



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY
THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN November 9th , 2014
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Healing of Jarius' Daughter

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

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.

BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 6:11-18

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ α΄. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσεις ἡμᾶς. Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὁσὸς.

Ἀδελφοί, ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ. Ὅσοι θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί, οὗτοι ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται. Οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτετμημένοι αὐτοὶ νόμον φυλάσσουν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρᾳ σαρκὶ καυχῶσιν. Ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος ἐσταύρωται, κἀγὼ τῷ κόσμῳ. Ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι ἰσχύει, οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ κτίσις. Καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ στοιχῆσουσιν, εἰρήνην ἐπ' αὐτούς, καὶ ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ θεοῦ. Τοῦ λοιποῦ, κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου βαστάζω. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί. Ἀμήν.

7th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel of Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

7th Sunday of Luke

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8.41-56

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ ᾧ ὄνομα Ἰαῖρος, καὶ ἰδοὺ ἦλθεν ἀνὴρ ᾧ ὄνομα Ἰάειρος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἄρχων τῆς συναγωγῆς ὑπῆρχε· καὶ πεσὼν παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ, ὅτι θυγάτηρ μονογενῆς ἦν αὐτῷ ὡς ἐτῶν δώδεκα, καὶ αὕτη ἀπέθνησκειν. Ἐν δὲ τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτὸν οἱ ὄχλοι συνέπιγον αὐτόν· καὶ γυνὴ οὖσα ἐν ῥύσει αἵματος ἀπὸ ἐτῶν δώδεκα, ἥτις ἰατροῖς προσαναλώσασα ὅλον τὸν βίον οὐκ ἴσχυσεν ὑπ' οὐδενὸς θεραπευθῆναι, προσελθοῦσα ὀπισθεν ἦψατο τοῦ κρασπέδου τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ, καὶ παραχρῆμα ἔστη ἡ ῥύσις τοῦ αἵματος αὐτῆς· καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου; ἀρνούμενων δὲ πάντων εἶπεν ὁ Πέτρος καὶ οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, οἱ ὄχλοι συνέχουσίν σε καὶ ἀποθλίβουσι, καὶ λέγεις τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· ἦψατό μου τις· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἔγνωνα δύναμιν ἐξελθοῦσαν ἀπ' ἐμοῦ· ἰδοῦσα δὲ ἡ γυνὴ ὅτι οὐκ ἔλαθε, τρέμουσα ἦλθε καὶ προσπεσοῦσα αὐτῷ δι' ἣν αἰτίαν ἦψατο αὐτοῦ ἀπήγγειλεν αὐτῷ ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ λαοῦ, καὶ ὡς ἰάθη παραχρῆμα· ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· θάρσει, θύγατερ, ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκε σε· πορεύου εἰς εἰρήνην. Ἐτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἔρχεται τις παρὰ τοῦ ἀρχισυναγώγου λέγων αὐτῷ ὅτι τέθνηκεν ἡ θυγάτηρ σου· μὴ σκύλλε τὸν διδάσκαλον· ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀκούσας ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ λέγων· μὴ φοβοῦ· μόνον πίστευε, καὶ σωθήσεται· ἐλθὼν δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν οὐκ ἀφῆκεν εἰσελθεῖν οὐδένα εἰ μὴ Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ τὸν πατέρα τῆς παιδὸς καὶ τὴν μητέρα· ἐκκλιον δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐκόπτοντο αὐτήν· ὁ δὲ εἶπε· μὴ κλαίετε· οὐκ ἀπέθανεν, ἀλλὰ καθεύδει· καὶ κατεγέλων αὐτοῦ, εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπέθανεν· αὐτὸς δὲ ἐκβαλὼν ἔξω πάντας καὶ κρατήσας τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῆς ἐφώνησε λέγων· ἡ παῖς, ἐγείρου· καὶ ἐπέστρεψε τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῆς, καὶ ἀνέστη παραχρῆμα, καὶ διέταξεν αὐτῇ δοθῆναι φαγεῖν· καὶ ἐξέστησαν οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῖς· ὁ δὲ παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς μηδεὶν εἰπεῖν τὸ γεγονός.

