

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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www.stconstantinehelen.org

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

Κυριακή 21η Ιανουαρίου 2018

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΕ΄ ΛΟΥΚΑ

Αποστ: Α΄ Τιμ. 4:9-15

Ευαγγ: Λουκα 19:1-10

15th Sunday of Luke

Today's Readings

Epistle: 1 Tim. 4:9-15

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10



15th Sunday of Luke - Sunday of Zacchaeus (Luke 19: 1-10)

The Gospel lesson today describes an encounter in the life of Zacchaeus that changed the whole direction of his life. It was the day he met Jesus of Nazareth face to face. What happened made Zacchaeus a new and redeemed man. One day Jesus was passing through Jericho. Zacchaeus, who was the chief tax collector, sought to see who Jesus was, but could not because of the crowd and the shortness of his stature. Anyone else would have given up then and there, but not Zacchaeus. So eager was he to see Jesus that he climbed a tree to get to see Him.

It was no doubt a strong desire to see Jesus that made him climb the sycamore tree. When we really want to find God as much as Zacchaeus did, no obstacle will stop us. We will find Him. It was much more than curiosity that made Zacchaeus climb the tree. It was a strong desire to find God in Jesus. Zacchaeus was restless, fed up with himself, fed up with the kind of life he was living.

The crowd was an obstacle to Zacchaeus; it stood between him and Jesus. As long as he stood with the crowd, he would not be able to see Jesus. So he left the crowd; he climbed above it. The last thing many of us want is to be "different." But if we are to see Jesus and stand with Him, we shall be called upon many times to leave the crowd, to buck the trends and to be with Him. Zacchaeus was "up a tree" in more ways than one. He was a dishonest tax collector, looked down upon by his people as a traitor, collecting taxes for the hated Romans. He had cut himself off from God and man. He was alone and in this respect, Zacchaeus is like many of us who have ever been up the tree of our own moral failure, hating ourselves for it, longing to be different but lacking the courage to come down. God sent Jesus into the world to invite us to come down. This is the great wonder of God's love that Zacchaeus experienced when he discovered that God was seeking him!

We do not need to climb a sycamore tree to see Jesus today. There are other trees we can climb: the trees of prayer, the Bible, the liturgy, repentance, and service. From these trees not only shall we see Jesus but He will also see us as He saw Zacchaeus. And He will say to us as He said to him: "Make haste and come down, for today I must stay at your house" - in your heart, in your mind, in your soul.



2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Let us all do our Best for Our Home...

Stewardship is giving to "Our Home" our best, which is a portion of the many gifts that our Lord gives to us. "Our Home" needs our support to maintain and grow its vital ministries. Stewardship is a spiritual offering that appeals to our generosity.

Our parish is committed to an open stewardship program, without minimums or dues. We ask that everyone search their hearts (those who are able) to increase our Stewardship 2018 Commitment which will enable us to expand our programs and address capital improvements.

Everything we have is a result of the many blessings from God. "Our Home" needs our support in many ways. The life and success of "Our Home" relies on everyone's commitment and participation to the many activities that we offer.

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)



13th District AHEPA Scholarship Foundation

Applications for 2018 Awards are available in the church office or by visiting the District webpage at www.ahepa.org/ and follow the prompts to District 13. Application deadline is March 15, 2018.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...



My dear family,
I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and kind concern these last days. As many of you know, I was hospitalized and I am currently recovering, gaining strength every day through God's healing hands.

For any pastoral needs, please contact me in the Church Office at (708) 974-3400 or email: Tomdemed@aol.com

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2018 Offering Envelopes are available in the Church Office for those who are interested.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Church Custodial Position- Part Time

Hours of Work: 9am -1PM

Days of the Week: Monday -Friday

Responsibilities include maintaining the cleanliness of the church proper, managing inventory of all needed supplies, other duties as assigned.

If interested please call Sandra Chakonas at the church office 974-3400. Submit your resume via email to schakon@att.net or drop off a copy to the church office, Attention: Sandra Chakonas.



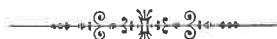
"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in Speech, in Conduct, in Love, in Faith and in Purity."

1 Timothy 4:14





Κυριακή ΙΕ΄ Λουκά (Του Ζακχαίου) Ευαγγ. ανάγνωσμα: Λουκ. 19, 1-10



Η ευαγγελική περικοπή της ΙΕ΄ Κυριακής Λουκά αναφέρεται στη συνάντηση του Κυρίου με το Ζακχαίο στην είσοδο της Ιεριχούς. Ο ευαγγελιστής Λουκάς μας πληροφορεί ότι ο Ζακχαίος ήταν αρχιτελώνης, θέλοντας με αυτό να δείξει ότι ήταν πλούσιος αλλά και

πλημμυρισμένος με κακία (Γρηγ. Παλαμά, τόμος 11, σελ 568,3). Επρόκειτο για πρόσωπο μισητό μεταξύ των συμπολιτών του, καθότι ήταν τελώνης, είχε θέσει δηλ. τον εαυτό του στην υπηρεσία των Ρωμαίων κατακτητών για την είσπραξη των φόρων. Από την δραστηριότητά του αυτή είχε αποκομίσει τεράστια οικονομικά οφέλη, εις βάρος πολλών συμπατριωτών του, τους οποίους είχε αδικήσει. Απ' αυτά γίνεται φανερό ότι ο Ζακχαίος ήταν άνθρωπος πολύ φιλάργυρος και τυφλός στην ψυχή, διότι είχε σκοτεινούς τους εσωτερικούς οφθαλμούς της καρδιάς. Φαίνεται, όμως, ότι η διαφθορά δεν τον είχε καταβάλει ολοκληρωτικά. Υπήρχαν μέσα του δυνάμεις αυτοελέγχου και αυτομεμψίας. Γι' αυτό, όταν ο Ιησούς εισήλθε στην Ιεριχώ, έκανε τα πάντα για να Τον αντικρίσει, να Τον συναντήσει, αδιαφορώντας για τα απαξιωτικά και μειωτικά σχόλια των ανθρώπων. Στο πρόσωπο του Χριστού είδε την ελπίδα της εξιλέωσης και της έμπρακτης μετάνοιας. Ο Κύριος, διαβλέποντας τη διάθεση της ψυχής του, τον καλεί κοντά Του, του ανακοινώνει ότι θα τον επισκεφθεί στο σπίτι του και διαλαλεί την ανάσταση που συντελέστηκε στην ψυχή του τελώνη όταν εκείνος εξομολογήθηκε το αμαρτωλό παρελθόν του και υποσχέθηκε την αποκατάσταση όσων είχε βλάψει και αδικήσει.

