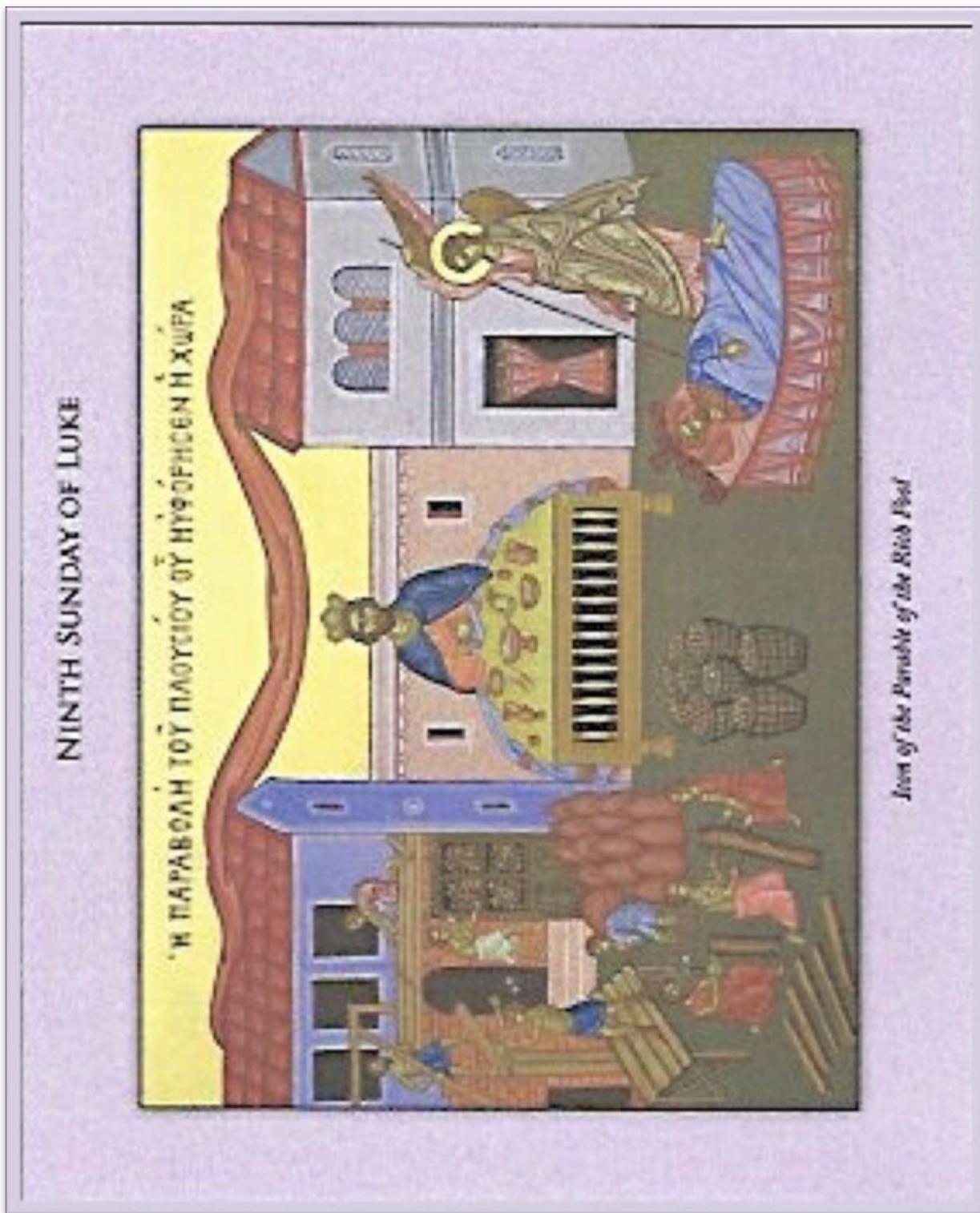




DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN November 18th, 2018  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas



1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280  
Web site: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org) E-mail : [info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org)

**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.**

**Psalm 75.11,1**

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.  
Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1**

Εὔξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.  
Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:1-7 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς ἐγώ, ὁ δέσμιος ἐν κυρίῳ, ἀξίως περιπατήσαι τῆς κλήσεως ἧς ἐκλήθητε, μετὰ πάσης ταπεινοφροσύνης καὶ πραότητος, μετὰ μακροθυμίας, ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων ἐν ἀγάπῃ, σπουδάζοντες τηρεῖν τὴν ἐνότητα τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν τῷ συνδέσμῳ τῆς εἰρήνης. Ἐν σῶμα καὶ ἐν πνεῦμα, καθὼς καὶ ἐκλήθητε ἐν μιᾷ ἐλπίδι τῆς κλήσεως ὑμῶν· εἰς κύριος, μία πίστις, ἐν βάπτισμα, εἰς θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ πάντων, ὁ ἐπὶ πάντων, καὶ διὰ πάντων, καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν ἡμῖν. Ἐνὶ δὲ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

**9th Sunday of Luke**

**The Gospel According to Luke 12:16-21**

he Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 12:16-21

Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἀνθρώπου τινὸς πλουσίου εὐφόρησεν ἡ χώρα· καὶ διελογίζετο ἐν ἑαυτῷ λέγων· τί ποιήσω, ὅτι οὐκ ἔχω ποῦ συνάξω τοὺς καρπούς μου; καὶ εἶπε· τοῦτο ποιήσω· καθελῶ μου τὰς ἀποθήκας καὶ μείζονας οἰκοδομήσω, καὶ συνάξω ἐκεῖ πάντα τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθὰ μου, καὶ ἐρῶ τῇ ψυχῇ μου· ψυχὴ, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Θεός· ἄφρον, ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχὴν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σοῦ· ἃ δὲ ἠτοίμασας τίνι ἔσται; οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν.

**NOVEMBER 18TH,**

**DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 TODAY:** is celebrating FOUNDERS DAY, which began November 16th, 1929 in San Francisco, California by SISTER ALEXANDRA APOSTOLIDIS. The sisterhood which has served the people all over the world in philanthropy. The members will serve the congregation with the Agape Coffee Fellowship today as part of the observance of outreach.

**TODAY:** we are pleased to announce the 90th ANNIVERSARY celebration DINNER-DANCE of the Coney Island Chapter of A.H.E.P.A. hosted under the mantle of Three Hierarchs Parish. The festive event will be celebrated on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7th, in ROSELHALL starting at 7:30 P.M. Tickets are only \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for children under 12 years of age. COME ONE! COME ALL! LET'S JOIN IN THE HONORING OF AHEPANS past and present. Further details will be forthcoming in subsequent bulletins. Ticket reservations may be secured through the church office by telephoning 718-339-0280. Dinner, Wine and Live music, what more could you ask for!

**TODAY GENERAL ASSEMBLY** of the faithful stewardship members of our parish is scheduled at 1:00 P.M. in Whitehall. The agenda has been posted to all registered and voting members of Three Hierarchs Church. You may receive a copy in the Church Office upon request. PLEASE REGISTER NOW TO HAVE A VOICE AND VOTE!

**JOURNAL AD and CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL** flyers are included in the insert TODAY. Please find the opportunity to share in this 90th YEAR ANNIVERSARY HISTORIC JOURNAL of our parish church, (1929-2019). This book will represent the past, present and future memorable events of our people in this little corner of America. Commemorate your grandparents, parents, children, grandchildren with a notation and photo (Baptism, Wedding, Special Occasion). The JOURNAL becomes archival treasure for the community, the Archdiocese and world HELLENISM WE WERE HERE! WE ARE HERE! WE WILL CONTINUE TO BE HERE! Celebrate our determination and achievements over the past 5 generations....you are part of it.

**CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL** is in full swing. Please submit your \$20.00. contribution for the BYZANTINE TRIPTYCH ICON that will include your name as greeting to the thousands of eyes that will gaze upon the NATIVITY phenomenon. Don't let it go by! Register in the OFFICE today. Fill out the form after church and before the fellowship coffee.

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY** is collecting food for the CITY HARVEST to be distributed to needy families during the holiday season. Please bring NON-PERISHABLE items canned or boxed to the collection box outside the school office. Do not submit breakable 'glass' jars. Please see the included flyer for items most needed. Clean out YOUR pantry or visit the local grocers for ample supply. THANK YOU!

