



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

Very Rev. Fr. Tom De Medeiros, Pastor
Rev. Fr. Chris Avramopoulos, Assoc. Pastor
11025 S. Roberts Road, Palos Hills, IL 60465
Phone (708) 974-3400 Fax (708) 974-0179
www.stconstantinehelen.org

SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019

Κυριακή 16η Ιουνίου 2019
ΤΗΣ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ
Αποστ: Πραξ. 2:1-11
Ευαγγ: Ιωαν. 7:37-52; 8:12

Pentecost
Today's Readings
Epistle: Acts: 2:1-11
Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12

LET US EXPERIENCE CHRIST AT PENTECOST

Experience is a great teacher. Every so often we hear people say, "I go to Church, I pray, I try to give my life to God, but He seems far away, and nothing happens to me." If one starts questioning these people, we usually find that they never did have any joyous sense of the presence of God in their lives. They had been in contact with the forms of religion but never the Spirit. It was an inherited religion passed down through their family. There is no life or power in that kind of hand-me-down religion. It is not personal. Each person has to have his or her own experience of God.

The most effective way of acquiring knowledge is through experience. For many people, the same applies with their faith. They study the charts and diagrams, memorizing the number of sacraments, concentrating on the mechanism and specifics of faith. They will not walk into the world to see it for themselves. They need to proceed from theory to experience, from knowledge *about* God, which is abstract, to knowledge *of* God in Christ, which is personal.

For example, every Easter the church is filled to overflowing. If the Easter crowds really believed in the resurrection of Jesus, *really believed it*, those same people would be here every Sunday. The Church would be bursting at the seams. The resurrection is real, but people need to experience it in their own lives. They need to experience the power of Christ to resurrect them from their own lost hopes, shattered dreams, strained lives, from the deadness of sin, to a new life, a life of glory and peace and hope and joy in the Lord.

That is why the call of God in the Bible is: "Come and see!" When Andrew found Christ, he said to his brother Simon, "I have found the Messiah, the Christ. I do not ask you to take it on my word. I ask that you come and see for yourself." After the Samaritan woman found Christ at the well, she ran to her people and said, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" That night when they came back, they said to her, "Now we believe, not because you told us: for we have seen and heard Him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world!"

Faith is not something that must be intellectually understood as much as it is something that must be experienced and lived. Faith is an experience of God, a living relationship of love with Him, with, and through His Son, Jesus. Listen to the Apostle John: "That which ... we have heard, which we have seen

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Happy Father's Day

to all the Fathers. May God bless you today and always!

with our eyes, which we have looked upon and touched with our hands ... (this) we proclaim to you" (1 John 1:1-3).

Our Orthodox Christian faith is based on the Bible and on Sacred Tradition, but let us not forget that the Bible and Tradition become real when we experience God's presence, power and love personally in our lives. "We have seen ... we have heard ... we have touched." We have experienced.

How do we gain this personal experience of God that we have been talking about? How did the apostles gain it? It came to them on the day of Pentecost. Jesus commanded them "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which he said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:4-5, 8).

When the Holy Spirit came on Pentecost, he brought a new and powerful experience of God's presence and power in their lives. They were never the same again. The experience of God in their lives through the presence of the Holy Spirit was powerful and personal.

"I know him in whom I have believed," said Paul. I know from experience. "I am persuaded that nothing shall separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus." "I know that all things work together for good, to make men Christ-like, when the heart loves God." "I know that if the earthly tent we live in is dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens..." - "I know." Here is a faith that was born not of argument or discussion but in the inner experience of living by faith and prayer, obedience and love in the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost was the day on which the apostles experienced God's powerful presence in their lives through the Holy Spirit. Through prayer every day can be Pentecost. For, it is through prayer that the Holy Spirit comes to us today.

CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

JUNE 17 – AUGUST 3
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Sign
up
today!**



GOLF

**The Annual Fr. Byron Golf Open
and Dinner**
will take place on
Thursday, June 20, 2019
at the
Odyssey Country Club

Registration and Continental
Breakfast: 10:00 a.m.
Shotgun Start: 12:00 p.m.
Cocktails: 5:30 p.m.
Dinner: 6:00 p.m.