SERVICES THIS WEEK:

TODAY: Sunday November 09th, Liturgy of Saint Nektarios 9:30 A. M.

ARTOKLASIA TODAY: is being offered in blessed memory of the life and sacrifices of the TWENTIETH CENTURY Patron Saint Nektarios, by Mrs. ELENI HATZIS and family. May they be blessed abundantly with good and restored health.

TODAY: We honor in tribute the memory of SAINT NEKTARIOS, the Patron Saint of those suffering from the incidious disease of CANCER. His icon will be prominently displayed during the Divine Liturgy and in the sacred procession of the Holy Gifts. Venerate his icon in humble supplication for yourself and others who suffer in silence.

WOW ! Did you take a look Many thanks to MR. PETER MOSKOVITIS who took upon himself the re-graveling, painting and clean up of the entire CHURCH PARKING LOT. Not only was there/ extensive labor involved with outside workers, but the total expense came out from his own pocket. GOD LOVES THOSE WHO LOVE THE BEAUTY OF HIS HOUSE! Thank you MR. MOSKOVITIS, and God bless your efforts of agape to THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH.

OFFICE RENOVATIONS COMMENCE: After nearly 60 years of use and occasional disregard, the business office and the pastoral study are being brought into the TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY with a total renovation of up to date equipment, machines, furniture and modern out-fitting. The cost of the project is estimated at \$55,000. (FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS) and will surely be an asset to the good functioning of our beloved PARISH. The corridor hallways on the first level of the school building are also being renewed with fresh paint and a change of lighting.

CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT: We submit ourselves to your generosity and love for your home parish of THREE HIERARCHS to make an offering in any amount for the completion of our renovation plans. Please take a 'peek' today and witness the beautiful transformation. Room 104 is temporarily our business office. Stop in, say hello and drop off your much needed contribution , Today!

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted by YURI and IRINA KUCHER as a THANKSGIVING to GOD for this PARISH COMMUNITY and all it has done to inspire their life, love, marriage and personal spiritual journey.

G.A.V.A. (GREEK AMERICAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION) will host their ANNUAL Veteran's Day Commemoration at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today . The Boy Scout Troop #531, THE GOLDEN GREEKS will assist in the tribute and ceremonies. Let us demonstrate our pride and gratitude to those who have served GOD and Country. Join us in singing "God Bless America" and our Pledge of American Allegiance.

EMMAUS CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX FILM SERIES; continues Thursday , November 13th, with the presentation of the second 'film' in the 7 month long program. This film titled THE QUESTION of ORIGINS will be viewed at the HOLY CROSS PARISH 8401 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn at 7:00 – 8:00 P.M. with refreshments to follow the dialogue. This monthly series of OPEN FREE TO ALL! Bring a friend to the movies and join in the open dialogue afterwards.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: The Annual Holy Cross SEMINARY (BROOKLINE-MASSACHUSETTS) LUNCHEON hosted by the Ladies Philoptochos Society of our Parish will be held; SUNDAY November 16th, at 1:00 P.M. in ROSEHALL. Please plan to share the afternoon in support of our SEMINARY HOLY CROSS and the student who will serve as future priests of our Holy Archdiocese in America. Every priest who has served this church community after Fr. Michalopoulos, have been graduates of Holy Cross Seminary.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the PARISH , for the fall is scheduled for SUNDAY, November 23rd, directly after Divine Liturgy in WHITEHALL. We encourage all the faithful to attend, participate and vote in the progressive future of our faith based community. REGISTERED STEWARDS for 2014 may speak and vote. ARE YOU REGISTERED AS A STEWARD for this year? DO SO NOW!

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 15TH 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: : + JOHN MICHAEL LAMBRIANAKOS & DECEASED G.A.V.A. MEMBERS

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + GEORGE YANAKAS

GREEK CHILDREN'S FUND

presents the cultural events

"Let's Give the World to the Children"

celebrating

International Children's Day and Unicef's 68th birthday

December 7th, 2014 10a.m.-10p.m.

