



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church  
**THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN**

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor  
Rev. Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, Assoc. Pastor  
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465  
Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179  
[www.stconstantinehelen.org](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2020**

Κυριακή 26η Ιανουαρίου 2020  
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΕ΄ ΛΟΥΚΑ  
Αποσ: Α΄ Τιμ. 4:9-15  
Ευαγγ: Λουκα 19:1-10

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Today's Readings  
Epistle: I Timothy 4:9-15  
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

**THE DESIRE FOR GOD AND TRUE REPENTANCE**

The story of Zacchaeus greets us every year right before we begin preparation for Great Lent. It is a story of repentance. Great Lent calls our attention, in fact, moves us towards repentance. We prepare to meet the resurrected Lord, but we can't do it without repentance. That's why, as you may recall from last week, the very first word spoken by Christ when He came out for His public ministry was, "Repent." He didn't come out and say, "Hi, my name is Jesus," but "Repent!"

So today, in the person of Zacchaeus, we are presented with the first steps towards repentance. We heard about a man who was too short to see Jesus, but who desired so much to see Him he climbed up a tree.

He was a chief tax-collector, someone who constantly ripped people off, and he was hated for it as a result. No one in the crowd was going to make way for him.

But his desire was so great to see Jesus that he did something no important adult with the least bit of concern for his dignity would do: "He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus," (Luke 19:4) as the Gospel of St. Luke told us today.

By doing so, he exposed himself to ridicule and this in a culture where public honor meant everything. Perhaps he felt he was so hated already that he had nothing to lose, but it still must have cost him something to run and to climb.

We always desire something. We can even say that our desire is our god. We desire to be successful. We desire to be, if not wealthy, then at least with enough extra cash in our pocket.

But what separates Zacchaeus and us? He saw an opportunity and did all he could: He humbled himself; he gave up his pride and honor, and climbed that tree. And Christ walked by, looked up at this poor short man on the tree and said, "Zacchaeus, it is time for Me to visit your house."

Desire drove Zacchaeus to do the unthinkable because he recognized that Jesus was the only one who was able to fulfill his desire. And that desire was to become again a good human being, like we all are meant to be. Zacchaeus was ready. Jesus knew it and that is why he chose him.

Desire led Zacchaeus to repent, and repentance is not simply feeling sorry for being bad, but it's actually completely changing our life. And we see Zacchaeus do just that – after receiving Christ into his house, he said that he will give away half of his money to the poor and repay four times over to anyone he wronged and ripped off.

This is our first lesson on the road to the Great Lent – repentance begins with desire to see the Lord. Zacchaeus desired to see Jesus so badly that he left all his pride and dignity at the bottom of the tree.

What are we willing to leave behind? Is it our pride and refusal to forgive those who offended us? Perhaps our laziness and failure to pray daily and worship? Maybe it is our greed and love of possessions?

We don't have to leave any of these things behind if we don't want to. But then we won't see Jesus, and He will pass through our town without stopping. Better to run and climb, better to strip ourselves of our pride and whatever else stands between us and the saving encounter with our Lord.

The little tax-collector of Jericho badly wanted to see Jesus. How badly do we want to see Him?

---

**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” -Luke 19:10**

## **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](http://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](http://www.ss.ch.us); (Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving)

---

**“Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”  
2 Corinthians 9:6**



## Κυριακή ΙΕ΄ Λουκά (Του Ζακχαίου)

Ευαγγ. ανάγνωση: Λουκ. 19, 1-10

Στην πόλη Ιεριχώ κόσμος πολύς συγκεντρώθηκε, για να δει και ν' ακούσει τον Ιησού. Ανάμεσά τους και ο Ζακχαίος, που ήταν τελώνης, δηλαδή φοροεισπράκτορας. Οι τελώνες ήταν περιφρονημένοι, γιατί έπαιρναν περισσότερο φόρο από εκείνον που έπρεπε να πληρώσουν οι άνθρωποι. Επειδή ο Ζακχαίος ήταν κοντός και δεν ήταν εύκολο να διακρίνει το Χριστό, σκαρφάλωσε σε μια συκομουριά\* και με ανυπομονησία προσπαθούσε να τον ξεχωρίσει μέσα στο πλήθος. Ξαφνικά ο Ιησούς γύρισε προς το μέρος του και του είπε:

