



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

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THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 4th , 2014

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

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Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Prokeimenon. Mode 2. Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song. Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

IN THOSE DAYS, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Πράξεις Αποστόλων 6:1-7

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος β΄. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος. Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἄρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἐπτά, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσομεν. Καὶ ἤρρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικάνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠύξανεν, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Gospel of Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

Κατὰ Μάρκον 15.43-47, 16.1

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτῆς, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ἠτήσατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἤδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλαι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυρίωνος ἐδώρησατο τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδόνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία Ἰωσὴ ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμῃ ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. καὶ λίαν πρῶτὴ τῆς μιᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιῶις, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητῶνα τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε εἶπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP is being hosted today by **A.H.E.P.A.** Chapter #200 Coney Island. Please join us in **WHITEHALL** 'for coffee and sweets as we continue the Paschal celebration with joy!

TODAY: we honor the **MYRRH BEARING WOMEN**, Saints, Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, Salome and Ioanna who went to the tomb very early on the first day of the week (**SUNDAY**) to anoint the body of Jesus However they found the tomb (sepulcher) empty except for two angels in dazzling white raiment who declared, '**HE IS RISEN AS HE FORETOLD YOU**' !

TODAY CHURCHING : today we are honored to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church '**DIMITRI NICHOLAS**' newborn son of Peter and Matia Kruczko. **NA SAS ZESE:**

TODAY: by anticipation we celebrate the **FEAST** of **SAINT EPHRAIM** (MAY 05) with an artoklasia in his honor for prayers fulfilled. The Icon of Saint Ephraim is enshrined in the narthex of the church.

Protocol Liturgical Notes:

1. Our salutations for the next 40 days will be **CHRISTOS ANESTI !** followed by **ALITHOS ANESTI !** rather than the secular cosmic greetings of ' good morning ' or ' good bye ' . This general reminder of the reason for the season will continue until **ASCENSION THURSDAY MAY 29th**. Which coincidentally falls on the same calendar date as the **FALL of CONSTANTINOPLE** (MAY 29, 1453) and the end of the **HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE** in **CONSTANTINOPLE**.

2. During the **RESURRECTIONAL SEASON** until **PENTECOST (FIFTY DAYS AFTER PASCHA)** Sunday, June 08th, we are not obliged to kneel at the Divine Liturgy ' consecration ' as we traditionally observe. Kneeling resumes on Pentecost Sunday, resolving the conclusion of the Paschal period.

WOMAN of the YEAR 2014 selection committee will convene in secret conclave to select the next honoree from our female parishioners, on Thursday evening **MAY 01**, at 7:30 P.M. in room # 104 of the school building. Twenty women will represent all the service, fraternal and philanthropic , and youth organizations in making this selection from criteria standards. The award will be presented on **MOTHERS' DAY MAY 11th**.

SENIOR CLUB: Invites all Senior Citizens to join them in their **WEDNESDAY** afternoon gatherings from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M for lunches, trips, activities, theater, coffee and sweets, guest lecturers and **BINGO !** Come on down, you are most welcomed!

MR, MRS, and MS. Club ask you to mark your calendar **NOW** and **NOT** miss their annual **PASCHAL DINNER** on **MAY 13th**, AT 7:00 P.M. in **WHITEHALL**. It's a Grecian Easter with all the traditions and trimmings.

