

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2018

Κυριακή 28η Ιανουαρίου 2018
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ και ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ
Αποστ: Β' Τιμ. 3:10-15
Ευαγγ: Λουκα 18:10-14

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
Today's Readings
Epistle: 2 Tim. 3:10-15
Gospel: Luke 18:10-14



TWO MEN WENT TO PRAY

Two men went up into the temple to pray. One a Pharisee, highly respected, a man of prestige, a very devout and religious person. The other a tax collector, an outcast of society, no one would describe him as a friend, but rather, most would consider him dishonest and a traitor. In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus compares these two people. It seems as if He is comparing a saint and a gangster. The comparison becomes very revealing as we overhear their personal prayers.

As they separated themselves from the busy world, they are deep in their devotions. From the vantage point of a distance, we watch them as they pray without their suspecting that they are being watched. What we will see will be quite striking and give us much to learn.

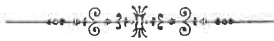
"The Pharisee stood and prayed". He "stood" when he prayed which was the normal Jewish position for prayer, but we can see that this was a person that had no objection to being seen. He was thinking about himself and the impression he would make on others. He even "prayed with himself." In other words, he talked to himself instead of God. True prayer is always offered to God and to God alone. Not so with the Pharisee. His prayer was self-congratulatory. Two men went up to pray, but upon assessment, you might be more apt to assert that one went to brag, the other went to pray.

The Pharisee's prayer begins well, but he spoils it when he uses his thankfulness to God to exalt himself. He thanks God that he is not like other men. He boasts about all of his achievements. It is as if he is saying "Look at me — how good I am!" In our own lives, we see many who fall into the same temptation, those who are thankful that they are better than others.

Looking at the tax collector, he is standing alone, he did not dare to lift up his eyes to heaven; he was too full of shame. Instead, he looked down to the ground and offered prayer. He prays, "God, be merciful to me, the sinner." He regarded himself as the example of sinners. Just as the Pharisee had singled himself out as the only holy one in the world, so the tax collector singles himself out as the greatest of sinners. In the end this man who knew his own sin got nearer to God than the Pharisee who could see nothing but his own perception of virtue.

We could never dare to stand before the throne of God and ask that we be given what we deserve. Our only plea is, "Lord, have mercy" (*Kyrie Eleison*). And the miracle is that there is mercy. At the very heart of the universe beats God's love. This is why we pray so often, "Lord, have mercy." This prayer, offered with the smallest particle of faith, will open the way for God's forgiveness and for the coming of His kingdom in our hearts.

For our Lord's story today is not really about two men who went up into the temple to pray. It is about God, and how He looks at sin and righteousness — how He looks at us, you and me. "I tell you, this man went down to the house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."



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)



Our Parish is hosting this year's

Sunday of Orthodoxy

PAN- ORTHODOX VESPERS

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

at 6:30 pm

Please see the enclosed flyer for details



MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...

As we approach February, we ask everyone to please come together to help our parish in every way that we can. We have many special events coming: Super Bowl Party (Feb 4), Koras Family Trivia Night (Feb 7), and Nite With Bouzoukia (Feb 10), please consider joining us for these big events! Let us all do our best for Our Home and renew our commitment in our Stewardship 2018 campaign.

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

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

(708) 974-3402 or email galikakos@koraes.org

A Nite with the Bouzoukia

Saturday February 10, 2017

At 7 pm 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

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.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

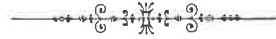
Church Custodial Position- Part Time

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.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ .
ΤΕΛΩΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΦΑΡΙΣΑΙΟΥ
Ευαγγ. ανάγνωσμα: Λουκ. 18, 10-14



Η πρώτη Κυριακή του Τριωδίου είναι αφιερωμένη στην διδακτική παραβολή του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου, την οποία ο Κύριος διηγήθηκε, προκειμένου να διδάξει την αρετή της ταπεινώσεως και να στηλιτεύσει την έπαρση.

Η τάξη των Φαρισαίων εκπροσωπούσε την υποκρισία και την εγωιστική αυτάρκεια και έπαρση. Τα μέλη της απόλυτα αποκομμένα από την υπόλοιπη ιουδαϊκή κοινωνία, αποτελούσαν, λαθεμένα, το μέτρο σύγκρισης της ευσέβειας

και της ηθικής για τους Ιουδαίους. Αντίθετα οι τελώνες ήταν η προσωποποίηση της αδικίας και της αμαρτωλότητας. Ως φοροεισπράκτορες των κατακτητών Ρωμαίων διέπρατταν αδικίες, κλοπές, εκβιασμούς, τοκογλυφίες και άλλες ειδεχθείς ανομίες και γι' αυτό τους μισούσε δικαιολογημένα ο λαός. Δύο αντίθετοι τύποι της κοινωνίας, οι οποίοι εκπροσωπούσαν τις δύο αυτές τάξεις, ανέβηκαν στο ναό να προσευχηθούν. Ο πρώτος ο νομιζόμενος ευσεβής, έχοντας την αυτάρκεια της δήθεν ευσεβείας του ως δεδομένη, στάθηκε με έπαρση μπροστά στο Θεό και άρχισε να απαριθμεί τις αρετές του, οι οποίες ήταν πραγματικές. Τις εξέθετε προκλητικότερα εις τρόπον ώστε απαιτούσε από το Θεό να τον επιβραβεύσει γι' αυτές. Για να εξαναγκάσει το Θεό έκανε και αήθη σύγκρισή του με άλλους ανθρώπους και ιδιαίτερα με τον συμπροσευχόμενο του τελώνη.

