

ACTIVITIES OF THE WEEK

Monday, April 22:

6:00pm Great Compline

7:15pm Special General Assembly

Tuesday, April 23:

6:00pm Pan Orthodox Akathist Hymn at St. Luke's, Palos Hills

Wednesday, April 24:

*KIKLOS AGAPIS Will resume on May 15th

6:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 25:

4:00pm Community Palm Preparation

7:00pm Men's League Basketball

*Bible Study will resume on May 16th

Friday, April 26:

9:00am Toddler Group

Saturday, April 27:

8:30am Saturday of Lazarus

11:00am Saturday of Lazarus Retreat

Sunday, April 28:

Palm Sunday

7:30am Palm Sunday Orthros

1st Divine Liturgy 8:30am – 10:15pm

2nd Divine Liturgy 10:30am – 12:15pm

6:30pm Bridegroom Service

STEWARDSHIP 2024

*We appreciate our Stewards - our Saints
Constantine and Helen Church Family.*

*Your Stewardship gift reflects your appreciation
for God's many blessings.*

Stewardship 2024 Update:

*As of April 19th, Stewardship gifts have been
received from 376 individual / families totaling
\$223,188.95. Our GOAL is \$425,000.00*

*Some of the donations represent fulfillment of
their total pledge, while many others have begun
their weekly, monthly or other scheduled
donation.*

*We are so thankful for all our Saints Constantine
and Helen Stewards. If you have not submitted
your stewardship, please do so to help us reach
our goal. +++*

MEMORIALS

40 day George Tragos

16 year Evangelos Theodoropoulos

† May their memory be eternal †

† FUNERALS †

The following funeral was held recently:

Pantelis Petroulakis

Friday, April 19, 2024

† May his memory be eternal †

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISM

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

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 4:00pm

Chris (Christos), son of

Anthos and Thalia Chrysanthou

Sponsors: Elias and Nicole Boufis

SCHOLARSHIPS

The St. Helen Women's Philoptochos will be
awarding two High School Scholarships in the
amount of \$1,500.00 to Seniors in our parish. We
welcome all High School Senior to apply by May
19th. Winners will be announced on June 9th at
Graduation Sunday. Good Luck to all! Feel free to
apply at:

<https://www.stconstantinehelen.org/s/St-Helen-Womens-PhiloptchosScholarship-Requirements-and-Application-Process-2024docx-2.pdf>

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SPECIAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

**will take place on Monday,
APRIL 22, 2024 at 7:15pm
in the East Room.**

We ask parishioners to please attend!



Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church THE WEEKLY CHURCH BULLETIN

Father Chris Avramopoulos, Pastor
Father Nicholas Dahdal, Associate Priest

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SUNDAY, April 21, 2024

Κυριακή 21η Ἀπριλίου 2024

Ε΄ ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΑΣ - ΑΓΙΑΣ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΙΑΣ

Αποστ: Εβρ. 9:11-14

Ευαγγ: Μαρκου 10:32-45

5th Sunday of Lent – St. Mary of Egypt

Today's Readings

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

WE LIVE TO SERVE

(Mark 10:32-45)

A very rich man with a large estate advertised in a national magazine to offer employment to two persons to serve — one would be a cook and the other a butler. No one responded. The magazine concluded that, as a society, we don't like to be servants, and in the long run most of us will have to learn to do without them.

This, however, is not a new problem. In today's Gospel lesson, James and John, two disciples of Jesus, came to Him in today's Gospel lesson and said, "Grant us to sit one at your right hand and one at your left in your glory." It was as if they had said, Lord, now that you're going to become King, let one of us be the Secretary of State and the other the Secretary of the Treasury. When the other disciples heard it, they were angry with them for their self-seeking ambition. But what they really were, was angry with themselves for not having thought to ask for these positions first.

How did Jesus handle the request of James and John that they be first in the kingdom? The Gospel says, "Jesus called them and said to them, You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet, it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever of you desires to be first among you must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

The world says that we are great according to the POWER that we exercise over others. The more authority we have to dominate, the greater we are. The world says that we are great according to the POSITION we hold. The greater the position, the greater the person. The world says that we are great according to the POSSESSIONS we have. Our greatness is measured by the neighborhood in which we live, the size of our house, the kind of car we drive, the amount of money we have. Christ answers all of these claims with "But it shall not be so among you."

So, if greatness is not to be found in position, in power, in possessions, WHERE is it to be found? "Whoever would be great among you must be your servant". In a single sentence, Jesus reverses the values of the world. The world has placed at the top of the list kings, military commanders, the rich, those who have positions of honor and recognition. Behind them come the great masses of humanity, followed at the very end by the servants. Jesus reverses the whole scale of values and says, "The greatest of these are those who serve."

Mary of Egypt

The word servant today is an unpopular word. Few people wish to serve. Everybody expects to be served. There are people who like to lord it over others. They feel that their goal in life is to be "top man on the totem pole" — even if they have to step on others to get there. Much of the trouble we have today is caused by people who desire to be the greatest — the most honored, the most privileged, the most powerful, the most prosperous, the best paid, the best fed, the best housed.

