



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, OCTOBER 4, 2020

Κυριακή 4η Οκτωβρίου 2020
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β' ΛΟΥΚΑ
Αποστ: Β' Κορινθίους 9:6-11
Ευαγγ: Λουκά 6:31-36

2nd Sunday of Luke
Today's Readings
Epistle: 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
Gospel: Luke 6:31-26

WHO DO WE LOVE? (Luke 6:31-36)

The true acid test of love is not whether we love our friends, but whether we love our enemies. If you love your enemies, God is with you. That is the great test of whether or not we are in tune with God; for that is what God Himself does. He sends His rain on the just and the unjust. The great writer G.K. Chesterton once said, "Love means to love that which is unlovable, or it is no virtue at all." But how do we do this? In a world like ours, this seems highly impractical and nearly impossible. To love your enemy - some would say - is to allow them to take advantage of you. To love your enemy is to let them step all over you. But love always has something better in mind.

Does God expect us to love the sin and what the sinful people do? Of course not! As Fr. Byron would always tell us: We have to hate the sin and love the sinner. How can we separate the sin and the sinner? Our own emotions get in the way. Yet with ourselves, we make this same distinction every single day. We do sin, sometimes we do terrible things and commit big errors. We hate the errors we commit, but we continue to love ourselves. In today's Gospel lesson, Jesus tells us "Do the same with others, love your neighbor as yourself." Hate the sin; love the sinner. We have to think as someone who gave a great analogy, "To love your enemy does not mean to love the mud where the pearl lies, but to love the pearl that lies in the mud."

Why do we have to do this? The answer is simple. We all need love! It's a requirement in our lives. It's like food and air, it is a must for us to live. And that is why Jesus told His disciples: "A new commandment I give unto you; that you love one another, as I have loved you." The person who makes you miserable, the one who twists your words, and the

Continued on Page 2


Continued from Page 1

one who is never happier than when they are dropping bitterness into your cup; your enemy, love them. Love them for My sake, says Jesus. Love them "even as I have loved you."

Once we bring ourselves to accomplishing it, with God's help, we can see a miracle occur, because love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend. Failure to doing so brings us to a sad reality that we see in our world: returning hate with hate, multiplies hate. Only love can break the vicious circle.

Overcoming evil with good means that we must take the first step; we must love and pray for the entire world – not just those who are on our side of the shore. A wise physician once said, "I have been practicing medicine for 30 years, and I have prescribed many things. But in the long run I have learned that for most human ailments, the best medicine is love." Someone asked him "What if it doesn't work?". He replied "Double the dose!" May we fill our lives with the love that we share and receive and may our hearts be inspired with our Lord's lesson "But love your enemies and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High"

do unto others as
you would have them
do unto you



Saints Constantine & Helen
LEGACY BRICK CAMPAIGN
PAVING OUR FUTURE



Be a part of our church's history and leave your mark of faith and love!

Show your support by donating a personally engraved brick paver(s), which will be used to pave our church's walkway.

Brick Pavers are available in two sizes:

4" x 8" for \$175

8" x 8" for \$300

\$1,200 to donate a premium seating wall with engraved plaque. **(SOLD OUT)**

Each brick paver can be engraved in 3 ways:
Heritage: Engraved with your individual, family, company or group name.

Tribute: Engraved with name in memory of a loved one.

Inspiration: Engraved with a short saying or sentiment.

There is no limit on the number of pavers you can purchase. All funds raised through this effort will go towards our church beautification projects and capital improvements.

Contact us with any questions
at sschlegacy@gmail.com.

Κυριακή Β' Λουκα

«Καθώς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι,καὶ ὑμεῖς ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως» (Λουκ. 6,31)

