



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

Κυριακή 15η Μαρτίου 2020

Β΄ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ - ΑΓ. ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ ΠΑΛΑΜΑ

Αποσ: Εβρ. 1:10-14 2:1-3

Ευαγγ: Μαρκου 2:1-12

2nd Sunday of Lent - St. Gregory Palamas

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14 2:1-3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

HOW BAD DO WE WANT IT?

Today's Gospel lesson opens with four men who are bringing a paralyzed man on a stretcher to meet Christ. They were determined to take him to see Jesus, but with the crowd that gathered, there was no way to get in the door. They decided to carry the man up on the roof. In those days, the roofs for the most part were flat, they used them to rest, to dry their clothes and to store things. On almost every house, there were stairs going up along an outside wall. These men were to accomplish something quite remarkable and it is clear that their prayers were answered. It begs the question of just what did Jesus see in these four men who have been immortalized in today's Gospel lesson? As much as we are hardly worthy to be able to determine the answer with a certainty, from what we read, there are a few distinct characteristics that our Lord probably saw.

Initially, Christ saw the high level of care that the men had for their friend. These were four men who weren't thinking of themselves. They didn't ask for a special blessing from the Lord. But they had a friend who did. And as we can easily determine, they went to a lot of trouble to get him the help that he needed. They followed the example of Christ who came, full of compassion, placing His Blessings upon the many who needed healing. He is among us every day, healing us, and today, He tells us to be the four men. We must be the people who really care. It isn't necessary to search the world to find someone to help. They are all around. Caring about people only has meaning when we are actually doing it. Jesus saw four men with a faith that really cared.

The other quality that our Lord wouldn't have missed is that they wouldn't give up. These four men brought their friend to Christ. But when they got near the house, there was a problem, there was a crowd. If we were in that position, what do we do? How bad do we want it? Obstacles meant nothing to them, they were determined to enter. Their friend was sick and Jesus had the power to heal. We must make sure that we don't get discouraged and say "it doesn't matter what we do, it won't do any good anyway." Here we had four men who wouldn't take "no" for an answer. And you could see it! It made their faith visible to Christ and to any others who saw it. Their faith was determined, you could see their faith.

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Today's Gospel lesson showed this incredible strength of faith and complete trust in the Lord that their friend's need would be met. How strong is our faith? When we are tested, are we able to leap and trust that our Lord will be there to catch us? The question we have to ask ourselves is: How bad do we want it?

ST. GREGORY PALAMAS

On the Second Sunday of Lent the Orthodox Church commemorates St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica, the Wonderworker. The feast day of Saint Gregory Palamas is November 14, however, he is commemorated on this Sunday as the condemnation of his enemies and the vindication of his teachings by the Church in the 14th century was acclaimed as a second triumph of Orthodoxy.

St. Gregory was born in Constantinople in 1296 of aristocratic parents who had emigrated from Asia Minor in the face of the Turkish invasion, and were attached to the court of the pious Emperor Andronicus II Palaeologus (1282-1328).

About the year 1316, Gregory decided to abandon the vanities of the world. His mother, two sisters, two brothers and a great many of his servants entered upon the monastic life with him. He and his two brothers went on foot to the holy Mountain of Athos, where they settled near the Monastery of Vatopedi. Gregory made rapid progress in the holy activity of prayer, for he had put into practice since childhood the fundamental virtues of obedience, humility, meekness, fasting, vigil and the different kinds of renunciation that make the body subject to the spirit. Night and day he besought God ceaselessly with tears saying, "Lighten my darkness!" After some time, the Mother of God, in whom he had put his trust since his youth, sent Saint John the Theologian to him with the promise of her protection in this life and in the next.

St. Gregory wrote several ascetic treatises at this time, and, in 1335, was appointed Abbot of the Monastery of Esphigmenou. He showed that asceticism and prayer are the outcome of the whole mystery of Redemption, and are the way for each person to make the grace given at Baptism blossom within himself.

