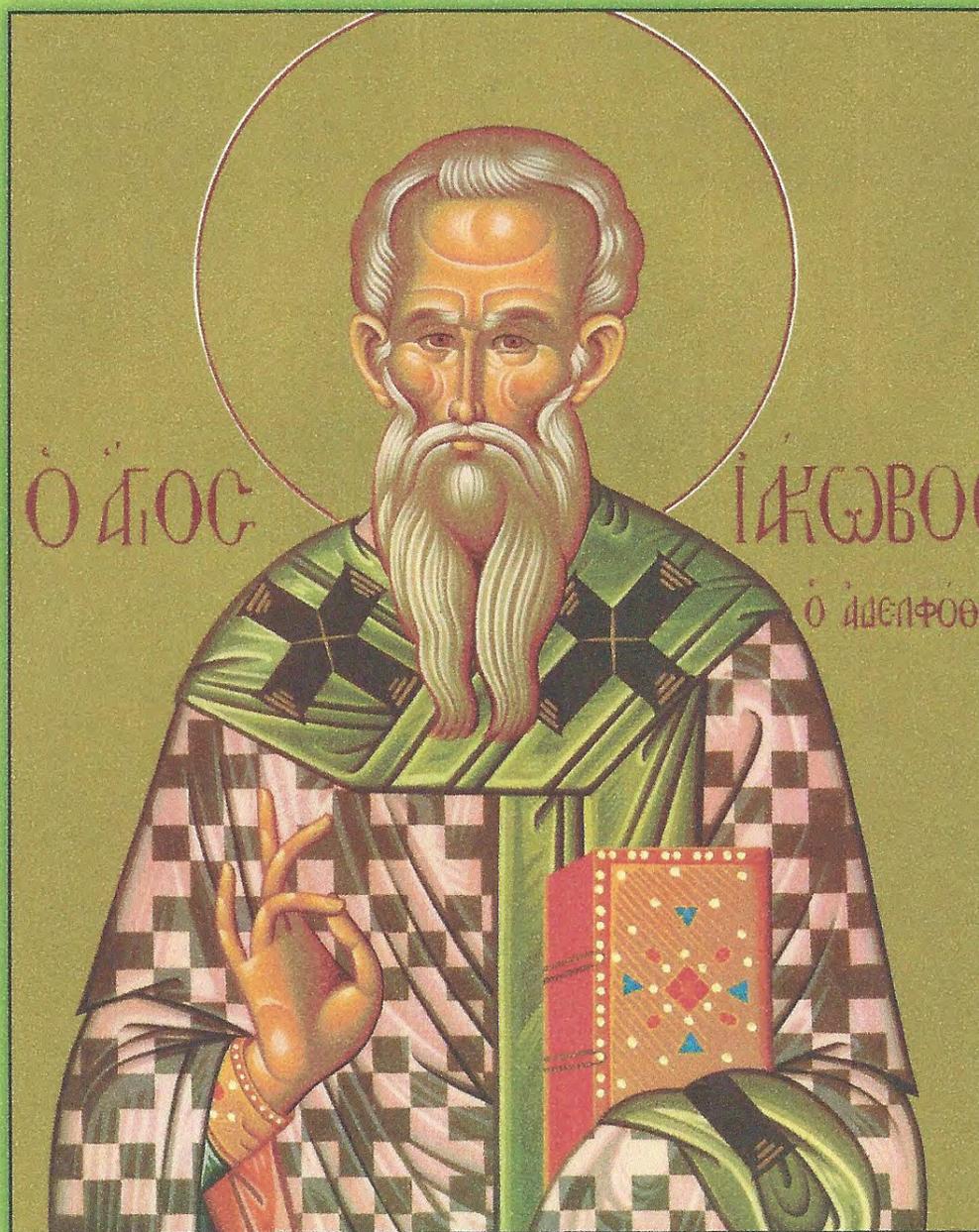




JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY
THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 19th, 2014
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Apostle James -- October 23rd

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 11:31-33; 12:1-9

Prokeimenon. Mode 2. Psalm 117.14,18

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

BRETHREN, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands.

