

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



Icon of All Saints

St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 67.35,26

God is wonderful among his saints. Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

BRETHREN, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfection of our faith.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:33-40; 12:1-2

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος δ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 67.35,26

Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ. Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεὸν.

Ἀδελφοί, οἱ Ἅγιοι πάντες διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίστησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον· περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι - ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὀπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν. Τοιγαροῦν καὶ ἡμεῖς, τοσοῦτον ἔχοντες περικείμενον ἡμῖν νέφος μαρτύρων, ὄγκον ἀποθέμενοι πάντα καὶ τὴν εὐπερίστατον ἁμαρτίαν, δι' ὑπομονῆς τρέχωμεν τὸν προκείμενον ἡμῖν ἀγῶνα, ἀφορῶντες εἰς τὸν τῆς πίστεως ἀρχηγὸν καὶ τελειωτὴν Ἰησοῦν.

The Sunday of All Saints

The Gospel of Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

The Sunday of All Saints

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 10.32-33, 37-3

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Πᾶς οὖν ὅστις ὁμολογήσει ἐν ἐμοὶ ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὁμολογήσω καὶ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. ὅστις δ' ἂν ἀρνήσηταί με ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἀρνήσομαι αὐτὸν καὶ γὰρ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. Ὁ φιλῶν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁ φιλῶν υἱὸν ἢ θυγατέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁς οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου, οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος. Τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἰδοὺ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμεν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὑμεῖς οἱ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι, ἐν τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ, ὅταν καθίσῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους κρίνοντες τὰς δώδεκα φυλὰς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ πᾶς ὁς ἀφήκεν οἰκίαν ἢ ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφὰς ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ γυναῖκα ἢ τέκνα ἢ ἀγροὺς ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός μου, ἑκατονταπλασίονα λήψεται καὶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσει. Πολλοὶ δὲ ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι.

UP-COMING LITURGICAL EVENTS:

Saint John the Baptist VESPER, Monday, June 23, at 7P.M GRAMERCY PARK, N.Y.C.

Saint Paul VESPER, Saturday, June 28, 7 P.M. Saint Paul Cathedral HEMPSTEAD, L.I.

Saint Peter VESPER, Saturday, June 28, 7.P.M. Saint Petros Church , BRONX , NEW YORK

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP : is being hosted today by the THREE HIERARCHS HOLY ORDER. Please join us in Whitehall for refreshments. We welcome all visitors to our faith community. Let us know you're here!

ARTOKLASIA TODAY: is being offered in grateful thanksgiving to God for the continued good health and restored health to all members of the **HOLY ORDER**. The Officers of the Order will be called forward in honor of the event.

PHILOTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY' will host their "SPRING SOCIAL" with a dinner Monday evening, June 16th, at 7:00 P.M. at the FLORIDIAN DINER. We salute our "Ladies" for their constant philanthropy.

MR. MRS. AND MS. CLUB' members will host their 'CONEY ISLAND NIGHT dinner Tuesday June 17th in WHITEHALL, at 7:00 P.M. JOIN IN THE FUN! Hot Dogs! Coca Cola! Cracker Jack!Memories.

TODAY: We honor all the FATHERS, GRANDFATHERS, GODFATHERS, UNCLES and other significant men in our life who were part of our adult formation and development. CONGRATULATIONS and FELICITATIONS to all the men of the PARISH.

SAINT STEPHANOS SOCIETY of ALTAR BOYS: are heralded today as we acknowledge their dutiful service to the liturgical life of our church and their devotion to GOD. Special recognition awards will be distributed to the youngsters. Please see the CENTERFOLD PHOTOS. We are so proud of our young men in the altar. Congratulations to them and **BRAVO** to their parents who nurtured them from youth with love of Christ Jesus.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION to the co-chairmen Demetrios Bouroutis and George Plevritis for a SUCCESSFUL GREEK FOOD FEST! Job well done! The weather was on our side for the 3 days. Many thanks are extended to all the volunteers who made our community outreach and fellowship a memorable event. Special thanks to all PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS, PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY, DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE, A.H.E.P.A. CHAPTER, SENIOR CLUB VOLUNTEERS and MR. /MRS. CLUB volunteers and a myriad of parishioners too many to name ! Food delicacies, Grecian baked sweets, wines, beer, music, songs, dancing all under the stars of our PLAZA. You had to be there to know the joy!