The greatest example of humble service was Jesus. Once when no one else was willing to wash the disciples' feet as was the custom, Jesus removed His outer robe, took the basin of water and towel, knelt down and washed their feet. As we think of this humble act of Jesus, we ask ourselves, was it a greater humiliation for Jesus to wash His disciples' feet than it was for Him — the Creator of the Universe — to be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger? or to be slapped by a servant during His trial? or to be crowned with thorns and mocked as a king? or to be nailed to the cross as an arch-criminal? St. Paul expressed it beautifully when he wrote: ...Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:6-8).

As Christ said, "I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done" (John 13:15). "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them . . . But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant." Lord, perhaps there are some of us who cannot carry the cross; it is too heavy; we are too weak; but there is not one of us who cannot carry a towel—the towel of love and service performed in Your holy name. Amen.

St. Mary of Egypt was born in the Province of Egypt and at the age of twelve ran away from her parents to the city of Alexandria where she lived an extremely dissolute life. After seventeen years of this lifestyle, Mary was struck with remorse, and took to living in the desert for 47 years as a hermit in penitence without ever encountering another human being or any animal. A Holy Elder, Zosimas, who had gone into the desert across the Jordan for the period of the Great Fast, encountered Mary. He gave her Holy Communion and she died that very night.

Mary has, for a great many souls crushed under the burden of sin, become a source of hope and a model of conversion. This is why the Holy Fathers have placed the celebration of her memory at the end of the Great Fast as an encouragement for all who have neglected their salvation, proclaiming that repentance can bring them back to God even at the eleventh hour.

Kontakion: "Having escaped the gloom of sin, O blest Mary, and shining brightly with the light of repentance, thou didst present thy heart to Christ, O glorious one, bringing Him His Holy and all-immaculate Mother as a greatly merciful and most bold intercessor. Hence, thou hast found the pardon of thy sins and with the Angels rejoicest for evermore."

ANASTASI LABATHES for PASCHA

*Beautifully handmade with love by
Georgia Vouris*

A portion of her proceeds will go to our beloved church. If you would like to purchase, they will be for sale today following Divine Liturgy and on April 21st and 28th. They will also be available during the week in the church office.

ΣΥΜΒΑΙΝΟΥΝ - ΣΥΝΕΒΗΣΑΝ - ΘΑ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΝ - ΣΥΜΒΑΙΝΟΥΝ - ΣΥΝΕΒΗΣΑΝ - ΘΑ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΝ

Δευτέρα 22η Απριλίου

Ώρα 6:00 μ.μ.

Μεγα Αποδειπνο

Τρίτη 23η Απριλίου

Ώρα 6:00 μ.μ.

Ο ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤΟΣ ΎΜΝΟΣ

Άγιος Λουκάς

Τετάρτη 24η Απριλίου

Ώρα 6:00 μ.μ.

Προηγιασμένη Λειτουργία

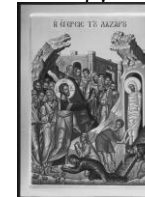


Σάββατο 27η Απριλίου

ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ

Ώρα 8:30 π.μ.

Θεία Λειτουργία - 9:30 π.μ.



Ἡμέρα ἡ ἐκκλησία μας γιορτάζει τὴν ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀνάστασι τοῦ φίλου τοῦ Χριστοῦ Λαζάρου. Ὄταν ἐκοιμήθη, οἱ ἀδελφές του Μάρθα καὶ Μαρία κάλεσαν τὸν Χριστό, ὁμοῦς ὁ Κύριος δὲν ἀνταποκρίθηκε ἀμέσως στὸ κάλεσμά τους. Ἦταν μία σιωπή, πού ἀσφλῶς βαθιά ἐλύπησε τὶς πονεμένες ἀδελφές τοῦ Λαζάρου. Ὁμοῦς ὁ Διδάσκαλός τους δὲν καθυστέρησε ἀπὸ ἀδιαφορία, ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ τὶς καταστήσει, μαζί μέ τούς μαθητές του, μάρτυρες ἑνός θαύματος. Τῆς ἐπιβολῆς Του ἐπὶ τοῦ θανάτου.

Καί ἀνταμείβοντας τὴν πίστι τῶν δύο ἀδελφῶν, ἀνέστησε τὸν τεταρταῖο ἡδη Λάζαρο. Γιὰ νὰ διδάξει ἔτσι καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς, νὰ μὴν ἀπογοητευομαστε, ἀκόμα κι' ὅταν ὁ οὐρανός φαίνεται κλειστός.

ΟΥΡΑΝΙΑ ΜΗΝΥΜΑΤΑ

Κυριακή 28η Απριλίου

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ

Πρώτη Θεία Λειτουργία

Ώρα 8:30 π.μ.

Δεύτερη Θεία Λειτουργία

Ώρα 10:30 π.μ.



