



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

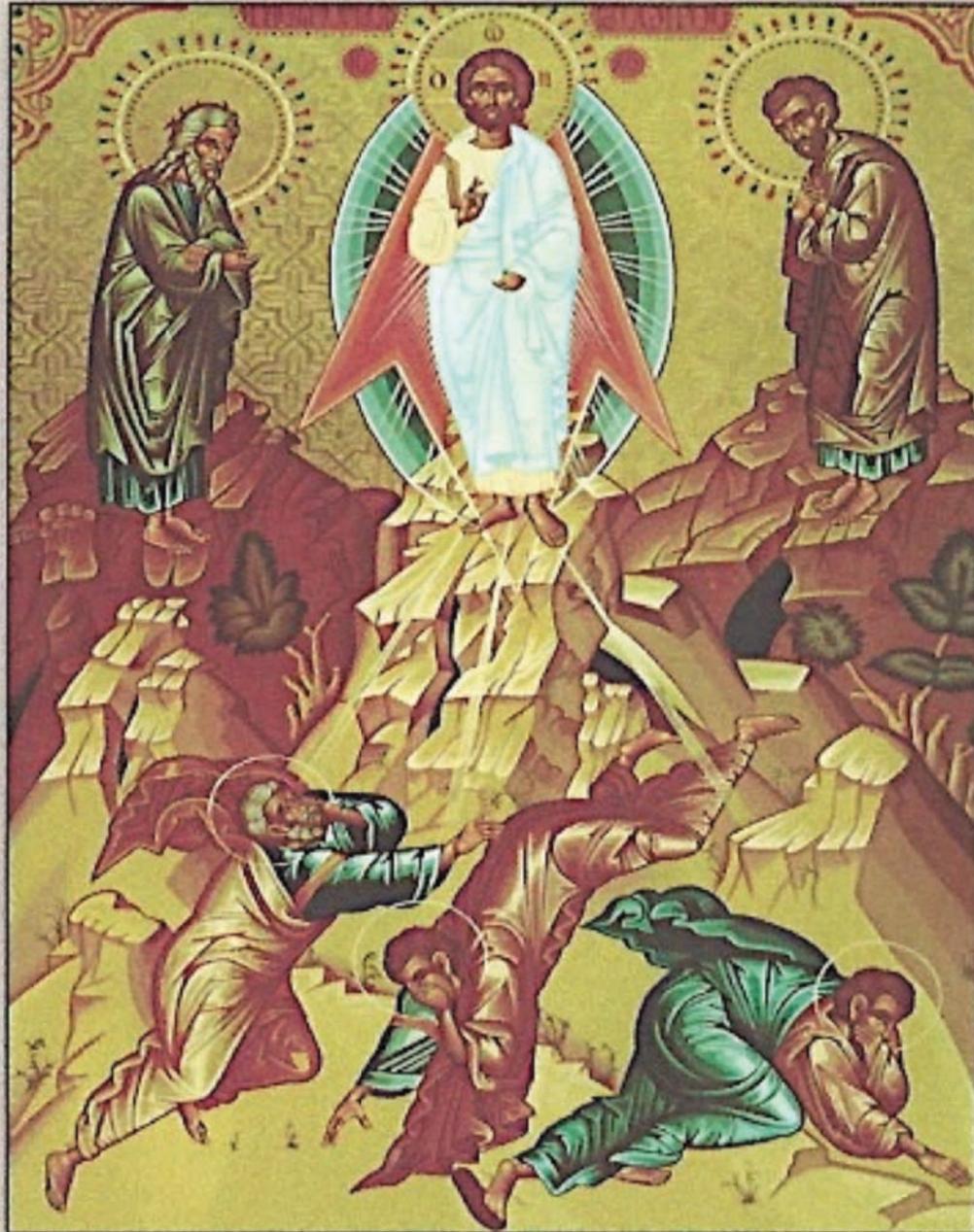
JUBILEE 85TH ANNIVERSARY

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 3rd, 2014

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Transfiguration of Our Lord -- August 6th

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St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people. Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

BRETHREN, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispos and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 1:10-17

