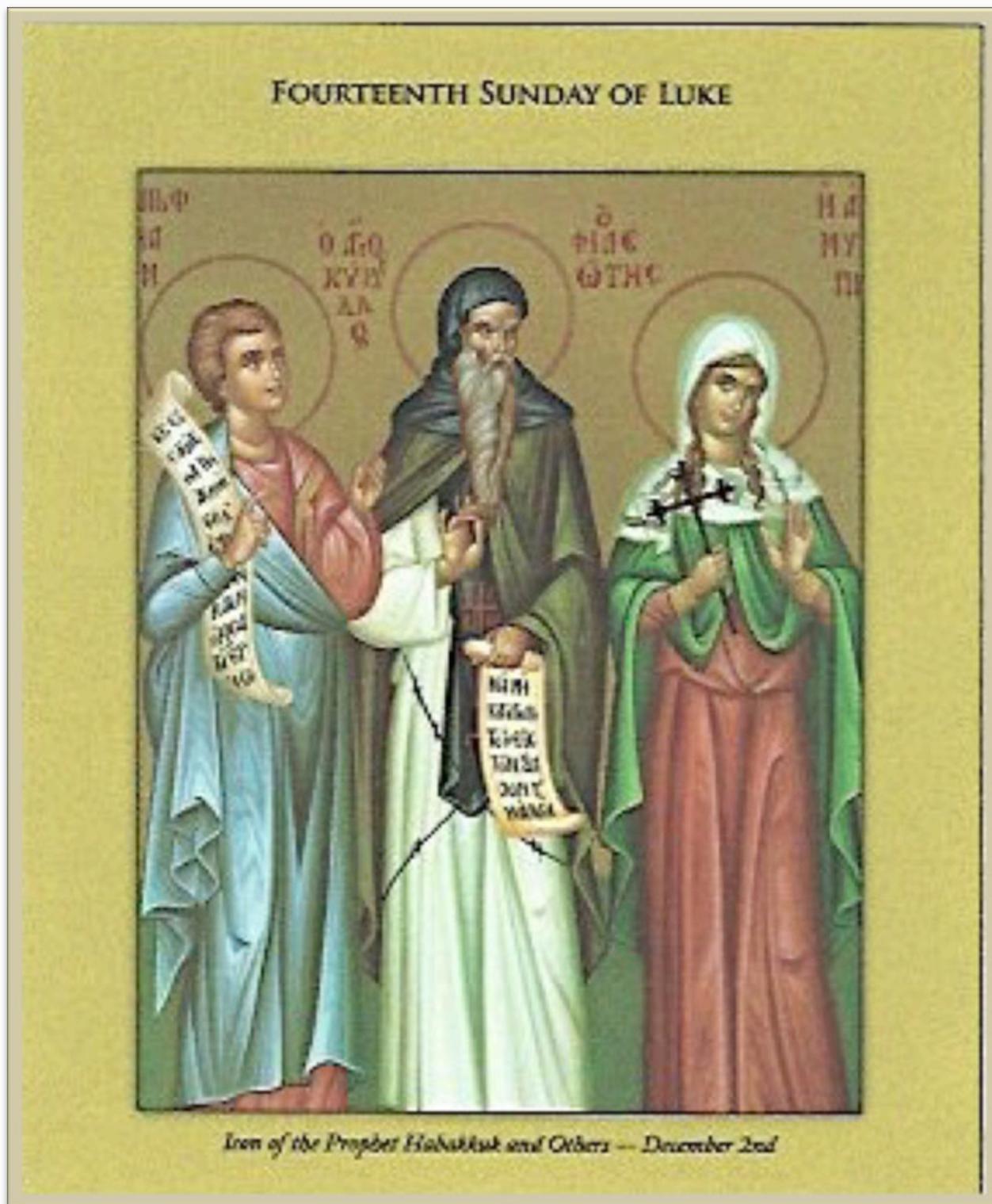




DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 2nd, 2018
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas



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

14th Sunday of Luke
St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.14,18