Baking Workshop
Old Street-Games Play Workshop
Decorating an Eco Christmas Tree Workshop
"From Papadimantis to Dickens" Christmas Readings
Movie Screenings
Christmas Carols by Cyprus Choir
"Pluto" by Aristophanes
St. Demetrios' Children Choir

and
"Let's Give the World to the Children" Concert

featuring

Vocals
Stratos Ahlatis
Thana Alexa
Yanni Amouris
Alexandra Skendrou

Areti Giovanou - Piano
Costas Baltazanis - Guitar
George Maniatis - Percussion
Marina Fragoulis - Violin
Stratos Ahlatis - Accordion

and the

Archedioecesan Youth Choir under the direction of Ms. Maria Koleva



"Ας Δώσουμε τον Κόσμο στα Παιδιά"

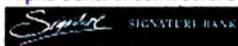


Petros G. Patrides Cultural Center, St. Demetrios
30-03 30th Dr, Astoria, NY 11102

Children: Free Admission / Adults: All Day Pass \$50 For information call: 1.718. 932. 4097

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The Direct Archdiocesan District Philoptochos

cordially

invites you to our



Agape Luncheon

Saturday, November 22, 2014 ♥ 11:30 AM

LONG ISLAND MARRIOTT
101 James Doolittle Blvd.,
Uniondale, NY, 11553



www.philoptochosdistrictdiocese.org

Luncheon Co-Chairs

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Marina Katsoulis

516.627.0580

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<http://tinyurl.com/DAD-AGAPE-LUNCHEON-2014>



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΘ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 909²

Κυριακὴ Ζ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 8,41-56)
9 Νοεμβρίου 2014 (2002)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Τί εἶνε πίστις;

«Ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε... Μόνον πίστευε, καὶ σωθήσεται» (Λουκ. 8,48,50)

Τὸ ἀκούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Μᾶς διηγεῖται δύο θαύματα. Τὸ ἕνα, ἡ θεραπεία τῆς αἰμορροούσης, εἶνε μικρότερο· τὸ ἄλλο, ἡ ἀνάστασις τῆς νεκρᾶς κόρης, εἶνε μέγιστο. Αὐτὰ λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Καὶ θέλω νὰ προσέξουμε ἕνα πρᾶγμα. Ἄν ἡ ἄρρωστη γυναίκα θεραπεύθηκε καὶ ἂν τὸ κορίτσι ἀναστήθηκε ἐκ νεκρῶν, τὰ δύο θαύματα ἐγίναν γιατί ἦταν στὸ μέσον ἡ **πίστις**. Στὴ γυναίκα ποὺ θεραπεύθηκε ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε: «**Ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε**». Καὶ στὸν πατέρα τοῦ κοριτσιοῦ εἶπε: «**Μὴ φοβοῦ· μόνον πίστευε, καὶ σωθήσεται**» (βλ. στ. 48 καὶ 50). Ὁ Χριστὸς ὡς ὄρο τῶν θαυμάτων θέτει τὴν πίστι. Αὐτὸ δείχνει, πόσο μεγάλο πρᾶγμα εἶνε ἡ πίστις. Κι ἅμα ἀνοίξετε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ ὄλη τὴν ἀγία Γραφή, θὰ δεῖτε ὅτι ἡ λέξις «**πίστις**» εἶνε πολὺ συχνή.