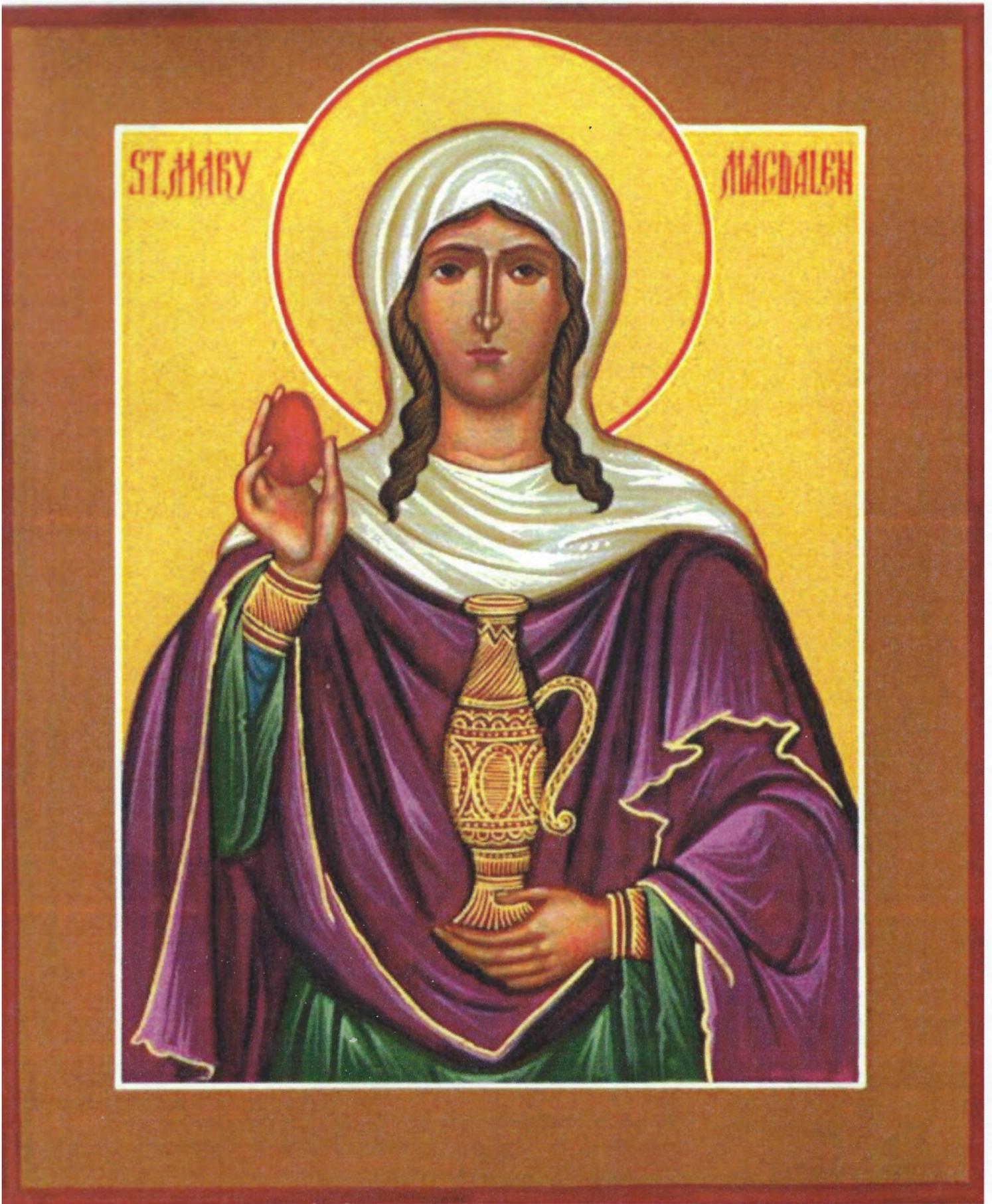
NEXT SUNDAY: is Mothers' Day National Observance. We shall honor **THE WOMAN of the YEAR 2014** with our traditional acknowledgements at the altar. The representative committee of 20 women representing the various philanthropic, social, service, youth and fraternal organizations (20) in our Parish will make the secret ballot nomination and choice. Who could it be.....!!!!?

A.H.E.P.A. Brooklyn Chapter #41 will host the **ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT FRIDAY, MAY 09th** , at the **DYKER BEACH GOLF COURSE** starting at 11:30 A.M. with brunch. The day in the sun will end with an awards dinner reception at 5:30 P.M. Father Eugene will be present to offer the invocation.

CONGRATULATIONS: to our sister parish of **HOLY CROSS, (BAYRIDGE)** who celebrates the **FIFTIETH JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY (50)** of the founding of the community. A formal dinner dance reception will be hosted at **TERRACE** on the **PARK CATERERS** in **Queens on Saturday, May 10th, at 7:00 P.M.** **Father Eugene and President of Parish Council, J. Vassilas** will represent the **Three Hierarchs Church** community at the event.