Πολλές φορές ὁ Χριστὸς μᾶς μιλάει στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο Του γιὰ τὴν νέα ἐντολὴ ποὺ μᾶς ἔδωσε. Τί καινούργιο ὑπάρχει σὲ τούτη τὴν ἐντολὴ τῆς ἀγάπης; Εἶναι ἡ ἀγνότητα καὶ ἡ σπουδαιότητα τῆς. Δὲν εἶναι καινούργιο ὅτι οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἀγαποῦν ὁ ἕνας τὸν ἄλλον· οἱ ἄνθρωποι πάντοτε ἀγαποῦσαν κάποιους ἄλλους ἀνθρώπους. Αὐτὸ ποὺ εἶναι καινούργιο σ' αὐτὴ τὴν ἐντολὴ εἶναι ν' ἀποκτήσουμε μιὰ καρδιά μὲ τὸν Οὐράνιο Πατέρα μας, νὰ συμμετέχουμε στὴν ἀγάπη Του. Αὐτὸ σημαίνει νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε μὲ τὸν ἴδιο τρόπο ποὺ ἀγαπᾷ κι' Ἐκεῖνος, – ποὺ δὲν ξεχωρίζει τὸ καλὸ ἀπὸ τὸ κακό, ποὺ δὲν ξεχωρίζει ἐκείνους ποὺ εἶναι εὐγνώμονες καὶ ἐκείνους ποὺ εἶναι ἀχάριστοι. Ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ εἶναι ἀπέραντη καὶ βαθιὰ καὶ ἀγκαλιάζει τὰ πάντα· αὐτὸ ποὺ διαφέρει σ' αὐτὴ τὴν ἀγάπη εἶναι μιὰ ἐσωτερικὴ ποιότητα: ὁ Θεὸς μπορεῖ νὰ χαίρεται καὶ μπορεῖ νὰ πληρώσει τὸ τίμημα τῆς ἀγάπης Του ἐπάνω στὸν Σταυρό.

Καὶ καλούμαστε νὰ κάνουμε τὸ ἴδιο· καλούμαστε νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε χωρὶς διάκριση– οἱ ἄνθρωποι ποὺ δὲν ζοῦν σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο θὰ ἔλεγαν ὅτι φερόμαστε ἀδιάκριτα, ἀνόητα, τρελά – καλούμαστε νὰ ἀγαπήσουμε ὁλόψυχα ἐκείνους ποὺ ἔχουν δίκιο καὶ ἐκείνους ποὺ ἔχουν ἄδικο. Ἡ διαφορὰ ἐγκτεται στὸ γεγονὸς ὅτι ἴσως χαίρομαστε μὲ τοὺς πρώτους καὶ πληγώνεται ἡ καρδιά μας μὲ τοὺς δεύτερους, ἀλλὰ ἡ ἀγάπη μας δὲν πρέπει νὰ παραπαίει. Ὅλοι γνωρίζουμε πὼς μπορούμε νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε λίγο αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἀγαπᾶμε φυσικά, καὶ ἀναρωτιόμαστε πὼς μπορούμε ἀπὸ τὴν μικρὴ ἀγάπη ποὺ ἔχουμε πρὸς τοὺς λίγους, νὰ καλλιεργήσουμε μιὰ ἀγάπη μεγαλύτερη, καὶ ἀγαπώντας ἐκείνους ποὺ εἶναι ἀξιαγάπητοι, νὰ ξεκινήσουμε νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε ἐκείνους ποὺ δὲν εἶναι.

Τὸ πρῶτο βῆμα ποὺ πρέπει νὰ κάνουμε εἶναι νὰ ἀγαπήσουμε ἐκείνους ποὺ ἀγαπᾶμε αὐθόρμητα μ' ἕνα καινούργιο τρόπο: νὰ τοὺς ἀγαπᾶμε πάντα, καὶ ὄχι μόνο τὶς στιγμὲς ποὺ μᾶς εἶναι εὐκόλο, νὰ τοὺς ἀγαπᾶμε δίχως νὰ περιμένουμε τίποτα ἄλλο παρὰ τὴν χαρὰ νὰ τοὺς ἀγαπᾶμε καὶ νὰ δεχόμαστε τὴν κάθε ἀγάπη σὲ ἀπάντηση τῆς δικτῆς μας ἀγάπης σὰν ἕνα δῶρο τέλειο, ἅγιο, ποὺ εἶναι ἕνα θαῦμα, ἀλλὰ ποὺ δὲν εἶναι ἀνταμοιβή, δὲν εἶναι κάτι στὸ ὅποιο ἔχουμε δικαίωμα, ἀλλὰ κάτι ποὺ μᾶς ἔχει δοθεῖ ἐλεύθερα, τέλεια, κάτι ποὺ γεμίζει τὴν καρδιά μας μὲ θαυμασμό καὶ εὐγνωμοσύνη.

Πρέπει νὰ μάθουμε ν' ἀγαπᾶμε χωρὶς νὰ περιμένουμε ἀνταμοιβή, ἀπλῶς νὰ χαίρομαστε τὸ θαῦμα τῆς ἀγάπης ποὺ θὰ μᾶς ἐπιτρέψει νὰ χαίρομαστε ὅταν συμβαίνει κάτι μὲ τὸ ὅποιο μπορούμε νὰ χαροῦμε καὶ νὰ χαίρομαστε ξανὰ ὅταν ἐκείνοι ποὺ ἀγαπᾶμε θὰ ἔχουν χάσει τὰ πάντα ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπη μας, ποὺ θὰ τοὺς ἔχει τουλάχιστον ἀπομείνει, τουλάχιστον κάτι ποὺ ποτὲ δὲν θὰ τοὺς τὸ στερήσουμε.