**LADIES SOCIETY OF PHILOPTOCHOS** are encouraged to mark their calendars:

- 1: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING and CHINESE AUCTION  
Monday, November 26th, at 7:30 P.M.
- 2: CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL PARTY in WHITEHALL at 7:30 P.M.  
Monday, December 10th SEE YOU THERE!
- 3: Visitation to SAINT BASIL ACADEMY for their Christmas Pageant  
Saturday, December 15th, at 11:00 A.M. Lots to do!

**CHURCH and SCHOOL OFFICES** will be closed Thursday and Friday November 22-23 in observance of THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS. Eat! Drink! Be Merry!

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20<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 NEXT WEEK:** + MARY and + MICHAEL BOUZAKIS  
+ ANNA SARRIS



*And crown thy good*  
with brotherhood

The Reverend Clergy, Parish Council, all Philanthropic and Fraternal Organizations, School Administration Faculty and P.T.A.,  
.Scouting and Athletic Organizations.,

**WISH ONE AND ALL A BLESSED THANKSGIVING DAY.**

Let's all join arms in a circle of brotherhood with family, friend and neighbor.

90th.



90th.

★ AHEPA ★



*Coney Island Chapter #200  
90th Anniversary  
Dinner Dance* ★



Friday December 7th, 2018  
7:30 P.M. @ RoseHall  
Three Hierarchs Church  
1724 Avenue P  
Brooklyn, NY 11229



\$50.00 Admission  
\$25.00 Children under 12  
Dinner, Wine & Live Music  
Call 718-339-0280 for Reservations





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Εκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γραμματεία τῆρὸ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Ἀγιοσπίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23650-28610 - imazflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2136	Κυριακὴ Θ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 12,16-21· 14,35) 18 Νοεμβρίου 2018	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Ἀγιοσπίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Οἱ ὄντως πλούσιοι, οἱ ἐνάρετοι!

«Οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν» (Λουκ. 12,21)

Ἐλεεινὸ καὶ ἀξιοθρήνητο ὑπῆρξε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ τέλος τοῦ πλουσίου τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Στὴν ἀρχὴ τῆς παραβολῆς ἐπικρατεῖ ἡ εὐφορία τοῦ πλούτου, ἡ ἀφθονία τῶν ἀγαθῶν, τὰ δῶρα τῆς εὐλογίας τοῦ Θεοῦ· τὸ μόνο πρόβλημα τότε ἦταν ὅτι δὲν ὑπῆρχε τρόπος ν' ἀποθηκευθοῦν ὅλα ἐκεῖνα τὰ ἀγαθὰ, ποῦ κι αὐτὸ πάντως βρῆκε λύσι. Στὸ τέλος ὁμως αἰφνιδιάζεται κανεὶς ἀκούγοντας τὴν αὐστηρὴ ἀπόφασί τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὸν ἀπροσδόκητο θάνατο τοῦ δημιουργοῦ αὐτῆς τῆς ζηλευτῆς περιουσίας, τὴν ἀβέβαιη τύχη ὅλης αὐτῆς τῆς κληρονομιάς, μὰ πρὸ παντὸς θλίβεται γιὰ τὴν τύχη αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου στὴν αἰωνιότητα. Τί κρίμα!

Ὁ πλούσιος ἀσφαλῶς κοπίασε καὶ μόχθησε ὡς τότε γιὰ νὰ φέρῃ τὴν παραγωγὴ τῶν κτημάτων του σὲ τόσο καλὸ σημεῖο. Τὸν ἀκούσαμε ἀκόμη πόσο πίεσε τὸ μυαλό του ὥσπου νὰ βρῇ πῶς θὰ ἀσφαλίσῃ τὰ εἰσοδήματά του σὲ νέες ἀποθήκες· αὐτὲς θὰ ἀρχίζε νὰ χτίζῃ ἀπ' τὸ ἐπόμενο κιόλας πρῶι. Κολυμποῦσε ἤδη σὲ πέλαγος χαρᾶς καὶ σχεδίαζε πῶς μπορεῖ ν' ἀπολαύσῃ καλύτερα ἓνα μακρὺ μέλλον μέσα σὲ μιὰ ἀδιατάρακτη εὐτυχία. Παραμιλοῦσε μὲ τὸν ἑαυτὸ του λέγοντας· «Ψυχὴ, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου» (Λουκ. 12,20). Στὸ ἐξῆς αὐτὸ θὰ ἦταν τὸ πρόγραμμα τῆς ζωῆς του.