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει. Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Ἀδελφοί, παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ἦ ἐν ὑμῖν σχίσματα, ἧτε δὲ κατηρτισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοί καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ. Ἐδηλώθη γάρ μοι περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί μου, ὑπὸ τῶν Χλόης, ὅτι ἔριδες ἐν ὑμῖν εἰσιν. Λέγω δὲ τοῦτο, ὅτι ἕκαστος ὑμῶν λέγει, Ἐγὼ μὲν εἰμι Παύλου, Ἐγὼ δὲ Ἀπολλῶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Κηφᾶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Χριστοῦ. Μεμέρισται ὁ Χριστός; Μὴ Παῦλος ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν, ἢ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου ἐβαπτίσθητε; Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ ὅτι οὐδένα ὑμῶν ἐβάπτισα, εἰ μὴ Κρίσπον καὶ Γάϊον· ἵνα μὴ τις εἴπῃ ὅτι εἰς τὸ ἐμὸν ὄνομα ἐβάπτισα. Ἐβάπτισα δὲ καὶ τὸν Στεφανᾶ οἶκον· λοιπὸν οὐκ οἶδα εἴ τινα ἄλλον ἐβάπτισα. Οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλὲν με Χριστὸς βαπτίζειν, ἀλλ' εὐαγγελίζεσθαι· οὐκ ἐν σοφίᾳ λόγου, ἵνα μὴ κενωθῇ ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

8th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

8th Sunday of Matthew

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 14.14-22

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐξελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδε πολὺν ὄχλον, καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐθεράπευσε τοὺς ἀρρώστους αὐτῶν. ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ἔρημός ἐστιν ὁ τόπος καὶ ἡ ὥρα ἤδη παρήλθεν· ἀπόλυσον τοὺς ὄχλους, ἵνα ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὰς κώμας ἀγοράσωσιν ἑαυτοῖς βρώματα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐ χρειάν ἔχουσιν ἀπελθεῖν· δότε αὐτοῖς ὑμεῖς φαγεῖν. οἱ δὲ λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· οὐκ ἔχομεν ὧδε εἰ μὴ πέντε ἄρτους καὶ δύο ἰχθύας. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· φέρετέ μοι αὐτούς ὧδε. καὶ κελεύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἀνακλιθῆναι ἐπὶ τοὺς χόρτους, λαβὼν τοὺς πέντε ἄρτους καὶ τοὺς δύο ἰχθύας, ἀναβλέψας εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἐύλόγησε, καὶ κλάσας ἔδωκε τοῖς μαθηταῖς τοὺς ἄρτους, οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ τοῖς ὄχλοις. καὶ ἔφαγον πάντες καὶ ἐχορτάσθησαν, καὶ ἦσαν τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων δώδεκα κοφίνους πλήρεις. οἱ δὲ ἐσθίοντες ἦσαν ἄνδρες ὡσεὶ πεντακισχίλιοι χωρὶς γυναικῶν καὶ παιδίων. Καὶ εὐθέως ἠνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἕως οὗ ἀπολύσει τοὺς ὄχλους.

SERVICES THIS WEEK:	Tuesday,	August 05th ,	VESPER of TRANSFIGURATION-	Corona Parish, Queens	7:00 P.M.
	Wednesday	August 06th,	TRANSFIGURATIONLITURGY	Three Hierarchs Church	9:00 A.M.
	Wednesday	August 06th,	Blessing of Grapes		11:00 A.M.
	Thursday	August 07th	Paraklesis		7:00 P.M.
	Friday	August 08th	Paraklesis		7:00 P.M.
	Sunday,	August 10th	SAINT SIXTUS LITURGY		10.30 A.M.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: Please join us for refreshments after Divine Liturgy in WHITEHALL hosted by the Parish Council before departing for the afternoon,

YOU MAY WISH TO HOST A COFFEE FELLOWSHIP ONE SUNDAY OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS 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 for the months of JULY and AUGUST. How about you?

GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS: are in order for the academic year 2014-2015. Please refer to the insert flyer for all the details. Give your child a head-start by being BI-LINGUAL at a early age. When they go to JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL they can subscribe for a third language facility, i.e. Spanish French, Chinese: beyond learning a foreign language, the students also learn about Their Hellenic Heritage, Culture, Tradition and Orthodox Christian Faith. Our faculty are licensed foreign language educators.