Ἄλλὰ θὰ ρωτήσετε: **τί εἶνε αὐτὴ ἡ πίστις;**

Τί εἶνε πίστις! Μερικὰ πρᾶγματα, ἀδελφοί μου, τὰ νιώθουμε, μὰ δὲν μποροῦμε νὰ τὰ ἐκφράσουμε. Νιώθεις π.χ. ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἀέρας, βλέπεις ὅτι κουνάει τὰ φύλλα· ἀλλὰ ποιοὺς εἶδε τὸν ἀέρα; Αἰσθάνεσαι τὸν ἠλεκτρισμὸ, ἀγγίζεις τὸ σύρμα καὶ σὲ τινάζει· ἀλλὰ καλὰ - καλὰ οὔτε καὶ ἡ ἐπιστήμη μπορεῖ νὰ πῆ τί εἶνε ἠλεκτρισμὸς. Κάθεσαι πάνω στὸ φλουδί τῆς γῆς καὶ νιώθεις τὸ σεισμό, μὰ τὰ βαθύτερα αἷτια τοῦ σεισμοῦ δὲν μπόρεσε κανεὶς ἀκόμη νὰ ἐξιχνιάσῃ. Ἔχει αὐτὸς ὁ κόσμος μυστήρια. **Ἔνα ἀπὸ τὰ μεγάλα μυστήρια** εἶνε καὶ ἡ πίστις. Τί εἶνε πίστις; εἶνε ῥεῦμα, ἀέρας, ἠλεκτρισμὸς, σεισμὸς; Εἶνε κάτι ἀνώτερο.

Τί εἶνε πίστις! Ἄν θέλης νὰ αἰσθανθῆς τὴν πίστι, ἀκουσε τί λέει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας στὸ χειρουργικόν: «**Πᾶσαν ... ἀποθώμεθα μέριμναν...**». Θέλεις νὰ αἰσθανθῆς τί εἶνε ἡ πίστις, νὰ δεῖς τὸ οὐράνιο φῶς; Διῶξε ἀπὸ τὸ μυαλό σου κάθε σκέψι γήινη. Μὲ τὴ σκέψι σου κάνε φτερά

καὶ πέταξε. Πέταξε πέρα ἀπ' τὸ φεγγάρι, πέρα ἀπὸ τὸν ἥλιο, πέρα ἀπὸ τὰ ἄστρα, πέρα ἀπὸ τοὺς γαλαξίες. Ἄλλ' ὅσο νὰ πετάξης, κάπου θὰ σταματήσης. Ἐκεῖ λοιπὸν ποὺ σταματοῦν οἱ πύραυλοι, ἡ ἀστρονομία, ἡ ἐπιστήμη, τὸ λογικόν, ἐκεῖ τότε χρειάζεσαι κάτι ἄλλα φτερά, **τὰ φτερά τῆς πίστεως**. Ἡ πίστις ἔρχεται καὶ σὲ παίρνει καὶ σὲ ἀνεβάζει ψηλά, πολὺ ψηλά, κ' ἐκεῖ ἀκούς «**Ἦσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις...**», ἀκούς τραγούδια ἀγγέλων καὶ ἀρχαγγέλων ὅπως ὁ ἅγιος Σπυρίδων, βλέπεις θρόνον πάνω στὸν ὅποιο κάθεται αὐτὸς ὁ Θεός. Αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ πίστις. Σοῦ δείχνει πρᾶγματα, ποὺ οὔτε μὲ τὸ μάτι οὔτε μὲ τὸ μικροσκόπιο οὔτε μὲ τὰ ἄλλα ἐπιστημονικὰ μέσα μπορεῖς νὰ δεῖς.

Μὲ τὴν πίστι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀντιλαμβάνεται, ὅτι ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸν ὕλικὸ αὐτὸ κόσμον, ὑπάρχει κ' ἕνας ἄλλος κόσμος, ὄχι αἰσθητὸς ἀλλὰ ὑπερφυσικὸς, ἀόρατος, πνευματικὸς, ἀνώτερος κόσμος, **κόσμος ὕλων καὶ ἀθανάτων πνευμάτων**. Ἀντιλαμβάνεται, ὅτι ὑπάρχει Θεὸς ποιητῆς «**ὄρατῶν καὶ ἀοράτων**».

Μὲ τὴν πίστι ὁ ἄνθρωπος νιώθει ἀκόμη, ὅτι **ὑπάρχει Πατέρας στοργικός**. Ἔνα «**στρουθίον**», λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ἕνα μυρμηγκί, ἕνα φύλλο ἀπὸ τὸ δέντρο δὲν πέφτει κάτω στὴ γῆ, χωρὶς τὸ θέλημά του. «**Ἰμῶν δὲ καὶ αἱ τρίχες τῆς κεφαλῆς πᾶσαι**» εἶνε μετρημέναι (Ματθ. 10,29-30). Τί θὰ πῆ αὐτό; Ὅλες τὶς λεπτομέρειες τῆς ζωῆς μας τὶς γνωρίζει ὁ Κύριος.