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

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)

**“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver
into the presence of the great.”**

- Proverbs 18:16

ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ

Αυτή την εβδομάδα
δέν θα έχουμε
Κυκλος Μελέτης Ἀγίας Γραφῆς
τὴν Τρίτη το βράδυ
και
Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία
τὴν Τετάρτη το βράδυ

Παρασκευή 20η Μαρτίου

Ὡρα 7:00 μ.μ.

Γ' ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ

Κυριακή 15η Μαρτίου

**Γ' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ
ΤΗΣ ΣΤΑ ΥΠΟΠΡΟΣΚΗΝΗΣΕΩΣ**

Ὡρα 8:15 π.μ.

Κατὰ τὴν διάρκεια
τῆς Τεσσαρακοστῆς
Κάθε Τετάρτη - Ὡρα 6:00 π.μ.
Απριλίου 1

Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία
Κάθε Παρασκευή - Ὡρα 7:00 π.μ.
Μαρτίου 20, 27
ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ

Απριλίου 3
ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤΟΣ ΥΜΝΟΣ

Οι ἐνορίες τῶν Νοτιῶν προαστίων
τῆς Μητροπόλεως Σικάγου,
κατὰ τὴν διάρκεια
τῆς Σαρακοστῆς, θὰ
τελέσουν ακολουθίες εἰς
τίς κατωθι ἐνορίες
στὶς 6:00 μ.μ.

Πέμπτη 19η Μαρτίου

Ἁγίου Σπυρίδωνος, Palos Heights

Πέμπτη 26η Μαρτίου

στὴν ἐνορία μας

Πέμπτη 2η Ἀπριλίου

Ἁγίου Νικόλαου, Oak Lawn

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β' ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ (Γρηγορίου του Παλαμά)

Ἡ θεραπεία του Παραλυτικού της Καπερναούμ.

Σήμερα διαβάζουμε το Ευαγγέλιο που διηγείται τη θαυματουργική θεραπεία του παραλυτικού στην Καπερναούμ. Θέλει να μας ξαναθυμίσει το γεγονός της αμαρτίας του ανθρώπου, που έφερε στον κόσμο τον πόνο, τη λύπη, τις αρρώστιες, το θάνατο. Συνάμα η Εκκλησία μας διδάσκει πως ο Χριστός μας λυτρώνει από την αμαρτία και μας σώζει απ' όλα τα βάσανα και τις συμφορές.

Όλοι ήθελαν να ακούσουν τα θεϊκά και σωτήρια λόγια του Κυρίου και να παραβρεθούν στα θαύματα που επιτελούσε. Αυτό το κήρυγμα του Ιησού το συνεχίζει και σήμερα η αγία Εκκλησία μας, που πολλές φορές με τη δύναμη του Κυρίου θαυματουργεί στις γιορτές της Παναγίας και των Αγίων. Είναι απαραίτητο ο άνθρωπος να τρέφεται από τη μικρή του ηλικία με το λόγο του Κυρίου. Μόνον έτσι ο άνθρωπος γίνεται σωστός, ενάρετος και ευεργετικός στην κοινωνία. Αυτή την ευλογία του Χριστού παίρνει το παιδί, όταν εκκλησιάζεται τακτικά και με βαθιά τη συναίσθηση ότι βρίσκεται στον οίκο του Θεού.

Οι τέσσερις άνθρωποι, που σήκωναν τον παραλυτικό είχαν στην καρδιά τους μεγάλη αγάπη και πίστη. Ήθελαν να φέρουν με κάθε τρόπο τον παράλυτο κοντά στο Χριστό για να θεραπευθεί. Η αγάπη τους βοήθησε να ξεπεράσουν όλες τις δυσκολίες και τα εμπόδια που είχαν παρουσιαστεί μπροστά τους. Άνοιξαν τη στέγη και κατέβασαν τον παράλυτο μπροστά στο Χριστό. Η πίστη των ανθρώπων αυτών έγινε αφορμή, ώστε ο Κύριος να συγχωρέσει τις αμαρτίες του παραλυτικού. Ήθελε να δείξει σε όλους μας ότι η αμαρτία οδηγεί τον άνθρωπο σε φοβερές και άσχημες καταστάσεις. Η μόνη λύτρωση του ανθρώπου βρίσκεται στον Ιησού Χριστό, που έχει απόλυτη εξουσία ως Θεός να συγχωρεί την αμαρτία.

