



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

Κυριακή 19η Ιανουαρίου 2020
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΒ' ΛΟΥΚΑ
Αποσ: Κολοσσαείς 3:4-11
Ευαγγ: Λουκά 17:12-19

12th Sunday of Luke
Today's Readings
Epistle: Colossians 3:4-11
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**

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)

*“its not how much we give,
but how much love we put
into gifting”*

- Mother Teresa



Κυριακή ΙΒ' Λουκά *Θεραπεία των δέκα λεπρών*

Η Εκκλησία μας χρησιμοποιεί τη θαυματουργική θεραπεία των δέκα λεπρών για να μας διδάξει ότι: ο Κύριος είναι ο αληθινός Θεός και Σωτήρας μας, η αγάπη του για μας τους ανθρώπους είναι απεριόριστη και ο άνθρωπος που δέχεται την αγάπη του Χριστού πρέπει να τη δείχνει με την ευγνωμοσύνη και ἴψιν ευχαριστία του σ' Αυτόν.

Οι δέκα λεπροί φαίνεται πως είχαν μέσα τους κάποια πίστη στον Ιησού Χριστό. Όταν ο Κύριος τους έδωσε την εντολή να πάνε στους ιερείς, τότε αυτοί έδειξαν μεγάλη εμπιστοσύνη και υπακοή στα λόγια του Χριστού. Στο δρόμο ανακάλυψαν πως θεραπεύτηκαν. Μας δημιουργεί όμως μεγάλη έκπληξη η διαγωγή των εννέα λεπρών. Έδειξαν μεγάλη αχαριστία στον ευεργέτη τους. Φαίνεται πως στην καρδιά τους δε δοκίμασαν ευγνωμοσύνη και αγάπη για τον Κύριο. Ο ένας που γύρισε για να ευχαριστήσει τον Κύριο ήταν Σαμαρείτης. Ο Χριστός δείχνει σαν να παραπονείται, όταν ρωτάει το Σαμαρείτη: «Δε θεραπεύτηκαν και οι δέκα; Πού είναι οι άλλοι εννέα;»

Δυστυχώς τέτοια αγνωμοσύνη δείχνουν πολλοί άνθρωποι σήμερα. Όταν ο άνθρωπος βρίσκεται σε ανάγκη, τρέχει και ζητεί τη βοήθεια του Θεού. Όταν όμως λάβει την ευεργεσία, τότε εύκολα ξεχνά το Θεό. Αυτό δείχνει πως η πίστη δε συνοδεύεται από την αγάπη. Ο Κύριος μας βεβαιώνει στην επί του όρους Ομιλία του, πως ο Θεός δεν αναγνωρίζει τους ανθρώπους εκείνους, που έχουν μια τέτοια λειψή και αρρωστημένη πίστη.

Ο Κύριος δικαιώνει και βραβεύει την ευγνωμοσύνη, που τη συναντά στο πρόσωπο του Σαμαρείτη. Η ευγνωμοσύνη είναι η πρώτη αρετή, απ' όπου εκπηγάζουν και τροφοδοτούνται όλες οι άλλες αρετές του ανθρώπου. Η ευγνωμοσύνη συνδέεται με την αγάπη. Τέτοια αγάπη είχε στην καρδιά του και ο Σαμαρείτης. Γι' αυτό και ο Χριστός του δίνει κάτι πολύ περισσότερο από τη θεραπεία της σωματικής του αρρώστιας. Ο Κύριος χαρίζει στο Σαμαρείτη και τη σωτηρία της ψυχής του, όταν τον διαβεβαιώνει: «Σήκω και πήγαινε· η πίστη σου σε έσωσε».

Και εμείς πρέπει από τώρα να μάθουμε να είμαστε ευγνώμονες. Για κάθε τι που μας προσφέρει ο Θεός και μας δίνουν οι άνθρωποι, πρέπει πάντα να εκφράζουμε την ευχαριστία μας. Η ευγνωμοσύνη συνδέει με την αγάπη τον ευεργέτη και τον ευεργετημένο. Πηγή: <http://paroutsas.jmc.gr/>



Κυριακή 27η 'Ιανουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΕ' ΛΟΥΚΑ
"Ωρα 8:30 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ "Ορθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία

ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

Ἡ ὑπομονή εἶναι ἀποτέλεσμα καλωσύνης. Ὄταν χάνης τήν μία, χάνεις καί τήν ἄλλη.
- Μέγας Βασίλειος

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Today, January 20:

G.O.A.L. Basketball
NHIBT Youth Tournament Here

Monday, January 21:

1:30 p.m. GOYA ice skating outing to
Centennial Park (Orland Park)

Wednesday, January 22:

6:00 p.m. Koraes Science Fair

Friday, January 24:

JOY B-Ball (Week 6)
5:30 p.m. Rookies Camp
6:45 p.m. Mighty Mights
7:45 p.m. Minors
8:45 p.m. Majors

Saturday, January 25:

6:00 p.m. KPTA Winter Wonderland Celebration

Sunday, January 26th:

15th Sunday of Luke
8:30am-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

FAMILY NIGHT

For families with Children up to 7th Grade
Friday January 31
6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
\$20.00 Per Family

An evening filled with fun, faith,
and family activities
Register at www.stconstantinehelen.org
church Facebook or contact Fr. Chris at
cpavro@aol.com or 708-974-3400
Registration deadline January 27

MEMORIALS

40 day George Panos
6 months Leonidas Sirigas
† May their memory be eternal †

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Coffee Fellowship is hosted
In memory of Leonidas Sirigas by his family
Please Join Them

FUNERAL

The following funeral was held
George J. Pappas Jr - Friday January 17
†May His Memory Be Eternal†

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2020 Offering Envelopes are available in
the church office for those who are
interested.

Save the Date-

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sunday February 2 from 4pm-11pm

Sponsored by The Parea

Adults \$35 (12 & over)

Children \$10 (4 & over)

Children 3 and under free

For tickets visit www.STCONSTANTINEHELEN.ORG OR
EMAIL AT SSCHPAREA@GMAIL.COM



See you...

...Next Sunday