



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, NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Κυριακή 22α Νοεμβρίου 2020

Κυριακή Θ' Λουκά

Αποστ: Εφ. 2:14-22

Ευαγγ: Λουκα 12:16-21

9th Sunday of Luke

Today's Readings

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

LET US ALL SAY "THANK YOU LORD"

In the Parable of the Rich Fool, Jesus tells us of a prosperous landowner. He came by his wealth through honest effort and hard work. By the world's standards he was successful. His crops were so huge that he had to expand. His one great ambition in life was to be able to take life easy, to "eat, drink and be merry." But God called him a fool. And the man died before he could enjoy his wealth. "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." Looking closer at this parable. Jesus begins by saying, "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully." There can always be accidents that can cost a person their life. Something like this could have happened to this rich farmer. In fact, his life was to be buried under a huge avalanche of crops.

The rich farmer "thought to himself," said Jesus. What we say to ourselves is important, for it reveals the inner person. It shows who we really are. It is not what we say to each other, but what someone says to themselves that shows the real person. Surveying his bumper crops, he could have thought of the fertile land God had given him, of the rain and the sunshine. He could have thought of his excellent health and the many faithful workers who had helped cultivate the soil to produce such an abundant harvest. He could have thought of God and thanked him for giving him all these blessings. He could have said, "Thank you, Lord. You have given me far more than I shall ever need for myself. To let You know how grateful I am, I am going to use part of this great harvest to feed the poor."

But unfortunately, this is not what happened. As we listen in on his conversation with himself, we see that he is completely unaware of what he owes God and his fellow man. His only thought is of himself; how he can best hoard everything. "What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops? I will do this. I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods." He could think of no better bank in which to store his gains than a barn!

The rich farmer, in his quest for earthly riches, gained a false sense of security. He thought he did not need God; he did not need prayer; for he had so much else. He never even thought of death. But now, at the pinnacle of his success God appears to the rich farmer and calls him a fool. He was

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successful but was he foolish? After all, isn't that our philosophy of success, too, to expand our businesses, our savings, our property and to look to the day when we can say to our souls, "Take your ease, eat, drink, and be merry." But God insists that this man was a fool. He was a fool because he was preoccupied with "lesser things". Is making a living a lesser thing? Yes, lesser than making a life. Is finding pleasure a lesser thing? Yes, lesser than finding a purpose. Is thinking about building bigger barns and increasing one's business a lesser thing? Yes, lesser than thinking about improving the condition of one's soul and the world around us. Despite his worldly success this man was a fool. He had lived only for himself. He had forgotten his neighbor. He had forgotten God. He had forgotten his real purpose in life. In all his efforts to get rich, he became terribly poor spiritually. The wealth that counts in God's eyes is accumulated by a soul that has learned to pray, by a conscience that is clear, by a life that is dedicated to God, by a soul that has sought and received God's forgiveness, by a person who believes that all the barns he owns are really God's, given to him as a trust to be used not only for oneself but also for others.

As we celebrate the Feast of Thanksgiving this week, let us be appreciative of all the many gifts that we are granted and may we remember to give thanks to the Lord for all that He grants to us every single day. Let us cast aside those inner desires of the rich fool, and with Christ's example as our guide, let us all build together those things which will be pleasing to Him for the good of everyone. Let us all say, "Thank you Lord."



November 25th
THE FEASTDAY OF
St. Catherine
The Great Martyr
Of Alexandria



Saint Catherine, who was from Alexandria, was the daughter of Constat (or Cestus). She was an exceedingly beautiful maiden, most chaste, and illustrious in wealth, lineage, and learning. By her steadfast understanding, she utterly vanquished the passionate and unbridled soul of Maximinus, the tyrant of Alexandria; and by her eloquence, she stopped the mouths of the so-called philosophers who had been gathered to dispute with her. She was crowned with the crown of martyrdom in the year 305. Her holy relics were taken by Angels to the holy mountain of Sinai, where they were discovered many years later; the famous monastery of Saint Catherine was originally dedicated to the Holy Transfiguration of the Lord and the Burning Bush, but later was dedicated to Saint Catherine.



November 26th
THE FEASTDAY OF
ST. STYLIANOS
The Righteous Protector of
Children

St. Stylianos was born during the 6th century in Adrianopolis in the province of into a very wealthy family. At a young age, Stylianos joined the monks of the desert with a view toward cleansing his soul through a period of meditation and prayer, as well as through association with men likewise pledging their lives to Jesus Christ. Unlike most other monks, however, he did not withdraw from society altogether.

During this period, Stylianos concerned himself primarily with children, not just the physically afflicted but also with those who were in need of spiritual guidance. His was probably the first day-care center in the world, where mothers could safely leave their children while tending to other matters of the home.

The cheerful countenance of Stylianos was his hallmark, because he was reported to always to be smiling.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Θ' ΛΟΥΚΑ
(Λουκά κεφ. Ιβ' στίχοι 16-21)
παραβολή του άφρονα πλουσίου

Άφρονα χαρακτηρίζει ο Κύριος τον πλούσιο της παραβολής που ακούμε κατά τη σημερινή Θεία Λειτουργία. Τον πλούσιο εκείνο που η γη του έκανε τόσο πολλούς καρπούς, ώστε δεν είχε πού να τους βάλει. Και σκέφτηκε: “θα γκρεμίσω τις αποθήκες μου και θα χτίσω μεγαλύτερες και θα πω: ψυχή μου, έχεις άφθονα αγαθά για πολλά χρόνια, φάε, πιεσ, ευχαριστήσου”. Ο Θεός όμως του είπε: “άφρονα, απόψε αφήνεις την τελευταία σου πνοή. Όλα αυτά που ετοίμασες σε ποιόν θα ανήκουν λοιπόν”.

