



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Κυριακή 29η Νοεμβρίου 2020
Κυριακή Γ' Λουκά
Αποστ: Εφ. 4:1-7
Ευαγγ: Λουκα 18:18-27

13th Sunday of Luke
Today's Readings
Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7
Gospel: Luke 18:18-27

JUST ONE THING

Just "one thing" can make all the difference in the world. It takes no more than just one thing to alter the outcome of human events. Just look at our own lives for the past several months and how different our lives would be without the Covid-19 Pandemic. Just "one thing" can also make a difference in our spiritual lives, as well. It may make the difference between an abundant life and a futile life. This was certainly true about the rich young ruler who came to see Jesus in today's Gospel lesson.

Though he was rich and a ruler, he was not thoroughly satisfied. Some psychologists believe that dissatisfaction is not necessarily a sign of weakness but of growth. This means that we must not try to adjust ourselves to the present level, but dig deep to drive us upward. In other words, God will not let us be satisfied with our physical comforts alone, but fills our hearts with a huge emptiness until we begin to seek what the rich young ruler in today's Gospel lesson called "eternal life."

For the first time in his life he heard someone speak to the deepest needs of his soul, and he asked, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "You know the commandments. Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother." And the young man said, "All these I have kept from my youth." With pride he responded quickly to the Lord. But when Jesus heard this, he said, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." Upon hearing these words the young man became sad, for he was very rich. He left, never to walk with Jesus again.

Just "one thing" kept him away from God: his possessions. This was a prescription for a particular person with a specific need. Jesus was not laying down poverty as either a requirement or an ideal for everyone. He was not condemning all possessions. Jesus was a Good Physician, and as such did not prescribe the same pill for every patient. This young man had allowed his possessions to build a wall between him and God. Jesus, "who saw what was in man," realized this with one glance. Therefore, He said, "Go, and sell all that you have." It can be said that the words of our Lord may be seen as a "prescription", but here, we see the need of a drastic remedy because the trouble was

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deep-seated and acute. So He says, in effect, "If your wealth causes you to sin, cut it off." This man was so shackled by his possessions that nothing less than surgery would suffice.

What is that "one thing" in our life that keeps us from God? Whatever it is, we need to get rid of it immediately, no matter how painful the separation, and come, "Follow Me". All of us have things that we need to separate ourselves from. If we don't, we separate ourselves from God. When our Lord met Andrew, Matthew, James, John, Peter and the other apostles, He extended them an invitation, "Follow Me," He said. The Gospels report that these men "left everything and followed Jesus."

That same invitation was extended by Jesus to the rich young ruler in today's Gospel lesson "...come, follow me." He, too, was invited by Jesus to become an apostle like Matthew, Peter, John. If he had followed Jesus, we would be honoring his memory today as an apostle, but as it is, we don't even know his name. "One thing" kept him from God — his love of possessions.

What is that "one thing" in our life? What in our lives are we refusing to let go of? Is it some love we place above our love for Christ? Whatever it is, Christ's message to us is: Even one thing can keep us from being next to God. If we look at that young man and say in our hearts, "That's me," it will have done its work. For then we shall be made aware of the "one thing" we still lack and turn it over to Jesus to gain eternal life.



December 4th
THE FEASTDAY OF
St. Barbara the Great Martyr



Saint Barbara was from Heliopolis of Phoenicia and lived during the reign of Maximian. She was the daughter of the idolater named

Dioscorus. When Barbara came of age, she was enlightened in her pure heart and secretly believed in the Holy Trinity. About this time Dioscorus began building a bath-house; before it was finished he was required to go away to attend to certain matters, and in his absence Barbara directed the workmen to build a third window in addition to the two her Father had commanded. She also inscribed the sign of the Cross with her finger upon the marble of the bath-house, leaving the saving sign cut as deeply into the marble as if it had been done with an iron tool. When Dioscorus returned, he asked why the third window had been added; Barbara began to declare to him the mystery of the Trinity. Because she refused to renounce her faith, Dioscorus tortured Barbara inhumanely, and after subjecting her to many sufferings he beheaded her with his own hands, in the year 290.