Αντίθετα ο όντως αμαρτωλός τελώνης συναισθάνεται τη δεινή του κατάσταση και με συντριβή και ταπείνωση ζητεί το έλεος του Θεού. Αυτή η μετάνοιά του τον δικαιώνει μπροστά στο Θεό. Γίνεται δεκτή η προσευχή του, σε αντίθεση με τον υποκριτή Φαρισαίο, ο οποίος όχι μόνο δεν έγινε δεκτή η προσευχή του, αλλά σώρευσε στον εαυτό του περισσότερο κρίμα, εξαιτίας της εγωπάθειάς του.

Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας μας όρισαν να είναι αφιερωμένη η πρώτη Κυριακή του Τριωδίου στη διδακτική αυτή παραβολή του Κυρίου για να συνειδητοποιήσουν οι πιστοί πως η υπερηφάνεια είναι η αγιάτρευτη ρίζα του κακού στον άνθρωπο, η οποία τον κρατά μακριά από την αγιαστική χάρη του Θεού και πως η ταπείνωση είναι το σωτήριο αντίδοτο της καταστροφικής πορείας, που οδηγεί τον άνθρωπο η εγωπάθεια.

Πηγή: <http://www.saint.gr>

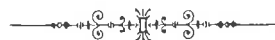
Σήμερα Αρχεται το Τριώδιο

*από σήμερα μέχρι την Κυριακή του Ασώτου έχουμε κατάλυση νηστείας <<εις πάντα>>
δηλαδή επιτρέπονται όλα τα φαγητά και την Τετάρτη και την Παρασκευή.*

Τριώδιο ονομάζεται το Λειτουργικό Βιβλίο της Εκκλησίας μας το οποίο περιλαμβάνει τους Ύμνους των Κυριακών, απο την Κυριακή του Τελώνου και του Φαρισαίου μέχρι και το Μεγάλο Σάββατο πριν την Τελετή της Αναστάσεως.

Το τριώδιο περισσότερο από όλα τα εκκλησιαστικά βιβλία που περιέχουν ιερές ακολουθίες οδηγεί τις ψυχές των πιστών τέκνων της ορθοδόξου εκκλησίας στην περισυλλογή και στην κατάνυξη. Για τον λόγο αυτό ονομάζεται και κατανυκτικό τριώδιο. Με τον κύκλο των εορτών του τριωδίου ανανεώνονται τα βιώματα της νηστείας, της εγκράτειας, της μετάνοιας, και της χαρμολύπης.

Οι Κυριακές του Τριωδίου είναι οι εξής: Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου, Ασώτου, Απόκρεω, Τυροφάγου.



Δευτέρα 29η Ιανουαρίου - Μεγας Εσπερινός ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ

7:00 π.μ. - εις τόν 'Ιερόν Ναόν του 'Αγίου Βασιλείου Σικάγου

Τρίτη 30η Ιανουαρίου - ΤΩΝ ΤΡΙΩΝ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΩΝ

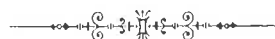
10:00 π.μ. - Αρχιερατική Θεία Λειτουργία εις το Hellenic American Academy, Deerfield, IL

Παρασκευή 2η Φεβρουαρίου - Η ΥΠΑΠΑΝΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ

"Ωρα 9:15 π.μ - Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 4η Φεβρουαρίου - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΑΣΩΤΟΥ

"Ωρα 9:30 π.μ - 11:15 π.μ Θεία Λειτουργία



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, January 28:

Beginning of Triodion

Koraes School Three Hierarchs Program following the Divine Liturgy

Monday, January 29:

7:00 p.m. Great Vespers for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs at St. Basil Church
7:30 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday, January 30:

Feast of the Three Hierarchs

10:00 a.m. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at the Hellenic American Academy, Deerfield, IL
7:00 p.m. High School Boys Practice

Wednesday, January 31:

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir
6:30 p.m. Biddy/Grade School
B-Ball practice

Thursday, February 1:

6:00 p.m. Girls B-Ball practice

Friday, February 2:

Feastday of the Presentation of our Lord

9:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy
5:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Rookies Camp #9
6:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Mighty Mights Game #9
7:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Minors Game #9
8:30 p.m. JOY B-Ball Majors Game #9

Saturday, February 3:

GOAL B-Ball Playoff Games
Dates and Locations to be announced

Sunday, February 4:

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

9:30 – 11:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy

TODDLER GROUP

Please note that our Toddler Group will NOT be meeting in the month of February. The program will resume in March.

•MEMORIALS

3 Month Thomas Cosmos
5 Years Adamantios Kottis

† May their memory be eternal. †

COFFEE HOUR

Today's Coffee Hour is sponsored by our St. Helen Women's Philoptochos. Please join them!

FUNERALS

The following funerals were held recently.

Demitrios Loukoutos – January 23th

Eleanor Tsakalakis – January 24th

† May their memory be eternal. †

SACRAMENT

BAPTISM

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

Saturday, January 27 at 11:00 a.m.

Panayiotis, son of

Anastasios and Ashley Diamantopoulos

Sponsor: Tom Diamantopoulos

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

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!