MANY THANKS TO ALL: The faithful expressed their loving respect to the Pastor, Father Eugene last Sunday on the Parish Annual celebration of his birthday. Cakes, sweets, and refreshments were served to all in ROSEHALL. Special gratitude is expressed to the Reverend Clergy Fr. Adrianos, Fr. Mystyslav, and Fr. Nikolai who represented the Ukrainian and Russian faithful in their expressions of congratulations. Presentations were made at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy. Special recognition is given to Demetrios and Paraskevas Kokotas of PERRY'S DINER and TOM'S of CONEY ISLAND , and MARIA NOTARO of ALIOTO'S BAKERY for the delicious cakes served. Balloon decorations and party favors were offered by Billy Giannopoulos of MADISON FLORIST.

CENTERFOLD PHOTOS: A parish birthday party was held for Father Eugene last Sunday, with the entire congregation invited. Altar Boys and young children took over the celebration with fun and joy.

UKRAINIAN ARCHBISHOP of AMERICA is to visit Three Hierarchs Church next Sunday, August 10th., at the 12:30 P.M. Divine Liturgy. His Eminence Metropolitan ANTHONY, devoted son of the Patriarchate of Constantinople and colleague of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios will officiate at the ANNUAL celebration of SAINT PANTELEIMON, the Patron Saint of the Ukrainian community at Three Hierarchs. A formal reception for the Archbishop will conclude the festivities.

ASSEMBLYMAN STEVEN CYMBROWITZ: invites Three Hierarchs SENIOR CITIZENS to his annual 'LUNCHEON' for community seniors on:

THURSDAY – AUGUST 07TH
MARINE ROTUNDA at KINGSBOROUGH COLLEGE
Manhattan Beach
11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

Bus service FREE of charge from our Church to the event will be available. Please call the CHURCH OFFICE (718) 339-0280 to reserve your seats...invite a friend or neighbor to join you. IT'S ALL FREE! FIRST COME , FIRST SEATED!

RAMADAN IFTAR DINNER: was hosted by our Turkish neighbors once again this year in ROSEHALL. This is the 4th ANNUAL Breaking of the Fast Dinner hosted and served for the Greek community by our Turkish neighbors. It was open and free to all. Over 130 people attended and dined on the Turkish cuisine and desserts. We welcome with friendship all who pass through the doors of our sacred space.

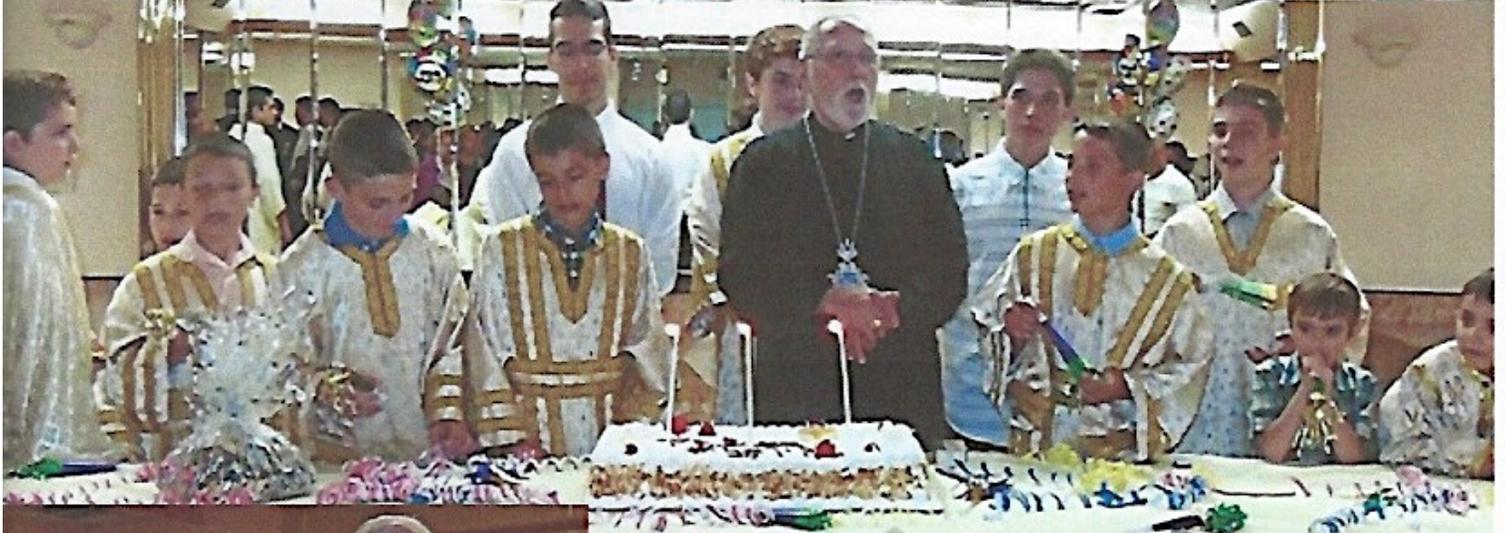
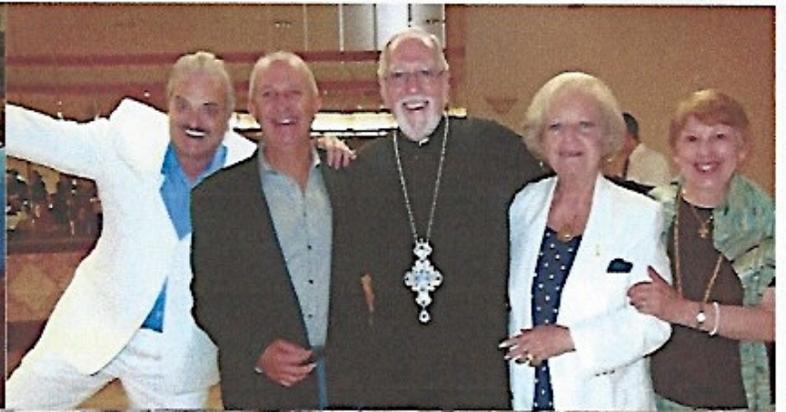
ARTOKLASIES are welcomed for the feast of TRANSFIGURATION (SOTERIOS and SOTERIA) and the KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU (Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary). Chronia Polla to all celebrating their 'Patron' name- day) MARIA, MARIO, PANAGIOTI, PANAGIOTA, DESPINA. please register your 'ARTOKLASIA' observance with the CHURCH OFFICE. 718-339-0280, 85th, ANNIVERSARY CHURCH JOURNAL: has commenced requesting ads of thanksgiving, memorial tribute, congratulations of business and commercial advertisements. A direct mailing is going out to the community, however AD FORMS are available upon request in the Church Office. This historical volume of commentary archived at the church for future generations includes your family name and salutation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: PARISH ANNUAL DINNER DANCE, FRIDAY EVENING, OCTOBER 24th 8:00 P.M. in ROSEHALL. THIS IS OUR '85,' ANNIVERSARY YEAR. HELP US CELEBRATE.

