



JUBILEE 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN March 16th, 2014

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



*Icon of Saint Gregory Palamas*

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn N.Y. 11229-1206 Tel: (718) 339-0280

Web site: [www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org](http://www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org) E-mail: [info@threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org](mailto:info@threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org)

## St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1. Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us. Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

## Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ α'. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς. Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὁσῖος.

Κατ' ἀρχάς, Κύριε, τὴν γῆν ἐθεμελίωσας, καὶ ἔργα τῶν χειρῶν σου εἰσιν οἱ οὐρανοί· αὐτοὶ ἀπολοῦνται, σὺ δὲ διαμένεις· καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμάτιον παλαιωθήσονται, καὶ ὡσεὶ περιβόλαιον ἐλίξεις αὐτούς, καὶ ἀλλαγήσονται· σὺ δὲ ὁ αὐτὸς εἶ, καὶ τὰ ἔτη σου οὐκ ἐκλείψουσιν. Πρὸς τίνα δὲ τῶν ἀγγέλων εἰρηκέν ποτε, Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου, ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; Οὐχὶ πάντες εἰσιν λειτουργικὰ πνεύματα, εἰς διακονίαν ἀποστελλόμενα διὰ τοὺς μέλλοντας κληρονομεῖν σωτηρίαν; Διὰ τοῦτο δεῖ περισσοτέρως ἡμᾶς προσέχειν τοῖς ἀκουσθεῖσιν, μήποτε παραρρῶμεν. Εἰ γὰρ ὁ δι' ἀγγέλων λαληθεὶς λόγος ἐγένετο βέβαιος, καὶ πᾶσα παράβασις καὶ παρακοή ἔλαβεν ἔνδικον μισθαποδοσίαν, πῶς ἡμεῖς ἐκφευξόμεθα τηλικαύτης ἀμελήσαντες σωτηρίας; Ἦτις, ἀρχὴν λαβοῦσα λαλεῖσθαι διὰ τοῦ κυρίου, ὑπὸ τῶν ἀκουσάντων εἰς ἡμᾶς ἐβεβαιώθη.

## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

### The Gospel of Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

### Κατὰ Μάρκον 2.1-12

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς εἰς Καπερναοὺμ δι' ἡμερῶν καὶ ἠκούσθη ὅτι εἰς οἶκόν ἐστι. καὶ εὐθέως συνήχθησαν πολλοί, ὥστε μηκέτι χωρεῖν μηδὲ τὰ πρὸς τὴν θύραν· καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον. καὶ ἔρχονται πρὸς αὐτὸν παραλυτικὸν φέροντες, αἰρόμενον ὑπὸ τεσσάρων· καὶ μὴ δυνάμενοι προσεγγίσει αὐτῷ διὰ τὸν ὄχλον, ἀπεστέγασαν τὴν στέγην ὅπου ἦν, καὶ ἐξορύξαντες χαλῶσι τὸν κράβαττον, ἐφ' ᾧ ὁ παραλυτικὸς κατέκειτο. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· τέκνον, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου. ἦσαν δὲ τινες τῶν γραμματέων ἐκεῖ καθημένοι καὶ διαλογιζόμενοι ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν· τί οὗτος οὕτω λαλεῖ βλασφημίας; τίς δύναται ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας εἰ μὴ εἷς ὁ Θεός; καὶ εὐθέως ἐπιγνοὺς ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῷ πνεύματι αὐτοῦ ὅτι οὕτως αὐτοὶ διαλογίζονται ἐν ἑαυτοῖς, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τί ταῦτα διαλογίζεσθε ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; τί ἐστιν εὐκοπώτερον, εἰπεῖν τῷ παραλυτικῷ, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι, ἢ εἰπεῖν, ἔγειρε καὶ ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ περιπάτει; ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀφιέναι ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἁμαρτίας - λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· σοὶ λέγω, ἔγειρε καὶ ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ ὑπάγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. καὶ ἠγέρθη εὐθέως, καὶ ἄρας τὸν κράβαττον ἐξῆλθεν ἐναντίον πάντων, ὥστε ἐξίστασθαι πάντας καὶ δοξάζειν τὸν Θεὸν λέγοντας ὅτι οὐδέποτε οὕτως εἶδομεν.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:**