FLAGS ORDERED; a large GREEK NATIONAL and CYPRIOT REPUBLIC FLAG has been ordered for the PLAZA flag poles. The cost donation is but \$100.00, for the 5 ft. by 8 ft. nylon standards. If there are patriots in the community who wish to donate either or both flags we would be most grateful. Please help us to defray the expenditure of the church. Those who donate the flag will be acknowledged properly and will hoist the flag on the appropriate service. CONSIDER GIVING BACK TO YOUR PATRIDA!!! SUNDAY, JUNE 29th the new flags will be hoisted.

CLERGY ELECTION HELD: We are proud to announce that our beloved Pastor FATHER EUGENE was once again elected unanimously by the Archdiocesan Metropolitan Clergy Fellowship (SYNDESMOS of PRESBYTERS) as PRESIDENT for 2014-2016 . Bravo! KALI DYNAMIS !

GENERAL ASSEMBLY : of the PARISH is being convened after Divine Liturgy on **Sunday June 22nd at 12:30 P.M.** in WHITEHALL. help us make the parish vial and vibrant... come, hear, participate and volunteer.

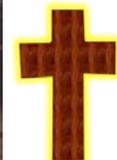
RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 14TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER . The website address. W.W.W.gaepis.org ([Click live audio](#))

MEMORIALS TODAY: + KONSTANTINOS VASSILAKOS + CLARA (KYRIAKOULA) LIMBERIS
+ ELEFThERIA ZONTONAS + DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE HOLY ORDER
+ DR. JAMES YEANNAKOPOULOS

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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Κ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 984 ²	Κυριακὴ Ἁγ. Πάντων (Ἐβρ. 11,33 - 12,2) 15 Ἰουνίου 2014 (2003)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ἐμπαιγμός

«Ἐτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πεῖραν ἔλαβον...»
(Ἐβρ. 11,36)

Τὸ σημερινὸ ἀποστολικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἱστορεῖ τὴν **ἄθλησι καὶ τὰ μαρτύρια τῶν ἁγίων Πάντων**. Ποιὸς δὲν θαυμάζει τὴν καρτερία τους;

Μὴ λησμονοῦμε ὅμως, ὅτι οἱ σωματικοὶ πόνοι ποὺ υπέμεναν ἦταν ἓνα μέρος μόνο τοῦ μαρτυρίου τους. Οἱ ἅγιοι Πάντες εἶχαν κ' ἕναν ἄλλο πόνο νὰ υπομείνουν. Καὶ αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ **ἐμπαιγμός**. Γι' αὐτὸ τώρα δὲν θὰ σᾶς μιλήσω γιὰ τὰ φοβερὰ σωματικά τους μαρτύρια. Θὰ σᾶς μιλήσω μόνο γιὰ τὸν ἐμπαιγμό, γιὰ τὴν **κοροϊδία**, ποὺ υπέμεναν οἱ ἅγιοι Πάντες, σύμφωνα μ' αὐτὰ ποὺ λέει ὁ σημερινὸς ἀπόστολος.

«Ἐμπαιγμῶν», λέει, «καὶ μαστίγων πεῖραν ἔλαβον» (Ἐβρ. 11,36), δοκίμασαν δηλαδὴ τὸν ἐμπαιγμό. Ποιὸς εἶνε αὐτὸς ὁ ἐμπαιγμός; Ἄν ἀνοίξουμε τὴν Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη, θὰ δοῦμε ὅτι πολλοὶ ἱεροὶ ἄνδρες ἔγιναν **ἀντικείμενο γελοιοτήτος καὶ χλευασμοῦ**.