December 5th
THE FEASTDAY OF
St. Savvas The Sanctified Martyr



St. Savvas was born in 439 in Moutalaska, a small village of Cappadocia. He entered the arena of

the monastic life from childhood and was under that master trainer of monastics, Euthymius, the Great, the teacher of the desert. He became the spiritual Father of many monks and an instructor for the monasteries in Palestine, and was appointed leader (archimandrite) of the desert-dwellers of Palestine by the Patriarch of Jerusalem. In his old age he went to Constantinople, to the Emperors Anastasius and Saint Justinian the Great, in behalf of the Orthodox Faith and the dogmas of the Council of Chalcedon. The Typicon for the ecclesiastical services had its beginning in the monastery established by this righteous one. Having lived ninety-four years, he reposed in 533.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΙΓ' ΛΟΥΚΑ
(Λουκά κεφ. ιη' στίχοι 18-27)
παραβολή του πλουσίου νέου
"τί ποιήσας ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω;"

Ἡ Ἐκκλησία με τὴ σημερινή ευαγγελική περικοπή μας δείχνει στὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ πλουσίου νέου πῶς ἡ μανία τοῦ πλουτισμοῦ δὲν αφήνει τὸν ἄνθρωπο νὰ μπει στὴ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀντίθετα ἡ φιλοχρηματία οδηγεί τὸν ἄνθρωπο στὴν καταστροφή καὶ τὴν ἀπώλεια.

Ὁ πλούσιος νέος δὲν πίστευε μέσα τοῦ πως ὁ Χριστὸς εἶναι ὁ ἀληθινὸς μας Θεός. Γι' αὐτὸ καὶ ὁ Κύριος τοῦ υπενθυμίζει ὅτι «κανένας δὲν εἶναι ἅγιος, παρά μόνο ἓνας, ὁ Θεός». Εἶναι σα νὰ τοῦ ἔλεγε: «Ἀφοῦ δε με παραδέχεσαι μέσα σου, ὡς Θεό, τότε γιατί με ονομάζεις ἅγιο;» Ὁ πλούσιος νέος εἶχε εφαρμόσει ἀπὸ τα μικρά τοῦ χρόνια τὸ μωσαϊκὸ Νόμο. Τον εἶχε εφαρμόσει ὅμως τυπικά καὶ ψεύτικα. Ἡ καρδιά τοῦ εἶχε μείνει ἀσυγκίνητη ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπη, ποὺ πρέπει ὁ ἄνθρωπος νὰ δείχνει στὸ Θεὸ καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους ἀνθρώπους. Ὁ Κύριος γιὰ νὰ ξεσκεπάσει τὴν ἀπιστία τοῦ, τοῦ λέγει: «Ὅλα ὅσα ἔχεις πούλησε τα καὶ μοίρασε τα στοὺς φτωχοὺς. Ἐτσι θὰ ἔχεις θησαυρὸ στὸν οὐρανὸ καὶ ἔλα νὰ με ἀκολουθεῖς». Ὁ πλούσιος νέος δοκίμασε μέσα τοῦ μεγάλη λύπη, γιατί ἦταν πάρα πολὺ πλούσιος. Ἀφοῦ δὲν εἶχε μέσα τοῦ ἀγάπη, δὲν μπορούσε νὰ πουλήσει τα πλούτη τοῦ καὶ νὰ τα μοιράσει στοὺς φτωχοὺς. Ὁ νέος μας δὲν πίστευε στὸ Θεό, ἀλλ' ὅμως πίστευε στα λεφτά τοῦ. Τα πλούτη τοῦ ἦταν γι' αὐτὸν ὁ θεός. Εἶχε γίνῃ δηλαδὴ ἓνας εἰδωλολάτρης καὶ ἀς ἐφάρμοζε τὸ μωσαϊκὸ Νόμο.

