



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor

11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465

Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179

www.stconstantinehelen.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2020

Κυριακή 14η Ἰουνίου 2020

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ

Αποστ: Εβραϊους: 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Ευαγγ: Ματθαιου: 10:32-33 37-38 19:27-30

Sunday of All Saints

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews: 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

IS THERE A THRONE WAITING FOR US?

In today's Gospel lesson Jesus tells us to plan for the future. In the passage, Peter asks Him, "We have left everything and followed you. What, then, shall we have?" Jesus replies, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or lands, for my name's sake will receive a hundred fold, and inherit eternal life."

But not so fast! This is not the time to think of a future life with the promise of thrones. Jesus pointed out often that to be a Christian is costly. He warned His followers of many persecutions and a cross. He Himself said in today's Gospel lesson, "He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me." Jesus challenges us and He lets us know that in this world it would seem as if goodness did not pay and virtue did not have its just reward. But this world is only one part of our lives, God has all eternity. If our deeds always received an immediate reaction in this world, then our virtue wouldn't be genuine.

He speaks of rewards in today's Gospel lesson. "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life." Elsewhere He tells us that the right kind of charity, the right kind of prayer, the right kind of fasting will have their reward. In the Beatitudes, He says, "When men persecute you on my account, rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven." In the Gospel of Luke, He says, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or cousins or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Christ is encouraging us to follow, by assuring us that life is not meaningless, that we reap what we sow, that there is a God who rules over the universe, who sees to it that the faithful as well as the unfaithful have their reward.

The world has its own rewards: money, recognition, honor, but none of these can ever compare to the reward God has in store for those who serve Him every day in so many little ways not as slaves or mercenaries but of a spontaneous and grateful love for what He did for us on the Cross: "Everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or lands, for my name's sake will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life."

A prayer by St. Ignatius of the 15th Century sums up well what we have said: Teach me, Good Lord, to serve You as You deserve; to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward save that of knowing that I do Your will, through Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

✠ **MEMORIALS** ✠

9 day John Arvanetes
3 year Antonios (Sinadinos) Dinos
10 year Dimitra Nikolopoulos

† May their memory be eternal †



Monday, June 15:
FAST OF
THE HOLY APOSTLES BEGINS

Sunday, June 21:
2nd Sunday of Matthew
9:00 a.m. - Divine Liturgy



Δευτέρα 15η Ιουνίου
Ἄρχεται ἡ Νηστεία
τῶν Ἁγίων Αποστόλων

Κυριακή 21η Ἰουνίου
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ
Ὡρα 9:00 - Θεία Λειτουργία



ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

<< Πόσο ωραίο θα ήταν
νά ἐργάζεται ὁ ἄνθρωπος
μέ την συναίσθησι πώς
τόν παρακολουθεῖ
μέ στοργή ὁ Θεός. >>



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ
ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ

Ἡ Κυριακή των Ἁγίων Πάντων εἶναι ἡ τελευταία Κυριακή του «Πεντηκοσταρίου». Με αὐτὴν τελειώνει ὁ κινητός κύκλος των εορτῶν που ἀρχισε ἀπὸ την Α΄Κυριακή του Τριωδίου (Τελώνου καὶ Φαρισαίου). Ἡ Κυριακή των Ἁγίων Πάντων εἶναι ἡ σφραγίδα της εορταστικῆς αὐτῆς περιόδου, που μας παρουσιάζει τους καρπούς του Ἁγίου Πνεύματος, τους Ἁγίους Πάντες. Εἶναι ἀπόδειξη του ἔργου της Εκκλησίας καὶ παρουσιάζει ὅσους αγαθά αγίασε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιο στον κόσμο.

Ἡ Εορτὴ των Ἁγίων Πάντων τους πρώτους αἰῶνες ἦταν εορτὴ μόνο των Μαρτύρων. Τὸ Τυπικὸ της Ἁγίας Σοφίας της Κωνσταντινουπόλεως κατὰ τον 1^ο αἰῶνα, προβλέπει σύναξη καὶ παννυχίδα στη Μεγάλῃ Εκκλησίᾳ, καὶ στο ναὸ των Ἁγίων Μαρτύρων. Ἡ εορτὴ ονομάζεται "των Ἁγίων Πάντων" καὶ τὸ συναξάρι ἐπισημαίνει ὅτι κατ' αὐτὴν ἐπιτελεῖται ἡ μνήμη «των ἁγίων καὶ καλλινίκων μαρτύρων των ἐν πάσῃ τη οἰκουμένη κατὰ διαφόρους καιροὺς μαρτυρησάντων ὑπὲρ του ονόματος του Μεγάλου Θεοῦ καὶ Σωτῆρος Ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ». Ἡ Εορτὴ των Ἁγίων Πάντων θεσπίσθηκε ἐπὶ Λέοντος του Σοφοῦ.

Στην εἰκόνα της σύναξης των Ἁγίων Πάντων, τὸ ἄνω τμήμα τὸ καταλαμβάνει σε κυκλικὴ διάταξη ἡ δόξα του Χριστοῦ στο κέντρο, καὶ γύρω οἱ χοροὶ των δικαίων. Ἡ Ετοιμασία του θρόνου βρίσκεται πάνω ἀπὸ τη δόξα καὶ οἱ δύο προφῆτες Δαβὶδ καὶ Σολομών γονατιστοὶ με ανοιχτὰ εἰλητάρια. Κάτω εἰκονίζεται ὁ παράδεισος καὶ οἱ προπάτορες Ἀβραάμ, Ἰσαάκ καὶ Ἰακώβ καθισμένοι σε θρόνους. Μεταξύ τους παρεμβάλλεται ὁ ληστής, ντυμένος μόνο με περιζώμα καὶ κρατώντας τὸ σταυρό. Δηλαδή, γυμνός ἀπὸ ἀρετές, ἀλλὰ πρῶτος στο παράδεισο.