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](#))

MEMORIAL TODAY: + PETER (PANAGIOTIS) GREGOROPOULOS







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 879²

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Χωρὶς ναοὺς;

«Εἰς μὲν τὴν πρώτην σκηνὴν διὰ παντὸς εἰσίασιν οἱ ἱερεῖς τὰς λατρείας ἐπιτελοῦντες, εἰς δὲ τὴν δευτέραν ἅπαξ τοῦ ἐνιαυτοῦ μόνος ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς» (Ἑβρ. 9,6-7)

ΣΗΜΕΡΑ, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐορτάζουμε τὴν κατὰ θεοῦ τιμὴς ἐσθῆτος τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου «ἐν τῇ ἁγίᾳ σοφῶ». Τί σημαίνει αὐτό; Ὅτι σὰν σήμερα τὸ ἱερὸ ἔνδυμα, ποὺ φοροῦσε ἡ Παναγία ὅταν ἦταν στὴ γῆ, τοποθετήθηκε μὲ τιμὴ μέσα σὲ εἰδικὴ θήκη, γιὰ νὰ φυλάσσεται ἐκεῖ καὶ νὰ προσκυνῆται. Πότε συνέβη αὐτό; Ἐπὶ Λέοντος τοῦ Μεγάλου (560 μ.Χ.). Ποῦ; Στὸ Βυζάντιο, στὸ ναὸ τῆς Θεοτόκου τῶν Βλαχερνῶν στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολι. Καὶ πῶς βρέθηκε ἐκεῖ τὸ φόρεμα τῆς Θεοτόκου ἀπὸ τὴν Παλαιστίνη; Δυὸ ἀδέρφια, ἀξιωματοῦχοι ἀπὸ τὴν Κωνσταντινούπολι, ὁ Γάβριος καὶ ὁ Κάνδιδος, εἶχαν πάει στοὺς Ἁγίους Τόπους νὰ προσκυνήσουν, κ' ἐκεῖ, κοντὰ στὴ Γαλιλαία στὸ σπιτιμὴς γριᾶς Ἑβραίας, εἶδαν νὰ φυλάσσεται τὸ φόρεμα τῆς Παναγίας. Βρῆκαν λοιπὸν τρόπο, ἔκλειψαν τὸν πολύτιμο θησαυρὸ, τὸν ἔφεραν στὴν Πόλι καὶ ἔκτισαν πρὸς τιμὴν τοῦ ἑνα ναοῦ. Ἀργότερα ὁμοῦ τὸν παρέδωσαν στὸν αὐτοκράτορα, ὁ ὁποῖος τὸν τοποθέτησε στὸν δικὸν τοῦ ναοῦ τῶν Βλαχερνῶν ὅπως εἶπαμε.

