



**Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church**  
**THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN**

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**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019**

Κυριακή 25η Αυγούστου 2019  
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Ι΄ ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ  
Αποστ: Α΄ Κορινθίους 4:9-16  
Ευαγγ: Ματθαίου: 17:14-23

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew  
Today's Readings  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians: 4:9-16  
Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

**MOVING MOUNTAINS (Matthew 17:14-23)**

In today's Gospel lesson, when the disciples asked Jesus why they were unable to heal the epileptic boy, He replied to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you.'"

A young man in our school once asked, "The Bible says we can move mountains with faith. Why don't we move mountains with faith? How come we use bulldozers?" Right here, we are not using the same meaning of the word "mountain." It is obvious that its meaning is symbolic. It stands for all the troubles and difficulties that block our path like a mountain and make life impossible for us. Actual mountains do not stand in our way in our days. We have invented machines to flatten them. So, physical mountains no longer stand in our way and neither should other kinds of mountains. Jesus tells us that real, honest, sincere faith in Him generates power great enough to move mountains.

God created human beings to be bigger than any mountain, even though we stand with many things that are above us. We stand with a head on our shoulders with a brain, and this is what places us above all other creatures. If we cannot climb the mountain or tunnel through it or walk around it, we build a plane and flies over it. Today, no physical mountain can stand in our way.

St. Paul, for example, had a mountain in his life. He tells us about it in his second letter to the Corinthians: "And lest I should be exalted above measure ... there was given me a thorn in the flesh ... For this thing I besought the Lord three times, that it might depart from me." The Lord gave Paul power to overcome this mountain. He was not defeated by it. The "thorn in the flesh," was some kind of physical illness, but it did not put Paul in bed as an invalid, but drove him to greater dependence on Christ and greater power.

There are many other examples. Helen Keller was blind and deaf, but she was not defeated by her great mountain. She once wrote, "I thank God for my handicaps, for through them I have found myself, my work, and my God."

There is no mountain in life that is bigger than Christ. He is bigger than any temptation; bigger than any sin, any failure; bigger than any difficulty, any problem. When we place our life in His hands, He gives us the power to become bigger than we ever dreamed we could be, bigger than our illness, bigger than our weakness, bigger than our hatred, bigger than our prejudices, bigger than our defeats. "Jesus answered and said unto them, 'If you have faith ... you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible to you.'"

# GREEK FEST

## 2019

We wish to inform the parishioners that our festival was a great success this year as thousands of our faithful and our friends from all communities and our neighbors of Palos Hills and the Southwest suburbs came to enjoy our Christian Fellowship, the delicious food, games, dances and fun offered by the hard work of our people.

We congratulate and thank our Greek Fest Organizing Committee, the hard working Co-Chairmen, ***Jim Stavrou, Andy Kladis and Telly Visvardis*** and their committee. We express our gratitude to our Parish Council President ***Mark Dinos*** and to the members of the Parish Council and the various organizations and all our parishioners who came and helped during the entire week to prepare the grounds, food and set-up for the festival.

Furthermore, we thank all our donors for their generous donations; for the food, pastries, supplies and beverages and to all the ladies who made the delicious Greek pastries. The goodness, love and cooperation of our parishioners assisted us in creating a festival of fun and success. Let us all give glory to God!

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A sincere thank you to the Festival Drawing Chairpersons, ***Mr. and Mrs. Tom Berchos***, for running a very successful drawing. We extend our thanks to all those individuals who supported the drawing.

### THE WINNERS OF OUR DRAWING WERE:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize:	\$ 5,000	# 1754	Paula Norton
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize:	\$ 2,000	# 3817	Joanne Kloris
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize:	\$ 1,500	# 3369	Amanda Wejner
4 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	\$ 1,000	# 5408	Mary Christofidis
5 <sup>th</sup> Prize:	\$ 500	# 1230	Panagiotis Gianakakis



Δευτέρα 26η Αυγούστου  
Πρώτη ημέρα σχολείου για  
τα παιδιά του ΚΟΡΑΗ  
Θα τελεσθῆ Ἁγιασμός στο  
East Room

Τρίτη 27η Αυγούστου  
ΤΟΥ ΟΣΙΟΥ ΦΑΝΟΥΡΙΟΥ  
ΜΕΓΑΛΟΜΑΡΤΥΡΟΣ

Ώρα 8:00 π.μ.  
Ὁρθρος καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία  
Ευχὴ τῆς φανουρόπιτας

Πέμπτη 29η Αυγούστου  
ΜΝΗΜΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΠΟΤΟΜΗΣ  
ΤΗΣ ΤΙΜΙΑΣ ΚΕΦΑΛΗΣ

ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ  
ΠΡΟΔΡΟΜΟΥ  
Ώρα 8:00 π.μ.  
Ὁρθρος καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία  
Ἡμέρα αὐστηρᾶς νηστείας

Κυριακή 1η Σεπτεμβρίου  
ΙΑ' ΜΑΤΘΑΙΟΥ

Ἡ Ἀρχὴ τοῦ νέου  
Ἐκκλησιαστικοῦ ἔτους  
(ΙΝΔΙΚΤΟΥ)  
Ώρα 8:30 π.μ. - 11:15 π.μ.  
Ὁρθρος καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία



ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΟΥΜΕ



Τό ΦΕΣΤΙΒΑΛ μας  
εἶχε καταπληκτικὴ  
ἐπιτυχία.  
Εὐχαριστοῦμε ὅλους!!

## Κυριακή Ι' Ματθαίου

Ἡ σκηνὴ που περιγράφει τὸ σημερινὸ Εὐαγγελικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, εἶναι συγκλονιστικὴ. Ἐνας τραγικὸς πατέρας λήφτει στα πόδια τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, ζητώντας σωτηρία γιὰ τὸ παιδί του, που σεληνιάζεται καὶ ἡ ζωὴ του βρίσκεται σὲ διαρκὴ κίνδυνο. Οἱ Μαθητὲς, στους οποίους προσέτρεξε ναίριτερα, δὲν μπόρεσαν νὰ προσφέρουν τὴν παραμικρὴ βοήθεια. Ὁ Χριστὸς καυτηρίασε τὴν ἀσθενὴ πίστη τῶν Μαθητῶν καὶ θεράπευσε τὸ παιδί, ἀπαλλάσσοντάς το ἀπὸ τὴν δαιμονικὴ ἐνέργεια. Δίδαξε, ἐπίσης, ὅτι ἡ ἰσχυρὴ πίστη εἶναι δυνατὴ ἀκόμα καὶ γιὰ ἐκεῖνα που στα μάτια μας φαντάζουν ἀκατόρθωτα, ἐνῶ ἐπεσήμανε ὅτι ἡ ἀντιμετώπιση τῶν δαιμονικῶν ἐνεργειῶν γίνεται με προσευχὴ καὶ νηστεία, με τὴν ἐνεργοποίησή, δηλ. καὶ βίωση τῆς πνευματικῆς μας ζωῆς μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία.

Δὲν εἶναι ἡ πρώτη φορὰ που ὁ Ἰησοῦς βρίσκεται μπροστὰ στὴν ἀσθένεια τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου σώματος. Πάντοτε στέκεται με συμπάθεια καὶ ἐνεργεῖ με ἀγάπη, ὅταν οἱ ἄνθρωποι ζητοῦν τὴ θεραπεία, με πίστη καὶ ἐμπιστοσύνη στὴ δυνάμη Του. Ἡ στάση, ὅμως, τοῦ Κυρίου ἀπέναντι στο γεγονός τῆς ἀσθένειας γίνεται ἀφορμὴ πνευματικοῦ προβληματισμοῦ, προκειμένου νὰ κατανοήσουμε πῶς λειτουργεῖ ἡ ἀσθένεια τοῦ σώματος στὴν σκέψη τῶν Ἁγίων καὶ στὴ λογικὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

Ἡ ἀσθένεια, καταρχάς, δείχνει τὴν ματαιότητα τοῦ βίου, τὸ ποιοι πραγματικὰ εἶμαστε. Ἀποκαλύπτει ὅτι εἶμαστε φθαρτοί, πρόσκαιροι καὶ πεπερασμένοι, υποκείμενοι στους νόμους τῆς φθορᾶς καὶ τοῦ θανάτου. Καὶ ἀπ' αὐτὴ τὴν προοπτικὴ δὲν ἀποκλείεται κανεὶς, εἴτε εἶναι πλούσιος, εἴτε πτωχός, εἴτε ἰσχυρός, εἴτε ἀδύναμος. Μέσα σ' αὐτὸ τὸ πλαίσιο ἀντιλαμβάνεται κανεὶς τὴν ἀσθένεια ὡς εὐλογία. «Γιὰ τὴν ὀρθόδοξη θεολογία, ἡ ἀσθένεια λαμβάνει μιὰ τεράστια ἄλλη διάσταση καὶ μπορεῖ νὰ θεωρηθεῖ ἀπὸ τον πιστὸ χριστιανὸ ὡς εὐλογία.