Ἄλλ' ἐνῶ ὁ πλούσιος σκεπτόταν αὐτὰ καὶ μὲ τὴ φαντασία του ἐπλαθε κόσμους ἐπιγείου χαρᾶς καὶ εὐτυχίας, στὸν Οὐρανὸ ἐγράφετο ἡ μεγάλη ἀπόφασίς· ὁ Θεὸς ἀπόφασισε νὰ κόψῃ, τελείως ἁφαντικὰ καὶ ἀπροσδόκητα, τὸ νῆμα τῆς ζωῆς του! Καὶ τώρα ὁ πλούσιος καλεῖται νὰ ἐγκαταλείψῃ ἀμέσως τοὺς θησαυροὺς του· ὁ θάνατος τὸν ἀρπάζει καὶ τὸν μεταφέρει στὴ χώρα τῆς αἰωνιότητος, χωρὶς νὰ τοῦ δώσῃ μιὰ παράτασι, κάποια μικρὴ ἔστω προθεσμία, γιὰ νὰ μπορέσῃ ὄχι ν' ἀπο-

λαύσῃ τὰ ἐπίγεια ἀγαθὰ του, ἀλλ' οὔτε νὰ διευθετήσῃ τὰ κληρονομικά του. Βιαιῶς ἀποχωρίζεται ἀπὸ τὰ πλοῦτή του καὶ γυμνὸς πάει νὰ ἐμφανισθῇ ἐνώπιον τοῦ Κριτοῦ.

Αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ ἄθλιο καὶ ἀξιολύπητο τέλος τοῦ πλουσίου τῆς παραβολῆς, ἀλλὰ καὶ ὄλων ἐκείνων ποὺ βαδίζουν ἐπάνω στὰ ἴχνη τῆς δικῆς του ζωῆς. «Οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν», αὐτὰ παθαίνει ὁποῖος θησαυρίζει γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτοῦ του καὶ δὲν ἐπιδιώκει τὸν κατὰ Θεὸν πλουτισμὸν (βλ. 1221).

Ἄλλα μὲ τὰ τελευταῖα αὐτὰ λόγια, ποῦ ἀποτελοῦν τὸ διδάγμα τῆς παραβολῆς, ὁ Κύριος ὑποδεικνύει σὲ ὄλους τοὺς ἀκολούθους του, ὅτι πρέπει νὰ στρέψουν τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον τους θερμὰ στὸν κατὰ Θεὸν πλουτισμὸ, στὸ πῶς δηλαδὴ θὰ γίνουν πλούσιοι στὴν ἀρετῇ. Γιατὶ αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ σπουδαιότερος θησαυρὸς, νὰ συγκεντρώσουμε πλοῦτή πνευματικά. Καὶ πνευματικὰ πλοῦτή εἶνε ἡ πίστις, ἡ ἀγάπη, ἡ πραότητα, ἡ ὑπομονή, ἡ ταπεινῶσις, ἡ ἐλεημοσύνη καὶ γενικὰ κάθε ἀρετῇ. Ἡ ἀρετῇ εἶνε ὁ ἀνεκτίμητος πλοῦτος. Κι ὅπως ἔλεγαν καὶ οἱ ἀρχαῖοι πρόγονοί μας, «πᾶς ὁ τ' ἐπὶ γῆς καὶ ὑπὸ γῆς χρυσὸς ἀρετῆς οὐκ ἀντάξιός» (Πλάτ., Νόμ. 5,728A· Μγ. 1ατροῦ, Πόθεν καὶ ὁπίσω 70), ὅλος δηλαδὴ ὁ χρυσὸς τοῦ κόσμου, πάνω στὴ γῆ καὶ κάτω ἀπ' τὴ γῆ, δὲν ἔχει τὴν ἀξία ποῦ ἔχει ἡ ἀρετῇ.