Τὸ ἱστορικὸ αὐτό, σὲ συνδυασμὸ καὶ μὲ τὸν σημερινὸ ἀπόστολο, μᾶς δίνει ἀφορμὴ νὰ μιλήσουμε γιὰ τὴν ἀνάγεσι τῶν ἱερῶν ναῶν. Παρακαλῶ προσέξτε.

Δὲν ὑπάρχει, ἀγαπητοί μου, λαὸς ἄθρησκος. Κ' ἐκεῖ ἀκόμη ποὺ ἔχουν ἀθεΐα καὶ καταδιώκουν τὴ θρησκεία, ναί, κ' ἐκεῖ ὑπάρχει λαὸς ποὺ πιστεύει στὸ Θεὸ καὶ τὸν λατρεύει σὲ μέρη ποὺ δὲν φτάνει ἡ ἀστυνομικὴ παρακολούθησις.

● Ὅλοι οἱ λαοὶ τοῦ κόσμου θρησκεύουν, ἄλλος περισσότερο ἄλλος λιγώτερο. Ἄλλ' ἀνάμεσα σὲ ὅλους ὑπάρχει κ' ἕνας λαὸς, ποὺ ἦταν πέρα γιὰ πέρα λαὸς θρησκευτικὸς. Εἶνε ὁ Ἑβραϊκὸς λαός. Αὐτὸς εἶχε τὸ προνόμιον νὰ πιστεῦσιν στὸν ἀληθινὸ Θεὸ, καὶ εἶχε διοργανώσει τὴν ἀτομικὴ, οἰκογενειακὴ, κοινωνικὴ καὶ ἐθνικὴ ζωὴ του

σύμφωνα μὲ τὶς ἐντολὰς τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀποτελοῦσε κράτος θεοκρατικόν. Ὁ Θεὸς βασιλεὺς ἀνάμεσά τους. Καὶ τὸν λάτρευαν ὄχι μόνον τὸ Σάββατο, ἀλλὰ ὅλες τὶς ἡμέρες, προσφέροντας θυσίας. Ποῦ λάτρευαν τὸ Θεόν; Ὅταν ἦταν σκλάβοι στοὺς Αἰγυπτίους, οἱ τύραννοί τους δὲν τοὺς ἄφηναν νὰ χτίσουν δικὸν ναόν. Τὸ Θεὸ τὸν λάτρευαν τότε μέσα στὰ σπιτία τους καὶ στὶς καρδιὰς τους. Ἄλλ' ὅταν ὁ Θεὸς μὲ τὸ Μωυσῆ τοὺς ἐλευθέρωσε ἀπὸ τὴν αἰγυπτιακὴν τυραννίαν, οἱ Ἑβραῖοι ξεκίνησαν γιὰ τὴν ἀγαπημένην τους πατρίδα. Ἐλεύθεροι πλέον τότε λάτρευαν τὸ Θεόν. Ποῦ; Ὑποχρεωμένοι κάθε μέρα νὰ βαδίζουν, δὲν μποροῦσαν νὰ χτίσουν ναόν. Ὁ Θεὸς τότε τοὺς διέταξε νὰ κάνουν ἕνα ναὸ κινητό, ποὺ μποροῦσαν νὰ τὸν λύνουν καὶ νὰ τὸν στήνουν ὅπου ἤθελαν. Καὶ τὸν ἔκαναν. Ὁ ναὸς κατασκευάστηκε ἀπὸ σανίδες, δέρματα ζῶν καὶ πολυτελεῖ ὑφάσματα. Ὁ ναὸς αὐτὸς ὠνομαζόταν σκηνὴ τοῦ μαρτυρίου.