Sunday,	March 16 <sup>th</sup>	SAINT GREGORY of PALAMAS	10:30 A.M.
Wednesday,	March 19 <sup>th</sup>	EVENING PRE-SANCTIFIED LITURGY	6:00 P.M.
Thursday,	March 20 <sup>th</sup>	THE 7 DEADLY SINS LECTURE	7:00 P.M.
(ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN CATHEDRAL-STATE STREET)			
Friday,	March 21 <sup>st</sup> ,	THIRD SALUTATIONS to the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	7:00 P.M.
Sunday,	March 23 <sup>rd</sup> ,	STAVRO-PROSKYNISIS (ELEVATION OF THE CROSS)	10:30 A.M.

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** is being hosted and served by the 'GOLDEN GREEKS' BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 ... IN ROSEHALL. Please see insert for all details. Come and share a PASTA FEAST for the LENTEN FAST!

**TODAY:** The GOLDEN GREEKS BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 will host the ANNUAL PASTA LUNCHEON directly after Divine Liturgy. Various 'pastas' will be presented for selection to eat as much as you wish. Salad, Bread, Wine, Beer and Soda. Coffee and dessert will top off the 'fund raiser'. Raffles and prizes will be offered. Tickets are donated at \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under ten years old. EVERY DOLLAR WILL SUBSIDIZE THE SUMMER TWO WEEK CAMPING TRIP of the young boys, HELP US HELP THEM!

**CONGRATULATIONS and SALUTATIONS** to the Honorees at the 2014 Brooklyn, Borough Hall HELLENIC HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY which will be hosted by the Borough President on Wednesday evening 6:00 P.M. March 26<sup>th</sup>. Four members from our Parish community are being cited with distinction as HELLENES of RENOWN in BROOKLYN: DENNIS and STEVE VOORDERIS, JOANNA VASSILAS, JIMMY KOKOTAS. More details are listed on the insert flyer. AZIOI! AXIOI! AXIOI!

**A.H.E.PA.** will host this year a GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY DINNER-DANCE open FREE to all in the Parish, on Monday evening March 24<sup>th</sup>, at WHITEHALL. The festive evening will highlight the ANNUNCIATION (EVANGELISMOS) FEAST of the Archangel Gabriel announcing to the Blessed Virgin Mary the conception by the Holy Spirit of the Messiah Christ child. The occasion also heralds the Greek struggle for freedom and independence from the 450 years of Ottoman TURKISH enslavement and oppression. ZHTO HELLADA! ZHTO TO ETHNOS! Please join us for the FREE DINNER and festivity of folk music and traditional national dances.

**GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE:** this year will be held on Sunday afternoon, March 30<sup>th</sup>, on FIFTH AVENUE (60<sup>TH</sup> Street to 80<sup>th</sup> Street) New York City starting at 1:30 P.M. It will be televised on New York Network W.P.I.X. Channel (LIVE). Buses will depart from Three Hierarchs Church at 12:30 P.M. for the parade route with a return trip at 4:00 P.M. If you wish to be on one of the buses (FREE RESERVED SEATING) please communicate with the Church Office TODAY! The PRESIDENTIAL GUARD ELITE 'EVZONES' from the Greek Republic will open the parade with GRAND MARSHALL US SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER (our neighborhood friend) leading the contingents from over 150 Hellenic groups in Metropolitan New York. BE THERE! BE PROUD! However, you must wear blue and white colors of ethnic identity.

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY** is collecting each Sunday your donations for the GOOD FRIDAY EPITAPHION 'FLOWERS'. .... please support this effort each week as a commemoration of the death and burial of the LORD. The ladies will be standing by the clergy at the distribution of ANTIDORON. Be prepared to GIVE. NO ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE!

**PASCHAL CARD APPEAL:** has begun with much enthusiasm. Please send in the form with your name for the TRIPTYCH ICON CARD greeting which will be posted to ONE THOUSAND HOMES for the Easter Holy Days. For an Easter donation of only \$20.00, your blessings will be extended to one and all. VISIT THE CHURCH OFFICE TODAY ... AFTER LITURGY AND SIGN ON!