Μὲ τὴν πίστι δεχόμεστε, ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε ἕνας ἥλιος, **μία «τρισήλιος Θεότης»**, τρεῖς ἥλιοι ἀλλὰ ἕνας ἥλιος, Πατὴρ, Υἱὸς καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα. «**Δόξα τῇ ἀγία καὶ ὁμοουσίῳ καὶ ζωοποιῶ καὶ ἀδιαιρέτῳ Τριάδι**». «**Εὐλογημένη ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος**» (βλ. Ἀποκ.). Τί μεγαλεῖα εἶνε αὐτά!

Μὲ τὴν πίστι ἐπίσης ὁμολογοῦμε, ὅτι τὸ δεύτερο πρόσωπο τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος, ὁ Κύριος

ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ἀπὸ τὸν οὐρανὸ κατέβηκε ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ. Ὁχι ἀπλῶς ὡς ἄνθρωπος, ἀλλ' ὡς **Θεάνθρωπος**. Περπάτησε, βαπτίσθηκε στὸν Ἰορδάνη, μάτωσε ἀπὸ ἀγκάθια, ἀπὸ καρφιά, ἀπὸ τὴν κακία τοῦ κόσμου.

Μὲ τὴν πίστι πρὸ παντὸς ὁμολογοῦμε, ὅτι **στὸ Γολγοθᾶ θυσιάστηκε ὁ Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου** καὶ ἔχυσε τὸ ἄσπιλον αἷμα του, καὶ τὸ αἷμα αὐτὸ ἔγινε λουτρό, μέσα στὸ ὁποῖο καθαρίζεται καὶ ἡ πιὸ ἀμαρτωλὴ ψυχὴ. «*Τὸ αἷμα Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ... καθαρίζει ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἀμαρτίας*» (1^η Ἰω. 1,7).

Μὲ τὴν πίστι τέλος ὁμολογοῦμε, ὅτι **ὁ Χριστὸς ἀνέστη** ἔνδοξος, ἀνέβηκε στὰ οὐράνια, καὶ ὅτι θὰ ἔρθῃ πάλι μιὰ μέρα «*κρῖναι ζῶντας καὶ νεκρούς*» (2^η Τιμ. 4,1).

Αὐτὰ εἶνε τὰ θεμέλια, οἱ ρίζες τῆς ἀγίας μας πίστεως. Ἀρκεῖ ὅμως μόνο νὰ πιστεύουμε; Αὐτὰ, σοῦ λέει ὁ ἄλλος, τὰ παραδέχομαι· δὲν εἶμαι ἄθεος, μασόνος, χιλιαστής· ἐγὼ πιστεύω... Δὲν ἀρκεῖ μόνο νὰ λέμε «πιστεύω». Τὸ «πιστεύω» νὰ τὸ δεῖξουμε μὲ μία **συνέπεια** ζωῆς, νὰ τὸ ἐφαρμόσουμε μὲ ἔργα ἀγάπης.

Πιστεύεις στὴν ἀγία Τριάδα; Μὲ τὸ στόμα τὸ λές. Μὲ τὴ ζωὴ σου ὅμως δείχνεις, ὅτι **λατρεύεις ἄλλους θεοὺς «τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου»** (1^η Κορ. 10,4), πού εἶνε ὁ παρᾶς ἢ μαμωνᾶς, οἱ ἡδονές, τὰ εἰδῶλα τοῦ κόσμου, αὐτὸς ὁ σατανᾶς.