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! + **GEORGIA VEROUTIS** +**ZABETA PERTAS**, + **ALEXANDRA FILIOS**
+ **STAMATIS HANDJIMANOLIS** and + **OLGA** & + **SVETESLAV RUMIANTSOVA**
MEMORIAI NEXT WEEK: + **CHRISTOS VELLIOS**



Saint Mary Magdalene, May 04th ,
Friend of Jesus and myrrh – bearer.



Saint Ephraim May 05th
Martyr and Miracle Worker



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΑ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1844

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἡ μαρτυρία τῆς ἀληθείας

«Ἐγὼ εἰς τοῦτο γεγέννημαι καὶ εἰς τοῦτο ἐλήλυθα εἰς τὸν κόσμον, ἵνα μαρτυρήσω τῇ ἀληθείᾳ. Πᾶς ὁ ὢν ἐκ τῆς ἀληθείας ἀκούει μου τῆς φωνῆς» (Ἰω. 18,37)

Χαρακτηριστικὸ γνῶρισμα, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε τὸ ἐξῆς· **ἡ ἀλήθεια διαιρεῖ τὸν κόσμον σὲ δύο ἀντίθετα στρατόπεδα**· ἄλλοι τάσσονται ὑπὲρ τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ ἄλλοι κατὰ τῆς ἀληθείας.

Ὅσοι ἀγαποῦν τὸ φῶς ἐλκύονται ἀπὸ τὴν ἀλήθεια, ποὺ τὴν ἐκτιμοῦν καὶ τὴ θεωροῦν ὡς τὸ πολυτιμότερο ἀπόκτημα τῆς υπάρξεώς τους. Γιὰ χάρι τῆς εἶνε ἔτοιμοι νὰ κακοπαθήσουν, ἀκόμα καὶ νὰ μαρτυρήσουν. Αὐτοὶ προτιμοῦν νὰ ὑποστοῦν τὰ πάνδενα, μέχρι καὶ νὰ σταυρωθοῦν γυμνοὶ μαζὶ μὲ τὸν Χριστό, παρὰ νὰ θυσιάσουν ἔστω καὶ ἓνα μόριο ἀπὸ τὴν ἀλήθεια γιὰ νὰ βασιλεύσουν μαζὶ μὲ τὸν διάβολο καὶ νὰ κυριαρχήσουν πάνω στὰ πέρατα τῆς γῆς· γιὰ **τὴν ἀλήθεια ἀξίζει κάθε κόπος, κάθε θυσία**.

Ὅσοι ὁμως ἀγαποῦν τὸ σκοτάδι, ὅσοι σὰν νυκτόβια πουλιὰ ἀρέσκονται νὰ κυλιῶνται μέσα στὰ ἐρέβη τῆς πλάνης, αὐτοὶ μισοῦν θανάσιμα τὴν ἀλήθεια· γιὰ **ἡ ἀλήθεια εἶνε φῶς, εἶνε κρυστάλλινος καθρέφτης** ποὺ δείχνει τὶς ἠθικὰς ἀσχημίες, καὶ οἱ κακοὶ δὲν ἀνέχονται τὶς ὑποδείξεις τῆς. Προτιμοῦν νὰ σπάσουν αὐτὸ τὸν καθρέφτη, ποὺ ἔχει τὸ θάρρος νὰ δείξη τὴν ἀπαίσια μορφή τῆς κακίας, παρὰ νὰ διορθώσουν τὸν ἑαυτὸ τους. Μιμοῦνται σ' αὐτὸ τὴν αἰσχυρὴ ἐκεῖνη γυναῖκα τῆς ἀρχαιότητος, τὴν Λαῖδα, γιὰ τὴν ὁποία λένε ὅτι, ὅταν πέρασαν τὰ χρόνια καὶ διέκρινε τὶς πρῶτες ρυτίδες τοῦ γήρατος ν' αὐλα-

κόνουν τὸ ἄλλοτε γυαλιστερὸ μέτωπό τῆς, ἄρπαξε τὸν καθρέφτη, ποὺ τόλμησε νὰ τὴν παρουσιάσῃ ὅπως εἶνε, καὶ τὸν ἔσπασε σὲ μύρια κομμάτια.