Ἄλλὰ τί σκηνή! Ὅσο καιρὸ ὁ Ἑβραϊκὸς λαὸς περιπλανόταν στὴν ἔρημο, σκηνὴς (τσαντίρια) ἦταν οἱ κατοικίαις τους. Ἀνάμεσα ὁμοῦ σ' αὐτὲς ἦταν καὶ μιὰ σκηνὴ ποὺ ξεχώριζε ἀπ' ὅλες τὶς ἄλλες· ἦταν ἡ σκηνὴ - κινητὸς ναὸς τῶν Ἑβραίων. Οἱ παλαιότεροι θὰ θυμᾶστε, ὅτι σὲ καιρὸ πολέμου πάνω στὰ ψηλά βουνά, ποὺ δὲν ὑπῆρχαν ἐκκλησίαις, ὁ στρατιωτικὸς ἱερεὺς ἐστήριξε ἕνα πρόχειρον θυσιαστήριον καὶ πάνω σ' αὐτὸ τελοῦσε τὴ θεΐαν λειτουργίαν. Ἔτσι λάτρευαν καὶ οἱ Ἑβραῖοι στὰ χρόνια ποὺ περιπλανιόνταν στὴν ἔρημο. Εἶχαν τὴ σκηνή. Καὶ μέσα σ' αὐτὴν φύλαγαν τὰ πιὸ ἱερὰ πράγματα τῆς θρησκείας τους.

Ἡ σκηνὴ χωριζόταν σὲ δυὸ μέρη μὲ παραπέτασμα, μὲ μεγάλη χοντρή κουρτίνα. Τὸ πρῶτον μέρος λεγόταν ἅγια. Σ' αὐτὸ κάθε μέρα ἔμπαιναν οἱ ἱερεῖς καὶ προσέφεραν θυσίας. Τὸ δεύτερον μέρος λεγόταν ἅγια ἁγίων. Σ' αὐτὸ

μιά φορά τὸ χρόνο ἔμπαινε μόνο ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ προσέφερε θυσία ζητώντας συγχώρησι γιὰ τὰ ἁμαρτήματα τὰ δικά του καὶ τοῦ λαοῦ. Σ' αὐτὴ τὴ σκηνὴ ὁ Ἑβραϊκὸς λαὸς λάτρευε τὸν ἀληθινὸ Θεό.

● Ὅταν ὁμως ἐγκαταστάθηκαν στὴν πατρίδα τους καὶ ὕστερα ἀπὸ περιπέτειες καὶ ἀγῶνες κατώρθωσαν νὰ γίνουν ἰσχυρὸ βασίλειο, τὸ πιὸ ἰσχυρὸ τῆς Ἀνατολῆς, μιὰ ἐπιθυμία τοὺς κυρίευσε· νὰ χτίσουν στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, στὴν πρωτεύουσά τους, ναό. Ναό, πού νὰ ἔναι τὸ πιὸ μεγάλο κτήριο, τρανὸ δείγμα τῆς ἑβραϊκῆς δόξης καὶ δυνάμεως, κέντρο ἔθνικὸ καὶ θρησκευτικὸ.

Καὶ ἔχτισαν ναό. Τὸν ἔχτισε ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς πιὸ ἐνδοξοὺς βασιλιάδες τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, ὁ Σολομῶν, γιὸς τοῦ Δαυὶδ. Γι' αὐτὸ ὠνομάστηκε **ναὸς τοῦ Σολομῶντος**. Τὸ ναὸ αὐτὸ τὸν θαύμαζε ὅλος ὁ κόσμος. Ἦταν χτισμένος μὲ πέτρες πελεκητές, μὲ μάρμαρα πολύχρωμα, μὲ ξυλεία σπάνια. Οἱ τοῖχοι καὶ ἡ ὀροφὴ ντυμένα μὲ χρυσάφι. Τὸ σχέδιο τοῦ ναοῦ αὐτοῦ δὲν διέφερε ἀπὸ τὸ σχέδιο τῆς σκηνῆς· ὅπως ἡ σκηνὴ ἔτσι καὶ ὁ ναὸς χωριζόταν σὲ δυὸ μέρη. Τὰ ἐγκαί- νιά του ἔγιναν μὲ μεγάλη ἐπισημότητα, ἡ χαρὰ τοῦ λαοῦ ἦταν ἀφάνταστη.