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

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἴσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.
Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 6:10-17 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ, καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ. Ἐνδύσασθε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, πρὸς τὸ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς στήναι πρὸς τὰς μεθοδείας τοῦ διαβόλου. Ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἷμα καὶ σάρκα, ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις. Διὰ τοῦτο ἀναλάβετε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα δυνηθῆτε ἀντιστῆναι ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ πονηρᾷ, καὶ ἅπαντα κατεργασάμενοι στήναι. Στήτε οὖν περιζωσάμενοι τὴν ὀσφὺν ὑμῶν ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν θώρακα τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ ὑποδησάμενοι τοὺς πόδας ἐν ἐτοιμασίᾳ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου τῆς εἰρήνης· ἐπὶ πᾶσιν ἀναλαβόντες τὸν θυρεὸν τῆς πίστεως, ἐν ᾧ δυνησέσθε πάντα τὰ βέλη τοῦ πονηροῦ τὰ πεπυρωμένα σβέσαι. Καὶ τὴν περικεφαλαίαν τοῦ σωτηρίου δέξασθαι, καὶ τὴν μάχαιραν τοῦ πνεύματος, ἧ ἔστιν ῥῆμα θεοῦ·

14th Sunday of Luke
The Gospel According to Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:35-43 Εὐαγγελίου
τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἶη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῶ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιῆσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday;	December 02nd;	HOLY ORDER BREAKFAST MEETING	12:00 P.M.
Monday:	December 03rd:	Great Vesper of Saint Barbara Canal Street Church in New York City	7:00 P.M.
Tuesday:	December 04th:	Divine Liturgy of Saint Barbara (Three Hierarchs Church)	9:30 A.M.
Wednesday:	December 05th:	Great Vesper of Saint Nicholas Shrine Church in Flushing, Queens	7:00 P.M.
Thursday:	December 06th:	Divine Liturgy of Saint Nicholas (Three Hierarchs Church)	9:30 A.M.

CHURCHING TODAY: We are pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church 'JOHN GABRIEL' new born son of JOHN and DESPINA (Demertzidis) KODETSKY. NA SAS ZESE!

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 ROSE-HALL 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!

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY: is being hosted on Monday evening December 10th, at 7:30 P.M. in WHITE-HALL. Open to all! Please join us with an escort or more, for fellowship.

SAINT BASEL ACADEMY, Garrison, New York will be the venue for the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT by the children housed at the Academy, on Saturday, December 15th, at 11:00 A.M. The event is open to the public FREE!

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE: COMMENCES with this announcement until December 23rd. The gifts submitted must NOT be wrapped, so that the distribution is made according to age, gender and ability. Your generosity over the past many years has been notable and most grateful. Gifts are being accepted from INFANCY to TWELVE YEARS OLD. Arts and Crafts, learning games and other such intellectually stimulating gifts are most needed. All gifts (ANONYMOUSLY) may be left for collection in front of the iconostases icon of the BLESSED MOTHER MARY. The collections are distributed to those children less fortunate outside the parish. IT'S FUN TO SHOP FOR CHILDREN DURING CHRISTMAS SEASON.

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!

