



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church

## THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

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**SUNDAY, JUNE 30, 2019**

Κυριακή 30η Ιουνίου 2019

ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ

Αποστ: Κορινθίους: 4:9-16

Ευαγγ: Ματθαιου: 9:36 10:1-8

Feast of the Holy Apostles

Today's Readings

Epistle: Corinthians: 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 9:36; 10:1-8

### THE EXAMPLE TO ALL: THE HOLY APOSTLES

The Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul, and the gathering of all Apostles, highlights the humble beginnings of these great men, the examples of all. If we close our eyes, we can see Jesus calling Peter and Andrew, as they did their jobs, preparing the nets for the fish they were to catch. The response to Christ was instantaneous. They left everything right where it was and they followed Jesus. St. John Chrysostom writes that when the time came for Jesus to begin His public ministry, He chose twelve disciples; after His resurrection He would send them throughout the world to preach the Gospel, the Good News of the reconciliation of man to God, and to bear His name before all. He continues by saying that for this task of monumental importance, Jesus did not entrust to powerful or educated individuals. Rather, He sought out simple men, and invited them to become His disciples. When we look at the people Christ collected: four of them were fishermen, one was a tax collector and the rest belonged to the general working classes. They were not of rank or distinction. They worked hard to sustain themselves. From all we can read about them, they were young men about the same age as our Lord or younger. They were men of different background, temperament and habits. They had in common their devotion to Jesus and their pious life. Why did Christ pick them? Because the Gospel itself is the wisdom and power of God, and stands in no need of human backing. You didn't need a powerful or intelligent person to give credence to Christ's mission. Christ's word stands on its own.

These men, however, were chosen for two very important qualities they had: The first is diligence, the second is obedience. When Christ found Peter and Andrew, and James and John engaged in their work, two of them were casting out fishing nets into the sea, while the other two were repairing nets. These were men who lived by manual labor — by the toil and sweat of their own two hands — and it was no accident that Jesus called these men to follow Him. He knew that they would do what they were told and they were determined to see the job get done. And a big job they would have in front of them. The Apostles spent less than three years with the Lord. He called them "that they might be with Him" to be trained and educated, and then "that He might send them forth to preach" the Gospel and minister unto the people. From students they became teachers; from followers of Christ, they became the leaders, bringing people to Christ. They started as disciples and in three years they advanced as Apostles.

Their lives serve as a reminder of their togetherness. It impresses upon us that we cannot live our Christian lives alone. Two totally different people - Peter was one arm of the Body of Christ and Paul the other, both of which the Lord used to build a foundation which stands rock solid to this very day. They were like the Sun and the Moon, providing the light for the Church day by day, for two thousand years. Enough cannot be said concerning the two greatest Apostles that the Church that the world has ever known. And yet, they both had been exceedingly humbled by circumstances in their lives and thereby also became two great

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examples of repentance. St. Peter denied the Lord not once, but three times. However, Peter by his sincere repentance, was reinstated after the Lord's Resurrection and was empowered with the Holy Spirit. The once fearful disciple became a Light to the world and even died for his faith around the year 67 A.D. We recall that St. Paul persecuted and even killed Christians before he received His call from on high, when he saw the Lord in the blinding light that darkened his eyes but enlightened his soul. Both of these teachers and luminaries had two essential wings by which they flew to heaven: the first, the life giving repentance for their past sins. And second, the real contact they had with the Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ which gave them a life giving faith in His True Divinity.

May we all be blessed by their intercessions and may we always pray for and embrace the great example that they are. AMEN

### CHURCH OFFICE SUMMER HOURS

JUNE 17 – AUGUST 3

9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

### KORAES SCHOOL

Orthodox Christian

Preschool – Elementary – Middle School

ENROLL TODAY!

[www.koraes.org](http://www.koraes.org) or call (708) 974-3402

### 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](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

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.

## PALOS HILLS GREEK FEST 2019

Summer has finally arrived and we invite ALL of our families and friends to attend our Parish's annual Greek Festival. We are excited to announce that this year's event will be on Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. As you know, the Festival always provides a lot of fun and great food for the whole family. This year, there will be NEW rides, games, Greek music and dancing and the BEST FOOD. Support our Parish while having a good time!