I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise-whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows-and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 11:31-33; 12:1-9

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος β'. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

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

Ἀδελφοί, Ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ οἶδεν, ὁ ὢν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι. Ἐν Δαμασκῷ ὁ ἐθνάρχης Ἀρέτα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐφρούρει τὴν Δαμασκηῶν πόλιν, πιάσαι με θέλων· καὶ διὰ θυρίδος ἐν σαργάνῃ ἐχαλάσθην διὰ τοῦ τείχους καὶ ἐξέφυγον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ. Καυχᾶσθαι δὴ οὐ συμφέρεται μοι· ἐλεύσομαι γὰρ εἰς ὀπτασίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεις κυρίου. Οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν δεκατεσσάρων - εἴτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα· εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ἀρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον - εἴτε ἐν σώματι, εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος, οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ὅτι ἠρπάγη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον, καὶ ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι. Ὑπὲρ τοῦ τοιοῦτου καυχῆσομαι· ὑπὲρ δὲ ἑμαυτοῦ οὐ καυχῆσομαι, εἰ μὴ ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου· ἐὰν γὰρ θελήσω καυχῆσασθαι, οὐκ ἔσομαι ἄφρων· ἀλήθειαν γὰρ ἐρῶ· φείδομαι δέ, μή τις εἰς ἐμὲ λογίσσῃται ὑπὲρ ὃ βλέπει με, ἢ ἀκούει τι ἐξ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ τῇ ὑπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκί, ἄγγελος Σατάν, ἵνα με κολαφίξῃ, ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι. Ὑπὲρ τούτου τρίς τὸν κύριον παρεκάλεσα ἵνα ἀποστή ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. Καὶ εἰρηκέν μοι, Ἀρκεῖ σοι ἡ χάρις μου· ἡ γὰρ δύναμίς μου ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ τελειοῦται. Ἥδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον καυχῆσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου, ἵνα ἐπισκηνώσῃ ἐπ' ἐμὲ ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

3rd Sunday of Luke

The Gospel of Luke 7:11-16

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

3rd Sunday of Luke

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 7.11-16

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ἐπορεύετο εἰς πόλιν καλουμένην Ναϊν· καὶ συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοὶ καὶ ὄχλος πολὺς. ὡς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ πύλῃ τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδὼν ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκὼς υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος ἐπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ κλαῖε· καὶ προσελθὼν ἤψατο τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες ἔστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ. ἔλαβε δὲ φόβος πάντας καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν Θεόν, λέγοντες ὅτι προφήτης μέγας ἐγήγερται ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ὁ λόγος οὗτος ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ περιχώρῳ.

OFFICE RENOVATIONS COMMENCE: After early 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.

CHURCH RENOVATION PROJECT: We submit ourselves to your generosity and love for your home parish of the 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.

SERVICES THIS WEEK:

TODAY:	October 19th, FEAST OF JOEL THE PROPHET	10:30 A.M.
SATURDAY,	October 25th, GREAT VESPER of SAINT DEMETRIOS Astoria Cathedral, Jamaica, N.Y.C. East 103rd Street	7:00 P.M.
SUNDAY,	October 26th, SAINT DEMETRIOS the MARTYR	10:30 A.M.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted today in blessed memory of + CALLIOPE LOUZAKOS by the DEMAKAKOS FAMILY. May her memory be eternal.

YOU MAY WISH TO HOST A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ONE SUNDAY IN GRATEFUL THANKSGIVING FOR PRAYERS ANSWERED, OR FOR MEMORIAL REMEMBRANCE OF A LOVED ONE. For a donation of (\$125. dollars) coffee, cookies, set up of tables, serving and clean up will be done by the church with proper recognition of the donor. We need donor volunteers. How about you?