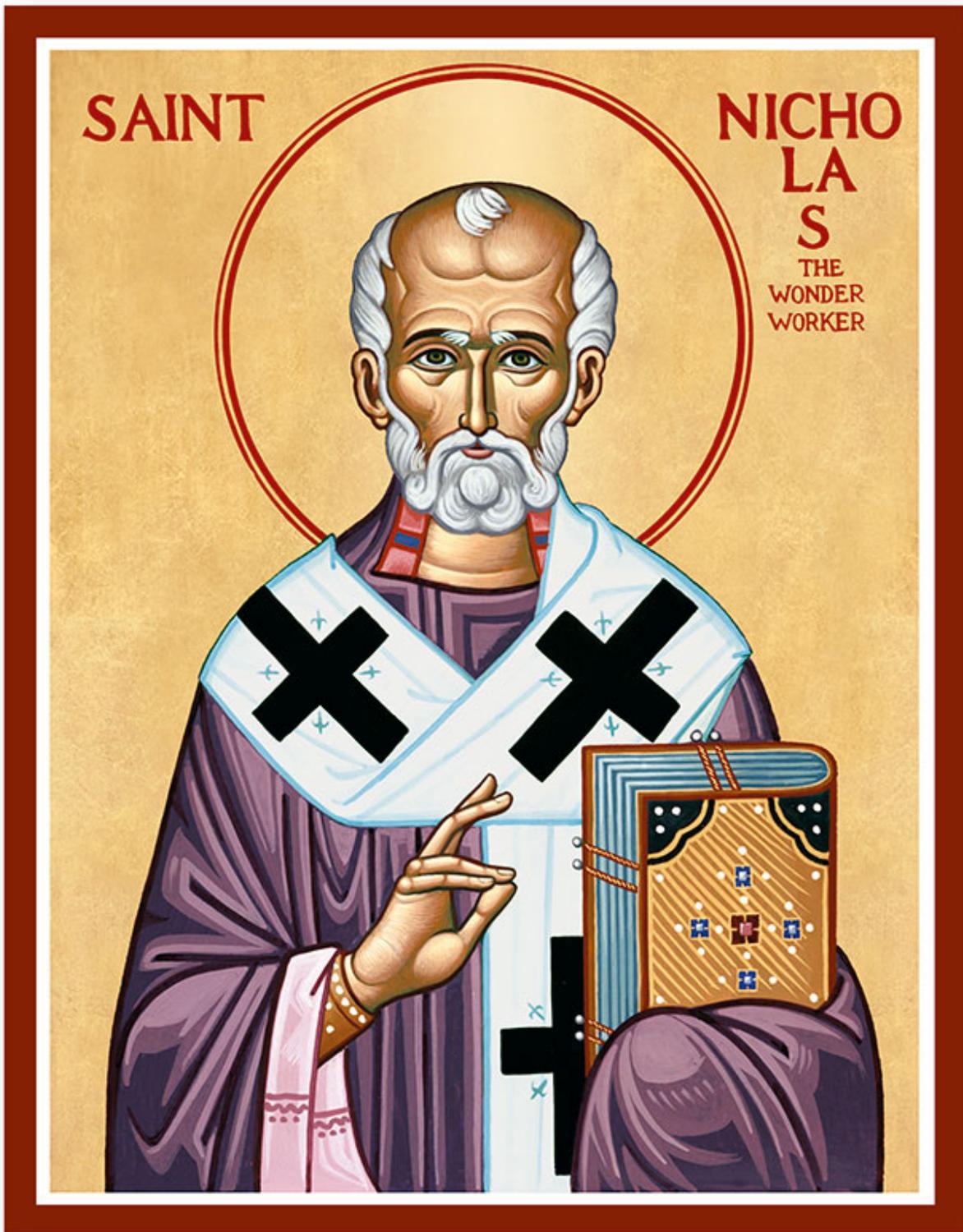
RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well 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: + ELENI PAPADATOS + ANDREAS KALANTZIS
+PAVEL MALASHENKOV + OLGA TUNKEVICH
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + TELEMACHOS & + DESPINA PAIZIS



Saint Barbara feast day is celebrated December 4th.

Born in the early third century, Barbara was a baptized Christian of avowed pagan parents. Barbara concealed her new found faith from her parents out of respect and nothing more. Unwavering in faith, never to deny Christ, she was beheaded by her own father. A virgin martyr, Barbara became identified with purity and piety. She is the Patroness of everyone engaged in hazardous occupations (military, firemen, police, etc.)



Saint Nicholas feast day is celebrated December 6th.

As one of the most popular saints of the Christian faith EAST and WEST, he was born at the turn of the fourth century and was elevated to bishop of Myra (Turkey). He suffered imprisonment and torture during the reign of Emperor Diocletian. His popularity as a philanthropist and protector of children and widows. The legendary Santa Claus (Santa Nik-la-us) is but another expression of love for the saint who saved many an orphan and widow in distress. HIS ICON IS PROMINENT IN THE NARTHEX OF THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γενναϊκία Τετρὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imesflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2139	Κυριακὴ 14' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 18,35-43) 2 Δεκεμβρίου 2018	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
--	---	---

Χωρὶς τὸ θεῖο ἔλεος τίποτα!

« Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με » (Λουκ. 18,37)

Ένας, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἕνας φτωχὸς ζητιάνος καθόταν σ' ἕνα σταυροδρόμι τῆς πόλεως Τεριχώ καὶ ζητοῦσε τὴν ἐλεημοσύνη τῶν διαβατῶν. Ἐλεος ζητοῦσε ὁ δύστηχος. Πολλοὶ περνοῦσαν ἀπὸ τὸ μέρος ἐκεῖνος. Καὶ ἄλλοι μὲν διάβαιναν βιαστικὰ μπροστὰ τοῦ χωρὶς νὰ δίνουν προσοχὴ στὶς παρακλήσεις τοῦ. Ἄλλοι πάλι, πονετικοί, τὸν πλησίαζαν, ἔβγαζαν καὶ τοῦ ἔρριχναν κάποιο νόμισμα, μικρὰ βοηθήματα· ἀλλὰ τί νὰ τοῦ κάνουν αὐτά; Μ' αὐτὰ δὲν θεραπευόταν ὁ πόνος, ὁ μέγας πόνος τῆς ψυχῆς τοῦ· αὐτός, χρόνια τώρα, ζοῦσε μέσα στὸ σκοτάδι, ἦταν τυφλός!

Ἀλλὰ ἐδῶ τώρα, ἀπὸ τὸ σημεῖο ἐκεῖνο ποῦ καθόταν ὁ τυφλός, περνάει ὄχι κάποιοι τυχαῖος διαβάτης, ὄχι κάποιοι πλούσιος, οὔτε κάποιοι βασιλιάς· περνάει ὁ Χριστός! Περνάει δηλαδὴ – ποῖός· ἐκεῖνος ποῦ δημιούργησε τὸ φῶς καὶ ἔπλασε τὰ μάτια τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Περνάει ὁ Χριστός, ἐκεῖνος ποῦ ἄναψε καὶ κρέμασε στὸ στερέωμα τὸν ἥλιο καὶ τὴ σελήνη, περνάει ἐκεῖνος ποῦ ἀνάβει τὴ νύχτα τοῦς λαμπρότερους πολυελέους, τὰ ἀμέτρητα ἀστέρια τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. Αὐτὸς περνάει.

Ἀκούει ὁ τυφλός κίνησι ἀπὸ πλῆθος κόσμου καὶ ρωτᾷ, τί συμβαίνει. Τοῦ λένε, ὅτι περνάει ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος. Καὶ μόλις τ' ἀκούει, ἀρχίζει νὰ φωνάζει μὲ ὄλη τὴ δύναμι τῶν πνευμόνων τοῦ· « Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με » (Λουκ. 18,37) ζῶ μέσα στὸ σκοτάδι, λυπήσου με!...

Μικρὴ ἢ προσευχὴ τοῦ τυφλοῦ, πέντε λέξεις· μεγάλη δὲμως ἡ δύναμί της, ἀφοῦ τὴν δέχτηκε ὁ Θεὸς καὶ τὸ αἴτημά του ἱκανοποιήθηκε, ὅπως βλέπουμε στὴ συνέχεια.

Ὁ Χριστὸς τὸν ἀκούει, σταματᾷ, τὸν φωνάζει, κι αὐτὸς πηγαίνει κοντά του. Ὁ Κύριος τὸν ἐρωτᾷ τί ζητάει ἀπὸ ἐκεῖνον, καὶ ὁ τυφλὸς ἀπαντᾷ « Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω », θέλω νὰ δῶ τὸ φῶς μου. Τότε ὁ Κύριος τοῦ λέει « Ἀνάβλε-

ψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε » (ἐβ. 18,42), κι ἀμέσως ὁ τυφλὸς εἶδε τὸ φῶς τοῦ· ἔβλεπε καὶ δὲν χόρταινε νὰ βλέπῃ ὄλα τὰ ὠραῖα τῆς γῆς καὶ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ.

Ἀπὸ τὴ μικρὴ αὐτὴ προσευχὴ τοῦ τυφλοῦ, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐμεῖς οἱ Χριστιανοὶ ἔχουμε νὰ διδαχθοῦμε δύο σπουδαῖα μαθήματα.

● Πρῶτο μάθημα. Ὅσες φορές κάνουμε τὴν προσευχὴ μας – καὶ πρέπει νὰ τὴν κάνουμε τακτικὰ – ἢ προσευχὴ μας πρέπει νὰ ἔνε θερμὴ καὶ οὐσιώδης. Θερμὴ, γιὰ νὰ νιώθουμε τί ζητοῦμε· νὰ λήθῃ ὄχι μόνο ἡ γλῶσσα ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡ καρδιά. Νὰ ἔνε ἐπίσης σύντομη, ὄχι φλύαρη, ἀλλὰ μὲ νόημα καὶ συναίσθησι. Τέτοιοι προσευχὲς μᾶς διέσωσε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο μέσα στὴν Καινὴ Διαθήκη, γιὰ νὰ τίς ἔχουμε ὑπόδειγμα.