Ἡ ἀλήθεια γίνεται δυσάρεστη στοὺς κακοὺς καὶ ἐπισύρει διωγμό.

Ὅσοι, ἀγαπητοί μου, θέλουν νὰ δοῦν τὸ δράμα τῆς ἀληθείας, πῶς διώκεται ἀπὸ τὶς λεγεῶνες τῆς κακίας καὶ τοῦ ψεύδους, ἀλλὰ καὶ πῶς στὸ τέλος νικᾷ ὁλόκληρο τὸν κόσμο τῶν σκοτεινῶν δυνάμεων τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, ἄς σταθοῦν σήμερα κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ σταυρό. Ὅσοι παραγκωνίσθηκαν, ὅσοι διώχθηκαν καὶ διώκονται ἀκόμη ἔνεκεν δικαιοσύνης καὶ ἀληθείας, ὅσοι ἤπιαν πικρὰ ποτήρια ὑποστηρίζοντας τὴν ἀλήθεια, ἄς παρηγορηθοῦν τώρα. Ὅσοι θέλουν νὰ συνεχίσουν τοὺς εὐγενεῖς ἀγῶνες τοὺς κρατώντας ψηλά, μέσα σ' ἓνα δάσος ἀπὸ σταυρούς, τὸ λάβαρο τῆς χριστιανικῆς πίστεώς τους, ἄς ἀτενίζουν πάντοτε μὲ κατάνυξι τὸν **ἐσταυρωμένο Λυτρωτή**.

Διότι ὁ Ἰησοῦς μας, τοῦ ὁποίου προσκυνοῦμε τὰ σεπτὰ πάθη, ὑπῆρξε ὁ κήρυκας τῶν ὑψηλοτέρων ἀληθειῶν ποὺ ἀκούστηκαν ποτὲ πάνω στὸ πρόσωπο τῆς γῆς, εἶνε ἡ ἐνσάρκωσις τῆς ἀληθείας, αὐτὴ ἡ ἴδια ἡ **Ἀλήθεια** ποὺ ἀξίζει νὰ γράφεται μὲ ἄλφα κεφαλαῖο. Ποτὲ ἄλλοτε ἡ ἀλήθεια δὲν κηρύχθηκε μὲ τόση πρωτοτυπία, μὲ τόση ζωρότητα, μὲ τόση σαφήνεια, μὲ τόση σοφία καὶ αὐθεντία, ὅπως

κηρύχθηκε από τον Χριστό. Ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός ἦταν ὁ μόνος πού εἶχε τὸ θάρρος, μέσα σὲ μιὰ γενεὰ πού λέει ψέματα σὲ κάθε δευτερόλεπτο, νὰ βροντοφωνήσῃ ἐκεῖνο τὸ αἰώνιο «**Ἐγὼ εἶμι ἡ ἀλήθεια**», ἐγὼ εἶμαι ἡ ἀλήθεια (Ἰω. 14,6). Καὶ μπροστὰ στοὺς δικαστὰς του καὶ ἐν ὄψει τῶν πιὸ τρομερῶν κινδύνων πού τὸν περίμεναν, δὲν ἔκανε καμμία ὑποχώρησι ἀπὸ τίς ἀρχές του, κανέναν ἐλιγμό, καμμία προσπάθεια νὰ διασωθῇ, ἀλλὰ ὀρθὸς καὶ εὐθυτενής, αὐτὸς ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν μαρτύρων τῆς ἀληθείας ὄλων τῶν γενεῶν, διεκήρυξε μὲ ἄφθαστη παρρησία: «**Ἐγὼ εἰς τοῦτο γενένημαι καὶ εἰς τοῦτο ἐλήλυθα εἰς τὸν κόσμον, ἵνα μαρτυρήσω τῇ ἀληθείᾳ**»· ἐγὼ γι' αὐτὸ γεννήθηκα καὶ γι' αὐτὸ ἦρθα στὸν κόσμον, γιὰ νὰ δώσω μαρτυρία γιὰ τὴν ἀλήθεια, γιὰ νὰ κηρύξω τὴν ἀλήθεια (Ἰω. 18,37).