ARTOKLASIES are offered today in honor of the FEAST of SAINT LUKE the EVANGELIST: by the NOTIAS and RAVANOS FAMILIES , as well as the ASPIOTIS FAMILY. Chronia Polla to those celebrating the name day as LUKE or LUKIA, LUCIA.

DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE: Demetra Chapter #33 will host their ANNUAL LUNCHEON Sunday, October 26th, at 1:00 PM in ROSEHALL . A donation of \$20.00 (TWENTY DOLLARS) will host you with a delicious ROAST CHICKEN DINNER, oven brown potatoes , Greek salad, wine, soda, Greek pastries and coffee. Join us for a fellowship of breaking bread. Raffles and prizes will be available to all.

CHURCH DINNER DANCE CELEBRATING OUR * 85TH, JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY IS THIS FRIDAY OCTOBER 24th in ROSEHALL, at 8:00 P.M. SEE YOU THERE!

CHOIR HONORS DAY: Photos are featured in the centerfold of the bulletin. Best wishes to all in the choir who grace our Sunday and Festal Liturgies with traditional hymnology inherited through the centuries.

CONGRATULATIONS to BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 ' The Golden Greeks' Who Hosted The Annual COURT OF AWARDS on Friday night, October 17th. The many boys who experienced two weeks in summer camping and training in August, were awarded their special badges and certificates. Well don SCOUTMASTER DEAN VEROUTIS and scout leadership.

'GREEK FILM FESTIVAL' which commences Wednesday October 22nd, through Friday, October 31st, at Theaters in Manhattan and Astoria. Two major events will be held:
1; Film History Museum in Astoria – Wednesday, October 22
2: Ziegfeld Theater (Broadway) NYC Thursday, October 23
Festival flyer is enclosed in bulletin: See you at the movies.

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)

<u>MEMORIALS TODAY:</u>	+ IRENE TSAPELAS	+ CALLIOPE LOUZAKOS
<u>MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK:</u>	+ ROSALINE CATZELIS	

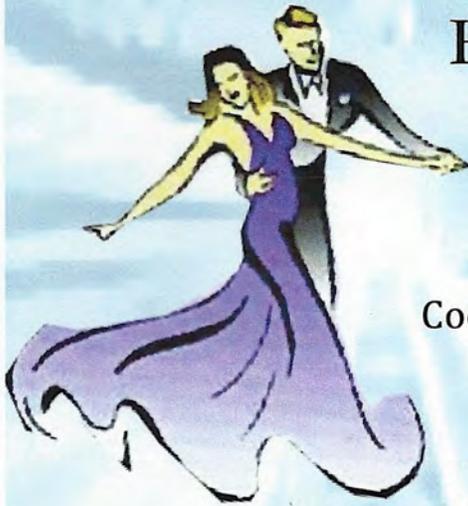
~ 85th ~

 **Three Hierarchs**
Annual Dinner Dance

Three Hierarchs Parish

Friday October 24, 2014

8:00 P.M



Banquet Menu

Cocktail Hour: Shrimp Cocktail Stuffed Crab
Mushrooms, Swedish Meatballs,
Spanakopita,
Chicken Wings
Greek Salad