✓ « Μνησθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου » ἦταν ἡ προσευχὴ τοῦ εὐγνώμονος ληστοῦ στὸ Γολγοθᾶ τῇ Μεγάλῃ Παρασκευῇ (Λουκ. 23,42), κι αὐτὴ ἡ σύντομη προσευχὴ εἰσακούσθηκε ἀμέσως· ὁ ληστὴς ἀπὸ κατάδικος μελλοθάνατος ἔγινε ὁ πρῶτος πολίτης τοῦ παραδείσου· νὰ γιατί ἡ προσευχὴ του ἔχει μεγαλύτερη ἀξία ἀπὸ μακρὲς καὶ φλύαρες προσευχὲς ποῦ κάνουμε ἐμεῖς μηχανικὰ καὶ τυπικὰ.

✓ Ἄλλο παράδειγμα. « Ὁ Θεός, ἴλασθητί μοι τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ » (ἐβ. 18,13), εἶπε μὲ συντετριμμένη καρδιά ὁ τελώνης τῆς γνωστῆς παραβολῆς ὅταν προσευχόταν στὸ ναό. Τὴν ἴδια ὥρα ἦταν ἐκεῖ καὶ ὁ φαρισαῖος· ἀλλ' ἐνῶ ἐκεῖνος εἶπε πολλὰ λόγια γεμάτα αὐταρέσκεια καὶ κατάκρισι καὶ δὲν εἰσακούσθηκε, ὁ τελώνης δικαίωθηκε καὶ βρῆκε ἔλεος, γιὰτί εἶπε τὴν ταπεινὴ του προσευχὴ συντετριμμένος καὶ μὲ συναίσθησι.

« Ἐλέησόν με », λέει τώρα καὶ ὁ τυφλὸς στὴν Τεριχώ, καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς ἀκούει τὴν προσευχὴ του, γιὰτί βγῆκε μὲ πόνο ἀπὸ μιὰ καρδιά γεμάτη πίστι καὶ ἐλπίδα στὸ ἔλεός του.

Όταν λοιπόν κ' ἡμεῖς προσευχώμαστε, ἄς προσπαθοῦμε ἢ προσευχή μας νά 'νε θερμή, ὄχι χλιαρή ἢ ψυχρή, καί μέ πόνο. Ἐκεῖνος πού ἔχει πόνο σωματικό κλαίει· ἐκεῖνος πού ἔχει πόνο στήν ψυχή γιά τίς ἁμαρτίες, τίς δικές καί τῶν οἰκείων του, θά κάνη προσευχή μέ δάκρυ, μέ συναίσθησι, μέ θέρμη. Καί ὁ Χριστός, πού βλέπει καί διαβάζει τίς καρδιές, θ' ἀπαντήσῃ.

Πρῶτο μάθημα λοιπόν πού μᾶς δίνει ὁ τυφλός εἶνε, ὅτι πρέπει νά προσευχώμαστε **μέ θέρμη καί πόθο, μέ συναίσθησι καί πόνο.**

• Δεύτερο μάθημα. Στίς προσευχές μας **νά ζητοῦμε τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ.** Τί εἶνε αὐτὸ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ; Εἶνε ἡ εὐσπλαχνία καί ἡ συγχώρησίς του, ἡ ἐνίσχυσις καί βοήθειά του, ἡ χάρις καί ἡ προστασία του· εἶνε σέ τελικὴ ἀνάλυσι ἡ σωτηρία μας.

Τὸ ἔλεος καί τὴν προστασία τοῦ Θεοῦ **ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη ὅλοι,** μικροὶ καί μεγάλοι, ἄντρες γυναῖκες καί παιδιά. Γιατί ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε ὁ ἰσχυρός, κ' ἡμεῖς εἶμαστε τὰ ἀδύναμα σκουλήκια· ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε ὁ ἅγιος, κ' ἡμεῖς εἶμαστε οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ· ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε ὁ πλούσιος, κ' ἡμεῖς εἶμαστε οἱ ἐπαῖται· ζητιανοὶ πού χτυπάμε τὴν θύρα του. Καί πρέπει πάντοτε νά χτυποῦμε τὴν πόρτα του φωνάζοντας· Ἄνοιξέ μας, Κύριε, τὴν θύρα τοῦ ἐλέους σου! Νά ζητοῦμε καί τὴ μεσολάβησι τῆς Παναγίας καί τῶν ἁγίων, γιά νά λάβουμε τὸ θεῖο ἔλεος, ὅπως λέει ὁ ὠραῖος ὕμνος·