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 14<sup>TH</sup> 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:** + EMMANUEL PERLEGIS -- + NICHOLAS COURTOS  
+ PETER KOKIS

## The 3<sup>rd</sup> PsychoSabbaton ( Saturday of Souls)



**Over 100 Offerings Of 'Kollyva' Boiled Sweet Spring Wheat Was Prepared For Commemoration Of The Faithfully Departed.**



**Vesper Of Sunday Of Orthodoxy Celebration And The  
Restoration Of The Holy Icons.**

**Archon Bill Theodosakis Among 50 Parish Leaders Carried The Sacred Image Of St. Basil For Presentation  
To The Sanctuary. This Is The Faith Of Our Father.**



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Κ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 950<sup>2</sup>

Κυριακὴ Β' Νηστειῶν (Μάρκ. 2,1-12)  
16 Μαρτίου 2014 (2003)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ

«Καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον» (Μάρκ. 2,2)

**Ἀ**κούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιό Εὐαγγέλιο. Διηγεῖται, πῶς ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς θεράπευσε ἓνα παραλυτικό. Ἄλλ' ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸ θαῦμα αὐτό, τὰ ἄλλα θαύματα ποῦ ἀναφέρει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, καὶ ὅσα ἔκαναν καὶ κάνουν ἡ ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκος καὶ οἱ ἅγιοι, ὑπάρχουν κι ἄλλα **θαύματα**, θαύματα ἀόρατα. Καὶ ἐκεῖνα εἶνε πολὺ ἀνώτερα. Ποιὰ εἶν' αὐτά;

**Ἄορατα θαύματα.** Ὅταν ἀκούγεται κήρυγμα καὶ κάποια ἐσωτερικὴ ἀλλοίωσι συντελεῖται σὲ μιὰ καρδιά, αὐτὸ δὲν εἶνε ἓνα ἀόρατο θαῦμα, ποῦ γίνεται διὰ τῆς ἐνεργείας τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος; Ἡ ὅταν ὁ ἁμαρτωλὸς πηγαίνει στὸν πνευματικὸ καὶ ἐξομολογῆται τὰ ἁμαρτήματά του εἰλικρινῶς, κι ἀνοίγουν οἱ οὐρανοὶ κι ἀκούγεται ἡ φωνὴ «*Τέκνον, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου*»; (Μάρκ. 2,5 βλ. καὶ Ματθ. 9,2), δὲν εἶνε κι αὐτὸ ἓνα ἀόρατο θαῦμα; Ἡ, ἀκόμη μεγαλύτερο, ὅταν τὴν ὥρα τῆς θείας λειτουργίας ἀκοῦμε «*Τὰ σὰ ἐκ τῶν σῶν...*», καὶ πάνω στὴν ἀγία τράπεζα τὸ ψωμὶ γίνεται σῶμα καὶ τὸ κρασί γίνεται αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας, δὲν εἶνε αὐτὸ ἓνα ἀόρατο θαῦμα; Ὡστε λοιπὸν ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὰ ὄρατά, ποῦ εἶνε λίγα, ὑπάρχουν κι ἄλλα πολλὰ ἀόρατα θαύματα.

Δὲν θὰ σᾶς μιλήσω γιὰ τὸ ὄρατο θαῦμα τῆς θεραπείας τοῦ παραλυτικοῦ. Θὰ σᾶς πῶ γιὰ τὸ ἀόρατο ἐκεῖνο θαῦμα ποῦ συντελεῖται μέσα στὶς καρδιὲς ἀπὸ τὴν **ἀκρόασι τοῦ θείου λόγου**. Ἄλλωστε τὸ εὐαγγέλιο μᾶς δίνει ἀφορμὴ καὶ γι' αὐτό. Διότι ποῦ ἔκανε τὸ ὄρατο θαῦμα ὁ Κύριός μας; Μέσα στὸ σπίτι. Καὶ τί ἔκανε ἐκεῖ πρὶν κἀνὴ τὸ θαῦμα; Ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς Μάρκος λέει: «*Καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον*» (Μάρκ. 2,2), ἐκήρυττε τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Κυρίου μας, ἀδελφοί μου, δὲν εἶνε ὅπως ὁ λόγος τῶν φιλοσόφων, τῶν ῥητόρων, τῶν κοσμικῶν ἀνθρώπων. Ὁ λόγος τοῦ