Πιστεύεις στὴν πρόνοια τοῦ Θεοῦ γιὰ ὅλα; Γιατί λοιπὸν στενοχωριέσαι; **γιατί ἀπελπίζεσαι**; γιατί φοβᾶσαι; Ὁ Θεός, πού τρέφει τὰ κοράκια, θὰ θρέψῃ κ' ἐσένα. «*Πλούσιοι ἐπτώχευσαν καὶ ἐπέπρασσαν, οἱ δὲ ἐκζητοῦντες τὸν Κύριον οὐκ ἐλαττωθήσονται παντὸς ἀγαθοῦ*» (Ψαλμ. 33,11).

Πιστεύεις ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν καὶ νίκησε τὸ θάνατο; Τότε **γιατί λυπᾶσαι καὶ κλαῖς**; Γιατί κάνεις ὅπως οἱ εἰδωλολάτρεις «*οἱ μὴ ἔχοντες ἐλπίδα*» (1^η Θεσ. 4,13) ἀναστάσεως;

Πιστεύεις ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε ἀγάπη; Γιατί τότε ἐσὺ **κρατᾷς μῖσος**; Πιστεύεις ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς συγχωρεῖ τὸν ἀμαρτωλό; Γιατί λοιπὸν κ' ἐσὺ **δὲν συγχωρεῖς** τὸ γείτονα ἢ τὸν ἀδελφὸ σου;

Πιστεύεις ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα; Γιατί τότε τὸν περιφρονεῖς, γιατί τὸν **βλαστημᾷς**; Δυστυχῶς **δὲν ὑπάρχει πίστις ἔμπρακτος**.

Ἀγαπητοί μου! Στὰ χρόνια αὐτὰ πού ζοῦμε τὰ κατηραμένα, πού ὁ διάβολος ἔβαλε ὅλα τὰ δυνατά του νὰ ξερριζώσῃ μέσα ἀπὸ τὴν καρδιὰ τὴν πίστι, **νὰ προσέξουμε πάρα πολύ**.

Γιὰ νὰ σωθῇ ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ πίστι. Πίστι στὸ Θεό, πίστι στὸ Χριστό, πίστι σ' αὐτὰ πού διδάσκει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας. Ἀλλὰ δὲν

εἴμαστε σὰν τοὺς προτεστάντες, τοὺς διαμαρτυρομένους. Ὁχι. Αὐτοὶ μόνο «πίστι» φωνάζουν. Ἐμεῖς οἱ ὀρθόδοξοι λέμε· πιστεύουμε, ἀλλὰ κοντὰ στὴν πίστι ἔχουμε καὶ τὰ ἔργα τῆς ἀγάπης. «*Πίστις δι' ἀγάπης ἐνεργουμένη*» (Γαλ. 5,6). Δὲν εἴμαστε οὔτε προτεστάντες οὔτε φράγκοι οὔτε χιλιασταὶ οὔτε μασόνιοι οὔτε ἄθεοι. Ἐμεῖς λέμε, ὅτι ἡ πίστις σώζει. Ποιά πίστις ὅμως; Πίστις πού βεβαιώνεται ἀπὸ ἔργα (βλ. 1^η Κορ. 13,1-2). Τὸ δέντρο τὸ καταλαβαίνεις ἀπὸ τὸν καρπὸ του· ἡ λεμονιά φαίνεται ἀπὸ τὰ λεμόνια, ἡ μηλιά ἀπὸ τὰ μήλα, ἡ ἐλιά ἀπὸ τὴν ἐλιά· καὶ ὁ Χριστιανὸς θὰ φανῇ ἀπὸ τὰ ἔργα του. Καὶ τὸ πουλί, γιὰ νὰ πετάξῃ, πρέπει νὰ ἔχη γερὰς καὶ τὴν δύο φτεροῦγες του. Ἄν ὁ κυνηγὸς χτυπήσῃ τὴν μία φτερούγα του, τὸ καμμένο τὸ πουλὶ πέφτει κάτω. Μὲ μιὰ φτερούγα προσπαθεῖ, χτυπιέται κάτω στὸ χῶμα, μὰ δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ πετάξῃ. Ἔτσι κάνει καὶ ὁ διάβολος. Μᾶς χτυπάει μὲ τὰ σκάγια του πότε στὴν μία καὶ πότε στὴν ἄλλη φτερούγα, πότε στὴν πίστι καὶ πότε στὰ ἔργα, πότε στὴν ὀρθοδοξία καὶ πότε στὴν ὀρθοπραξία, καὶ δὲν μπορούμε νὰ πετάξουμε στὰ οὐράνια. Ἄς προσέξουμε **νὰ ἔχουμε πίστι ὀρθόδοξο καὶ ἔργα ἀρετῆς**.