● Παράδειγμα πρῶτο ὁ **Νῶε**. Ἦταν δίκαιος. Πίστευε στὸ Θεὸ καὶ ἔλεγε στοὺς συγχρόνους του νὰ παύσουν ν' ἀμαρτάνουν. Ἐκεῖνοι τὸν ἐνέπαιζαν, τὸν κοροΐδευαν. Κι ὅταν ὁ Νῶε τοὺς εἶπε ὅτι ἔρχεται τιμωρία καὶ τὸν εἶδαν νὰ φτειάχνη καράβι στὴν ξηρὰ, αὐτοὶ διασκέδαζαν καὶ ἔλεγαν· Τρελλάθηκε ὁ Νῶε...

● Ἐνεπαίχθη λοιπὸν ὁ Νῶε ἀπὸ τὴν γενεὰ του τὴν ἄπιστη καὶ διεφθαρμένη. Ἐνεπαίχθη ἐπίσης ὁ **Λῶτ** ὁ δίκαιος μέσα στὰ Σόδομα καὶ Γόμορρα.

● Ἐνεπαίχθη ἀκόμη ὁ **Ἰώβ**. Ὅταν τὸν εἶδαν φτωχό, δυστυχισμένο, ἄρρωστο, τοῦ εἶπαν· Τί σὲ ὠφέλησαν οἱ δικαιοσύνες σου καὶ ἡ πίστι σου;... Κι αὐτὴ ἀκόμα ἡ γυναίκα του τοῦ εἶπε τὸν πιὸ πικρὸ λόγο· «Βλαστήμα τὸ Θεό, καὶ πέθανε». Αὐτὸς ὅμως ἀπήντησε· Γυναίκα ἄφρον, ὄχι μόνο δὲν τὸν βλαστημῶ, ἀλλὰ καὶ

τὸν ὑμῶν καὶ τὸν δοξάζω. «*Εἶη τὸ ὄνομα Κυρίου εὐλογημένον ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν καὶ ἕως τοῦ αἰῶνος*» (βλ. Ἰώβ 1,21). Ἐνεπαίχθη, μὰ αὐτὸς δὲν γόγγυσε, ἀλλὰ δοξολόγησε τὸ Θεό.

● Ἐνεπαίχθη καὶ ὁ **Δαυὶδ** ἀπὸ καθάρματα τῆς ἐποχῆς του ὅπως ὁ Σεμεὶ, ποὺ τὸν ὕβριζε καπηλικῶς. Ἐνεπαίχθησαν δηλαδὴ ὅλοι οἱ προφῆτες. Δὲν ὑπάρχει δίκαιος τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης ποὺ νὰ μὴν ἐνεπαίχθη ἀπὸ τοὺς συγχρόνους του.

Ἀλλὰ γιατί πᾶμε μακριά; Ποιὸς εἶνε, ἀδελφοί μου, ὁ ἀρχηγός μας; ποιὸς εἶνε τὸ Ἄλφα καὶ τὸ Ὠμέγα γιὰ μᾶς; Εἶνε ὁ **Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός**. Ἐ λοιπὸν, τί τοῦ ἔκανε ὁ κόσμος; τοῦ ἔστρωσε λουλούδια νὰ περάσει; Ἐνεπαίχθη καὶ ὁ Χριστός. Καὶ ἐνεπαίχθη ὅσο κανεὶς ἄλλος στὸν κόσμο. Οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ φαρισαῖοι ἀνοίξαν τὰ στόματά τους καὶ τί δὲν εἶπαν ἐναντίον του! Ποιὸν πιστεύετε; ἔλεγαν στὸ λαό· αὐτόν; αὐτὸς εἶνε «*υἱὸς τοῦ τέκτονος*», παιδί τοῦ μαραγκοῦ (Ματθ. 13,55). Τί τὸν πιστεύετε αὐτόν; εἶνε «*φίλος τελῶνων καὶ ἀμαρτωλῶν*», εἶνε «*φάγος καὶ οἰνοπότης*», ἀκόμα καὶ «*δαιμόνιον ἔχει*» (Ματθ. 11,19)· αὐτὸς δηλαδὴ, ὁ ἀρχηγός τῶν ἀγγέλων, ὠνομάστηκε ἀρχηγός τῶν δαιμόνων (πρὸβλ. Ματθ. 9,34-12,24. Μάρκ. 3,22. Λουκ. 11,15). Καὶ σὲ μιὰ περίπτωσι εἶπαν, ὅτι «*τρελλάθηκε*» (Μάρκ. 3,21)!

