

Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

Κυριακή 4η Μαρτίου 2018

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β΄ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ - ΑΓ. ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΟΥ ΠΑΛΑΜΑ

Αποστ: Εβρ. 1:10-2:3

Ευαγγ: Μαρκου 2:1-12

2nd Sunday of Lent – St. Gregory Palamas

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12



WHAT DOES JESUS SEE IN US?

In today's Gospel lesson, we have four men bringing a paralyzed man on a stretcher to meet with 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? Do we wait? Do we give up? 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.

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? Suppose, if one day, our area was afflicted with a significant drought. Following many days of waiting and praying for rain, and after caring for each other who may have more and acute needs, with many of our own prayers, would we all come together to Church to pray, accompanied by our umbrellas?

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is waiting to see is our faith, through the caring, sharing, and the determination just as he saw in these four men. What we have to ask ourselves today is: What does Jesus see in us.

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.

Solitude and inner stillness enabled him to keep his intellect fixed at all times in the depths of his heart, where he called on the Lord Jesus with compunction, so that he became all prayer, and sweet tears flowed continually from his eyes as from two fountains.

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.

Let us do our best for Our Home



Stewardship 2018

Sign up for monthly giving at www.ssch.us



MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...

Come and experience the Lenten services

Great Lent allows all of us to find the time and experience an oasis from the hussle and bussle of our everyday lives. To come to a Wednesday night Presanctified Divine Liturgy is a spiritual experience that few can express in words. To hear the hymn "Let my prayer rise as incense before You, and the lifting of my hands as an evening sacrifice", as it is chanted in this service, truly gives us the opportunity to experience these words in a completely new and enlightening way. This service also gives us another opportunity during the week to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

To those who have not done so already, I would ask all of us to search our hearts to renew our commitment to our Parish for our Stewardship 2018 campaign. Let us do our best for Our Home.

Please remember that whatever your pastoral need - **I am at your service** – please contact me in the Church Office at (708) 974-3400 or email at Tomdemed@aol.com

KORAES SCHOOL NEWS

Koraes has had an excellent month and we are looking forward to March. In February Koraes was honored with a Resolution at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago for teaching Greek language instruction to our students. All of our students celebrated International Greek Language Day by creating small-sized posters telling us why they love learning the Greek language. Our students in grades 5-8 will also be participating in the Annual Hellenic Flag-Raising and Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the Richard J. Daley Center later this month. Later this month there are 9 middle school students heading to the IJAS Science Fair at Matea Valley H.S. We wish our students the best as they present their project. Finally, all are welcome to join our students on Sunday, March 25 for our Greek Independence Day Program immediately following the Divine Liturgy.

Beth Lind, Principal

Τρίτη 6η Μαρτίου

Ωρα 5:00 μ.μ. - Κύκλος Μελέτης
Ἁγίας Γραφῆς στα Ελληνικά

Τετάρτη 7η Μαρτίου

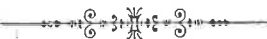
Ωρα 6:00 μ.μ.
Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία

Παρασκευή 9η Μαρτίου

Ωρα 7:00 μ.μ.
Γ' ΧΑΙΡΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ



Τῆ υπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τα νικητήρια
Ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα των δεινῶν ευχαριστήρια
Αναγράφω σοι η πόλις σου Θεοτόκε.
Αλλ' ως έχουσα το κράτος απροσμάχητον
Εκ παντίων μέ κινδύνων ελευθέρωσον
Ἴνα κράζω σοι·
Χαίρε Νύμφη ανύμφευτε



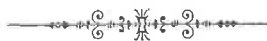
Κυριακή 11η Μαρτίου

Γ' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΣΑΡΑΚΟΣΤΗΣ
ΤΗΣ ΣΤΑ ΥΡΟΠΡΟΣΚΥΝΗΣΕΩΣ

Ωρα 8:00 - 11:15 π.μ.
Ὁρθρος καί Θεία Λειτουργία



Θα εχουμε Μελετη Αγιας Γραφης
στα Ελληνικά καθε Τριτη κατα τήν
διαρκεια τῆς Τεσσαρακοστης
στις 5:00 μ.μ.



ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

Ὅταν τρέφης χριστιανική ἀγάπη
πρός τον πλησίον σου, ὅλοι
οἱ οὐρανοί σε ἀγαποῦν
-- Ἁγ. Ἰω. Κροστάνδης



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Β' ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ

Ὅλοι ἠθελαν νά ἀκούσουν τὰ θεϊκά και σωτήρια λόγια τοῦ Κυρίου και νά παραβρεθοῦν στά θαύματά πού ἐπιτελοῦσε. Αὐτό τὸ κήρυγμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ τὸ συνεχίζει και σήμερα ἡ ἅγια Ἐκκλησία μας, πού πολλές φορές με τή δύναμη τοῦ Κυρίου θαυματουργεῖ στίς γιορτές τῆς Παναγίας και τῶν Ἁγίων. Εἶναι ἀπαραίτητο ὁ ἄνθρωπος νά τρέφεται ἀπό

τῆ μικρή του ἡλικία με τὸ λόγο τοῦ Κυρίου. Μόνον ἔτσι ὁ ἄνθρωπος γίνεται σωστός, ἐνάρετος και εὐεργετικός στήν κοινωνία. Αὐτή τήν εὐλογία τοῦ Χριστοῦ παίρνει τὸ παιδί, ὅταν ἐκκλησιάζεται τακτικά και με βαθιά τή συναισθήση ὅτι βρίσκεται στόν οἶκο τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Οἱ τέσσερις ἄνθρωποι, πού σήκωναν τὸν παραλυτικό εἶχαν στήν καρδιά τους μεγάλη ἀγάπη και πίστη. Ἦθελαν νά φέρουν με κάθε τρόπο τὸν παράλυτο κοντά στό Χριστό γιά νά θεραπευθεῖ. Ἡ ἀγάπη τοὺς βοήθησε νά ξεπεράσουν ὄλες τίς δυσκολίες και τὰ ἐμπόδια πού εἶχαν παρουσιαστεῖ μπροστά τους. Ἄνοιξαν τήν στέγη και κατέβασαν τὸν παράλυτο μπροστά στό Χριστό. Ἡ πίστη τῶν ἀνθρώπων αὐτῶν ἔγινε ἀφορμή, ὥστε ὁ Κύριος νά συγχωρέσει τίς ἁμαρτίες τοῦ παραλυτικοῦ. Ἦθελε να δείξει σε ὄλους μας ὅτι ἡ ἁμαρτία ὀδηγεῖ τὸν ἄνθρωπο σε φοβερές και ἄσχημες καταστάσεις. Ἡ μόνη λύτρωση τοῦ ἀνθρώπου βρίσκεται στόν Ἰησοῦ Χριστό, πού ἔχει ἀπολύτη ἐξουσία ὡς Θεός να συγχωρεῖ τήν ἁμαρτία.

Οἱ Γραμματεῖς ὅμως στό σημερινὸ Εὐαγγέλιο θύμωσαν, ὅταν ἄκουσαν τὸν Κύριο νά συγχωρεῖ τίς ἁμαρτίες τοῦ παραλυτικοῦ. Δέν εἶχαν ὅμως τὸ θάρρος νά Τοῦ τὸ πούν. Ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ὡς Θεός παντογνώστης, εἶχε γνωρίσει τίς σκέψεις τους και τοὺς εἶπε: «Τι βάζετε τέτοιους διαλογισμούς στό μυαλό σας; Γιά νά δεῖτε δέ πῶς ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἔχει ἐξουσία νά συγχωρεῖ ἐδῶ στή γῆ ἁμαρτίες, λέγει στόν παραλυτικό: Σήκω ἐπάνω, πάρε τὸ κρεβάτι σου στόν ὄμο και πήγαινε στό σπίτι σου».