Dinner Choices

Prime Rib
Rack Of Veal
Shrimp Scampi
Broiled Salmon
Grilled Chicken



Oven Brown Potatoes And Garden
Vegetables

Complimentary 2 Bottles Of Wine Per Table



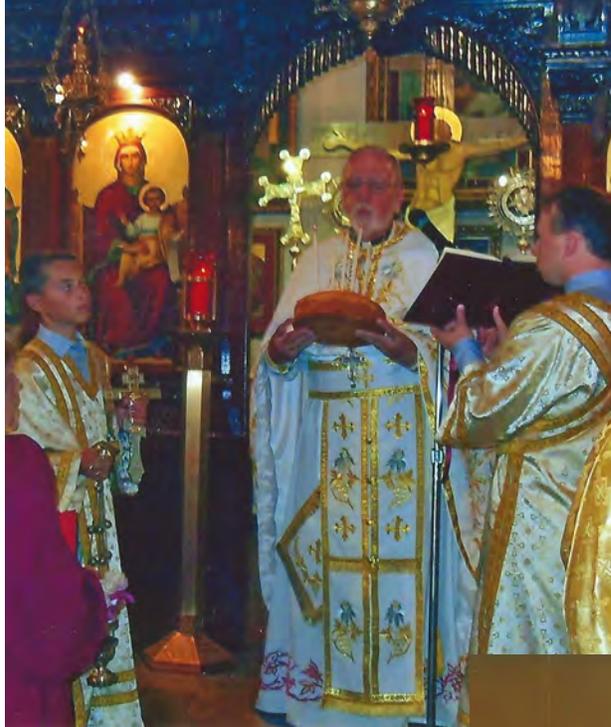
Donation
\$85.00
Children 12-
16 - \$40.00
Under 12 yrs
FREE!

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Dining
Dancing
Banquet &
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ANNUAL CHOIR SUNDAY – ST. ROMANOS PATRON





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΘ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 906²

Κυριακὴ Γ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 7,11-16)
19 Ὀκτωβρίου 2014 (2002)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Δάκρυα

«Καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτὴ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· Μὴ κλαῖε»

(Λουκ. 7,13)

Στὸν κύκλο, ἀγαπητοί μου, τῶν εὐαγγελικῶν περικοπῶν τοῦ ἔτους ἡ σημερινὴ Κυριακὴ εἶνε ἡ τρίτη (Γ') τοῦ Λουκᾶ. Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ποὺ ἀκούσατε εἶνε γνωστό. Διηγεῖται ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ μεγαλύτερα θαύματα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, **θαῦμα** ποὺ πιστοποιεῖ, ὅτι αὐτὸς ποὺ τὸ ἔκανε εἶνε ὁ Θεὸς ποὺ κρατᾶ στὰ χέρια του τὰ κλειδιά τῆς ζωῆς καὶ τοῦ θανάτου (βλ. Ἀπ. 1,18).

Τὸ σημερινὸ θαῦμα δὲν εἶνε ἀπλῶς θεραπεία μιᾶς ἀσθενείας· εἶνε **ἀνάστασις νεκροῦ**, νεκροῦ ποὺ τὸν συνώδευαν πλέον στὴν τελευταία του κατοικία. Νεκρός, φέρετρο, κηδεῖα, πένθος, δάκρυα... Καὶ ὅμως, ἐκεῖ ποὺ κανεὶς δὲν μποροῦσε νὰ δώσῃ παρηγορία, παρουσιάζεται ὁ μέγας παρηγορητὴς, ὁ Κύριός μας, καὶ τὰ δάκρυα παύουν, καὶ χαρὰ καὶ ἀγαλλίασις διαδέχεται τὸ πένθος.

Ἐπάνω στὸ θαῦμα αὐτὸ θὰ μποροῦσε κανεὶς νὰ ἐπιμείνῃ ὥρες ὀλόκληρες. Παραβλέπω ὅμως ἄλλα σημεῖα καὶ παρακαλῶ τὴν ἀγάπη σας νὰ προσέξετε σὲ **μία λεπτομέρεια**.

* * *

Λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, ὅτι πίσω ἀπὸ τὸ φέρετρο ἀκολουθοῦσε λαός. Ἄλλ' ἀνάμεσα στὸ πλῆθος ἓνα πρόσωπο συγκεντρώνει ὅλη τὴ συμπάθεια τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἦταν μιὰ γυναῖκα· **ἡ μάνα**. Αὐτὴ ἔκλαιγε καὶ σπάραζε. Οἱ κραυγές της ἔκαναν κάθε καρδιά νὰ ραγίξῃ. Τὸ νεκρὸ παιδί της ἦταν μονάκριβο. Καὶ δὲν εἶνε ἡ πρώτη φορὰ ποὺ κλαίει. Ἐκλαψε καὶ ὅταν νέα ἔχασε τὸ σύντροφο τῆς ζωῆς της καὶ ὠδηγοῦσε τὸ νεκρὸ σύζυγό της στὸν τάφο. Τώρα στὸν ἴδιο τάφο ὀδηγεῖ τὸ παιδί της, καὶ τὸ πένθος της εἶνε διπλό.