Κυρίου **ἔχει χάρι καὶ ἔλεξι, προκαλεῖ θεῖο ῥήγος, παλμὸ αἰωνιότητος**. Εἶνε μαγνήτης. Ἀπόδειξις ὅτι, μόλις ὁ λαὸς τῆς Καπερναοῦμ ἄκουσε ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε σὲ κάποιο σπίτι, ἀμέσως συγκεντρώθηκαν ἐκεῖ πλήθη. Διψοῦσαν γιὰ τὴν ἀλήθεια. Καὶ γέμισε, λέει, τὸ σπίτι μέχρι καὶ τὸ προαύλιο. Βελόνα νὰ ἔρριχνες, δὲν ἔπεφτε κάτω. Ὅλοι κρέμονταν ἀπὸ τὰ χεῖλη τοῦ Θεανθρώπου.

\*\*\*

«*Καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον*». Ὁ Χριστὸς εἶχε τὴ **διδασκαλία ὡς κύριο ἔργο**. Ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ποῦ ἐξῆλθε στὸν δημόσιο βίον μέχρι τὸ τέλος τὸ κήρυγμα ἦταν ἡ κυρία ἀποστολὴ του.

«*Καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον*». Μιλοῦσε στὰ σπίτια, ὅπως βλέπουμε σήμερα. Μιλοῦσε στὰ προπύλαια τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ Σολομῶντος, στὶς πλατεῖες καὶ τοὺς δρόμους, στὴν ἔρημο, στὰ ἀκρογιάλια. Μίλησε κάποτε καὶ παρὰ τὸ φρέαρ Συχάρ μετὰ τὴν ἁμαρτωλὴ Σαμαρείτιδα.

**Ὁ Χριστὸς μιλοῦσε παντοῦ.** Κάθε τόπος ποῦ στεκόταν, γινόταν βῆμα καὶ ἄμβωνας. Κι αὐτὸς ἀκόμη ὁ σταυρὸς, ὅπου τὸν ὕψωσαν, ἐγίνε παγκόσμιος ἄμβωνας, κι ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ εἶπε τοὺς ἑπτὰ ἐκείνους λόγους τοῦ σταυροῦ, ποῦ ἔχουν βάθος ἀνεξιχνίαστο.

«*Καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον*». Ὅχι δὲ μόνο ὁ ἴδιος, ἀλλὰ καὶ στοὺς **μαθητάς** του ὡς κυρία ἀποστολὴ ὤρισε τὸ κήρυγμα. Τί τοὺς εἶπε: «*Πορευθέντες εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἅπαντα κηρύξατε τὸ εὐαγγέλιον πάσῃ τῇ κτίσει*» (Μάρκ. 16,15), «*διδάσκοντες αὐτοὺς τηρεῖν πάντα ὅσα ἐνετειλάμην ὑμῖν*» (Ματθ. 28,20). Αὐτὴ ἦταν ἡ ἀποστολὴ τους, καὶ τὴν ἐξετέλεσαν.

Ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ **διδάσκαλοι καὶ πατέρες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας** κύριο ἔργο εἶχαν τὸν θεῖο λόγο. Δὲν δίδασκαν μόνο τὶς Κυριακὰς καὶ τὶς μεγάλες ἑορτές· δίδασκαν καθημερινῶς. Ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος δίδασκε δύο φορὲς τὴν ἡμέρα, τὸ

πρωί και τὸ βράδυ, ὅταν ἐρμήνευε τὴν Ἐξαήμερο. Καὶ ὁ ἅγιος Γρηγόριος Θεσσαλονίκης ὁ Παλαμᾶς, ποὺ ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα, ἦταν φίλος τοῦ κηρύγματος καὶ τῆς διδασκαλίας.

**Γιατί,** θὰ πῆτε, ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἀποδίδουν **τόση σημασία** στὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ;