Ὁ Κύριος ἔδειξε τή θεϊκή ἐξουσία Του και με τὸ θαῦμα τοῦ παραλυτικοῦ και με τή δύναμή πού ἔχει νά βλέπει τίς ἐπιθυμίες και τοὺς διαλογισμούς μας. Και ἐμεῖς πρέπει νά σκεφτόμαστε ἀπό τή μικρή μας ἡλικία αὐτή τήν ἀλήθεια. Ὅλες οἱ ἁμαρτίες μας μένουν μπροστά στά μάτια τοῦ Θεοῦ. Και ἂν δέν τίς ξέρουν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, τίς ξέρε ὁ Θεός. Δέν μπορούμε νά τίς ἀρνηθοῦμε, οὔτε και νά τίς κρύψουμε. Χρειάζεται λοιπὸν νά ὁμολογοῦμε τίς ἁμαρτίες μας στήν ἱερά Ἐξομολογήση και μάλιστα στή διάρκεια τῆς Μεγάλης Σαρακοστής. Με τήν ἐξομολογήση ἀνοίγουμε τήν ψυχή μας και μπαίνει μέσα τῆς ἡ δροσιά τοῦ Ἁγίου Πνεύματος. Μᾶς φωτίζει, μᾶς καθοδηγεῖ και μᾶς κάνει πραγματικά παιδιά τοῦ Θεοῦ. Αἰσθανόμαστε τὸν Κύριο πολὺ κοντά μας και μάλιστα σε δύσκολες στιγμές, ὅπως εἶναι ἡ θλίψη, ἡ ἀρρώστια, ἡ φτώχεια και ὁ θάνατος ἐνός συγγενικοῦ μας προσώπου. Με τίς εὐχές τῆς Ἐκκλησίας λυτρώνεται ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπό τὰ βάσανα και τίς συμφορές.

<http://www.imkifissias.gr>



ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

Monday, March 5:

3:00 p.m. Koraes Prayer Service

7:30 p.m. GOYA

Tuesday, March 6:

5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Class – Greek

5:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class - English

Wednesday, March 7:

3:30 p.m. Youth Choir

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 8:

9:00 a.m. Philoptochos Baking

Friday, March 9:

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

Sunday, March 11:

3rd Sunday of Lent /Veneration of the Holy Cross

8:00 - 11:15 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES on TUESDAYS
Explore the Themes of the Sundays of Lent



GREEK LANGUAGE at 5:00 pm
ENGLISH LANGUAGE at 5:30 pm

WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES

In addition to Sunday Divine Services,
we will offer:

Every Wednesday: March 7, 14, 21
Presanctified Liturgy at 6:00 p.m.

Every Friday: March 9, 16, 23
Salutations at 7:00 p.m.

“You, LORD, in the beginning laid the
foundation of the earth,
And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

-Hebrews 1:10

† MEMORIALS †

9 Day	Irini Theodoropoulos
40 Day	Maria Papadakis
2 Year	Panagiotis Deligianis
3 Year	Amelia Deligianis
3 Year	George Sfondeles
10 Year	Georgia Chronopoulos
30 Year	Dimitrios Papadakis

† May their memory be eternal †

BAKE SALE

Today's Bake Sale – Loukoumades –
Is sponsored by our GOYA

Please support them!

St. Helen Women's Philoptochos Coming Events

Seventeenth Annual

Maria Pazoles Memorial Quilt-a-thon

March 17, 2018 * 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

See enclosed flyer for details

Pascha Bake Sale

It's that time again! Order all of your Pascha
baked goods. Pre-orders are due by March
25th. Pick up orders on Palm Sunday, April 1st.

See enclosed flyer for detail



Easter Lambathes

*Our GOYA will be selling
Lambathes every Sunday,
through Palm Sunday,
following the Divine Liturgy.
Please support them!*

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!