Κλαίει. Ἀλλὰ τὰ **δάκρυα** τῆς γυναίκας αὐτῆς δὲν εἶνε τὰ μόνα στὸν κόσμο. Στὰ δικά της δάκρυα ἔρχονται καὶ προστίθενται ποταμοὶ ἄλλων δακρύων ποὺ χύνει ὁ ἄνθρωπος.

Διότι ποιό μάτι δὲν ἔκλαψε, ἀδελφοί μου;

Μὲ τὸ δάκρυ γεννιέται ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ μὲ τὸ δάκρυ φεύγει ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμο. Μετράτε τὰ δάκρυα; Εὐκολώτερο εἶνε νὰ μετρήσῃ κανεὶς τὶς σταγόνες τοῦ ὠκεανοῦ παρὰ τὰ δάκρυα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητας. Κλαίνει οἱ γυναῖκες ὅταν χάνουν τὸν ἐκλεκτό τους σύντροφο. Κλαίνει τὰ παιδιά ὅταν χάνουν τὸ φιλόστοργο πατέρα τους. Κλαίνει οἱ φίλοι καὶ οἱ συγγενεῖς ὅταν χάνουν κάποιον δικό τους. Κλαίνει οἱ ἀδικημένοι ποὺ στερήθηκαν περιουσιακὰ στοιχεῖα. Κλαίνει οἱ ἄρρωστοι πάνω στὰ κρεβάτια τους καὶ βογγοῦν ἀπὸ ἀνίατη νόσο. Κλαίνει οἱ ἐξόριστοι, ποὺ καθεστῶτα τυραννικὰ τοὺς ἀπεμάκρυναν μέσα ἀπὸ τὰ σπίτια τους. Κλαίνει οἱ φυλακισμένοι, ποὺ ἡ ψευδορκία τοὺς ὠδήγησε μέσα στὰ μπουντρούμια. Κλαίνει οἱ φτωχοὶ στὶς καλύβες, ἀλλὰ κλαίνει καὶ οἱ πλούσιοι στὰ μέγαρά τους. Κλαίνει οἱ ζητιάνοι, ἀλλὰ κλαίνει καὶ οἱ βασιλιᾶδες μέσα στὰ παλάτια τους· καὶ μάλιστα αὐτοὶ κλαίνει δραματικώτερα ἀπὸ τοὺς ἄλλους. Μὲ μόνη τὴ διαφορά, ὅτι ὁ φτωχὸς κλαίει καὶ δὲν ἔχει μαντήλι νὰ σφουγγίσῃ τὰ δάκρυά του ποὺ πέφτουν κάτω στὴ γῆ, ἐνῶ ὁ πλούσιος κλαίει καὶ τὰ δάκρυά του τὰ σφουγγίζει μὲ μεταξωτὸ μαντήλι. Ἀλλὰ εἴτε εἴτε ἀλλιῶς τὰ δάκρυα εἶνε δάκρυα καὶ ὁ πόνος πόνος. Κλαίνει λοιπὸν **καὶ οἱ βασιλιᾶδες**.

