



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

Κυριακή 26η 'Ιουλίου 2020

Ζ' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ - ΑΓΙΑΣ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗΣ

Αποστ: Τίτον: 3:8-15

Ευαγγ: Ματθαιου: 9:27-35

7th Sunday of Matthew – St. Paraskevi

Today's Readings

Epistle: Gal: 3:23-39; 4:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35

JESUS ASKS: DO YOU BELIEVE THAT I AM ABLE TO DO THIS?

Two blind men shouted out to Jesus, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." Jesus asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They replied, "Yes, Lord." Then He touched their eyes, healing them of their blindness.

Is He able? He who said, "All power in heaven and on earth is given unto me?" Is He able? He who said, "Do you not know that I have power to summon twelve legions of angels ...?" Is He able? He who proclaimed, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me though he were dead, yet shall he live?" Is He able? He who created the universe out of nothing; He who placed power in the atom; He who healed the sick and raised the dead? Is He able? He who said to Job, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" Is He able?

People are trying to save themselves these days by all kinds of power: people power, energy power, water power, air power, flower power, and political power. All the powers have failed, and only one remains: God's power. St. Paul says, "Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God."

To know God in Christ is not an intellectual or logical discovery. It is part of that, but it's much more. It is an experience of power, not something that we make, but something God puts into us. Ask the twelve fishermen how they were able to shake themselves free of their weaknesses and go out to change the world; and they would answer, "It was not we, it was nothing at all in us — it was Christ!" "Do you believe that I am able... .?" Yes, Lord!

The blind men came to Jesus with their blindness. He touched them. They were healed. We, too, can come to Him today with our weaknesses, our sins, our problems, our own blindness. Like them we can say to Jesus, "Have mercy on us!" He will ask, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" If our answer is, "Yes, Lord," He will then fill us with an inner power that will could never imagine. The power inside of us will be greater than any task ahead of us. Listen to the personal experience of St. Paul who tells us, "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus". We just have to go in front of Christ, listen for his question "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" and be ready to answer with all our hearts "Yes, Lord!"

July 26th

Feastday of St. Paraskevi the Martyr

Saint Paraskevi, who was from a certain village near Rome, was born to pious parents, Agatho and Politia. Since she was born on a Friday (in Greek, Paraskevi), she was given this name, which means "preparation" or "preparedness" (compare Matthew 27:62, Mark 15:42, Luke 23:54, and John 19:31, where 'Friday' is called "the day of the preparation"). From childhood she was instructed in the sacred letters and devoted herself to the study of the divine Scriptures, while leading a monastic life and guiding many to the Faith of Christ. During the reign of the Emperor Antoninus Pius, she was apprehended because she was a Christian and was urged to worship the idols, but she answered with the words of Jeremias: "Let the gods that have not made heaven and the earth perish from off the earth" (Jeremiah 10:11). Because of this she endured exceedingly painful torments, and was beheaded in the year 140. The faithful pray to her for the healing of eye ailments.

Appropriate to your calling, O Champion Paraskevi, you worshipped with the readiness your name bears. For an abode you obtained faith, which is your namesake. Wherefore, you pour forth healing and intercede for our souls.

<http://goarch.org>

2020 Stewardship Campaign

To make a One-Time Gift:

Online Giving: Go to 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

To set up Recurring Giving:

Online Giving: Set up recurring contributions online on our website. Options include monthly intervals and selection of days of giving.

The Fast for the Falling Asleep (Dormition) of the Theotokos August 1 – August 14

The Feast of the Dormition is preceded by a two-week fast, referred to as the Dormition Fast. From August 1 to August 14 (inclusive) Orthodox and Eastern Catholics fast from red meat, poultry, meat products, dairy products (eggs and milk products), fish, oil, and wine. The Dormition Fast is a stricter fast than either the Nativity Fast (Advent) or the Apostles' Fast, with only wine and oil (but no fish) allowed on weekends. As with the other Fasts of the Church year, there is a Great Feast that falls during the Fast; in this case, the Transfiguration (August 6), on which fish, wine and oil are allowed.

