών αρετήν επαινέσομαι. Ταυτόν γαρ εκείνο τς ειπείν και επαινέσαι (Επαινώντας τον Αθανάσιο, θα επαινέσω την αρετή. Γιατί Αθανάσιος και αρετή είναι το ίδιο πράγμα. Όταν αναφέρομαι σε αυτόν επαινώ την αρετή).

Η μνήμη του τελείται στις 18 Ιανουαρίου μαζί με τη μνήμη του Αγίου Κυρίλλου και στις 2 Μαΐου, μέρα της κοίμησής του.

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**Δευτέρα 18η Ιανουαρίου - ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΑΘΑΝΑΣΙΟΥ**

Ώρα 9:00 π.μ - Θεία Λειτουργία

**Κυριακή 24η Ιανουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΔ' ΛΟΥΚΑ**

Ώρα 9:00 π.μ - 10:30 π.μ Θεία Λειτουργία

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Μέ αγάπη Χριστού εκφάζομαι τις καλλίτερες ευχές μας στον π. Αθανάσιον  
επι τη ευκαιρία τῆς ονομαστικῆς του εορτῆς τὴν Δευτέρα.

Εἴθε ο Κύριος μας, διὰ πρεσβειῶν του Αγίου Αθανασίου, να τον εχει παντοτε κάτω  
ἀπὸ τὴν σκέπην Του και να του χαρίζει Χρόνια Πολλα καί υγιεινά.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

**Monday, January 18:**

**Feastday of Sts. Athanasios and Cyril**

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Sunday, January 24:**

**14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke**

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

## † MEMORIALS †

40 Day Diana Dellaportas

† May her memory be eternal †

## ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENT

Please contact the Church Office at  
(708) 974-3400 if you would like to receive your  
2020 Annual Giving Statement.

## HAPPY NAMEDAY FR. TOM

On, January 18th, our church celebrates the feast day of St. Athanasios, which is Fr. Tom's nameday. We would like to wish Fr. Tom a blessed nameday. May our Lord, through the intercessions of his Patron Saint, grant him many years of good health so that he may continue to serve Him with the same dedication, and love that Fr. Tom has for our beloved parish.

**Hronia Polla!**



**see you...**

**...Next Sunday**

## HOPE

The beginning of a new year often starts with contemplation on the year that past. 2020 was on all accounts a most difficult year disrupted and dominated by the pandemic and the ensuing effects it has had on our health, our way of life, our businesses, indeed even in the way we worship. Rarely has the whole world suffered in such a way, and nothing in recent history has affected humankind.

Despite these trying times, or maybe because of them, we joyously look forward beginning a New Year. As we do, we are filled with hope for better things to come and remember that this community, our parish with a history of over 110 years, has preserved and overcome many dark nights secure in the knowledge that dawn will come, and the sun will rise. In the past year, the love of many is deeply appreciated in those who have done their best in supporting our Church. As we rejoice in welcoming the Son to earth for the salvation of all, we cannot help but be filled with hope over His birth and optimistic about the new year.

Similarly, we anticipate the blessings of our Lord in the year to come. In this light, we write to humbly ask for your continued commitment to be stewards of our Parish. Our Parish Council and the new members of the Stewardship committee have committed to creating hope throughout the year with an updated ministries and programming in addition to those that we all know and love. There will be more to come about these initiatives soon, and opportunities for you to support them as you can.

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 2021 campaign.

### How to give:

**Online Giving:** [www.stconstantinehelen.org](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

**In Person:** Stop into the Church Office and you may pay by Cash, Check or 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