Λένε γιὰ τὸν **Ξέρξη**, ἓναν ἀπὸ τοὺς ἰσχυρότερους βασιλιᾶδες μιᾶς ἀπεράντου αὐτοκρατορίας, ποὺ ἐξεστράτευσε ἐναντίον τῆς μικρῆς μας πατρίδας, ὅτι κάποτε, προτοῦ ν' ἀρχίσῃ ἡ μάχη τῶν Θερμοπυλῶν, παρέταξε στὴ Θεσσαλία τὰ στρατεύματά του καὶ ὁ κάμπος γέμισε. Αὐτὸς ἀπὸ μιὰ ἐξέδρα ἔβλεπε τὴν παρέλασι. Ἀπ' τὸ πρωὶ ὡς τὸ βράδυ πέρασαν στρατιές στρατιῶν, ἵππικὸ, πεζικὸ καὶ ὅ,τι ἄλλο εἶχε ὁ στρατὸς τῆς ἐποχῆς ἐκείνης. Ὑπερήφανος ὁ Ξέρξης χαιρετοῦσε τὰ στρατεύματα. Ἀλλὰ σὲ μιὰ στιγμή δάκρυσε. Ἀπόρη-

σαν οί ύπασπισταί του. Τόν πλησίασαν μετὰ τὴν παρέλασι καὶ τὸν ρώτησαν· –Γιατί ἔκλαιγες; Δὲν ἦταν αὐτὴ ἡ πιὸ ὠραία στιγμὴ τῆς ζωῆς σου, νὰ βλέπῃς τὰ στρατεύματά σου νὰ παρελαύνουν;... Καὶ ἀπήντησε ὁ Ξέρξης· –Τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη πέρασε ἀπὸ τὸ μυαλό μου μιὰ σκέψι. Σκέφτηκα· ὕστερα ἀπὸ ἑκατὸ χρόνια ποιὸς θὰ ζῆ ἀπ’ ὄλο αὐτὸ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν στρατιωτῶν, τῶν ἀξιωματικῶν καὶ τῶν βασιλιάδων;... Αὐτὴ ἡ ἰδέα τὸν ἔκανε νὰ κλάψῃ.

Κλαῖνε λοιπὸν ὅλοι, σὲ ὅλα τὰ ἔθνη, σὲ ὅλους τοὺς τόπους, σὲ ὅλες τὶς ἐποχές. Ἄλλ’ ἂν ὑπάρχη μιὰ ἐποχὴ καὶ μιὰ γενεὰ πού ἔκλαψε περισσότερο, εἶνε ἡ δική μας, ἡ ὁποία εἶδε δύο παγκοσμίους πολέμους πού ἐστοίχισαν ἑκατομμύρια νεκρούς. Καὶ ἐνῶ ἀκόμη χῆρες καὶ ὀρφανὰ θρηνοῦν καὶ τὰ ἐρείπια μένουν, οἱ ἄφρονες ἰσχυροὶ τῆς ἡμέρας ἐτοιμάζουν **νέο πόλεμο**, τὸν Ἀρμαγεδῶνα^(Ἀπ. 16,16), πού θὰ εἶνε ὁ τελειωτικὸς πόλεμος στὸν κόσμο.

Δάκρυα ἐπὶ δακρύων. Ἦν ἕνας ἄγγελος μάζευε τὰ δάκρυα πού χύνουν χῆρες, ὀρφανὰ, ἄρρωστοι, διωκόμενοι, φυλακισμένοι, συκοφαντημένοι, θὰ σχηματιζόταν μιὰ ἀπέραντη **πικρὴ λίμνη** μὲ τὸ ὄνομα «τὰ δάκρυα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος».

Ἄλλ’, ἀδελφοί μου, μοῦ ἔρχεται νὰ κλάψω κ’ ἐγὼ καὶ ν’ ἀναστενάξω. Γιατὶ μέσα στὰ ποτάμια αὐτὰ τῶν δακρύων ἀναζητῶ μὰ δὲν βλέπω λίγα δάκρυα εὐλογημένα. Αὐτὰ τὰ δάκρυα, γιὰ τὰ ὁποῖα σὰς μίλησα, εἶνε **δάκρυα ἀνώφελα**. Τὸ νεκρὸ σου, ὅσα δάκρυα καὶ ἂν χύνης, δὲν τὸν ἀνασταίνεις. Ὑπάρχουν ὅμως κάτι ἄλλα δάκρυα, **δάκρυα οὐράνια, ἀγγελικά**, πού ἀξίζουν περισσότερο κι ἀπὸ διαμάντια. Ποιὰ εἶνε τὰ δάκρυα αὐτά;