Ἀλλὰ ἡ κατ' ἐξοχὴν ἡμέρα τῶν ἐμπαιγμῶν, τῆς ἐξουθενώσεως καὶ τοῦ ἐξευτελισμοῦ τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε ἡ **Μεγάλῃ Παρασκευῇ**. Τότε οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι μαζεύτηκαν κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ πραιτώριο, κι ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε ὅτι, Ἐγὼ εἶμαι βασιλεὺς ἀλλὰ πολὺ διαφορετικὸς ἀπὸ τοὺς βασιλιᾶδες τοῦ κόσμου («*ἡ βασιλεία ἡ ἐμὴ οὐκ ἔστιν ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου τούτου*» Ἰω. 18,36), τότε τὸν πῆραν οἱ στρατιῶτες καὶ ἀφοῦ τὸν ἐγδυσαν τοῦ φόρεσαν μιὰ ψεύτικη χλαμύδα. Ἐπάνω στὸ κεφάλι του, ἀντὶ νὰ βάλουν στέμμα, ἔβαλαν ἓνα ἀγκάθινο στεφάνι. Στὸ χέρι τοῦ ἔδω-

σαν ένα καλάμι, και κατόπιν γονάτισαν μπροστά του περιπαικτικά. Τὸν ἔφτυναν, τὸν βλαστημοῦσαν και τοῦ ἔλεγαν «*Χαῖρε, ὁ βασιλεύς*» ἡμῶν (Ματθ. 27.29. Μάρκ. 15.18. Ψα. 139.31). Κι ὅταν ἀνέβηκε ἐπάνω στοῦ σταυροῦ, περνοῦσαν ἀπὸ κάτω και τὸν ἔφτυναν μικροὶ - μεγάλοι. Τὸν ἔφτυναν ἀκόμα κι αὐτοὶ οἱ συγκατάδικοί του: «*Τὸ δ' αὐτὸ και οἱ λησταὶ οἱ συσταυρωθέντες αὐτῷ ὠνείδιζον αὐτόν*», τὸν ἐνέπαιζαν (Ματθ. 27.44. Μάρκ. 15.32).

Ἰδοὺ λοιπὸν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὅτι και αὐτὸς ὁ Χριστός, ὁ **ἀρχηγὸς τῆς πίστεώς μας**, μέσα στον ἄπιστο και διεφθαρμένο κόσμο ἔγινε ἀντικείμενο χλευασμοῦ, ἐξευτελισμοῦ και ὀνειδισμοῦ.

* * *

Και μέχρι σήμερα ἐξακολουθεῖ ὁ ἐμπαιγμός. Ναί, ἀδελφοί μου: ἐμπαίζονται τὰ ὄσια και ἱερά, ἐμπαίζονται οἱ εὐσεβεῖς. Δὲν τὸ καταλάβαμε σὲ ποιά ἐποχὴ ζοῦμε. Τὰ εἶπε ὁ Θεός. Ἀγοράστε Ἀποκάλυψι και διαβάστε, νὰ δῆτε σὲ ποιά χρόνια εἴμαστε. Εἶνε τὰ χρόνια τοῦ Νῶε, («*ὥσπερ αἱ ἡμέραι τοῦ Νῶε*» Ματθ. 24.37), τὰ χρόνια τοῦ Λῶτ, τὰ χρόνια ποῦ μᾶς περιμένει ἡ μεγάλη καταστροφή για ὅλες τὶς ἀμαρτίες και τοὺς ἐμπαιγμούς μας.