Μέσα στὸ ναὸ αὐτὸν 400 χρόνια οἱ Ἑβραῖοι λάτρευαν τὸ Θεό. Ἄλλ' ὅταν ἁμάρτησαν, τότε ἦρθε ἡ συμφορὰ. Ἐνας ἀσεβῆς βασιλιάς, ὁ Ναβουχοδονόσορ, ἦρθε ἀπὸ τὴ Βαβυλώνα μὲ πολὺ στρατό, νίκησε τοὺς Ἰουδαίους, κυρίευσε τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, γκρέμισε τὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομῶντος, καὶ πῆρε **αἰχμαλώτους στὴ Βαβυλώνα** χιλιάδες λαό. Ὑστερα ἀπὸ πολλὰ χρόνια οἱ αἰχμάλωτοι γύρισαν πάλι πίσω καὶ ἄρχισαν νὰ χτίζουν σπίτια. Μὰ ναὸ δὲν εἶχαν.

—Ντροπὴ σας, τοὺς εἶπε τότε ὁ **προφήτης Ἀγγαῖος**, νὰ χτίζετε ὁμορφα σπίτια, καὶ ναὸ νὰ μὴν ἔχετε!...

● Ἔτσι παρακινήθηκαν νὰ χτίσουν ναὸ μὲ πρωτοστάτη τὸν Ζοροβάβελ. Μὲ πολλὰς δυσκολίες καὶ ἐμπόδια τὸν ἔχτισαν. Λαμπρὸς ἦταν κι αὐτὸς ὁ **ναὸς τοῦ Ζοροβάβελ**, ἀλλὰ πολὺ κατώτερος ἀπὸ τὸν πρῶτο. Γι' αὐτὸ οἱ γεροντότεροι, πού εἶχαν δεῖ μικρὰ παιδιὰ τὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομῶντος, ἔκαναν σύγκρισι, ἔβλεπαν τὴ διαφορὰ, συγκινούνταν καὶ ἔκλαιγαν.

Μέσα στὸν καινούργιο αὐτὸ ναὸ 500 χρόνια οἱ Ἑβραῖοι λάτρευαν τὸ Θεό. Ἀλλὰ ἦρθε καὶ **πάλι ἡ συμφορὰ**. Ἐχθροὶ τοὺς κυρίευσαν καὶ γκρέμισαν καὶ τὸ ναὸ αὐτόν.

● Τέλος πάνω στὰ ἐρείπια τοῦ ναοῦ τοῦ Ζοροβάβελ ὁ Ἡρώδης ὁ Μέγας ἔχτισε καινούργιο ναό, στολισμένο μὲ μάρμαρα καὶ χρυσάφι. Σ' αὐτὸ τὸ **ναὸ τοῦ Ἡρώδη** πῆγε ἡ Παναγία τὸ

Χριστὸ ὅταν ἦταν 12 ἐτῶν. Στὸ προαύλιο αὐτοῦ τοῦ ναοῦ πολλές φορές στάθηκε ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ κήρυξε. Καὶ προφήτευσε, ὅτι ὁ ναὸς αὐτὸς θὰ καταστραφῇ καὶ δὲν θὰ μείνῃ λιθάρι πάνω στὸ λιθάρι. Ἡ προφητεία τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐκπληρώθηκε. Τριάντα χρόνια μετὰ τὴ σταύρωσί του ἦρθαν οἱ Ῥωμαῖοι, κυρίευσαν τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἔβαλαν φωτιά, γκρέμισαν τὸ ναό, σκότωσαν, σταύρωσαν χιλιάδες. Οἱ Ἑβραῖοι, ἂν καὶ πέρασαν ἀπὸ τότε 1900 χρόνια, δὲν κατώρθωσαν νὰ χτίσουν ἄλλο ναό. Κάθε Σάββατο εὐσεβεῖς Ἑβραῖοι πηγαίνουν καὶ κλαῖνε σὲ κάτι λιθάρια - ἀγκωνάρια, πού ἔμειναν ἀπὸ τὸ ναὸ ἐκεῖνο.