Καὶ ἔδωσε μαρτυρία γιὰ τὴν ἀλήθεια. Ἐπὶ μιὰ τριετία ὀλόκληρη στὶς παραλίες τῆς λίμνης Τιβεριάδος, στὰ δρομάκια καὶ τίς πλατεῖες, στὰ σπίτια καὶ τίς συναγωγές, στὶς πόλεις, ἀλλὰ καὶ στὸ μικρότερο χωριό, στὶς μᾶζες ἀλλὰ καὶ στὰ ἄτομα, στοὺς φτωχοὺς ἀλλὰ καὶ στοὺς πλουσίους, παντοῦ καὶ σὲ ὄλους, **ἐλάλησε τὴν ἀλήθεια**.

Ἡ διδασκαλία του **στηλίτευσε** τὸ ψέμα, καυτηρίασε τίς κακίες καὶ τὰ ἐλαττώματα, χτύπησε τίς αἰωνόβιες προλήψεις καὶ δεισιδαιμονίες, ἐκσφενδόνισε μύδρους –τὰ τρομερὰ «*οὐαί*» (Ματθ. κεφ. 23ο)– κατὰ τῶν ἀναξίων ἐκπροσώπων τῆς θρησκείας, ὑπέδειξε τὴν «*στενὴν πύλην*» καὶ τὴν «*τεθλιμμένην ὁδὸν*» τοῦ καθήκοντος (ἐ.δ. 7,14), συνένταξε μὲ τὴν περίφημη Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους ὁμιλία του τὸν αἰώνιο χάρτη τῶν δικαιωμάτων ἀλλὰ καὶ τῶν καθηκόντων τῶν ἀνθρώπων κάθε γενεᾶς καὶ ἐποχῆς, καὶ ἴδρυσε ἐπάνω στὴ γῆ τὴν ἰδεώδη πολιτεία, τὴ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὴν Ἐκκλησία του.

Ἀλλὰ ἕνας κόσμος ὀλόκληρος, πού τὰ ἄνομα συμφέροντά του ἐπλήττοντο, συνωμότησε ἐναντίον τῆς ἀληθείας. Καὶ σήμερα βλέπουμε ὅτι ἡ Ἀλήθεια - ὁ Χριστὸς ὠδηγήθηκε ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς στὸ Γολγοθᾶ καὶ ὑψώθηκε στὸ σταυρό. Γύρω ὅμως ἀπὸ τὸν σταυρὸ του δόθηκε ἡ μεγαλύτερη μάχη, ἡ μάχη μεταξὺ τοῦ ψεύδους καὶ τῆς ἀληθείας, τοῦ σκότους καὶ

τοῦ φωτός. Καὶ ὁ **Γολγοθᾶς ἐγένετο τὸ Βατερλώ τοῦ σατανᾶ, ὁ θρίαμβος τοῦ Χριστοῦ**.

* * *

Ἀδελφοί μου: **τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Θεανθρώπου δὲν χύθηκε ματαίως**. Τὸ αἷμα αὐτὸ καὶ σήμερα καὶ πάντοτε θὰ ἐξαγνίξῃ τὸν κόσμον ἀπὸ τίς ἁμαρτίες του. Γύρω ἀπὸ τὸ σταυρὸ, ἐπάνω στὸν ὁποῖο μαρτύρησε ὁ μέγας Μάρτυρας τῆς ἀληθείας, σὲ κάθε γενεὰ καὶ σὲ κάθε ἐποχὴ θὰ ὑπάρχουν ψυχὲς εὐγενεῖς, οἱ ὁποῖες μὲ ἱερὴ συγκίνησι καὶ ἱερὸ ῥίγος θὰ παρακολουθοῦν τὸ θεῖο δρᾶμα, τὸ ὁποῖο καὶ μέχρι σήμερα συνεχίζεται.