Κοιτάξτε νὰ δῆτε. Ἐὰν **ἕνας νέος** εἶνε μοντέρνος, πηγαίνει στὰ κέντρα διασκεδάσεως, περνᾷ τὶς νύχτες του μὲ γυναῖα ἀμαρτωλά, ἔχη τὸ σπίτι του μόνο ὡς ξενοδοχεῖο ὕπνου και φαγητοῦ, τρέχη στὰ γήπεδα και δίνη κλωτσιές στη μπάλλα, αὐτὸς θεωρεῖται σπουδαῖος και ὄλοι τὸν χειροκροτοῦν. Ἐὰν ἕνας νέος ἀγαπᾷ τὴ μάνα και τὸν πατέρα του, γυρίζη στοῦ σπίτι μόλις βραδιάση, κρατᾷ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο στὰ χέρια του, αὐτὸν ὄλοι τὸν κοροϊδεύουν: «Ὡ τὸν καλόγερο! λένε. Τὸν τεντυμπὸν τὸν ὑψώνουν μέχρι τρίτου οὐρανοῦ: τὸ παιδί ποῦ πιστεύει στοῦ Θεοῦ ζητοῦν νὰ τοῦ ρίξουν χιόνι και νὰ τὸν ἐξουθενώσουν. Ἐὰν **μία νέα** εἶνε μοντέρνα, ἐὰν τώρα τὸ καλοκαίρι πετᾷ τὰ ροῦχα της και ἐκθέτη τὶς σάρκες της σὰν τὰ κρέατα ποῦ κρεμᾶνε στὰ κρεοπωλεῖα, ἐὰν τρέχη στὰ κέντρα, στὰ πάρτυ και στὰ χοροδιδασκαλεῖα, ὁ κόσμος τὴ θαυμάζει και λέει: Τί μοντέρνο και προωδευμένο κορίτσι!... Ἄν μία κόρη ντύνεται σεμνά, πιστεύη στοῦ Χριστοῦ, πηγαίνη στην ἐκκλησία, λατρεύη τὸ Θεοῦ και προσκυνᾷ τοὺς ἀγίους, τότε λένε: «Ὡ τὴν «παπαδιά», τὴν καθυστερημένη!... Στὴ γενεά μας λοιπὸν **ἐμπαίζεται ὁ εὐσεβὴς και τιμᾶται ὁ ἀσεβής**.

Ἄν μπῆτε σὲ λεωφορεῖο ἢ καράβι ἢ ἀεροπλάνο και κάνετε τὸ **σταυρό** σας, θὰ γελά-

σουν οἱ μοντέρνοι. Ἄν καθήσετε στοῦ ἐστατόριο και κάνετε τὸ σταυρό σας, θὰ σᾶς εἰρωνευθοῦν.

Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ εὐλογημένα χρόνια, ὅταν ἔβλεπαν παπᾶ στοῦ δρόμο, ἔτρεχαν και φιλοῦσαν τὸ χέρι του. Τώρα, **μόλις παρουσιαστῆ παπᾶς, τὸν χλευάζουν** και κάνουν ἀπρεπεῖς χειρονομίες. Ἄλλὰ θὰ ῥθῆ ὡρα ποῦ ἡ Ἑλλάς δὲν θὰ ἔχη παπᾶδες. Γιατί ὁ νέος νὰ γίνη παπᾶς; για νὰ τὸν ἐμπαίξῃς ἐσὺ και νὰ τὸν ἐξευτελίξῃς μὲ τὶς αἰσχρὲς χειρονομίες σου;

Τὸ προεῖπε ἡ Γραφή: Θὰ παρουσιαστοῦν «*ἐμπαίκτης*» (Β' Πέτρο. 3.3. Ἰούδ. 18)! Και ἰδοὺ, **γέμισε ὁ κόσμος ἐμπαίκτης**. Κοροϊδεύουν τὰ ὄσια και τὰ ἱερά.

