

Sunday, May 13, 2018
Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!
6th Sunday of Pascha – The Blind Man
Glykeria the Virgin-Martyr

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: 198, 5, 134, 240 (Found in red hymnal book)

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** John 20:11-18
 Epistle: Acts 16:16-34
 Gospel: John 9:1-38

THE NICENE CREED & LORD’S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL DUTY: **Orthros: 8:00 a.m.** Andrew Campbell
Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. All Parish Council Members

MEMORIALS

16 yrs. George Georgion

As well as all mothers, step-mothers, mother-in-laws, grandmothers & godmothers.

“MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL!”

SERVICE SCHEDULE: Thursday, May 17th – *Ascension of the Lord* – Orthros: 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m. in the Cathedral.

Πεμπτη, 17 Μαΐου - *Της Αναληψεως του Χριστου* – Ορθρος: 8:00 π. μ. και Θεια Λειτουργια: 9:00 π.μ. στο Καθεδρικο.

WELCOME VISITORS: We welcome you to worship with us today. Whether you are an Orthodox Christian or this is your first visit to the Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is offered only to the baptized and Chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, in good standing with the Church (good standing means if you are married your marriage must have been blessed by the Church; if divorced you must have an ecclesiastical divorce as well from the Church) all are invited to receive the antidoron (blessed bread) from the priest at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The antidoron is not sacramental but is reminiscent of the agape feast that followed worship in the ancient Christian Church. After worship this morning, please join us in the church hall for fellowship, refreshments and visit with our Clergy, Parish Council and members.

SAINT OF THE DAY – GLYKERIA THE VIRGIN MARTYR: Glykeria was a young Christian girl whose father was a Roman senator. After his death, she was summoned to offer sacrifices to Zeus. In front of the idol, she traced the sign of the cross on her forehead and the idol was broken into pieces. The pagans tried to stone her, but the stones did not hit her. She was then sealed in a prison cell long enough to starve to death, but an angel of the Lord fed her. Other methods of torture were tried against her, but every time she overcame through the power of Christ. Finally, she was thrown to the lions, where she surrender her soul before they could attack.

COOPERATION IS NEEDED! We remind our faithful that the Orthros Service begins at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday in the Cathedral and is followed immediately by the Divine Liturgy. **Please be prompt and on time!** Please turn off cell phones before entering church. No conversation should take place during worship. During the reading of the Gospel people in the narthex should not be purchasing or lighting candles, but stand reverently and listen to the reading. If possible avoid using the center aisle during high points of Divine Liturgy. Lipstick and lip-gloss should be removed before kissing icons, receiving Holy Communion and kissing the hand of the priest. Only Orthodox Christians in good standing with the Church may receive Holy Communion. Parents with children who cannot sit quietly during services should use the cry room. Please avoid using cell phones, I-Pads or other electronic devices to entertain or amuse children during worship. This delivers the wrong message of why we are in church and allows the child to pick up bad habits. When receiving antidoron, please, use both hands and do not allow the crumbs to fall.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: Happiness is being questioned by the Internal Revenue about your church contribution and discovering that you contributed more than you declared.

Have you submitted your 2018 Pledge to the church? Is your Pledge payment up to date? Only through everyone’s support can our parish continue to minister in Christ’s name.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH: To keep in touch and see what’s happening here at our Cathedral, check out our webpage at www.ssconstantineandhelen.org or Facebook page at Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Merrillville, IN. You can also be added to our “Constant Contact” list and receive our emails of the weekly bulletin, monthly “Message,” monthly calendar and other news, events, etc. If you are not on our “Constant Contact” list, you may sign up through the church office.

SATURDAY OF SOULS: The day before Pentecost each year is marked by remembering the souls of our beloved family members who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Please come together in prayer on Saturday, May 26th at 9:00 a.m. for Divine Liturgy followed by the Memorial Service. Include the baptismal name of the loved one (printed clearly in Greek or English), a small bowl of kolyva, prosforon, olive oil, sacramental wine and a monetary gift for the poor.

AHEPA SUNDAY will be celebrated in our parish on Sunday, June 3rd. On this day we will honor and remember the 96th Anniversary of the founding of American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), 92nd for our local chapter of the Order of AHEPA and 74th year for our chapter of the Daughters of Penelope.

GRADUATE SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, June 10th. On this day our parish honors the academic accomplishments of our youth. A gift will be presented to our graduates from high school, college or university who has had their name submitted to the church office by Monday, June 4th. Sign-up today!

WISDOM OF THE FATHERS: The Church never wears out, nor does she get old; not even our enemies, i.e. the demons, can hurt her. How many kings and tyrants persecuted the Church of Christ? All who fought her were vanquished and destroyed, and she was raised above the heaven. So is the height and magnitude of the Church. When attacked she wins! When plotted against her, she grows! When reviled, she becomes more brilliant! Let the sea roar against her, it cannot dissolve the rock of Christ! Let the waves rise, they cannot sink the ship of Jesus! O, my, nothing is stronger than the Church. Stop your war against her, before she dissolves your strength away!