**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ Ε΄ ΝΗΣΤΕΙΩΝ
ΑΓΙΑΣ ΜΑΡΙΑΣ ΑΙΓΥΠΤΙΑΣ**

«Ὅς εἴν θέλη γενέσθαι μέγας ἐν υμῖν, ἔσται υμῶν διάκονος. Καὶ γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἦλθε διακονηθῆναι, ἀλλὰ διακονῆσαι καὶ δοῦναι τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ λύτρον ἀντὶ πολλῶν»
(Μάρκου κεφ. ι' στίχοι 44-45)

Ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας βοηθάει με τὴ σημερινή περικοπή νὰ ετοιμαζόμαστε γιὰ νὰ προσκυνήσουμε με πίστη καὶ εὐλάβεια τὰ γεγονότα τῆς Μεγάλῃς Ἑβδομάδας. Ὁ Κύριος μιλεῖ πολὺ καθαρά στους μαθητές του γιὰ τὰ πάθη τῶν ἁγίων ἡμερῶν. Δείχνει σ' ὅλους μας τὸ σωστὸ τρόπο, που μπορούμε νὰ υποδεχτοῦμε τὴ θυσία τοῦ Γολγοθᾶ.

Ὁ Κύριος λέγει στους μαθητές του ὅτι στα Ἱεροσόλυμα ἰα παραδοθεῖ στα χέρια τῶν Γραμματέων καὶ Φαρισαίων, θὰ τον καταδικάσουν, θὰ τον εμπαΐξουν, θὰ τον μαστιγώσουν, θὰ τον φτύσουν, θὰ τον σκοτώσουν, ἀλλὰ τὴν τρίτη ἡμέρα θὰ ἀναστηθεῖ. Οἱ μαθητές δοκίμαζαν μεγάλη στενοχώρια γι' αὐτὰ τὰ πράγματα, γιὰτὶ δὲν ἤθελαν νὰ χάσουν ἀπὸ κοντὰ τους τὸν Κύριο, δὲν μπορούσαν ἀκόμα οἱ μαθητές νὰ καταλάβουν καὶ νὰ δεχτοῦν πως ὁ Χριστὸς ἦλθε στον κόσμον γιὰ νὰ θυσιασθεῖ καὶ ἔτσι σωθοῦν ὅλοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι.

Ὁ Ἰάκωβος καὶ ὁ Ἰωάννης ζητοῦσαν ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο κοσμικὰ αξιώματα. Νόμιζαν πως ὁ Χριστὸς στα Ἱεροσόλυμα θὰ γίνεῖ κοσμικὸς ἄρχοντας γιὰ νὰ ἐλευθερώσει τους Ἑβραίους ἀπὸ τὴν κυριαρχία τῶν Ῥωμαίων. Αὐτὴ ὁμοῦς τὴ νοοτροπία ὁ Κύριος τὴν ἀπορρίπτει. Ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν ἦλθε στον κόσμον γιὰ νὰ γίνεῖ κοσμικὸς ἄρχοντας, ὥστε νὰ υποδουλῶναι τους ἀνθρώπους σὴν ἐξουσία του. Ὁ Κύριος ἦλθε γιὰ νὰ υπηρετήσῃ τους ἀνθρώπους με τὴν ἀγάπη του καὶ ὄχι νὰ τον υπηρετήσουν οἱ ἄλλοι. Ὁ Κύριος μας διδάσκει πως ὁ ἄνθρωπος πρέπει νὰ ἔχει μέσα του πολλὴ ἀγάπη καὶ ταπείνωση. Ἡ ἀγάπη μας κάνει υπηρέτες τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Δὲν εἶναι υποτιμητικὸ νὰ προσφέρεις τις υπηρεσίες σου στους ἄλλους. Ὅποιος ἀπὸ μας θέλει νὰ βρίσκεται κοντὰ στο Χριστὸ πρέπει νὰ τον μιμείται σὴν ζωὴ του.

Πρέπει ἀπὸ τώρα νὰ συνηθίσουμε νὰ υπηρετοῦμε τους ἄλλους. Πρῶτα ἀπ' ὅλα θὰ ἀρχίσουμε νὰ προσφέρουμε τις υπηρεσίες καὶ τὴ βοήθεια μας στους γονεῖς μας. Νὰ ξεκουράζουμε τὴ μητέρα μας. Νὰ ἐξυπηρετοῦμε καὶ τὰ ἄλλα ἀδέλφια μας. Νὰ φροντίζουμε γιὰ κάθε καλὸ που μπορεῖ νὰ γίνεῖ σὴν τάξη μας καὶ γενικὰ στο σχολεῖο μας. Νὰ ἐπισκεπτόμαστε τους ἀρρώστους καὶ νὰ προσφέρουμε βοήθεια καὶ χαρὰ στους φτωχοῦς. Ὅλα αὐτὰ μας βοηθοῦν νὰ παρακολουθήσουμε ἀληθινὰ τὰ γεγονότα τῆς Μεγάλῃς Ἑβδομάδας. Θὰ ἀρχίσουμε ἀπὸ τώρα νὰ θυσιάζουμε τὸν ἐγωισμό μας, γιὰ νὰ φτάσουμε ἀργότερα καὶ στο σημεῖο νὰ προσφέρουμε γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ τῶν ἄλλων, ἀνθρώπων καὶ αὐτὴ τὴ ζωὴ μας.