In the language of the scripture, death is often called a "sleeping" or "falling asleep" (Greek *κοίμησις*). A prominent example of this is the name of this feast.

Σάββατο 1η Αυγούστου
ΑΡΧΕΤΑΙ Η ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑ
ΔΕΚΑΠΕΝΤΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΥ

Κυριακή 2α Αυγούστου
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Θ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Ώρα 9:00 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

**ΤΟ «ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ»
ΤΗΣ ΕΝΟΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΣ**



Αγαπητοί συνάδελφοι ενορίτες,

Ελπίζω ότι αυτό το μήνυμα θα σας βρει καλά και θα απολαύσετε το πολύ μοναδικό καλοκαίρι του 2020. Προφανώς, λόγω της τρέχουσας πανδημίας, πολλοί έπρεπε να αλλάξουν ή να ακυρώσουν τα σχέδια διακοπών. Όπως γνωρίζετε, πολλές εκκλησίες έπρεπε να ακυρώσουν τα Φεστιβάλ του 2020.

Το Ετήσιο Ελληνικό Φεστιβάλ διοργανώνεται στα μέσα Αυγούστου. Δυστυχώς, δεν είμαστε σε θέση να διοργανώσουμε ένα φεστιβάλ όπως και τα προηγούμενα χρόνια.

Το Greek Fest To-Go 2020 θα πραγματοποιηθεί το Σάββατο, 22 Αυγούστου και την Κυριακή 23 Αυγούστου. Η κλήρωση θα πραγματοποιηθεί επίσης όπως ήταν στο παρελθόν, την Κυριακή, 23 Αυγούστου. Χρειαζόμαστε την υποστήριξη όλων. Περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με τον τρόπο παραγγελιών φαγητού στο διαδίκτυο και την επιλογή των ωρών παραλαβής το Σάββατο, 22 Αυγούστου και την Κυριακή, 23 Αυγούστου θα σταλούν αργότερα. Οι πωλήσεις εισιτηρίων κλήρωσης θα ξεκινήσουν πολύ σύντομα.

Φροντίστε να επισημάνετε
τα ημερολόγιά σας για το
Greek Fest To-Go 2020
Σάββατο, 22 Αυγούστου και
Κυριακή, 23 Αυγούστου

Δημήτριος Σταύρου,
Πρόεδρος του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Ζ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
ΤΗΣ ΑΓΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗΣ ΟΣΙΟΜΑΡΤΥΣ



Η Αγία Παρασκευή γεννήθηκε στη Ρώμη στα χρόνια του αυτοκράτορα Αντωνίνου (138 - 160 μ.Χ.). Ήταν κόρη των ευσεβών Χριστιανών, Αγάθωνα και Πολιτείας, οι οποίοι φρόντισαν για την χριστιανική αγωγή της, όπως είχαν υποσχεθεί στο Θεό στην περίπτωση που θα τους έδινε ένα παιδί. Επειδή το παιδί γεννήθηκε ημέρα Παρασκευής έλαβε αυτό το όνομα.