Οι Γραμματείς όμως στο σημερινό Ευαγγέλιο θύμωσαν, πλάν άκουγαν τον Κύριο να συγχωρεί τις αμαρτίες του παραλυτικού. Δεν είχαν όμως το θάρρος να του το πουν. Ο Ιησούς Χριστός, ως Θεός παντογνώστης, είχε γνωρίσει τις σκέψεις τους και τους είπε: «Τι βάζετε τέτοιους διαλογισμούς στο μυαλό σας; Για να δείτε δε πως ο υιός του ανθρώπου έχει εξουσία να συγχωρεί εδῶ στη γη αμαρτίες, λέγει στον παραλυτικό: Σήκω επάνω, πάρε το κρεβάτι σου στον ὄμο και πήγαινε στο σπίτι σου».

Ο Κύριος έδειξε τη θεϊκή εξουσία του και με το θαύμα του παραλυτικού και με τη δύναμη που έχει να βλέπει τις επιθυμίες και τους διαλογισμούς μας. Και εμείς πρέπει να σκεφτόμαστε από τη μικρή μας ηλικία αυτή την αλήθεια. Όλες οι αμαρτίες μας μένουν μπροστά στα μάτια του Θεού. Και αν δεν τις ξέρουν οι άνθρωποι, τις ξέρει όμως ο Θεός. Δεν μπορούμε να τις αρνηθούμε, ούτε και να τις κρύβουμε. Χρειάζεται λοιπόν να ομολογούμε τις αμαρτίες μας στην ιερή εξομολόγηση και μάλιστα στη διάρκεια της Μεγάλης Σαρακοστῆς. Με την εξομολόγηση ανοίγουμε την ψυχή μας και μπαίνει μέσα της η δροσιά του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Μας φωτίζει, μας καθοδηγεί και μας κάνει πραγματικά παιδιά του Θεού. Αισθανόμαστε τον Κύριο πολύ κοντά μας και μάλιστα σε δύσκολες στιγμές, όπως είναι η θλίψη, η αρρώστια, η φτώχεια και ο θάνατος ενός συγγενικού μας προσώπου. Με τις ευχές της Εκκλησίας λυτρώνεται ο άνθρωπος από τα βάσανα και τις συμφορές.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, March 16:

GOYA - Cancelled

Tuesday, March 17:

Religious Education Classes - Cancelled
Philoptochos Meeting – Cancelled

Wednesday, March 18:

Presanctified Liturgy - Cancelled

Thursday, March 19:

8:00 a.m. Youth Choir

Friday, March 20:

7:00 p.m. 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos

Sunday, March 22:

Veneration of the Holy Cross

8:15 a.m. Orthros/Divine Liturgy

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES

In addition to Sunday Divine Services,
we will offer:

Wednesday: April 1

Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

Every Friday: March 20, 27 & April 3
Salutations at 7:00 p.m.

Order of AHEPA

13TH District Scholarship Available
For High School Seniors

Applications are available in the church
office or at www.ahepa.org
Deadline: Today - March 15, 2020

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS NEEDED

Koraes School is looking to hire Substitute teachers. The hours are 8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. A substitute teaching certificate from the State of Illinois is required. Please email the Principal, Mrs. Beth Lind at blind@koraes.org if you are interested.

MEMORIALS

40 Days	Evangeline Bithos
40 Days	Mary Kouchis
40 Days	Haralambos Kourelis
1 Year	Emmanuel Kyroudiss

† May their memory be eternal †

FUNERAL

The following funeral was recently held:

John Regas - March 13th

† May His Memory Be Eternal †

St. Helen Women's Philoptochos
Coming Events

QUILT-A-THON CANCELLED

TO BE RESCHEDULED

Eighteenth Annual

Maria Pazoles Memorial Quilt-a-thon

AS OF TODAY

ON SCHEDULE AS NOTED BELOW

Grecian Specialties for Easter

It's that time again! Order all of your Pascha baked goods. Pre-orders are due by April 5th. Pick up orders on Palm Sunday, April 12th.

See enclosed fliers for details

See you...



...Next Sunday