**To register or become a sponsor
please go to:
birdeasepro.com/frbyron**

KORAES SCHOOL

Orthodox Christian

Preschool – Elementary – Middle School

ENROLL TODAY!

www.koraes.org or call (708) 974-3402

Please call the Church Office at
(708) 974-3400

With any address, phone number or
e-mail changes
so that we can keep you informed of
Church Services and other events.

JUNE FESTIVALS

St. Demetrios, Elmhurst	Today
St. Nicholas, Oak Lawn	Today
St. Nectarios, Palatine	21-23
Assumption, Hegewisch	15-16
Annunciation, Milwaukee, WI	21-23
Annunciation Cathedral, Chicago	21-23
Holy Cross, Justice	21-23
St. George, DeKalb, IL	22-23



Απολυτίκιον Πεντηκοστής
 Ευλογητός εί, Χριστέ ο Θεός
 ημών, ο πανσόφους τους αλιείς
 αναδείξας, καταπέμψας αυτοίς
 το Πνεύμα το άγιον, και δι'
 αυτών την οικουμένην
 σαγηνεύσας· φιλάνθρωπε,
 δόξα σοι

Σ Η Μ Ε Ι Ω Σ Ε Ι Σ

Σήμερα δέν έπιτρέπονται
 Μνημόσυνα, Γάμοι και
 Βαπτίσια
 Αύτην τήν έβδομάδα δέν
 ύπάχει νηστεία τήν
 Τετάρτη και Παρασκευή.
 Γίνεται κατάλυσις
 εις πάντα



Σήμερα Ημέρα του Πατέρα

Καρδια γεματη κατανοηση.
 Πηγη δυναμης και υποστηριξης.
 Ακαταπαυστη διαθεση
 για βοηθεια.
 Απεραντη στοργη.
 Και μια καρδια που συγχωρει.
 Αυτο ειναι ο πατερας!

Εγκαρδιες ευχες
 σε ολους τους Πατερες!
 Χρονια Πολλα!



Δευτέρα 17η 'Ιουνίου **ΤΟΥ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΠΝΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ**

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ.
 Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία

Κυριακή 23η 'Ιουνίου **ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ**

Ώρα 8:30 π.μ.
 Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΠΕΝΤΗΚΟΣΤΗΣ



Σήμερα γιορτάζουμε στην Εκκλησία μας τη μεγάλη γιορτή της Αγίας Πεντηκοστής. Ο Κύριος πάντα μιλούσε στους μαθητές του για το Άγιο Πνεύμα, που θα έστελνε στον κόσμο από τον Ουράνιο Πατέρα του για να μείνει στην Εκκλησία για πάντα. Και πριν από την Ανάληψη του ο Κύριος μιλούσε στους μαθητές για το Άγιο Πνεύμα, όταν τους έλεγε: «Καθίστε στην Ιερουσαλήμ μέχρι που να σπλιστείτε με δύναμη από τον ουρανό» (Λουκά κεφ. κδ' στίχος 49).

Σε άλλη περίπτωση τους έλεγε αυτά, που περιλαμβάνει το σημερινό μας Ευαγγέλιο.

Στη γιορτή της Σκηνοπηγίας, οι Ισραηλίτες έρχιαν συμβολικά νερό στο θυσιαστήριο, που πρόσφεραν τις θυσίες των ολοκαυτωμάτων (= όταν έκαιγαν ολόκληρο το θυσιαζόμενο ζώο). Ο Ιησούς Χριστός παίρνει αφορμή από αυτό και λέγει στον κόσμο: «όποιος διψάει, ας έρχεται σε μένα και ας πίνει». Αυτό το νερό είναι το Άγιο Πνεύμα, που θα έλθει στον κόσμο για να μας φωτίσει όλους να καταλάβουμε τις αιώνιες αλήθειες που ο Κύριος μας δίδαξε.

Το Άγιο Πνεύμα ίδρυσε, όπως ξέρουμε, την ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής την Αγία Εκκλησία μας, που είναι το Σώμα του Χριστού. Κεφαλή του Σώματος είναι ο Ιησούς Χριστός. Μέλη του Σώματος είμαστε εμείς, όλοι οι άνθρωποι. Μέσα στην Εκκλησία, γινόμαστε όλοι οι άνθρωποι παιδιά του Θεού και έτσι ζούμε την αιώνια ζωή του «Πατρός και του Υιού και του Αγίου Πνεύματος».