“Τέτοιος είναι ο άνθρωπος που μαζεύει θησαυρούς για τον εαυτό του και δεν πλουτίζει κατά Θεόν”. Με αυτή τη φράση κλείνει ο Χριστός την παραβολή, θέλοντας να αντιδιαστείλει τη μέριμνα για τα υλικά αγαθά με τη φροντίδα για την απόκτηση των πνευματικών θησαυρών. Δεν καταδικάζει τον άνθρωπο της παραβολής επειδή ήταν πλούσιος, ούτε γιατί καρποφόρησε άφθονα η γη του. Τον κατακρίνει για τον εγωκεντρισμό του, που αφ' ενός μεν θεώρησε ότι τα αγαθά που απέκτησε προορίζονται αποκλειστικά για τη δική του ευχαρίστηση και αφ' ετέρου πίστεψε ότι θα ζει αιώνια και θα απολαμβάνει τον πλούτο του.

Καταδικάζει επιπλέον τούτη τη συμπεριφορά ο Κύριος, επειδή στο βάθος του ο εγωκεντρισμός συνιστά απιστία κατά του Θεού. Χαίρεται ο πλούσιος με τη γη και τα αγαθά του, θεωρεί ότι του ανήκουν όλα και ότι μπορεί μόνος του να ρυθμίζει τη ζωή του. Ξεχνά πως ό,τι και αν έχουμε, είναι δώρο του Θεού, ακόμα και τα υλικά αγαθά. Ξεχνά, ακόμα περισσότερο, πως όσο και αν προσπαθήσουμε, πάντα υπάρχουν γεγονότα και καταστάσεις στη ζωή μας που ούτε να προβλέψουμε μπορούμε, ούτε να ελέγξουμε ή να αποτρέψουμε. Και εκεί, αν μη τι άλλο, αποδεικνύεται πόσο εύθραυστη είναι η “παντοδυναμία” μας και πόσο έχουμε ανάγκη τη βοήθεια του Θεού.

Γι αυτό και ο Χριστός, στην επί του Όρους ομιλία Του, πριν μας παροτρύνει να φροντίζουμε για τους πνευματικούς θησαυρούς, μας λέει να μη μεριμνάμε ούτε για τροφές, ούτε για ενδύματα, ούτε για επίγειους θησαυρούς που αφανίζονται από τους κλέφτες και από τη φθορά του χρόνου, και να μην είμαστε ολιγόπιστοι αλλά να έχουμε εμπιστοσύνη στο Θεό, που φροντίζει και προσφέρει τροφή στα πουλιά και λαμπρά χρώματα στα λουλούδια, και κάθε απαραίτητο αγαθό στον άνθρωπο που πιστεύει στον Θεό.

Δεν μας λέει ο Χριστός να μη φροντίζουμε για την οικογένειά μας, για το μέλλον των παιδιών μας, για την εξασφάλιση των αναγκών. Αλλά μας τονίζει ότι δεν είναι αυτά όλα τόσο σημαντικά, ώστε να ξεχνούμε την επιμέλεια της ψυχής μας. Μας παροτρύνει λοιπόν να προσδιορίσουμε εκ νέου τις προτεραιότητές μας, να στρέψουμε και πάλι στο βλέμμα στον ουρανό: “να επιζητείτε πρώτα την βασιλεία του Θεού και την δικαιοσύνη Του, και όλα τα άλλα θα σας δοθούν”.

Πηγή: <https://xerouveim.blogspot.com>

Τετάρτη 25η Νοεμβρίου - Αγίας Αικατερίνης Μεγαλομάρτυρος

Ώρα 9·00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Πέμπτη 26η Νοεμβρίου - Του Αγίου Στυλιανου, Ημέρα Ευχαριστιων

Ώρα 9·00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 29η Νοεμβρίου - Κυριακή ΙΓ' Λουκά

Ώρα 9·00 π.μ.- 10·30 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, November 25th:

Feastday of St. Katherine

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Thursday, November 26th:

Feastday of St. Stylianos

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sunday, November 29th:

13th Sunday of Luke

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

† FUNERALS †

The following funerals
were recently held

Theodota Georgiadou—November 18, 2020

Bill Les – November 19, 2020

† May their memory be eternal †



<<Δοξολογεῖτε καὶ εὐχαριστεῖτε
τὸν Κύριον διὰ τὸ ἄπειρον αὐτοῦ
μεγαλεῖον καὶ τὰς ἀναριθμήτου εὐεργεσίας
Του, διότι εἶναι ἀγαθὸς καὶ εὐεργετικὸς,
ἢ δε εὐσπλαγχνία του παραμένει ἀνεξάντλητος
εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων.>>

-ΨΑΛΜΟΣ 106

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.

see you...



...Next Sunday