Θέλω νὰ τελειώσω μὲ **ἕνα ἀνέκδοτο**. Ὁ Θεός, λέει, πάνω στὰ οὐράνια κάλεσε τοὺς ἀγγέλους καὶ τοὺς εἶπε· Ἀφῆστε τὸν οὐρανὸ καὶ πετάξτε κάτω στὴ γῆ, σ’ ἀνατολὴ καὶ δύσι. Καὶ τὸ βράδυ, ὅταν ἐπιστρέψετε, θέλω νὰ μοῦ πῆτε, ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ ὠραιότερο πρᾶγμα πού εἶδατε κάτω στὴ γῆ. Πέταξαν οἱ ἄγγελοι σὲ πολιτεῖες καὶ χωριά, σὲ καλύβες καὶ παλάτια, παντοῦ ὅπου ὑπῆρχε ἄνθρωπος. Τὸ βράδυ κουρασμένοι παρουσιάστηκαν νὰ δώσουν ἀναφορὰ στὸ θρόνο τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὁ ἕνας ἄγγελος λέει· –Τὸ ὠραιότερο πού εἶδα εἶνε ἕνα ἀντρόγυνο πού πενήντα χρόνια δὲν μάλωσαν. Ὁ ἄλλος ἄγγελος λέει· –Τὸ ὠραιότερο πού εἶδα εἶνε ἡ ἀγάπη τῶν ἀδελφῶν. Ὁ τρίτος λέει· –Τὸ ὠραιότερο πού εἶδα εἶνε ἡ φιλία, πού συνδέει ἀνθρώπους τὸν ἕνα μὲ τὸν

ἄλλο. Ὁ τέταρτος εἶπε· –Ἡ ἐλεημοσύνη. Ὁ ἄλλος εἶπε· –Ἡ συγχώρησις... Ἔρχεται καὶ ὁ τελευταῖος, πού κρατοῦσε στὰ χέρια του κάτι πού ἄστραφτε. –Ἐσὺ τί εἶδες; τοῦ λέει ὁ Θεός. –Ἐγὼ, λέει, Κύριε, εἶδα ἕνα γέροντα, πού εἶχε διαπράξει μεγάλα ἐγκλήματα, νὰ γονατίζῃ μετανοημένος μπροστὰ στὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο καὶ τὰ δάκρυά του νὰ πέφτουν στὴ γῆ· καὶ πῆρα καὶ σοῦ ἔφερα δυὸ δάκρυα ἀπ’ αὐτά. Καὶ τὴν ὥρα πού ἔλεγε αὐτὰ ὁ ἄγγελος, χτύπησαν οἱ καμπάνες τοῦ οὐρανοῦ· γιατί «*χαρὰ γίνεται ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ ἐπὶ ἐνὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ μετανοοῦντι*» (Λουκ. 15,7,10).