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Αὐτοὶ ποὺ ἔχουν τὴν ἀρετῇ, ἀγαπητοί μου, αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ πραγματικὰ πλούσιοι. Γιατὶ; Διότι ἡ ἀρετῇ εἶνε ἐκείνη ποῦ θὰ συνοδεύσῃ τὸν κάτοχό της καὶ πέρα ἀπὸ τὸν τάφο. Τὰ ὑλικά πλοῦτή δὲν συνοδεύουν τὸν κάτοχό τους, μένουν ἐδῶ. Καὶ ὄχι μόνον μένουν ἐδῶ, μακριὰ του, χωρὶς νὰ μποροῦν νὰ τοῦ προσφέρουν βοήθεια, ἀλλὰ καὶ γίνονται ἀφορμὴ μυρίων σφοδρῶν διενέξεων καὶ αἱματηρῶν πολλῆς φορὲς μαχῶν μεταξὺ τῶν κληρονόμων, ποὺ ἀγωνίζονται ποιὸς ἀπ' αὐτοὺς θὰ καταλάβῃ

τὸ μεγαλύτερο μερίδιο. Ἐκεῖνος ὁμως ποὺ κατέκτησε τὴν ἀρετὴ καὶ ἔζησε κατὰ Θεόν, πεθαίνει ἡρεμὸς καὶ πηγαίνει στὴν ἄλλη ζωὴ συνοδευόμενος ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγαθὴν του πράξεις. Ἐκεῖ θὰ φανερωθῇ ὁ πλοῦτος τῆς ἀρετῆς τῶν δικαίων, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡ γυμνότης τῶν ἄλλων, ἐκείνων ποὺ δὲν φρόντισαν, ὅσο βρίσκονταν σ' αὐτὴν ἐδῶ τῆ ζωῆ, νὰ κατακτήσουν τὸν πολῦτιμο θησαυρὸ τῆς ἀρετῆς.

Ὡ, ἡ ζωὴ ἐκείνη θὰ παρουσιάσῃ μπροστὰ στὰ μάτια ἀγγέλων καὶ ἀνθρώπων μιὰ νέα κατάσταση, μιὰ **νέα τάξι πραγμάτων**. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δοῦμε ὅτι οἱ θησαυροὶ τῶν φιλαργύρων ἑκατομμυριούχων ἔχουν τόση ἀξία ὅση ἔχει ἓνας σωρὸς ἀπὸ σκύβαλα καὶ ράκη, κόπρια καὶ κούρλια. Ἐκεῖ ὅλα τὰ νομίσματα θὰ ἐκπέσουν, δὲν θὰ ἔχουν καμμιά ἀξία, καὶ μόνο ἓνα νόμισμα θὰ κυκλοφορῇ· τὸ νόμισμα τῆς ἀρετῆς, ἐπάνω στὸ ὁποῖο θὰ ἔχη ἀποτυπωμένη τὴ σφραγιδα του τὸ ἐσφαγμένο Ἄρνιο (βλ. Ἰη 5,12-13). Μακάριοι, εὐτυχισμένοι, ὅσοι θὰ ἔχουν τὸ νόμισμα αὐτό· αὐτοὶ θὰ εἶνε οἱ πραγματικὰ ἑκατομμυριούχοι, οἱ ζάπλουτοι. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δοῦμε τοὺς ἑκατομμυριούχους τῆς γῆς, ποὺ ἔζησαν μὲ φιλαργυρία, μὲ πλεονεξία, μὲ σκληροκαρδία, μὲ ἀσωτία, νὰ περιφέρονται ἔξω ἀπὸ τὴν πύλες τῆς αἰώνιας πόλεως ὡς τοὺς χειρότερο ζητιάνους καὶ νὰ χτυποῦν, μάταια ὁμως, ζητώντας ἔλεος. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δοῦμε καὶ τοὺς φτωχοὺς Λαζάρους, αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἔζησαν ἀγόγγυστα, μὲ ὑπομονή, μὲ καρτερία, μὲ ἀσκητικότητα καὶ μὲ κάθε ἄλλη ἀρετὴ, νὰ γίνονται ἑκατομμυριούχοι καὶ νὰ εὐφραίνονται μὲ τὴν ἀπόλαυσι τῶν αἰώνιων ἀγαθῶν.