Μετά το θάνατο των γονέων της, η Παρασκευή μοίρασε όλη την περιουσία της στους φτωχούς και ανέπτυξε ιεραποστολική δραστηριότητα στην Ρώμη και στα περίχωρα της πόλης, κηρύσσοντας το λόγο του Χριστού. Η δράση της προκάλεσε τον ειδωλολάτρη αυτοκράτορα Αντωνίνο, ο οποίος την συνέλαβε και της υποσχέθηκε υλικά αγαθά στην περίπτωση που θα θυσίαζε στα είδωλα. Βλέποντας όμως πως η Αγία παρέμενε σταθερή στην πίστη της, την υπέβαλε στο βασανιστήριο της πυρακτωμένης περικεφαλαίας, το οποίο υπέμεινε με καρτερικότητα. Τότε ο Αντωνίνος διέταξε και την έβαλαν σε ένα λέβητα με καυτό λάδι και πίσσα. Επειδή όμως είδε την Αγία άθικτη, πλησίασε το πρόσωπο του στον λέβητα - καθώς δεν μπορούσε να εξηγήσει πώς η αγία είχε μείνει ανέπαφη - για να δοκιμάσει αν πράγματι είναι καυτό, και αμέσως τυφλώθηκε. Η Αγία με προσευχή έδωσε στον Αντωνίνο το φως του, με αποτέλεσμα να πιστέψει στο Χριστό ή κατ' άλλους να σταματήσει τους διωγμούς εναντίον τους. Ελευθέρωσε πάντως την Αγία Παρασκευή, η οποία συνέχισε να κηρύττει το Ευαγγέλιο σε άλλα μέρη, μέχρι που έφτασε στην Ελλάδα. Με βάση αυτήν την αναφορά στον βίο της, οι χριστιανοί σε όλο τον κόσμο και ειδικά οι Ορθόδοξοι Έλληνες θεωρούν την Αγία Παρασκευή προστάτιδα των ματιών. Γι αυτό και τα περισσότερα τάματα που βρίσκονται κρεμασμένα στις εικόνες της είναι χρυσά ή ασημένια μάτια.

ΑΠΟΛΥΤΙΚΙΟΝ

*Τήν σπουδήν σου τή κλήσει κατάλληλον,
εργασαμένη φερώνυμε, τήν ομώνυμόν σου πίστιν
εις κατοικίαν κεκλήρωσαι, Παρασκευή αθλοφόρε,
όθεν προχέεις ιάματα, καί πρεσβεύεις υπέρ τών ψυχών ημών*

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Saturday, August 1st:

Fast Begins for the
Falling Asleep of the Theotokos

Sunday, August 2nd:

8th Sunday of Matthew

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

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

Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

George (Brooks), son of
Samuel and Elayna Muncy

Sponsor: Alyssa Pappas

Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

Sofia, daughter of
Lee and Tara Maniatis

Sponsor: Mia Maniatis

WEDDINGS

We congratulate the following who
have joined their lives together and
we pray that God grant them many
years of Christian happiness and love.

Saturday, July 25, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Desi Gomez and George Fillipidis

Sponsor: Angelo Zorbas

Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 3:30 p.m.

Melaine Tomas and Jairo Valeriano

Sponsor: Dorin Clarke



See you...

...Next Sunday



GREEK FEST TO GO

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

I hope this message finds you all well and enjoying the very unique Summer of 2020. At this time, many of us would have been reliving our early summer vacations, been on vacation, or preparing for vacation all while festival-hopping at the many parishes in the Chicagoland area. Obviously, due to the current pandemic, many had to alter or cancel vacation plans. As you know, many churches had to cancel their 2020 Festivals.

Our Annual Greek Fest is held in mid-August. Unfortunately, we are not able to host a festival as in years past. In consultation with the Village of Palos Hills, we have been granted permission to host a drive-thru in lieu of our annual festival.

Greek Fest To-Go 2020 will be held on Saturday, August 22nd and Sunday August 23rd. The raffle will also be held as it has been in the past. The drawing will be held on Sunday, August 23rd. Please note that this will be our largest fundraiser of 2020. We will need everyone's support. More information about how to place online food orders and choose pick up times on Saturday, August 22nd and Sunday, August 23rd will be sent at a later date. Drawing ticket sales will begin very soon.

I just wanted to reach out and let you know that even though we cannot have a "normal" Greek Fest this year, we will still be working as a community to bring a small piece of our festival to you with a drive-thru and our annual drawing!

Make sure to mark your calendars for
Greek Fest To-Go 2020
Saturday, August 22nd and Sunday, August 23rd

Jim Stavrou, Parish Council President