<<Ζακχαίε, κατέβα γρήγορα, γιατί σήμερα θα έρθω στο σπίτι σου.>>

Γεμάτος έκπληξη και χαρά ο Ζακχαίος κατέβηκε και έτρεξε να ετοιμάσει το σπίτι του, για να υποδεχτεί τον Ιησού. Κάποιοι όμως που βρέθηκαν μπροστά στο περιστατικό απόρησαν κι άρχισαν να διαμαρτύρονται ταραγμένοι:

<<Καλά, στο σπίτι αυτού του αμαρτωλού βρήκε να μείνει ο Διδάσκαλος;>>

Ο Κύριος όμως, που βλέπει στις καρδιές των ανθρώπων, ήξερε. Ήξερε πως ο Ζακχαίος δεν ήταν καθόλου ευχαριστημένος από τη ζωή του και ζητούσε μια ευκαιρία ν' αλλάξει τρόπο ζωής, δηλαδή να μετανοήσει. Ο ερχομός του Ιησού στο σπίτι του Ζακχαίου έμοιαζε μ' ένα απλωμένο χέρι σε κάποιον που ζητάει βοήθεια.

Κι ο Ζακχαίος ανταποκρίθηκε στο κάλεσμα του Ιησού. Μπροστά σε όλους εκείνους που τον γνώριζαν και ήξεραν την παλιά ζωή του είπε:

<<Κύριε, υπόσχομαι να δώσω τα μισά από τα υπάρχοντά μου στους φτωχούς και ν' ανταποδώσω στο τετραπλάσιο όσα πήρα με αδικίες.>>

Τότε ο Ιησούς είπε σ' όσους ήταν εκεί μαζεμένοι:

<<Σήμερα μπήκε η σωτηρία σ' αυτό το σπίτι. Γιατί ο Υιός του Ανθρώπου ήρθε στον κόσμο, για να σώσει τους ανθρώπους που έχουν χάσει το δρόμο τους.>> Πηγη: ebooks.edu.gr

Πέμπτη 30η Ίανουαρίου - ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ. Ώρθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 2η Φεβρουαρίου - Η ΥΠΑΓΙΛΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ

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

ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

Ή Θεός αγαπά τον καθε άνθρωπο ξεχωριστά και μέ όλη Του τήν αγάπη,  
σάν νά μήν ήταν άλλος νά αγαπήση.

- Ιερός Αύγουστίνος

Desire drove Zacchaeus to do the unthinkable because he recognized that Jesus was the only one who was able to fulfill his desire. And that desire was to become again a good human being, like we all are meant to be. Zacchaeus was ready. Jesus knew it and that is why he chose him.

Desire led Zacchaeus to repent, and repentance is not simply feeling sorry for being bad, but it's actually completely changing our life. And we see Zacchaeus do just that – after receiving Christ into his house, he said that he will give away half of his money to the poor and repay four times over to anyone he wronged and ripped off.

This is our first lesson on the road to the Great Lent – repentance begins with desire to see the Lord. Zacchaeus desired to see Jesus so badly that he left all his pride and dignity at the bottom of the tree.

What are we willing to leave behind? Is it our pride and refusal to forgive those who offended us? Perhaps our laziness and failure to pray daily and worship? Maybe it is our greed and love of possessions?

We don't have to leave any of these things behind if we don't want to. But then we won't see Jesus, and He will pass through our town without stopping. Better to run and climb, better to strip ourselves of our pride and whatever else stands between us and the saving encounter with our Lord.

The little tax-collector of Jericho badly wanted to see Jesus. How badly do we want to see Him?

---

**“For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” -Luke 19:10**

## **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](http://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](http://www.ssch.us); (Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving)

---

**“Remember this, whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. And whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”  
2 Corinthians 9:6**