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Φίλε μου! Τώρα ἐδῶ εἶσαι φτωχός. Καὶ **ζηλεύεις** ὅταν ἀκούσης ὅτι ὁ ἄλφα ἢ ὁ βῆτα πλούσιος ἔχει ἑκατομμύρια πολλὰ καὶ ζῆ πολυτελῶς κι ἀπολαμβάνει τὴν τέρψει τῶν κόσμου, καὶ ἐπιθυμεῖς καὶ **ὄνειρεύεσαι** νὰ γίνης κ' ἐσὺ κάποτε πλούσιος, ἑκατομμυριούχος, καὶ νὰ κάνης μεγάλη ζωὴ... Δὲν θὰ σὲ ἀποτρέψω ἐγὼ ἀπὸ τὸ ὄνειρό σου αὐτό, μολονότι εἶνε ἀλήθεια καὶ τὸ ξέρω καλὰ ὅτι, γιὰ νὰ γίνης κ' ἐσὺ ἓνας ἀπὸ τοὺς μεγάλους πλουσίους τῆς γῆς καὶ ν' ἀκουστῇ τὸ ὄνομά σου μέσα στὸ μάταιο τοῦτο κόσμος, χρειάζονται τόσοι καὶ τόσοι κόποι, μόχθοι καὶ ἀγωνίες. Ἀλλὰ πόσο καλύτερα καὶ φρονιμώτερα θὰ πράξης, ἂν ἀκούσης τὴ συμβουλή τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας καὶ προσπαθήσης **νὰ συναθροίσῃς πλοῦτην πνευματικά**, ἄφθαρτα, αἰώνια! Ἴδού, ἐνώπιόν σου εἶνε τὰ χρυσοχοεῖα τῆς ἀρετῆς· ἐδῶ τὸ χρυσοχοεῖο τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τῆς ἐλε-

ημοσύνης, ἐκεῖ τὸ χρυσοχοεῖο τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ τῆς μακροθυμίας, δίπλα τὸ χρυσοχοεῖο τῆς πραότητος καὶ τῆς ἀκακίας, πιὸ 'κεῖ τὸ χρυσοχοεῖο τῆς ταπεινώσεως καὶ τῆς ἀφανεῖας, πιὸ πέρα τὸ χρυσοχοεῖο τῆς δικαιοσύνης καὶ τῆς ἐπιεικειᾶς....

Ὑπὸ τὴν ὁδηγίαν τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ σπεῦσε, ὡς ταπεινὸς ἐργάτης γιὰ νὰ συλλέξης, ἂν ὄχι ὄγκους χρυσοῦ, τοῦλάχιστον μερικὸς κόκκους, μερικὰ **ψήγματα ἀρετῆς καὶ ἀγκωσύνης**. Τὰ ψήγματα αὐτὰ ἔχουν ἀξία πιὸ μεγάλη ἀπ' ὅλους τοὺς θησαυροὺς τοῦ Μῆδα καὶ τοῦ Κροίσου. Θὰ λάμπουν καὶ θὰ σὲ ἀναδείξουν πλούσιο στὴ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν. Ἐνδέχεται, παρ' ὅλη τὴν ἐργατικότητα καὶ τὴν εὐφροσύνη σου, νὰ μείνης ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ φτωχός. Ἄλλ' ἐὰν κατορθώσης ν' ἀποκτήσης θησαυροὺς πίστεως καὶ ἀρετῆς, θὰ εἶσαι εὐτυχισμένος, γιὰτὶ θὰ συγκαταλέγεσαι ἀνάμεσα σ' ἐκείνους τοὺς φτωχοὺς ποὺ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο τοὺς ὀνομάζει πλουσίους, γιὰτὶ ἔχουν πίστι καὶ ἀρετὴ.

