



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

Κυριακή 7η Απριλίου 2019

Δ' ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ - ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΗΣ ΚΛΙΜΑΚΟΣ

Αποστ: Εβραίους 6:13-20

Ευαγγ: Μάρκου 9:17-31

4th Sunday of Lent – St. John Climacus

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

"Help My Unbelief"

One day a father brought his sick son to Jesus with the faint hope that Jesus could cure him. He said to the Master, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a mute spirit." The father went on to say that this spirit possessing his son would torture him, dangerously throwing him on the ground and into fire and water numerous times. The father was desperate in his search for a cure. He had sought out the best medical treatment but with no success. Finally he had brought his son to the disciples. Even they could not help. The father's complaint to Jesus is poignant: "I asked your disciples to cast it out and they were not able."

Jesus said to the father, "Bring him to me." Jesus dealt with the father in a beautiful and tender way. He began with the question, "How long has he had this?" Jesus asked the question to give this father the courage to speak out the story of his long sorrow. It was as if Jesus was saying to the father, "I am interested in your problem. Tell me about it." There is great healing power in having someone to listen, that sincerely cares and understands. Here lies the great value of prayer, as we have a God who loves us and wants us to pour out our problems to Him. The father responded to the Master's question. He poured out his heart to Jesus, and he was given an opportunity to vent the bitterness that had poisoned the happiness of his home all these years.

A person can have so many problems, so many disappointments, so much bitterness and so many frustrations that after a while, we begin to doubt not only the existence of God, but also the existence of anything good. It is possible for our sorrow to become so great that we lose hope and, by losing hope, we lose God. That was the condition of the father when he said to Jesus, "If you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." Jesus countered with another "if." "If you can believe; all things are possible to him who believes." He suggested that the father's faith had a lot to do with the whole situation. Jesus says that the problem is not whether He has the power to heal but whether the man believed that He has the power. For "all things are possible to him who believes." God's power is limited only by our faith. The more we believe, the more power we receive from God.

In this Gospel lesson, Jesus performed two miracles. He not only healed the boy, but He also increased the father's faith. From saying, "If you can do anything," the desperate father reached the point where he could say, "I believe." It was not a change from unbelief to complete belief. His statement, "Help my unbelief", showed that he did not possess complete and undoubting absolute faith. He expressed and acted on the faith he had and he was honest with Christ. No person believes perfectly. In every person there is a mixture of faith and doubt. The important thing is whether we let ourselves be controlled by the faith we have or become overwhelmed by our doubts. Miracles don't happen because of perfect faith, but rather because of our faith in the perfect Christ.

MESSAGE FROM FATHER TOM...



St. John's Ladder

The 4th Sunday of Great Lent is dedicated to a saint that is known for a household item that we take for granted. St. John Climacus authored a book entitled "The Ladder" which speaks of the 30 steps that one must take on their journey to perfection, the spiritual journey leading to our Lord. Looking at an Icon of St. John of the Ladder can change our lives. When we see this Icon, we are struck by the many things that we experience in our every day: the struggles, the temptations, the joys, and the hope of the ultimate desired destination landing in the arms of our Lord. Today, as we commemorate this great saint, I pray that we all take the time to seek this Ladder in our own spiritual journeys.

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 2019 campaign. We need the help of all. The needs of our Parish are many!

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

2019 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Let us all do our Best for Our Church...

The needs of our Parish are many! Please make your commitment now to our Stewardship 2019 Campaign.

**You may do so in person,
by mail or online at:
www.stconstantinehelen.org**

ADULT BIBLE CLASSES on TUESDAYS



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

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING ON OUR WEBSITE

"We are excited to announce something new for our parish. If you have any pictures from events that take place in our church and school, please email them to sschphotos@gmail.com and you just might find them on our website soon!"



Easter Lambathes

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

St. Helen Women's Philoptochos

Pascha Bake Sale

It's that time again! Order all of your Pascha baked goods. Pre-orders are due **TODAY**. Pick up orders on Palm Sunday, April 21st.

See enclosed flier for details

ANNUAL GIVING STATEMENT

Please contact the Church Office at (708) 974-3400 if you would like to receive your 2018 Annual Giving Statement.



Δ΄ Κυριακή τῶν Νηστειῶν - Ἁγίου Ἰωάννου τῆς Κλίμακος



Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης γεννήθηκε στην Παλαιστίνη γύρω στα 523. Μόνασε ἀπὸ νεαρὴ ηλικία (16 ετῶν). Παρακολούθησε ἀνώτερο κύκλο μορφώσεως. Στην ζωὴ της ερήμου Σινά αξιοποίησε την σοφία του και ἀνέβηκε σε υψηλὲς κορυφὲς αγιότητας. Εἶχε και τὸ χάρισμα της θαυματουργίας. Σε μεγάλη ηλικία ἐγινε ηγούμενος της μονῆς του Σινά.

Συνέγραψε τριάντα λόγους περὶ ἀρετῆς, ὅπου ὁ καθένας λόγος περιλαμβάνει και μια ἀρετὴ, ξεκινώντας ἀπὸ τις πιο πρακτικὲς και ἀνεβαίνοντας σαν σκαλοπάτια κατέληξε στις θεωρητικὰ υψηλές. Στη πνευματικὴ ζωὴ ἔχουμε βαθμίδες χαμηλές και υψηλές, καταστάσεις κατώτερες και ἀνώτερες. Γι' αὐτὸ και τὸ σύγγραμμα ονομάζεται Κλίμακα τῶν ἀρετῶν.