Ἐρχεται ὥρα, κ' εἶνε ἐγγύς, πού **θὰ πέσῃ κόσκινο** πάνω στὴ γῆ. Ὅσα λέει ἡ Ἀποκάλυψις, θὰ γίνουν. Θὰ μᾶς κοσκινίσῃ ὁ διάβολος ὅπως τοὺς μαθητὰς τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὴ νύχτα τῆς Μεγάλης Πέμπτης. «Ἐμεῖς», λέγανε, «θὰ ἤμαστε κοντὰ σου». Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε στὸν Πέτρο· Ἀπόψε ὁ διάβολος θὰ σᾶς κοσκινίσῃ. «*Ἰδοὺ ὁ σατανᾶς ἐξητήσατο ὑμᾶς τοῦ σινιάσαι ὡς τὸν σίτον...*» (Λουκ. 22,31). Μὲ μικρὰ κόσκινα μᾶς ἔχει κοσκινίσει μέχρι σήμερα· ἀλλὰ θὰ ῥθῃ τὸ πιὸ μεγάλο κόσκινο. Καὶ τότε ἀπὸ τοὺς χίλιους Χριστιανούς, ἀδελφοί μου, ἀκοῦτε; — τὰ λένε τὰ βιβλία τοῦ Θεοῦ (βλ. Ματθ. 7,14· 22,14· Λουκ. 12,32· 13,23· 18,8· Ἰω. 3,11· 16,9-11,21)—, ἀπὸ τοὺς χίλιους Χριστιανούς ἕνας ἂν θὰ μείνῃ πιστὸς στὸ Χριστό! οἱ ἐνιακόσιοι ἐνενηντὰ ἐννιά δὲν θὰ πιστεύουν πλέον τίποτε. Θὰ βλαστημᾶνε, θὰ κάνουν σὰν τὰ λυσσασμένα σκυλιὰ πού δὲν γνωρίζουν τὸ ἀφεντικό τους.

Ἄλλὰ ἐμεῖς, καὶ ἕνας ἂν μείνουμε, νὰ μείνουμε. **Καὶ ἕνας ἂν μείνῃς στὴν κοινωνία, νὰ μείνῃς**. Ὁ ἕνας θὰ νικήσῃ, αὐτὸς πού πιστεύει στὸ Χριστό. Καὶ νὰ μᾶς ἀξιῶσῃ ὁ Θεός, νὰ πεθάνουμε μὲ τὴν πίστι τὴν ὀρθόδοξο καὶ ἔργα μετανοίας. Κι ὅταν φθάσῃ ἡ τελευταία ὥρα τῆς ζωῆς μας, νὰ ποῦμε· «*Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου*» (Λουκ. 23,42)· ἀμήν.

(†) **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

Two Miracles Testify that Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life

Christ foreknew His mystery, even before the foundations of the world. It was in the last ages of the world that He arose for the inhabitants of earth. Having borne the sin of the world, He abolished both it and death, which is its consequence and was brought upon us by its means. He plainly said, "I am the resurrection and the life," and "he that believes in me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death unto life." We will see this fulfilled in facts. The ruler of the synagogue of the Jews came near and, embracing the Savior's knees, begged Him to deliver his daughter from the bonds of death. Look, she already was brought down to this and was in extreme danger! The Sav-

ior consented and set out with him. He was even hurrying on to the house of the one who invited Him and was aware that what was being done would profit many of those who followed Him and would also be for His own glory. On the way, he saved the woman who was the victim of a severe and incurable malady. No one could stop her issue of blood that ruined the art of physicians. No sooner had she touched the hem in faith, than He immediately healed her. A miracle so glorious and revealed was, so to speak, the work merely of Christ's journey.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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