*«Ἐν τῷ ναῷ ἐστῶτες τῆς δόξης σου
ἐν οὐρανῷ ἐστᾶναι νομίζομεν,
Θεοτόκε, πύλη ἐπουράνιε, ἄνοιξον ἡμῖν
τὴν θύραν τοῦ ἐλέους σου»* (ἰεὺς ἄθρ. Μ. Τσοῦρα).

Σὲ ὅλες τίς περιστάσεις καί **σὲ κάθε ἀνάγκη** τῆς ζωῆς μας χρειαζόμαστε τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Γι' αὐτὸ βλέπετε ὅτι ἡ Ἐκκλησία σὲ κάθε δέησι πού κάνει πρὸς τὸν Θεὸ αὐτὸ ζητάει· **«ὕπὲρ τῆς εἰρήνης τοῦ σύμπαντος κόσμου»**

– *«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»*

• **«ὕπὲρ τῶν εὐσεβῶν καί ὀρθοδόξων Χριστιανῶν»**

– *«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»*

• **«ὕπὲρ εὐκρασίας ἀέρων, εὐφορίας τῶν καρπῶν τῆς γῆς καί καιρῶν εἰρηνικῶν»,**

– *«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»*

• **«ὕπὲρ πλεόντων, ὁδοιπορούντων, νοσοῦντων, καμνόντων, αἰχμαλώτων καί τῆς σωτηρίας αὐτῶν»**

– *«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»* κ.τ.λ..

Σὲ κάθε δέησι ἡ Ἐκκλησία ὀρίζει νά λέγεται τὸ **«Κύριε, ἐλέησον».**

Ἦ αὐτὸ τὸ **«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»!** Ὅταν ὑπῆρχε πίστι βαθεία, **τὸ ἔλεγαν ὅλοι μαζί, λαὸς καί ψάλτες.** Τώρα; Ἦ τώρα, πού ἔσβησε ἡ πίστι ἀπὸ τίς καρδιές τῶν ἀνθρώπων! Οἱ μὲν ψάλ-

τες πολλὲς φορές δὲν τὸ λένε ἢ, ἐὰν θὰ τὸ ποῦν, θὰ τὸ ποῦν μᾶλλον γιά νά ἐπιδείξουν τὴ φωνὴ τους παρά γιά νά παρακαλέσουν μέ φωνὴ εὐλαβικὴ τὸ Θεό. Ὁ δὲ λαὸς χάσκει, δὲν προσέχει. Ἦ Χριστιανέ, τὴ στιγμὴ πού ἀκοῦς τὸν ἱερέα νά παρακαλῇ τὸ Θεό, νά λὲς κ' ἐσὺ μέσα στήν ψυχή σου τὸ **«Κύριε, ἐλέησον».**

Τὸ **«Κύριε, ἐλέησον» θαύματα** μπορεῖ νά κάνη, ὅταν τὸ λέμε μέ ὄλη τὴν καρδιά μας· θεραπεύει ἀρρώστους, σώζει ναυαγούς, φέρνει εὐλογία στὰ ἔργα μας, προστατεύει ἔθνη ὀλόκληρα, εἰρηνεύει τὸν κόσμο.

Τὸ **«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»** εἶνε **τὸ κουδούνι** πού χτυπάει ὁ φτωχὸς ἄνθρωπος **σὴν θύρα τοῦ Θεοῦ.** Καί ἐδῶ μὲν στὴ γῆ, ὅταν χτυπᾶς τὸ κουδούνι στὰ παλάτια, δὲν σοῦ ἀνοίγουν· ἢ τὸ πολὺ θὰ βγῇ ἡ ὑπηρετρία καί, ἂν εἶσαι φτωχός, θὰ σοῦ πῇ ὅτι «Δὲν εἶνε ἐδῶ ὁ κύριος». Ἀλλὰ τελειῶς διαφορετικὰ συμβαίνει μέ τὸ Θεό. **«Κύριε, ἐλέησον»** λέει ὁ ἄνθρωπος, κι ἀμέσως ὁ οὐράνιος Πατέρας ἀκούει τὴν προσευχή, σπεύδει νά βοηθήσῃ τὸν δούλο του· στέλνει ἀνθρώπους καί ἀγγέλους –διάφορα μέσα μεταχειρίζεται– γιά νά σώσῃ ἀπὸ τὸν κίνδυνο τὸ παιδί του.