Το Άγιο Πνεύμα είναι το τρίτο Πρόσωπο της Αγίας Τριάδος. Στο Σύμβολο της Πίστεως μας ομολογούμε: «Και εις το Πνεύμα το Άγιον, το Κύριον, το Ζωοποιόν, το εκ του Πατρός εκπορευόμενον, το συν Πατρί και Υιώ συμπροσκυνούμενον και συνδοξαζόμενον, το λαλήσαν δια των Προφητών». Ο Κύριος ονομάζει το Άγιο Πνεύμα «Παράκλητο». Γι' αυτό, όταν προσευχόμαστε στην Εκκλησία, λέμε: «Βασιλεύ ουράνιε, Παράκλητε, το Πνεύμα της Αληθείας, ο πανταχού παρών και τα πάντα πληρών (= εσύ που γεμίζεις με την παρουσία σου τα πάντα). Στη θεία Λειτουργία και τα Μυστήρια της Εκκλησίας μας ο ιερέας με τις ευχές και τις διάφορες εκφωνήσεις τονίζει τη δύναμη του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Στο ιερότερο σημείο της θείας Λειτουργίας, όταν ο ιερέας λέγει: «Τα σα εκ των σων...» παρακαλούμε το Θεό: «Κατάπεμψον (= στείλε) το Πνεύμα σου το Άγιον εφ' ημάς και επί τα προκείμενα δώρα ταύτα». Κατεβαίνει το Άγιο Πνεύμα και με μυστηριακό τρόπο μεταβάλλει τον Άρτο και τον Οίνο σε Τίμιο Σώμα και Άχραντο Αίμα του Κυρίου ημών Ιησού Χριστού.

Ο καθένας μας από μικρός ακόμη πρέπει να ετοιμάζει τον εαυτό του, ώστε να δεχτεί μέσα του το Άγιο Πνεύμα. Να καθαρίζει τον εαυτό του από κάθε αμαρτία και να ζητεί στην προσευχή του τον ερχομό του Αγίου Πνεύματος. Οι Πατέρες της Εκκλησίας μας λέγουν, πως ο σκοπός της ζωής κάθε ανθρώπου, είναι να λάβει μέσα του το Άγιο Πνεύμα. Τότε ο άνθρωπος, όπως έχουμε μάθει και από την Κατήχηση μας, πραγματοποιεί το θείο προορισμό του, που είναι η ένωση και η κοινωνία του στην αιώνια ζωή του Θεού.

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, June 17:

Monday of the Holy Spirit

8:00 a.m. Orthros and Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, June 19:

8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

Thursday, June 20:

22nd Annual Fr. Byron Golf Open

Parish Golf Outing

Odyssey Country Club (Tinley Park)

10:00 a.m. Registration / Breakfast

12:00 p.m. Shotgun Start with Golf Cart /
Lunch

5:30 p.m. Cocktails

6:00 p.m. Dinner / Raffle /
Awards Ceremony

Sunday, June 23: All Saints Day

8:30-11:15 a.m. Orthros & Divine Liturgy

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**

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.

✠ MEMORIALS ✠

No Memorials are held today due to Pentecost

✠ FUNERALS ✠

The following funerals were held this week:

Nick Niarchos June 10

Anastasia Samouris June 14

† May their memory be eternal †

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP / BAKE SALE

Today's Coffee Fellowship is hosted by the
St. Helen Women's Philoptochos.
Please join them.

Would you like to host Fellowship/Coffee Hour?

...a time to gather with our Parish Family

As it has been our tradition for many years, each week, following the Divine Liturgy, we gather in our East Room for coffee and snacks. If you would like to host the Fellowship Hour, please contact the church office at (708) 974-3400 or email Fr Tom at Tomdemed@aol.com

SOMETHING NEW AND EXCITING ON OUR WEBSITE

"We are excited to announce something new for our parish. If you have 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!"

We have begun posting pictures to our website, come take a look.

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!