Tickets for the drawing will be mailed soon. Every drawing ticket sold helps our Parish and we ask for your help in making this drawing a great success. If anyone needs more tickets, please give the Church office a call.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the preparation, set-up, serving, or transport of food or sweets, or help out in some other way, please contact the Church office.

Ελάτε με την παρέα σας στο πανηγύρι μας!

We look forward to seeing you at the Festival!

### JULY FESTIVALS

St. Spyridon, Palos Heights	6-7
St. Sophia, Elgin	12-14
St. Demetrios, Libertyville	12-14
St. Andrew, Chicago	12-14
SS. Constantine & Helen, Merrillville, IN	12-14
St. George, Schererville, IN	18-21
Assumption, Homer Glen	19-21
St. Haralambos, Niles	19-21
Sts. Peter & Paul, Glenview	26-27
St. Demetrios, Chicago	26-28



**Δευτέρα 1η Ιουλίου**  
**ΚΟΣΜΑ και ΔΑΜΙΑΝΟΥ**  
**ΤΩΝ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΑΝΑΓΥΡΩΝ**

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

**Τρίτη, 4η Ιουλίου**

Τα γραφεία της Εκκλησίας  
και του Σχολείου μας  
θα είναι κλειστά,  
λογο της  
Εθνικής Εορτής  
4<sup>th</sup> of July



**Κυριακή 7η Ιουλίου**  
**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Γ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ**

Ώρα 8:30 - 11:15 π.μ.  
Όρθρος, Θεία Λειτουργία



**ΤΟ ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ**  
**ΤΗΣ ΕΝΟΡΙΑΣ ΜΑΣ**



**ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ,**  
**ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ και ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ**  
**16, 17 και 18 ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΥ**



**ΣΥΝΑΞΙΣ ΤΩΝ ΔΩΔΕΚΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΩΝ**

Σήμερα η Εκκλησία μας εορτάζει τους Δώδεκα Αποστόλους του Χριστού, την «*δωδεκάριθμον φάλαγγα*» των πρωταγωνιστών του Πνεύματος, όπως αναφέρει ένας ύμνος της εορτής.

Είναι οι άνθρωποι που τους επέλεξε ο Θεάνθρωπος, για να αποτελέσουν τον πυρήνα της Εκκλησίας και να γίνουν οι συνεχιστές του απολυτρωτικού έργου Του στον κόσμο. Το αποστολικό αξίωμα είναι το πιο τιμητικό αξίωμα στην Εκκλησία. Υπερέχει από κάθε άλλο αξίωμα.

Έφεραν δε εις πέρας την τιμητική αποστολή τους οι Απόστολοι με τη Χάρη και βοήθεια του Παναγίου Πνεύματος, που έλαβαν κατά την ημέρα της Πεντηκοστής.

Δεν είχαν κατά κόσμον προσόντα, στα οποία θα μπορούσαν να βασισθούν και να προχωρήσουν στο έργο της διαδόσεως του Ευαγγελίου. Και όμως αυτοί οι άσημοι, οι αγράμματοι και φτωχοί, με τη χάρη και τον φωτισμό του Αγίου Πνεύματος ανέτρεψαν το κατεστημένο των αιώνων, φώτισαν τη σκοτισμένη ανθρωπότητα, άνοιξαν την μετά Χριστόν εποχή στην ιστορία του κόσμου, εξευγένισαν με το κήρυγμα του Ευαγγελίου τα ήθη και εξαγίασαν με τη Χάρη των Μυστηρίων της Εκκλησίας τους ανθρώπους.

Η προσφορά των Αγίων Αποστόλων στην ιστορία του πολιτισμού είναι θεμελιώδης. Έθεσαν τα ισχυρά και αδιάσειστα θεμέλια, για να μπορεί να ζει ο κόσμος μας. Υπέγραψαν δε το κήρυγμά τους με το αίμα τους, με την ζωή τους. Σύμφωνα με τον «*Συναξαριστή*» του Αγίου Νικοδήμου του Αγιορείτου, οι άγιοι Απόστολοι περάτωσαν την αποστολή τους ως εξής:

- Οι πρωτοκορυφαίοι **Πέτρος και Παύλος** μαρτύρησαν στη Ρώμη, ο πρώτος με σταυρικό θάνατο, με την κεφαλή του προς τη γη, και ο δεύτερος με αποκεφαλισμό.
- Ο άγιος **Ανδρέας ο Πρωτόκλητος** μαρτύρησε στην Πάτρα, σε σταυρό με σχήμα Χ.
- Ο άγιος **Ιάκωβος, ο αδελφός του αγίου Ιωάννου**, θανατώθηκε, πρώτος από όλους τους Αποστόλους, από τον Ηρώδη τον Αγρίππα με αποκεφαλισμό στα Ιεροσόλυμα.
- Ο άγιος **Ιωάννης ο Ευαγγελιστής** εξορίστηκε στην Πάτμο και τελικά πέθανε στην Έφεσο.
- Ο άγιος **Φίλιππος** σταυρώθηκε στην Ιεράπολη της Συρίας.
- Ο άγιος **Θωμάς** τρυπήθηκε με ακόντια και λόγχες στη χώρα των Ινδών και παρέδωσε εκεί την ψυχή του.
- Ο άγιος **Βαρθολομαίος** σταυρώθηκε στην Ουρβανούπολη της Ινδίας.
- Ο άγιος **Ματθαίος** μαρτύρησε διά λιθοβολισμού και πυρός στην Ιεράπολη της Συρίας.
- Ο άγιος **Ιάκωβος ο του Αλφαιού** περάτωσε το αποστολικό έργο του κρεμασμένος σ' ένα σταυρό.
- Ο άγιος **Σίμων ο Ζηλωτής και Κανανίτης** παρέδωσε το πνεύμα του καρφωμένος σ' ένα σταυρό στη Μαυριτανία της Αφρικής.
- Ο άγιος **Ιούδας ο Θαδδαίος** θανατώθηκε με τόξα στη Μεσοποταμία κρεμασμένος σ' ένα δέντρο.
- Τέλος, ο άγιος **Ματθίας**, που πήρε τη θέση του προδότη Ιούδα, παρέδωσε την ψυχή του με φρικτά βασανιστήρια στην Αιθιοπία.

Αυτοί ήσαν οι άγιοι Απόστολοι, τα εκλεκτά δοχεία της Χάριτος του Αγίου Πνεύματος, οι Φωτοδότες που με το κήρυγμα και τη ζωή τους έδωσαν υψηλό, ουσιαστικό νόημα στη ζωή των ανθρώπων. Οι αληθινά πνευματικοί άνθρωποι, που εμπνέουν και σήμερα όσους θέλουν να ζουν μια ζωή αληθινά πνευματική.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

### Monday, July 1:

*Holy Unmercenaries Kosmas and Damianos*

8:00 a.m. Orthros, Divine Liturgy and Agiasmos

### Wednesday, July 3:

8:00 p.m. Men's Basketball

### Thursday, July 4:

Church and School Offices Closed

### Sunday, July 7:

*3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Matthew*

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

## † MEMORIALS †

*Deceased Members of the  
Kosmeton Association*

† May their memory be eternal †

## † FUNERALS †

The funeral of  
*Charles G. Chigas*

was held on  
June 26<sup>th</sup>.

† May his memory be eternal †

## ST. HELEN WOMEN'S PHILOPTOCHOS

### 2019-2021 – PHILOPTOCHOS OFFICERS

*President* – Renna Lemberis

*1<sup>st</sup> Vice President* – Maria Visvardis

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President* – Chris Privosnik

*Recording Secretray* – Joanna Tsoukalas

*Corresponding Secretary* – Dianne Kotsogiannis

*Treasurer* – Sandra Chakonas

*Assistant Treasurer* – Deanne Savide

*Advisor* – Alexandra Smirniotis

### 2019-2021 – BOARD MEMBERS

Pat Boundas

Bessie Gianakas

Antigone Campobasso

Anastasia Kaftanzis

Joanne Costopoulos

Susan Kamberos

Richa Drougas

Niki McDonald

Elaine Roupas

Katherine Pazoles

Mary Ann Ganzer

Penny Vitogiannis

## 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

## ARTOCLASIA & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Today's Coffee Fellowship  
is hosted by the  
*Kosmeton Association.*

Please join them.

## 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, June 29, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.*

Alyssa Huizinga and Steven Shein

*Sponsor: Nicholas Shein*

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!