Ἀπαντᾷ τὸ πρῶτο (Α') κεφάλαιο τῆς ἁγίας Γραφῆς, ἡ ἀρχὴ τοῦ βιβλίου τῆς Γενέσεως. Ἐκεῖ βλέπουμε, ὅτι **ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ δημιουργεῖ**. "Ὁλη ἡ δημιουργία ἐγένε δι' αὐτοῦ. «*Αὐτὸς εἶπε, καὶ ἐγενήθησαν, αὐτὸς ἐνετείλατο, καὶ ἐκτίσθησαν*» (Ψαλμ. 148,5). «*Γενηθήτω φῶς· καὶ ἐγένετο φῶς*» (Ἰν. 1,3). Καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἡ κορυφὴ τῆς δημιουργίας, βγήκε ἀπὸ τὸ θεῖο ἐργαστήριον διὰ τοῦ λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ: «*Ποιήσωμεν ἄνθρωπον...*» (Ἰ. 1,26). «*Ἀρχὴ μοι καὶ ὑπόστασις τὸ πλαστοργόν σου γέγονε πρόσταγμα...*» (Περ. ἰοκλ.)· ἀρχὴ τῆς δημιουργίας μου, λέει, ἐγένε τὸ πρόσταγμά σου, ὁ λόγος σου. Αὐτὸς εἶπε, καὶ γεννηθήκαμε· αὐτὸς θὰ πῆ, καὶ θὰ πεθάνουμε.

**Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ θεραπεύει.** Στὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιον ὁ παράλυτος θεραπεύθηκε ὄχι μὲ φάρμακα, δῖαιτες, κλινικὲς κ.λπ., ἀλλὰ μὲ τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ: «*Ἐγειρε καὶ ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ ὑπάγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου*» (Μάρκ. 2,11). Γιά φανταστῆτε· ὅπως γυρίζεις τὸ διακόπτη κι ἀνάβεις φῶς, μὲ τόση κι ἀκόμη μεγαλύτερη εὐκολία ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε καὶ θεραπεύθηκε.

Μὲ τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ λοιπὸν γίνονται τὰ πάντα. Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ δημιουργεῖ, **ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ φωτίζει**. Ἀπόδειξις, ὅτι ἄνθρωποι ποὺ εἶχαν ἄγνοια καὶ ζοῦσαν στὸ σκοτάδι τῆς εἰδωλολατρίας, μόλις ἄκουσαν τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὑπέστησαν μιὰ ὑπερφυσικὴ ἀλλοίωσι. Τὸ μυαλό τους φωτίστηκε, ἡ καρδιά τους θερμάνθηκε, ἡ θέλησί τους γαλβανίστηκε. Μετεβλήθησαν ριζικῶς. Ἦταν λύκοι κ' ἐγιναν ἀρνιά, ἦταν κοράκια κ' ἐγιναν περιστέρια, ἦταν κάρβουνα κ' ἐγιναν διαμάντια. Δὲν εἶνε λόγια αὐτά. Διαβάστε τοὺς βίους τῶν ἁγίων, νὰ τὸ δῆτε. Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ εἶνε φῶς. «*...Διότι φῶς τὰ προστάγματά σου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς*», λέει ὁ προφήτης Ἡσαΐας (Ἠσ. 26,9).

Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ δημιουργεῖ, ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ φωτίζει, **ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀφυπνίζει**. Ὅπως στὸ σπίτι βάζεις ξυπνητήρι καὶ ξυπνᾶς, ὅσο βαθειὰ κι ἂν κοιμᾶσαι, γιατί ἔχεις ἐργασία, καὶ ὅπως στὸ στρατὸ ἡ σάλπιγγα σημαίνει ἐγερτήριο, ἔτσι μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία ξυπνητήρι καὶ σάλπιγγα εἶνε ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ κρατεῖ σὲ ἐγρήγοροι καὶ ὀπλίζει μὲ τὴ ρομφαία τοῦ πνεύματος τοὺς μαχητὰς τῆς Ἐκκλησίας—ὅπως ἦταν οἱ πατέρες—, νὰ νὰ καταδιώξουν τίς αἰρέσεις.

Ἀφαιρέστε, ἀδελφοί μου, ἀπὸ τὴν Ἐκκλησία τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ, κατεβάστε ἀπὸ τὸν ἄμβωνα τοὺς κήρυκες, καὶ τότε τί θὰ συμβῆ; Ὅ,τι καὶ στὸ μαντρί, ὅταν λείψουν τὰ σκυλιά. Ποιμενικὰ σκυλιά τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ποὺ γαυγίζουν καὶ διώχνουν τοὺς λύκους τῶν αἰρέσεων, εἶνε οἱ κήρυκες. Ἀλλοίμονο στὸ μαντρί ἂν λείψουν τὰ σκυλιά, κι **ἀλλοίμονο στὴν Ἐκκλησία ἂν στερεῖται** τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ.