Σὲ κάποια ἐνορία ἐώρταζε ὁ ναός, και βγῆκαν μὲ τὰ ἐξαπτέρυγα νὰ κάνουν **λιτανεῖα συνοδεία τῆς μουσικῆς τοῦ δήμου**. Και ἐνῶ ἔψαλλαν τὰ ἐκκλησιαστικὰ ἄσματα και ἡ ἀτμόσφαιρα ἦταν ἱερά, και ἐνῶ ὄλοι ἔπρεπε τὴν ὡρα ἐκείνη νὰ παρακαλοῦν τὸ Θεοῦ νὰ μᾶς λυπηθῆ και νὰ μὴ ρίξη φωτιὰ νὰ μᾶς κάψῃ για τὶς πορνεῖες τὶς μοιχεῖες και τὶς βλαστήμιες μας: τὴν ὡρα ἐκείνη, ποῦ ὁ λαὸς συνώδευε τὴν εἰκόνα, κάποιος «σφύριξε» τὴν εἶδησι, ὅτι νίκησε μία ὀμάδα στοῦ φουτ-μπῶλ. Τότε ἡ μουσικὴ τοῦ δήμου ἀλλάζει ἀμέσως «σκοπὸ» και ἀρχίζει νὰ παίξῃ μιὰ κοσμικὴ μελωδία, ἐνῶ διαρκοῦσε ἀκόμα ἡ λιτανεῖα και ἐνῶ συνώδευαν τὴν ἱερά εἰκόνα! Καταντήσαμε ἐμπαίκτης...

Στὰ χρόνια αὐτά, ἀδέρφια μου, «**στῶμεν καλῶς**»! Μέσα στη γενεά μας αὐτή, γενεά Σοδόμων και Γομόρρας, γενεά ἀπίστων και διεφθαρμένων ἀνθρώπων, γενεά πονηρὰ και διεστραμμένη ἀπ' ἄκρου εἰς ἄκρο, «**στῶμεν καλῶς**»! Σὰν στρατιώτης ποῦ κρατᾷ τὴ σημαία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἄς σταθοῦμε καλῶς!

Κι ἂν ἀκόμα μείνης ἕνας, ἀδελφέ μου, μὴν ἀπογοητευθῆς. Κι ἂν ἀκόμα ὄλη ἡ πόλις ἢ τὸ χωριό σου, μὲ τόσοις κατοίκους, ἀρνηθοῦν τὸ Χριστό, σὺ μὴν τὸν ἀρνηθῆς. Κι ἂν ἀκόμη πάνω στοῦ κάθε σπίτι ὑψωθῆ ἡ παντιέρα τοῦ διαβόλου, στοῦ δικό σου τὸ σπίτι νὰ μὴν ὑψωθῆ. **Ἐνας νὰ μείνης, πιστεύε στοῦ Θεοῦ!** Γιατί μπορεῖ νὰ εἶνε ψέματα τὰ ἄστρα, ψέματα ὁ ἥλιος, ψέματα ὁ κόσμος, ψέματα και οἱ βασιλιάδες, ψέματα τὰ παλάτια, ὄλα νὰ εἶνε ψέματα: ἕνα δὲν εἶνε ψέμα, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός: ὄν, παῖδες, ὑμνεῖτε και ὑπερψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας: ἀμήν.

(f) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$275 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: \$150 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$200 PER YEAR

WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2014 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrives thanks to your outreach.

YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

Examples for Us

Every year, on the Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate the Sunday of All Saints. After we remember the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, we remember those men and women who have shone forth over the history of the Christian Church as bearers of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is where the Incarnation is headed, the movement is always toward the descent of the Holy Spirit - after Christ redeems our fallen nature on the Cross, the Holy Spirit is sent to guide us into all truth.

God wants to live in us, to join us to Himself. This was the Divine Will from the moment of creation, finally realized on the day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit descends on the Apostles to live in them. He fills them with power from on high, He grants them spiritual gifts,

and enables them to walk in the commandments of Christ.

For us today, the Saints are proof of Pentecost, testimony to the ongoing Pentecost in the Church. There continue to be people whose lives are transformed in Christ, who exude the love of God, who walk faultlessly in the commandments of Christ, filled with the divine gifts of the Holy Spirit. The resurrection of Christ is the proof of His ministry, St. Paul says.

And the existence of the Saints is the continuing proof of both the work of Christ, and the activity of the Holy Spirit in the world today. And since they attain to the life that we are called to, the Saints of the Church are wonderful examples for us today.

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org