Συνεχίζεται στὸ πρόσωπο κάθε πιστοῦ δούλου τοῦ Ἐσταυρωμένου, σὲ κάθε ψυχὴ πού ἀκολουθεῖ τὰ ἴχνη του. Οἱ ψυχὲς αὐτὲς δὲν ἀπελπίζονται, ἔστω καὶ ἂν ἀποτελοῦν μιὰ μειονότητα, ἔστω καὶ ἂν ἀκοῦνε ἀπὸ παντοῦ τὸ «*Σταύρωσον σταύρωσον αὐτόν*» (Λουκ. 23,21, Ἰω. 19,6). Διότι κάθε ἀδικία πού γίνεται ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ εἶνε καὶ μιὰ νέα καταδίκη τοῦ Ἰησοῦ εἰς θάνατον. Δὲν πτοοῦμεθα ἐμεῖς, ὅσοι πιστεύουμε στὸν Χριστό. Γνωρίζουμε ὅτι ἡ νίκη θὰ εἶνε δική μας. Τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ δὲν χύθηκε ματαίως. **Αὐτὸ θὰ θριαμβεύσῃ στὰ πέρατα τοῦ κόσμου**. Καὶ ἂν σήμερα τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ ὀλέθρου ἐξαπέλυσε τὴν τρομερὴ καταιγίδα του ἐπάνω στὴ γῆ, καὶ ἂν οἱ ἄνθρωποι τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου κατὰ 95% ζοῦν ἀντιχριστιανικὴ ζωὴ καὶ ἐξακολουθοῦν νὰ σταυρώνουν στὴν καθημερινὴ ἰδιωτικὴ καὶ δημοσίᾳ ζωὴ τὸν γλυκύτατο Ναζωραῖο, δὲν ὑπάρχει κανένας φόβος, κανένας δισταγμὸς, καμμία ἀπογοήτευσις! Τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ **θὰ ζωογονήσῃ καὶ πάλι τὴ μαρμαμένη συνείδησι τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος**.

Τὸ μέλλον –ὀ,τιδὴποτε καὶ ἐὰν συμβῇ– ἀνήκει στὸν Ἰησοῦν, σ' ἐκεῖνον πού μὲ τὴν ἀσύγκριτη διδασκαλία του, μὲ τὸ ὑπέροχο παράδειγμά του, μὲ τὴν ὑπερτάτη θυσία του ὑπὲρ τῶν αἰωνίων συμφερόντων τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, κατέκτησε δικαίως τὸν τίτλο τοῦ **μοναδικοῦ ὁδηγοῦ τοῦ κόσμου σὲ καλύτερες ἡμέρες**. Ποιὸς δὲν θὰ τὸν λατρεύσῃ; Μόνον χυδαῖες ψυχὲς δὲν μποροῦν νὰ ἀγαπήσουν τὸν Ἰησοῦν, ὁ ὁποῖος ἦταν, εἶνε καὶ θὰ εἶνε πάντοτε «*ἡ ὁδὸς καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια καὶ ἡ ζωὴ*» (Ἰω. 14,6).

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος**

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

I Am the Christ

In the cross He showed us how we are
to bear suffering, in His resurrection He
showed us what we are to hope for.

St. Augustine of Hippo

But He rose from the dead
and mounted up the heights of heaven
when the Lord had clothed Himself with
humanity
and had suffered for the sake of the suf-
ferer
and had been bound for the sake of the
imprisoned
and had been judged for the sake of the
condemned
and buried for the sake of the one who
was buried

He rose up from the dead
and cried with a loud voice:
Who is he that contends with me?
Let him stand in opposition to me.
I set the condemned man free
I gave the dead man life
I raised up the one who had been en-
tombbed
who is my opponent?
I, He says, am the Christ
I am the one who has destroyed death
and triumphed over the enemy
and trampled Hades underfoot
and bound the strong one
and carried off man to the heights of
heaven.
I, He says, am the Christ.

St. Melito of Sardis

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