Ο άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Παλαμάς μας εξηγεί ότι η φιλαργυρία είναι αιτία όλων των κακών. Συνέπειες της φιλαργυρίας είναι η ασπλαχνία, η μισανθρωπία, η αδικία, η πλεονεξία, η απιστία, η απομάκρυνση από τη χάρη του Θεού

Μέσα στο ευαγγελικό ανάγνωσμα βλέπουμε το Χριστό να μην κάνει διάκριση ανάμεσα στους ανθρώπους, αλλά ως φιλόανθρωπος θέλοντας να σώσει τον άνθρωπο, προσφωνεί το Ζακχαίο με το όνομά του, επιδιώκοντας με αυτό να του ανοίξει τα μάτια της καρδιάς, όπως και έγινε. Επομένως και ο πλούσιος σώζεται, εφόσον βέβαια ο ίδιος αξιοποιήσει σωστά το πλούτο του. Τη διαπίστωση αυτή έρχεται να συμπληρώσει ο λόγος του Κυρίου: «ευκοπώτερον γαρ εστί κάμηλον διά τρυμαλιάς ραφίδος εισελθείν η πλούσιος εις την βασιλείαν του Θεού» (Λουκ. 18,25). Γι' αυτό και ο άγιος Γρηγόριος ο Παλαμάς μας προτρέπει όπως πλουτίσουμε σε έργα αγαθά, ώστε να γίνουμε δεχτικοί της μετοχής των αγαθών της ουράνιας βασιλείας

Η δημόσια δήλωση του Ζακχαίου να αποκαταστήσει τις αδικίες, τα κακά που προξένησε στους συνανθρώπους του υπήρξε και η αρχή της αποκατάστασης της σχέσεως του με το Θεό. Ο πρώην αρχιτελώνης νιώθοντας το μεγάλο βάρος της αμαρτωλής του ζωής προχωρεί δια της μετάνοιας στην απαλλαγή απ' αυτό. Γι' αυτό και η ευαγγελική περικοπή κλείνει με μια δήλωση του Χριστού, η υπενθυμίζει στους ακροατές του Ιουδαίους και σ' όλους τους ακροατές του ανά τους αιώνες το λόγο της ενανθρωπήσεώς του: «Ηλθε γαρ ο υιός του ανθρώπου ζητήσαι και σώσαι το απολωλός». Η αμαρτωλότητα του Ζακχαίου και των γενικότερα των ανθρώπων δεν αποτελεί εμπόδιο στην προσέγγιση τους από το Χριστό, γιατί αυτός είναι σκοπός του: να καλέσει τους αμαρτωλούς σε μετάνοια.

Πηγή: <http://www.imconstantias.org.cy>



Κυριακή 28η - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ

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



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, January 21:

GOAL B-Ball Games (Home) vs. Sts. Peter & Paul
1:45 p.m. 3rd/4th Division
2:30 p.m. Bidy Division
3:30 p.m. Grade School Division
4:30 p.m. Girls Division
5:30 p.m. High School Boys Division

Monday, January 22:

7:30 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday, January 23:

7:00 p.m. High School Boys Practice

Wednesday, January 24:

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir
5:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Rookies Camp #7
6:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Mighty Mights Game #7
7:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Minors Game #7
8:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Majors Game #7

Thursday, January 25:

6:00 p.m. 3rd/4th Bidy/Grade School
B-Ball practice

Friday, January 26:

9:30 a.m. Toddler Play Group
5:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Rookies Camp #8
6:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Mighty Mights Game #8
7:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Minors Game #8
8:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Majors Game #8

Saturday, January 27:

Sunday, January 28:

**Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Triodion Begins**

8 – 11:15 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

KORAES FAMILY TRIVIA NIGHT

Wednesday, February 7th

In the East Room

Doors open at 6:00pm

Event begins at 6:30pm

For additional information please

call 1-708-974-3402

or email galikakos@koraes.org

MEMORIALS

6 Years Dimitrios Hoidas

† May his memory be eternal. †

BAKE SALE

Today's Bake Sale is
hosted by our St. Tatiana's Handmaidens
Please support them!

SUPER BOWL PARTY

Sponsored by

The Παρεα

Men's Fellowship

In our East Room

Sunday, February 4th, 2018

4pm – 11pm

Adults \$35 (12 & Over) * Kids \$10 (4 & over)

* Kids 3 & under free

Open Gym & Jumpies for the kids

Games & Food for all

A Nite with the Bouzoukia

Saturday February 10, 2017

At 7:00pm In the East Room

Music by Rythmos

Adults: \$45.00

Children up to 16 years of age \$20.00

Sponsored by our

St Helen Women's Philoptochos

Reservations must be made

by February 2, by contacting

Penny Vitogiannis at 708-289-9004 or
pvitogiannis@comcast.net

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!