Τί μᾶς διδάσκουν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὅλα αὐτά; Πρῶτον, ὅτι **τὸ νὰ χτίζουμε καὶ νὰ ἔχουμε ναὸ εἶνε ἔργο θεάρεστο**. Τὸ διατάζει ὁ Θεός. Αὐτὸς εἶπε καὶ ἔγινε ἡ πρώτη σκηνή, ἡ σκηνὴ τοῦ μαρτυρίου· αὐτὸς εὐλόγησε νὰ γίνῃ ὁ ναὸς τοῦ Σολομῶντος· ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστὸς, ὅταν ἦρθε στὸν κόσμο, πῆγε στὸ ναό, προσκύνησε καὶ προσευχήθηκε σὰν ἄνθρωπος. Ὅλοι οἱ χριστιανικοὶ λαοὶ ἔχουν τοὺς ναοὺς τους· μόνο οἱ χιλιασταὶ δὲν ἔχουν ναοὺς, δὲν θέλουν νὰ πατήσουν σὲ ναό, δὲν κάνουν τὸ σημεῖο τοῦ σταυροῦ.

Τὸ δεῦτερο πού διδασκόμαστε εἶνε, ὅτι δὲν φτάνει νὰ χτίζουμε καὶ νὰ ἔχουμε ναοὺς. Χρειαζέται καὶ κάτι ἄλλο, πιὸ σπουδαῖο καὶ ἀπαραίτητο. Ἄμα ἀκοῦμε τὴν καμπάνα, ἡ καρδιά μας νὰ συγκινηθῆται. Νὰ λέμε· Μὲ καλεῖ ὁ Θεός! **Νὰ πηγαίνουμε ὅλοι μὲ προθυμία στὴν ἐκκλησία**. Νὰ στεκώκαστε μὲ εὐλάβεια. Ν' ἀκοῦμε μὲ προσοχὴ τὴ θεία λειτουργία. Νὰ προσευχώμαστε μὲ κατάνυξι καὶ δάκρυα. Νὰ κοινωνοῦμε μὲ φόβο Θεοῦ, πίστι καὶ ἀγάπη τὰ ἄχραντα μυστήρια, καὶ νὰ ζοῦμε σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ. Τὰ κάνουμε αὐτὰ; Τότε λατρεύουμε τὸ Θεό, τὸν λατρεύουμε ὅπως θέλει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, τὸν λατρεύουμε «*ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθείᾳ*»· καὶ ἡ εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ θὰ εἶνε μαζί μας. Ἄλλ' ἂν κάνουμε τ' ἀντίθετα; Ἄν τις Κυριακὲς γεμίζουμε τὰ καφφενεῖα καὶ τὰ κέντρα τῶν διασκεδάσεων καὶ τὰ γήπεδα, καὶ τις ἐκκλησίες τις ἀφήνομε ἔρημες, ἡ καμμιά φορὰ πᾶμε μὲν, ἀλλὰ τὸ μυαλό μας δὲν εἶνε στὸ Θεό, καὶ κουβεντιάζουμε καὶ ἁμαρτάνουμε μέσα κ' ἔξω ἀπὸ τὸ ναό, καὶ ζοῦμε σὰν εἰδωλολάτρες καὶ ἀντίχριστοι, ὧ τότε ἀλλοίμονό μας! Ἐρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ σπίτια καὶ ἐκκλησίες γκρεμίζονται, καὶ οἱ λαοὶ τιμωροῦνται γιὰ τὴν ἀπιστία καὶ τὴν ἀσέβειά τους.

(†) **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

On the Mountain

He led them up to the mountain that He might also reveal to them Who this Son is, and Whose Son is He. For when He asked them: Whom do men say that the Son of man is, they said to Him: some Elias, some others Jeremias, or one of the prophets. And so He led them up into a high mountain, and showed them that He was not Elias, but the God of Elias; that neither was He Jeremias, but He that had sanctified Jeremias in his mother's womb; that neither was He one of the prophets, but the Lord of the prophets, and He that had sent them.

And He showed them also that He was the Creator of heaven and earth and the Lord of the living and the dead; for He spoke to the heavens, and they sent down Elias; He made a sign to the earth and raised Moses to life again... For God the Word dwelt in the womb of the Virgin: and the fire of His Divinity consumed not the members of the virginal body; and in that

dwelling place she kept watch over him for the space of nine months. He dwelt in the womb of the Virgin, not despising our nature; and from it God came forth clothed in human flesh, that He might redeem us.

He took them up into a high mountain apart, that He might also show them the glory of His Divinity, and that He might declare Himself the Redeemer of Israel, as He had foretold by the prophets, and so that they would not be scandalized in Him when they would see Him in the Passion He had taken upon Himself; and which for our sakes He was about to suffer in His human nature. For they knew that He was man, but they knew not that He was God. They knew Him as the Son of Mary, and as a man sharing their daily life in the world. On the mountain He revealed to them that He was the Son of God, and Himself God.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

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