Ἀγαπητοί μου. Αὐτὸ τὸ ἔλεος ἄς ζητοῦμε κ' ἡμεῖς. Χωρὶς αὐτὸ τίποτε δὲν μποροῦμε νά κάνουμε. Δὲν μποροῦμε νά νικήσουμε τὰ πάθη, νά προχωρήσουμε σὴν ἀρετὴ, ν' ἀγγίξουμε τὴν ἀγιότητα. **Τὸ ἔλεος ἄς ζητοῦμε:** τὸ ἔλεος πού ζήτησε ὁ Δαυὶδ ὁ βασιλεὺς ὅταν ἔλεγε **«Ἐλέησόν με, ὁ Θεός, κατὰ τὸ μέγα ἔλεός σου...»** (Ψαλμ. 51,3), τὸ ἔλεος πού ζήτησε ὁ ληστής ἐπάνω στὸν σταυρό, τὸ ἔλεος πού ζήτησαν καί ἔλαβαν χιλιάδες ἁμαρτωλοὶ καί ποινεμένοι ἄνθρωποι, αὐτὸ ἄς ζητοῦμε κ' ἡμεῖς.

Καί ὁ **Κύριος,** ὅταν ἡ προσευχή μας εἶνε θερμὴ, τότε δὲν θὰ κωφεύσῃ, **θ' ἀπαντήσῃ,** θὰ μᾶς προστατεύσῃ. Γιατί, ὅπως ψάλλει ὁ Δαυὶδ κι ὅπως βλέπουμε κ' ἡμεῖς στὴ ζωὴ μας, **«Οἰκτίρων καὶ ἐλεήμων ὁ Κύριος, μακρόθυμος καὶ πολυέλεος· οὐκ εἰς τέλος ὀργισθήσεται, οὐδὲ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα μνηστὴρ»** (Ἐλ. 102,34) δὲν θὰ κρατήσῃ γιά πάντα τὸ θυμὸ του, ἀλλὰ θὰ σπεύσῃ νά μᾶς βοηθήσῃ, ὅπως τρέχει ἡ μάνα κοντὰ στὸ παιδί της ὅταν ἀκούσῃ τὴ φωνὴ καί τὸ κλάμα του.

«Τὸ ἔλεός σου, Κύριε, καταδιώξει με πάσας τὰς ἡμέρας τῆς ζωῆς μου» (Ἐλ. 22,5). Τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Κυρίου εἶθε νά εἶνε ὁ διαρκὴς καί **ἀχώριστος σύντροφός μας** σὲ ὄλη τὴ διάρκειά τῆς πρόσκαιρης ζωῆς μας.

(f) **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 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

We Pray as We Live

For prayer to have the fervor and the purity it ought, certain conditions are necessary.

First of all, suppress any kind of desire for the things of the flesh. Then, shut the doors of the spirit not only to anxiety, but even to the recalling of any kind of business matters or affairs. Next, renounce evil speaking, vain words, long high-sounding discourses, scurrilous witticisms. Conquer the agitation that comes from anger or melancholy. Cut off greed and attachment to money at the roots.

After we have destroyed these vices, not to mention other defects equally serious and evident, after we have made this purification which results in simplicity and innocence, we ought to lay solid foundations for a deep humility capa-

ble of supporting a tower that reaches to heaven. After that, there is the building of the spiritual edifice of the virtues.

Finally, it is necessary to prevent the soul being allowed to wander off into distractions and anything that would divert it from its aim. Only then will it begin to be exalted to the contemplation of God and to the intuition of spiritual realities.

In fact, everything that we have in our minds before the time of prayer is inevitably brought back by memory when we are praying. So whatever kind of people we want to be in our prayer time, we need to be before we begin to pray.

St. John Cassian

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit **YOUR E-MAIL** address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org