Ἡ ἀσθένεια, στὴ συνέχεια, λειτουργεῖ παιδαγωγικὰ πρὸς ἐκεῖνους που ἔχουν κρυφές ἀμαρτίες, γιὰ νὰ μὴ χάσουν τὴ σωτηρία. Εἶναι μεγάλος ὁ κίνδυνος τῶν κρυφῶν ἀμαρτιῶν. Ἡ παιδαγωγία τῆς ἀσθένειας ἐγκεῖται στο γεγονός ὅτι ὅταν ὁ ἄνθρωπος τὴν ἀσπασθεῖ, ὅταν τὴν ἀγαπήσει, ὅταν βγάξει ἀπὸ τὴν ἀσθενειὰ του θετικὰ συμπεράσματα, ὅταν ἐξαιτίας τῆς παραδίδεται στον Θεό, τότε ἡ ἀσθένεια γίνεται τὸ γρηγορότερο μέσο γιὰ τὴν κατάκτηση τῆς ἀπάθειας καὶ τῆς σωτηρίας.

Ἡ ἀσθένεια, τέλος, συμβάλλει στὴ γνωριμία με τον εαυτό μας καὶ στὴν υγεία τῆς ψυχῆς μας. Ὁ εαυτὸς μας εἶναι, συνήθως, ὁ μεγάλος μας ἀγνωστος ἢ καὶ ὁ μεγάλος ἐχθρὸς μας. Ἡ ἀσθένεια ἔχει τὴ δυνάμη νὰ μας προσγειώσῃ στὴν πραγματικότητα, νὰ ἀνοίξῃ ξεκάθαρα μπροστὰ μας τὴν ἀληθινὴ κατάσταση τῆς ψυχῆς μας, νὰ βοηθήσῃ στὴν πραγμάτωση τῆς σωστικῆς αὐτογνωσίας.

Ὅταν γνωρίσουμε τον εαυτό μας, ἔστω κι ἀν χρειαστεῖ νὰ δοκιμαστοῦμε γι' αὐτὸ στο καμίνι τῆς ἀσθενείας, ἀνοίγει ὁ δρόμος τῆς μετάνοιας, τῆς ἀποκατάστασης τῆς σχέσης μας με τον Θεό καὶ τους ἀνθρώπους καὶ ἡ ψυχὴ μας ἀποκτὰ τὴν πολυπόθητη ἰσορροπία καὶ υγεία.

Νὰ γιατί, ἡ ἀσθένεια δὲν εἶναι κατὰρα, ἀλλὰ εὐλογία. Θέλει ἀγῶνα, ὅμως, γιὰ νὰ σταθεῖ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔτσι ἀπέναντί τῆς. Θέλει ὠριμότητα ἐσωτερικὴ καὶ καλλιέργεια πνευματικὴ. Ἀς φροντίσουμε γι' αὐτὲς ὅσο εἶναι καιρὸς, οὕτως ὥστε, ἀν ὁ Θεὸς ἐπιτρέψῃ τὴν ἐπίσκεψη τῆς ἀσθενείας, νὰ τὴν ὑποδεχθούμε ὡς δικὴ Του ἐπίσκεψη, που θα ἀποσκοπεῖ στὴν τελικὴ λύτρωση καὶ σωτηρία μας.

*Γιγνη Ὁρθοδοξὴ Πορεία*

## ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

### Monday, August 26:

First Day of Koraes School

8:45 a.m. School Prayer and Agiasmos  
(in the East Room)

### Tuesday, August 27:

#### **Feast of St. Phanourios**

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy /  
Blessing of Phanouropites

### Thursday, August 29:

#### **Beheading of St. John the Baptist**

8:00 a.m. Orthros / Divine Liturgy  
Strict Fast Day

### Sunday, September 1:

11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew

The New Church Year Begins

8:30 -11:15 am. 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](http://www.stconstantinehelen.org)

## COFFEE FELLOWSHIP / IN MEMORIUM

Today's Coffee Fellowship is hosted by  
Alexandra Smirniotis, in Memory of her  
husband **Spero**. Please join her.

## DOES YOUR COMPANY OFFER MATCHING GIFTS?

Many companies offer matching gifts to  
their employee's donations, if your  
business does, please contact Fr. Tom for  
more information or to prepare any  
paperwork that is required.

## † MEMORIALS †

40 Days	Tom (Athanasios) Makris
6 Months	Antonios Kontzias
1 Year	Ekaterini Maniatis
3 Years	Spero Smirniotis
6 Years	George S. Gianakas

† May their memory be eternal †

## † FUNERALS †

The following funerals were held recently:

<b>Notta Karas</b>	Monday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Dennis Kladis</b>	Monday, August 12 <sup>th</sup>

† May their memory be eternal †

## SACRAMENTS

### 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, August 24, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.  
Angela Pappas and Phillip Koperdowski  
Sponsor: Pete Tzinares

### BAPTISM

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

Sunday, August 25, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.  
Soteria (Sawyer), daughter of  
Michael and Kristine Kelley  
Sponsor: Mark Lakis

See you...



...Next SUNDAY!