Νὰ πῶς ἐκφράζεται ἡ **φωνὴ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος** στὴν Καινὴ Διαθήκη· «**Ἀκούσατε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί, οὐχ ὁ Θεὸς ἐξελέξατο τοὺς πτωχοὺς τοῦ κόσμου πλουσίους ἐν πίστει καὶ κληρονόμους τῆς βασιλείας ἧς ἐπηγγείλατο τοῖς ἀγαπῶσιν αὐτόν**», δηλαδὴ· Ἄκουστε, ἀδελφοί μου ἀγαπητοί. Ὁ Θεὸς δὲν διάλεξε τοὺς φτωχοὺς τοῦ κόσμου γιὰ νὰ 'νε πλούσιοι σὲ πίστι καὶ νὰ κληρονομήσουν τὴ βασιλεία ποὺ ὑποσχέθηκε σ' αὐτοὺς ποὺ τὸν ἀγαποῦν; (Ἰη. 25). Καὶ ὁ **ἅγιος Νικόδημος ὁ Ἁγιορείτης** στὴν σχετικὴ ἐρμηνεία του σημειώνει· «**Ἡ ἀμεριμνία ὅπου ἔχουν οἱ πτωχοὶ ἀπὸ τὰ πολλὰ πράγματα τοῦ κόσμου, αὐτὴ τοὺς κάμνει προθυμότερους καὶ θερμότερους ἀπὸ τοὺς πλουσίους εἰς τὸ νὰ δεχθοῦν τὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ πίστιν**» (Εἰς τὰς ἐπὶ Καθολικῆς Ἐπιστολῆς, ἐκδ. Ὁρθόδοξος Κυψέλη, Θεσσαλονίκη 1966, σ. 62).

Ἀδελφοί μου! Μία εἶνε, καὶ πρέπει νὰ ὀνομάζεται, **φτώχεια** ἀξιοθρήνητη, ἢ **κακία**· καὶ ἓνας εἶνε ὁ ἀληθινὰ ἀξιολύπητος **φτωχός**, ὁ **ἀπιστος καὶ ἄσπλαχνος** ὡς τὸν ἄφρονα πλούσιο τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Γιὰτὶ ἓνας εἶνε ὁ ἀληθινὸς **πλοῦτος** μὲ τὴν σταθερὴ ἀξία, ἢ **ἐνάρετη πίστις**· καὶ ἓνας ὁ ὄντως **πλούσιος**, ὁ **ἐνάρετος πιστός**.

Εἶθε **τῆς ἀρετῆς**, καὶ ὄχι τοῦ ἀργυρίου, νὰ γίνουμε **ἐρασταί**, γιὰ νὰ μὴν ἀκούσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ· «**Ἄφρον ταύτη τῇ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχὴν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σου· ἂ δὲ εἰτόμισσας τίνοι εἶσαι**» (Ἰηκ. 12,20).

(†) **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 2018 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

## YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH

### *Commentary on Riches*

The land of a rich man produced abundant harvests, and he thought to himself, "What am I to do? I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones." Now why did that land bear so well, when it belonged to a man who would make no good use of its fertility? It was to show more clearly the forbearance of God, whose kindness extends even to such people as this. He sends rain on both the just and the unjust, and makes the sun rise on the wicked and good alike. But what do we find in this man? A bitter disposition, hatred of other people, unwillingness to give. This is the return he made to his Benefactor. He forgot that we all share the same nature; he felt no obligation to distribute his surplus to the needy. His barns were full to bursting point, but still his miserly heart was not satisfied. Year by year he increased his wealth, always adding new crops to the old. The result was a hopeless impasse: good would not permit him to

part with anything he possessed, and yet because he had so much there was no place to store his later harvest. And so he was incapable of making a decision and could find no escape from his anxiety. What am I to do?

You who have wealth, recognize who has given you the gifts you have received. Consider yourself, who you see, what has been committed to your charge, from whom you have received it, why you have been preferred to most other people. You are the servant of the good God, a steward on behalf of your fellow servants. Do not imagine that everything has been provided for your own stomach. Make decisions regarding your property as though it belonged to another. Possessions give you pleasure for a short time, but then they will slip through your fingers and be gone, and you will be required to give an exact account of them.

*St. Basil the Great*

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