\*\*\*

Ἴδού τί σημασία ἔχει ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Γι' αὐτὸ οἱ ἱερεῖς, οἱ ἐπίσκοποι, οἱ θεολόγοι, οἱ ἱεροκήρυκες, **ἔχουν χρέος νὰ κηρύττουν**.

Ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ Χριστιανοὶ ἔχουν χρέος ν' ἀγαποῦν τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ. **Ὁ ἀληθινὸς Χριστιανός,** λέει ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος, πρέπει νὰ ἔχη πολλὰ προσόντα. Πρέπει νὰ ἔνε πᾶρος, ὑπομονετικὸς, ἀνδρεῖος καὶ γενναῖος, εὐσπλαχνος καὶ ἐλεήμων, φιλαλήθης, ἄνθρωπος αὐταπαρνήσεως. Πρέπει... Δεκαπέντε πρέπει, δεκαπέντε προσόντα, ἀριθμεῖ ὁ Μέγας Βασίλειος σὲ μιὰ θαυμάσια ὁμιλία γιὰ τὸ ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ πραγματικὸς Χριστιανός. Πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα ὅμως, τὸ γνώρισμα τοῦ ἀληθινοῦ Χριστιανοῦ εἶνε, **ν' ἀγαπᾷ τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ**.

Δεῖτε μου ἓναν ἄντρα ἢ μιὰ γυναῖκα, ποὺ ἀγαπᾷ κι ἀκούει τὸ λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ· γι' αὐτοὺς δὲν ἀμφιβάλλω. Ἄνθρωπος ποὺ ἀρέσκεται νὰ διαβάζη Εὐαγγέλιον, ποὺ θεωρεῖ πνευματικὴ ἀπόλαυσι νὰ τρέχη στὸ κήρυγμα—«*Ὡς γλυκέα τῷ λάρυγγί μου τὰ λόγια σου, ὑπὲρ μέλι τῷ στόματί μου*» (Ψαλμ. 118,103)—, αὐτὸς δὲν μπορεῖ παρά θὰ βαδίση τὸ δρόμο τῆς ἀρετῆς. Ὅταν πάλι δῆτε ἄνθρωπο νὰ μὴν ἀνοίγη Εὐαγγέλιον, νὰ μὴ θέλῃ ν' ἀκούσῃ λόγο Θεοῦ καὶ μόλις παρουσιάζεται ὁ κήρυκας τοῦ εὐαγγελίου αὐτὸς νὰ φεύγῃ ἀπὸ τὴν Ἐκκλησία, αὐτὸς δὲν ἀγαπάει τὸ Θεό. Διότι **ὁποῖος ἀγαπάει τὸ Θεό, ἀγαπάει καὶ τὰ λόγια του**.

Ἀδελφοί μου! Ὅταν κάποιος δὲν ἔχη ὄρεξι γιὰ φαγητό, αὐτὸ σημαίνει ὅτι δὲν εἶνε γιὰ ζωὴ, καὶ τὸν κλαίει τὸ σπίτι του. Ἔτσι καὶ στὰ πνευματικά. Ἄρτος, μάννα οὐράνιον, εἶνε ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ. **Χριστιανὸς ποὺ δὲν ἔχει ὄρεξι γιὰ λόγο Θεοῦ,** τὸν ἄρτο τῶν ἀγγέλων «*ὧ τρέφονται ψυχαὶ Θεὸν πεινῶσαι*», αὐτὸς εἶνε **γιὰ φέρετρο, γιὰ τὸν ἄδη, γιὰ τὴν κόλασι**.

Γι' αὐτὸ **ἀγαπᾶτε, ἀκοῦτε καὶ μελετᾶτε** τὸν λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἔτσι θὰ αὐξάνῃ ἡ Ἐκκλησία καὶ θὰ δοξάζεται ὁ Χριστὸς μαζί μὲ τὸν Πατέρα καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον, εἰς αἰῶνας αἰώνων.

(†) **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**

### *Rejoice - a Sinner Repents!*

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them he addressed this parable.

"What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.' I

tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance."

"Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, 'Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.' In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

*Luke 15: 1-10*

**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](http://www.threehierarchs.ny.goarch.org)