Καὶ πρέπει νὰ μάθουμε ν' ἀγαπᾶμε ὁ ἕνας τὸν ἄλλον σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου: ὄχι ἀπλῶς νὰ κάνουμε τὸ καλὸ σὲ κάποιους ἀνθρώπους, ἀλλὰ νὰ σκεφτόμαστε ποιὸ εἶναι ἀληθινὰ καλὸ γιὰ ἕνα πρόσωπο. Δὲν μιλάω γιὰ τὸν σκληρὸ τρόπο ποὺ συνεχῶς ὀρίζουμε στοὺς ἄλλους αὐτὸ ποὺ θεωροῦμε ὅτι εἶναι ἡ εὐτυχία τους καὶ τὸ καλὸ τους, καὶ τὸν τρόπο μὲ τὸν ὅποιο πιέζουμε, ἢ ποὺ προσπαθοῦμε νὰ πιέσουμε προκειμένου νὰ εἶναι εὐτυχισμένοι μὲ τὸν τρόπο ποὺ ἐμεῖς θέλουμε νὰ εἶναι. Ὅχι· σκέφτομαι κάποιον ἄλλο τρόπο προσεκτικῆς ἀναζήτησης γιὰ τὸ καλὸ τους: ποτὲ νὰ μὴν στηρίζουμε τὴν ἀδυναμία τους ἀφήνοντας τὰ πράγματα νὰ ἐξελισσονται ὡς ἔχουν, ποτὲ νὰ μὴν κλείνουμε τὰ μάτια μας σὲ ὅ,τι εἶναι γι' αὐτοὺς καταστροφικό, νὰ λέμε τὴν ἀλήθεια μὲ ἔλεος, νὰ τοὺς ἀγαπᾶμε ἔτσι ὥστε νὰ οἰκοδομοῦνται καὶ ὄχι νὰ καταστρέφονται.

Ἄν ξεκινήσουμε νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε καλύτερα ἐκείνους ποὺ ἀγαπᾶμε αὐθόρμητα καὶ φυσικά, ἡ καρδιά μας θὰ γίνῃ πιὸ καθαρὴ, πιὸ ἀγνή καὶ πιὸ μεγάλη, καὶ θὰ μάθουμε νὰ ἀγαπᾶμε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἴσως μονάχα ἕνα πρόσωπο, καὶ μετὰ ἕνα ἄλλο, καὶ ξανὰ ἕνα ἄλλο, μὲ μεγαλύτερο τίμημα, μὲ μεγαλύτερη ἀγνότητα, μὲ λιγότερο ἐγωϊσμό, μὲ μιὰ μακρόθυμη καρδιά.

Ἄς ξεκινήσουμε ἀπὸ αὐτὸ καὶ ὁ Θεὸς θὰ μᾶς ὀδηγήσει στὴν ἀγάπη ἐκείνη ποὺ μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ ἀποκτήσουμε καὶ νὰ μοιραστοῦμε, μιὰ ἀγάπη ποὺ εἶναι προσφορὰ τοῦ ἑαυτοῦ μας, ποὺ εἶναι φῶς, χαρὰ, πίστη, ποὺ εἶναι τὸ ξεκίνημα τῆς αἰωνιότητος ἐδῶ καὶ τώρα. Ἀμήν.

πηγή: *alopsis.gr*

Κυριακή 11η Οκτωβρίου

Κυριακή Γ' ΛΟΥΚΑ

Ὁρα 9·00 - 10·30 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Wednesday, October 7th

5 - 6:00 p.m. JOY Soccer Minors

6 - 7:00 p.m. JOY Soccer Majors

Saturday, October 10th

9 - 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 2nd Saturday

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. Handmaidens

Sunday, October 11th:

3rd Sunday of Luke

9 - 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 Days George Georgacopoulos

6 Months Vasilios Doulas

1 year Dr. Tom Petropulos

† May their memory be eternal †

† FUNERALS †

The following funerals were held this week

Georgette Panutsos on September 30th

Nancy Guzelis on October 1st

† May their memory be eternal †

SACRAMENT

WEDDING

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, October 3, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Allyn Keenan and Nick Petrich

Sponsor: Deanne Savide

BAPTISM

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

Sunday, October 4, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

Louie, son of

Peter and Joanna Drebos

Sponsors:

Petros and Magdaline Papatheofanis

see you...



...Next Sunday