-St. John Chrysostom

SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes today May 13th with worship at 9:00 a.m. and classes from 10:15-11:00 a.m.

HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS: Practice will be Wednesday, May 15th with the Junior group from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and the Senior group from 7:30-8:30 p.m. For details or to check on schedule changes, contact Taki Zarakas or check the Hellenic Dancers Facebook page.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS: There will be no classes this Friday, May 18th. Instead an End of the Year Party will be held from 5:30-8:00 p.m. for our students with pizza and dancing. Please let Maria Venetis know, either in person or on our Greek School Facebook Page, if your child will be attending so our PTO can prepare properly.

Early registration for next year's Greek School has begun. Don't miss out on discounted registration costs. Sign up Friday at the party or during the week in the church office. For further details, see Taki Zarakas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING: Our next Sunday School teacher and staff meeting will be held on Monday, May 14th, 6:30 p.m. We ask all our teachers and staff to please attend as we review this past year, and look ahead to the summer and next year's program.

PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING: Philoptochos will meet on Monday, May 14th, 6:30 p.m. in the Gold Room. Many items will be discussed: a review of the Spaghetti Benefit, plans for our Feast Day celebration, Greek Fest Bake Sale, just to name a few. All ladies of our community 18 years old and up are invited to participate.

OUR NEWEST OUTREACH MINISTRY: "JC's Closet" will be collecting new socks of all sizes for men, women and children to cloth the less fortunate in the area. As we have seen in recent months, the homelessness in Lake and Porter counties of Indiana is on a steadfast rise with 6 out of 10 children living in poverty or homeless. Please help. Socks may be dropped off in the church office.

FYI JC's Closet will be held in May on Friday, May 18th & May 25th, from 9:00 a.m.-12:00noon in the Gold Room. For more details see, see Eva Kostides.

FEAST DAY CELEBRATION: On Sunday, May 20th, the Great Vespers Service with Artoklasia will be chanted in honor of our Patron Saint beginning at 7:00 p.m. Following the service our Philoptochos Society will serve a special coffee fellowship in the Hellenic Cultural Center.

On Monday, May 21st, the Feast Day of SS. Constantine and Helen, Orthros at 8:00 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. Afterwards Philoptochos will host a coffee fellowship in honor of the Feast Day of our Cathedral's Patron Saint.

Our Philoptochos requests that the ladies and/or gentleman of our parish bake and bring sweets for our Feast Day celebration. Items may be dropped off at church during the day on Friday, May 19th or prior to the Great Vespers Service.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES: In remembrance of Memorial Day, Fr. Ted will be chanting the Trisagion Service at grave sites on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th, at 8:30 a.m. at the Ridgelawn Cemetery by the monument of Ss. Constantine and Helen. A general Trisagion Prayer Service will take place to accommodate those who wish to leave early. Fr. Ted will be at Ridgelawn Cemetery, weather permitting, until 11:00 a.m.

At approximately 11:30 a.m. at Calumet Park Cemetery, a general Trisagion Prayer Service will be offered for those who wish to leave early at the monument of the Holy Cross. Following the Trisagion, Fr. Ted and Fr. George will offer prayers at the graves, going row by row. Afterwards Fr. Ted will go to the Calumet Park Mausoleum and offer prayers for those interred there.

MOTHER'S DAY: Every year we set aside the second Sunday in May to remember our mothers. It is a good time to thank God for the many blessings He bestows on us through our mothers. It is not only our physical life which we receive from our mother, but every human mother has an enormous psychological and emotional influence on us. One of the greatest gifts a mother can give her child is an appreciation for faith. We grow slowly and years are necessary for our complete development and maturing. Unless we were blessed with a mother's care and love, we feel that we missed something very important in our life.

A mother cannot give what she doesn't have. But if a mother has faith, even as small as the grain of a mustard seed, she can impart great wisdom and confidence in her children. A mother may be able to give her child all the material things needed or desired, but one day the child will be on its own coping with life, and all the material things will be a faded memory. When troubles and stresses come, and they surely will, either the child will be sustained by its faith or be abandoned to its own limited resources. A good mother wants her child to have real faith.

To all those good women who tried their best we wish you a Happy Mother's Day, if they are still with us, and Eternal Memory to those who have gone on before us.

"IF THIS MAN WERE NOT FROM GOD, HE COULD DO NOTHING": A recent film dealt with a young blind man receiving his sight after undergoing a new medical procedure. As the movie goes on, the man realizes that this surgery may have ended one problem for him while creating a whole series of others as he adjusted to a life with vision.

