

STS. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH

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Sts. Constantine & Helen Church

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GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

Epistle Reading

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Gospel Reading

Luke 18:10-14

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

SAINTS AND FEASTS COMMEMORATED

Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee: Triodion Begins Today -

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness.

Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights.

All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

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Leavetaking of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple - February 9

Nicephoros the Martyr of Antioch - February 9

Markellos, Philagrios, & Pankratios the Hieromartyrs - February 9

APOLYTIKION AND KONTAKION HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Εξ ὕψους κατήλθες ο εὐσπλαγχνος, ταφήν καταδέξω τριήμερον, ἵνα ἡμᾶς ἐλευθερώσης τῶν παθῶν, Ἡ ζωὴ καὶ ἡ Ἀνάστασις ἡμῶν, Κύριε δόξα σοι.
You came down from Heaven, O Loving Lord, accepting for three days to be entombed, to liberate us from the passions of the flesh, You who are our Resurrection and our Life, glory to You, O Lord.

Apolytikion for Leavetaking of the Presentation of Our Lord and Savior in the Temple

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness, has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Church

Του Σταύρου σου τον τύπον εν ουρανῶ θεασάμενος,
και ως ὁ Παῦλος την κλήσιν ουκ εξ ἀνθρώπων δεξάμενος,

ὁ ἐν βασιλεύσιν, Απόστολός σου Κύριε,
βασιλεύουσιν πόλιν τῆ χειρὶ σου
παρέθετο.
Ἦν περίσωζε διὰ παντός ἐν εἰρήνῃ,
πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, μόνε
Φιλάνθρωπε.

Having seen in the heavens
the sign of Your precious Cross O Lord,
and as it happened with St. Paul,
having received not his call from man,
he who has become Your Apostle from
among the kings,
has entrusted the Ruling City into Your
hands. By the intercessions of the
Theotokos preserve it
forever in peace and safety, O You who
love mankind.

Kontakion

Ὁ μήτραν παρθενικὴν, ἀγιάσας τῷ τόκῳ
σου, καὶ χειρᾶς τοῦ Συμεῶν εὐλογήσας ὡς
ἔπρεπε, προφθάσας καὶ νυν, ἔσωσας ἡμᾶς
Χριστέ ὁ Θεός. Ἀλλ' εἰρήνευσον, ἐν
πολέμοις τὸ πολίτευμα, καὶ κραταίωσον
Βασιλεῖς οὓς ἠγάπησας, ὁ μόνος
φιλάνθρωπος.

You sanctified the virginal womb by Your
birth, O Lord, * and Symeon's hands You
blessed, as it ought to be. * O Christ God,
and even now You came and saved us. *
Now, give peace to the commonwealth in
time of war, * and give power to the
Rulers, so loved by You, * the only one
who loves humanity.

WISDOM FROM THE CHURCH FATHERS

It is possible for those who have come back again after repentance to shine with much lustre, and oftentimes more than those who have never fallen at all, I have demonstrated from the divine writings. Thus at least both the publicans and the harlots inherit the kingdom of Heaven, thus many of the last are placed before the first.

St. John Chrysostom, *AN EXHORTATION TO THEODORE AFTER HIS FALL*
4th Century

If there is a moral quality almost completely disregarded and even denied today, it is indeed humility. The culture in which we live constantly instills in us the sense of pride, of self-glorification, and of self-righteousness ... Even our churches - are they not imbued with that same spirit of the Pharisee? Do we not want our every contribution, every 'good deed,' all the we do 'for the Church' to be acknowledged, praised, publicized? ... How does one become humble? The answer, for a Christian, is simple: by contemplating Christ..."

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Great Lent, pp. 19-20.*
20th Century

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

Welcome to Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church!

Today is the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee--It is time to humble ourselves and prepare for Great Lent, in order to partake of Christ's glorious Pascha!

As we approach Lent, this week is Fast Free--no Fasting.

Philoptochos will meet NEXT Sunday, March 16th.

Parish Council also meets Mar. 16th.

This Week:

Monday, Tomorrow--St. Haralambos, the Great Martyr 9 am Matins and Divine Liturgy -
-Xronia Polla to Haralambos (Bob) Karras!

Wed, 5:45 Vespers, Faith class

Thurs, 7pm Reception, 7:30 Presentation: UMSL Catherine Pelican Memorial
Lecture,"Greece and Isreal: Prospects and Developments in E. Mediterranean Cultures,
Ethnicities, and Politics" Millenium Student Center,Century Room A

Sat, Feb. 15th, 5 pm Great Vespers, Holy Confession

Sunday, 8:45 Matins, 10 am Divine Liturgy, Philoptochos Meeting

Book of the Month: *Precious Vessels of the Holy Spirit*, The Lives and Teachings of
Contemporary Elders of Greece,\$18

Also, available for pick-up: 2014 Daily Lives of Saints Calendar

Coming Up!

Feb. 16th, 6:30 pm Veneration of the Myrrh Streaming Iveron Icon of Hawaii at the
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 1755 Des Peres Rd, St. Louis, MO 63131

Saturday, Feb.22nd--First Saturday of Souls: 9 am Matins, Divine Liturgy and Memorial
(please offer names of your departed loved ones for prayer, distinguishing the Orthodox)

All are welcome to remain and pray the the Thanksgiving Prayers after receiving antidoron.

Please join us for coffee hour fellowship in the Church Hall sponsored by our Philoptochos.

Glory to God for all things!