Στο ἔργο του αὐτὸ ὁ συγγραφέας παρουσιάζει συστηματικὰ τις ιδέες του για την κοινοβιακὴ κυρίως, ἀλλὰ και για την ἐρημικὴ ζωὴ, ταξινομώντας αὐτὲς κατὰ τρόπο που δείχνει πορεία προς την ἠθικὴ τελείωση. Εἶναι γραμμένο σε κομψὴ ἑλληνικὴ γλῶσσα, καλοδουλεμένη με χάρη και μελωδικότητα. Ἐχει διαύγεια, γλαφυρότητα, παραστατικότητα και παρουσιάζει πλούτο ἐκφράσεως, καλαισθησία και ευγένεια. Στη διακόσμηση του λόγου με εικόνες και παρομοιώσεις ὁ ἱερός συγγραφέας εἶναι ἀπαράμιλλος. Πάσης φύσεως σχήματα λόγου ἀναδύονται καθὼς και ωραίες και ἐπιτυχημένες προσωποποιήσεις.

Οι διδασκαλίες του εἶναι ολοκάθαρα νάματα που προέρχονται ἀπὸ αγιασμένη πηγή. Εἶναι ἓνα θεόπνευστο κείμενο. Οι σύγχρονοι ψυχολόγοι θαυμάζουν τον συγγραφέα της Κλίμακας για την βαθύτητα των ψυχολογικῶν του γνώσεων και παρατηρήσεων, και διαπιστώνουν ὅτι τα τελευταία αξιόλογα πορίσματα της ψυχολογίας του Βάθους ἦταν γνωστὰ στους Πατέρες της ερήμου.

Ὁ Ἅγιος Ἰωάννης κοιμήθηκε στις 30 Μαρτίου το 603, σε ηλικία ογδόντα ετῶν. Ἀπὸ την ἀρχὴ της Σαρακοστῆς το σύγγραμμά του διαβάζεται σε ὅλα τα ὀρθόδοξα μοναστήρια.

Ἐπειδὴ εἶναι παγκόσμιο κειμήλιο ἀναλύσεως ὅλων τῶν παθῶν και τῶν ἀρετῶν, ἡ Ἐκκλησία τιμᾷ ιδιαίτερα σε αὐτὴ τη πνευματικὴ περίοδο τον συγγραφέα ἅγιο Ἰωάννη της Κλίμακας και το προτείνει για ἀνάγνωσμα.

Πηγή: <http://www.synaxarion.gr/>



Οι ἐνορίες τῶν Νοτιῶν προαστίων τῆς Μητροπόλεως Σικάγου, κατὰ τὴν διάρκεια της Σαρακοστῆς, θὰ τελέσουν ἀκολουθίες εἰς τίς κατωθι ἐνορίες στίς 6·00 μ.μ.

Κυριακὴ 14η Ἀπριλίου
Ἁγίου Νικόλαου, Oak Lawn

Παρασκευὴ 19η Ἀπριλίου
Ἁγίου Σπυρίδωνος, Palos Heights

Ἀπόψε 7η Ἀπριλίου

ῶρα 6·00 μ.μ. - Ἑσπερινὸς εἰς τον Ἱερόν Ναόν του Τιμίου Σταυροῦ - Justice

Τρίτη 9η Ἀπριλίου

ῶρα 5·00 μ.μ. - Μελέτη Ἀγίας Γραφῆς στα Ἑλληνικά

Τετάρτη 10η Ἀπριλίου

ῶρα 6·00 μ.μ. Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία

Παρασκευὴ 12η Ἀπριλίου

ῶρα 7·00 μ.μ. - ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤΟΣ ὝΜΝΟΣ

Κυριακὴ 14η Ἀπριλίου
Ε΄ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ
ΑΓ. ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΙΑΣ

ῶρα 8·30 - 11·15 π.μ. Ὁρθρὸς καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Today:

6:00 p.m. Solemn Vespers and Reflection
Holy Cross Church

Monday, April 8:

5:15 p.m. J.O.Y. Soccer (Minors)
6:15 p.m. J.O.Y. Soccer (Majors)
6:30 p.m. Greek Folk Dance (8th–High School)
7:30 p.m. G.O.Y.A.

Tuesday, April 9:

5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Class - Greek
5:30 p.m. Adult Bible Class - English
7:00 p.m. Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, April 10:

5:15 p.m. J.O.Y. Soccer (Minors)
6:00 p.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:15 p.m. J.O.Y. Soccer (Majors)
8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Thursday, April 11:

8:00 a.m. Youth Choir Practice

Friday, April 12:

9:30 a.m. Toddler Play Group
7:00 p.m. The Akathist Hymn

Sunday, April 14:

St. Mary of Egypt
8:30-11:15 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP / BAKE SALE

Today's Bake Sale is sponsored by the
Koraes 8th Grade Class. Please support them.

HANDY PEOPLE NEEDED

Our parish is always looking for people with skills in the areas of plumbing, electrical or carpentry. Please consider volunteering your time and talents to help us reduce our facility expenses. Please contact the church office at 708-974-3400 if you can help us.

† MEMORIAL †

2 Years Georgia Jerantowski
† May her memory be eternal †

† FUNERAL †

The funeral of **Mark Frank Manta**
was held on Thursday, April 4th.
† May his memory be eternal †

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

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

Saturday, April 6, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

Nicolette, daughter of
Anthos and Thalia Chrysanthou
Sponsors: Jim and Stacey Siapris

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Dean Alexander, son of
Brian and Penny Kasper
*Sponsors: Ana Aslanidis and
Elenie Krugman*

Sunday, April 7, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

Eleni (Scarlett), daughter of
Nicholas and Samantha Gatses
Sponsor: Jena Gatses



See you...

...Next SUNDAY!