Today's Gospel lesson carries with it a remarkably similar theme. We read of a man who has never seen a sunrise or a sunset. He has never experienced the beauty of a field of flowers. He has never witnessed the joy of watching another person's face light up with happiness of a simple smile. No, he has been blind from birth, deprived of all these pleasures we take for granted.

One day, however, everything changes for the blind man. Christ gives him his sight! Just as God once created man from dust, Jesus, by putting clay on the man's eyes and asking him to wash them in the pool of Siloam, gave him a new and brilliant life.

Instead of rejoicing over this wonderful miracle, the Pharisees made life difficult for the former blind man. They questioned him repeatedly, refusing to believe that Christ had the power to do such marvelous works. These learned priests and scribes were finally silenced by the wisdom expressed by the man who had been healed: "If this Man were not from God, He could do nothing." (John 9:33).

Having opened the blind man's eyes, Jesus also opens the eyes of his heart, offering spiritual illumination. The man "seeing" the divinity of the Son of Man, worshipped Him. The brilliance

LOOKING INTO GOD'S HEART: The Cross enables us to look in on the heart of God. When we look to Moses and the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament we learn of the stern justice of God. But when we look away from Mt. Sinai to the Cross on Golgotha we know that God is far more than law and justice. He is love and mercy. The Cross becomes the window through which we look into the heart of God.

There is a story about a traveler being aboard a ship one night in the Mediterranean. They were passing Stromboli, the famous volcano. Suddenly there was a great burst of flame lighting up the ocean for miles around. Then in a little while, it was dark again. It occurred to the traveler that Stromboli tells what us always happening in the center of the earth. The great fires and molten rock surge and churn constantly.

It is the same with the Cross. It allows us to catch a glimpse of the infinite love for us that has always burned in the heart of God.

OUR CATHEDRAL GREEK FEST will be held on the weekend of July 13th-15th. Preparations are underway for a great weekend.

Once again, we will be seeking donations for bakery, dairy, meat, seafood, produce and other various items. We especially need donors for the 400 lambs that we need for this year's Festival. If you can donate a lamb or two (\$100-whole, \$60-half) or be of assistance in donating towards the other items, please see Fr. Ted, John Petalas Parish Council President or by contacting the church office. Your assistance will help ensure a successful festival. Our goal for this year's festival is to raise at least \$100,000 profit. We can do it if everyone pitches in.

Raffle tickets have been mailed out to all members of our Cathedral. If you have not received your raffle tickets or need more, contact the church office. It may seem a little early, but the Festival Committee wants to have a successful year in raffle sales. This year we will be giving out \$20,000 in prizes. Tickets are still only \$25 each. This year there are six "Early Bird" drawings. The first Early Bird Drawing will be on Monday, May 21st – the Feast Day of our Patron Saints Constantine and Helen. The second will be on Sunday, June 17th – Father's Day and the third on Sunday, July 1st. We urge everyone to make every effort to sell your tickets. It is through the raffle that the Festival makes most of its money. Remember, you could win \$500 in May, June and July and \$10,000 as well!

Anyone interested in working the two outside bars at this year's Grecian Festival please stop by the church office and pick up an application no later than June 4th.

CATHEDRAL EARLY LEARNING CENTER: Early registration: Our preschool is accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. To enroll for the two day class (Tuesday & Thursday) the child must be 3 years old before August 1st. To enroll for the three day a week class the child must be 4 years old before August 1st. Applications are available in the church office. Registration fee is \$50 per child, and activity fee of \$75 per child. Tuition for two-day class is \$120 a month, and for the three-day class is \$150 a month. Children must be potty trained to be enrolled. Call Christine Chimitris at 219-769-2481 between 9:00-11:30 a.m. for details.

THE 5th ANNUAL 5K FAMILY WALK-RUN will take place on Saturday, June 23rd, 8:00 a.m., starting and ending here at Ss. Constantine & Helen. New event of a 50 yard dash will be offered for our young runners. All proceeds will benefit the Cathedral Scholarship Program, The Pangere Center for Inherited Retinal Diseases and the Merrillville Police Department K9 Unit Program. Registration forms are available in the church office or visit the website at www.ssconstantineandhelen.org. Any questions contact Joe Massow at 776-2682.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ss. Constantine and Helen Feast Day Celebration – May 20th & 21st

Saturday of Souls – May 26th

Pentecost Sunday – May 27th

Memorial Day Grave Blessings – May 28th (Ridge Lawn & Calumet Park Cemeteries)

AHEPA Sunday – June 3rd

Graduate Sunday – Sunday, June 10th

Vacation Bible School – June 18th - 21st

5K Family Walk/Run – June 23rd

Greek Festival – July 13th-15th

MOTHER'S DAY CHUCKLE: Friends of a young mother with three young children were surprised when they received the following thank you note: "many thanks for the play pen. It is used every day. From 2 to 3 p.m. I get in it to read and the children can't get near me."