Ἡ ζωὴ μας εἶναι γεμάτη ἀπὸ τέτοια παραδείγματα, σαν τοῦ σημερινοῦ πλουσίου νέου. Ἐχουμε δεῖ πολλοὺς πλουσίους, ποὺ λάτρευαν καὶ προσκυνούσαν τὸν πλοῦτο τοῦς σαν θεό. Ξαφνικά ὅμως ἔχασαν ὅλα τα πλούτη τοῦς καὶ ἔμειναν στὸ δρόμο. Αὐτὸ τὸ κατάντημα τὸ θυμόμαστε στὴν Ἐκκλησία μας, ὅταν ψάλλουμε: «πλούσιοι ἐπτώχευσαν καὶ ἐπέινασαν οἱ δε ἐκζητούντες (= αὐτοὶ ποὺ ψάχνουν νὰ βρουν) τὸν Κύριον, οὐκ ἐλαττωθήσονται (= δὲν θα τοῦς λείψει) παντὸς ἀγαθοῦ».

Ὁ Κύριος μας βεβαίωσε πως εἶναι φοβερὰ δύσκολο νὰ μπει στὴ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ ἓνας ἄνθρωπος φιλοχρήματος καὶ φιλάργυρος. Ἀπὸ τώρα πρέπει νὰ προσέξουμε, ὥστε νὰ μὴ εἴμαστε φιλάργυροι καὶ φιλοχρήματοι. Νὰ συνηθίσουμε νὰ προσφέρουμε με ἀγάπη στοὺς ἄλλους ἀπὸ αὐτό, ποὺ καὶ εμεῖς ἔχουμε. Μόνον ἔτσι μπορούμε νὰ μοιάσουμε τοῦ Θεοῦ. Νὰ καταλάβουμε ἀπὸ τώρα πως δὲν εἴμαστε μόνον εμεῖς, ἀλλὰ υπάρχουν καὶ ἄλλα παιδιά ποὺ ἔχουν ἓνα σωρὸ ἀνάγκες. Αὐτά τα φτωχὰ παιδιά πρέπει νὰ τα ἀνακαλύπτουμε καὶ νὰ τα βοηθούμε ὅσο μπορούμε καὶ νὰ δείχνουμε τὴν ἀγάπη μας. Μόνον ἔτσι θα ξεπεράσουμε καὶ ὁ μεγάλο κίνδυνο τοῦ εγωισμοῦ καὶ τῆς φιλαργυρίας. Τότε μπορούμε νὰ ζητάμε τὴ βοήθεια καὶ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ νὰ μας ἀξιώσει καὶ εμᾶς νὰ βρεθούμε στὴ Βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

Πηγή: <http://paroutsas.jmc.gr>

Δευτέρα 30 Νοεμβρίου - Τοῦ Ἁγίου Ἀνδρέα Πρωτοκλήτου

Ὡρα 9·00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή 4 Δεκεμβρίου - Τῆς Ἁγίας Βαρβάρας

Ὡρα 9·00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Σάββατο 5 Δεκεμβρίου - Τοῦ Ἁγίου Σαββα

Ὡρα 9·00 π.μ. - Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακὴ 6 Δεκεμβρίου - Τοῦ Ἁγίου Νικολάου - Κυριακὴ Ι' Λουκά

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

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, November 30:

Feastday of St. Andrew

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Friday, December 4:

Feastday of St. Barbara

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 5:

Feastday of St. Savvas

9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Sunday, December 6:

Feastday of St. Nicholas

10th Sunday of Luke

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

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.

† MEMORIALS †

40 Day Dimitri Nicolaou

1 Year Loukia Kalimara

6 Years Isaak (Totamanides) Tomas

† May their memory be eternal †

† FUNERALS †

The following funerals
were recently held

Tom Limber – November 23, 2020
Larry Poullman – November 24, 2020

† May their memory be eternal †



November 30th FEASTDAY OF ST. ANDREW THE FIRST CALLED

St. Andrew was from Bethsaida of Galilee; he became the chief of the

Apostles. On hearing John the Baptist's witness concerning Jesus, when he pointed Him out with his finger and said, "behold the Lamb of God, Which takes away the sin of the world" (John 1.29,36), he followed Christ, and became His first disciple. After Christ's Ascension, he preached in various lands; and having suffered many things in His mission, he died in Patras of Achaia, where he was crucified on a cross in the shape of an "X," the first letter of "Christ" in Greek.

see you...



...Next Sunday