Τὰ δάκρυα τῆς μετανοίας, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε τὰ μόνα πού ὠφελοῦν καὶ σώζουν. Αὐτὰ ἔχυσε ὁ Δαυὶδ ὁ προφήτης πού ἀμάρτησε· σηκωνόταν τὴ νύχτα, ἔκλαιγε καὶ μούσκευε τὸ προσκέφαλό του στὰ δάκρυα. Αὐτὰ ἔχυσε ἡ ἁμαρτωλὴ γυναίκα τῆς Μεγάλης Τρίτης, πού τὰ ἀνέμιξε μὲ τὰ μύρα καὶ τὰ σφουγγίσε μὲ τὰ μαλλιά τῆς κεφαλῆς της. Αὐτὰ ἔχυσαν καὶ δύο γυναῖκες πού ἐορτάζουν στὶς 8 Ὀκτωβρίου. Ἀνοῖξτε τὰ βιβλία καὶ διαβάστε. Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ γιορτάζουν δύο τέως πόρνες. Ἡ μία εἶνε ἡ **ὁσία Πελαγία**. Ἦταν μιὰ ἀπὸ τὶς διαβόητες ἁμαρτωλὲς τῆς ἐποχῆς, ἀλλὰ κατόπιν μετανόησε. Κλείστηκε σ’ ἕνα κελλί, καὶ τρία ὀλόκληρα χρόνια δὲν πέρασε μέρα χωρὶς νὰ κλάψῃ. Τὰ μάτια ἐκεῖνα, πού πετοῦσαν φωτιὲς τῆς κολάσεως, πού ἦταν ἀγκίστρι τοῦ διαβόλου καὶ κατέβαζαν ψυχὲς στὸν ἅδη, ἐγίναν βρύσες τοῦ οὐρανοῦ πού ἔσταζαν δάκρυα πολυτίμα. Ἡ ἄλλη πόρνη εἶνε ἡ **ἁγία Ταῖσία**. Μετανόησε κι αὐτὴ καὶ ἔφυγε στὴν ἔρημο. Καὶ ὄλο τὸν ὑπόλοιπο χρόνο τῆς ζωῆς της ἔλεγε μετὰ δακρύων· Ὡ Κύριε τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ἐλέησε κ’ ἐμένα τὴν ἁμαρτωλή.

* * *

Δώστε μου, ἀγαπητοί μου, **ἕνα τέτοιο δάκρυ**, ἕνα δάκρυ τοῦ Δαυὶδ, ἕνα δάκρυ τῆς ἁμαρτωλῆς τῆς Μεγάλης Τρίτης, ἕνα δάκρυ τῆς ὁσίας Πελαγίας καὶ τῆς ἁγίας Ταϊσίας, δώστε μου ἕνα τέτοιο δάκρυ καὶ σὰς χαρίζω τὰ πλούτη ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου.

Συναμαρτωλοὶ ἀδελφοί μου, ἄς προσφέρουμε ὅλοι τὰ δάκρυα τῆς μετανοίας μας στὸ Θεό, γιὰ νὰ ἐλεηθοῦμε καὶ **ν’ ἀξιωθοῦμε τοῦ παραδείσου**. Ἐκεῖ δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχη λύπη, δάκρυ, φέρετρο· δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχουν νεκροί, ἀλλὰ αἰώνιος ζωὴ. Ἐκεῖ θὰ ὑπάρχη ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός· ὄν, παῖδες, ὑμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· 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

Bodily Resurrection

What is it about the body that you don't like? If the whole coordinated structure of the body is described, doesn't the one who hears it feel overwhelmed, and the one who describes it cannot do it justice? What is it about the body that you don't like? I will tell you; it's the body's liability to decay, its mortality. But the things you like will be there, the things you don't like won't. ...

So don't be ungrateful to your Redeemer by not believing what He promised; but do what He commands, in order to receive what He promised. Your Redeemer, after all, can do everything, because He is God. If you don't like the body being resuscitated, then stop liking the body now...

So bodies will rise again, because Christ rose again; but they have no needs or wants, because Christ too, when He rose again, ate some food because He was able to, not because He needed to. There will be no hunger there; we shall not

stand there anxiously, and say, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Lk 11: 3); we will always have eternal bread. But it's always to hand; we won't be hoping for rain because of it, we won't dread the cloudless skies of drought; because our bread will be the One who made the skies. And there will be no fear there, no toil, no sorrow, no decay, no poverty, no infirmity, no weariness, no clumsiness. None of these things will be there; but the body will be...

We were in possession of death through blame; He took death to himself without blame; though He wasn't a debtor, He was put to death, and so tore up the debtors' bills. So, all of you, let your minds be full of faith in the resurrection. What Christians are promised is not only everything that the Scriptures proclaim has been done in Christ, but also what is going to be done in Him.

St. Augustine of Hippo

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