



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 30th, 2018
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD



THIS FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Icon of the Flight into Egypt — Matthew 2:13-23

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St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 67.35,26

God is wonderful among his saints.

Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 67.35,26

Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 1:11-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἠκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφὴν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρὸς μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα ἱστορησαί Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

The Gospel According to Matthew 2:13-23

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 2:13-23 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνέειλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὀρίοις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετούς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾷ ἠκούσθη, θρήνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμος πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεῦει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

UPCOMING DEVOTIONS:

Sunday	December 30th,	Divine Liturgy of Saint Anysia the Righteous	10:30	A.M.
Monday:	December 31th,	FINAL DAY OF THE YEAR!		
		Church is open from 9:00 through 6:00 P.M.		
Tuesday	January 01st,	LITURGY OF SAINT BASIL the GREAT	9:30	A.M
Saturday	January 05th,	Epiphany Liturgy and Minor Agiasmos	9:00	A.M.
Sunday	January 06th,	FEAST of the EPIPHANY Liturgy	9:30	A.M.
		Confirmation services	10:30	A. M.
		GREAT AGIASMOS of the HOLY WATERS	11:30	A.M.
Monday	January 07th,	Feast of Saint John the Baptist	9:30	A.M.
		CHRONIA POLLA		
		ARTOKLASIES are most welcomed!		

ARTOKLASIA: ON THE OCCASION OF SAINT BASIL THE GREAT IS OFFERED BY THE AGORITSAS FAMILY for ‘papou’ and ‘grandson’. Chronia Polla, and by the KOSTAS and ARGYRIE APOSTOLOU FAMILY for their son VASILIS in honor of BASIL THE GREAT. Chronia Polla.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted today by the AHEPA . May we extend to one and all a most BLESSED, HAPPY and FRUITFUL NEW YEAR 2019! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? “2019” IF WE ARE STILL HERE IN THE NOW... IT MEANS THAT GOD IN NOT FINISHED WITH US..... SOWELL....I MEANGET WITH IT!

Thank you to so many for so much.....

TO OUR FLORISTS: who diligently and with profound professionalism decorated our Church proper for the High Holy Days of Christmas and Epiphany. A “shout” out to, Peter Giannopoulos of HENRY’S, Billy Giannopoulos of MADISON, Louis and Gus of AVENUE ‘J’, Photios Frank of BEN’S, Nick at PLAZA, Tsenstelis brothers of MARINE PARK, Jimmy at IRENE;S and Steve Ballaro and Christos Vellios at ELLINGVILLE FLORIST. W O W!

TO THE TREE DONOR: Each year we are most grateful to the outreach of generosity of Mr. and Mrs. GUS (Deno) and SUSAN CHRISTAKOS who supply us with a fresh tree for the SOLEA Nativity.

TO THE TOY DONORS: who anonymously and fondly presented toys of all sorts for children from infancy to 12 years of age The gifts were left at the feet of the Icon of the Blessed Mother and Child Jesus for distribution to the less fortunate outside our parish walls. GOD LOVES AND BLESSES THE CHEERFUL GIVER....OVER AND OVER AGAIN. Were one of the blessed ones?

CHRISTMAS CARD DRIVE: indicated an overwhelming response from the pious faithful who donated their offering with their name greeting inscribed for 1,000 homes of the faithful.

CHRISTMAS CARD GREETINGS..... delayed entry

**PAVLOUNIS and SPOUGGATAKIS LLP
DENISE COONEY and FAMILY
STACEY and ALFONSO GRIVAS FAMILY
MARY ELEFTERAKIS
GREGORY ELEFTERAKIS**

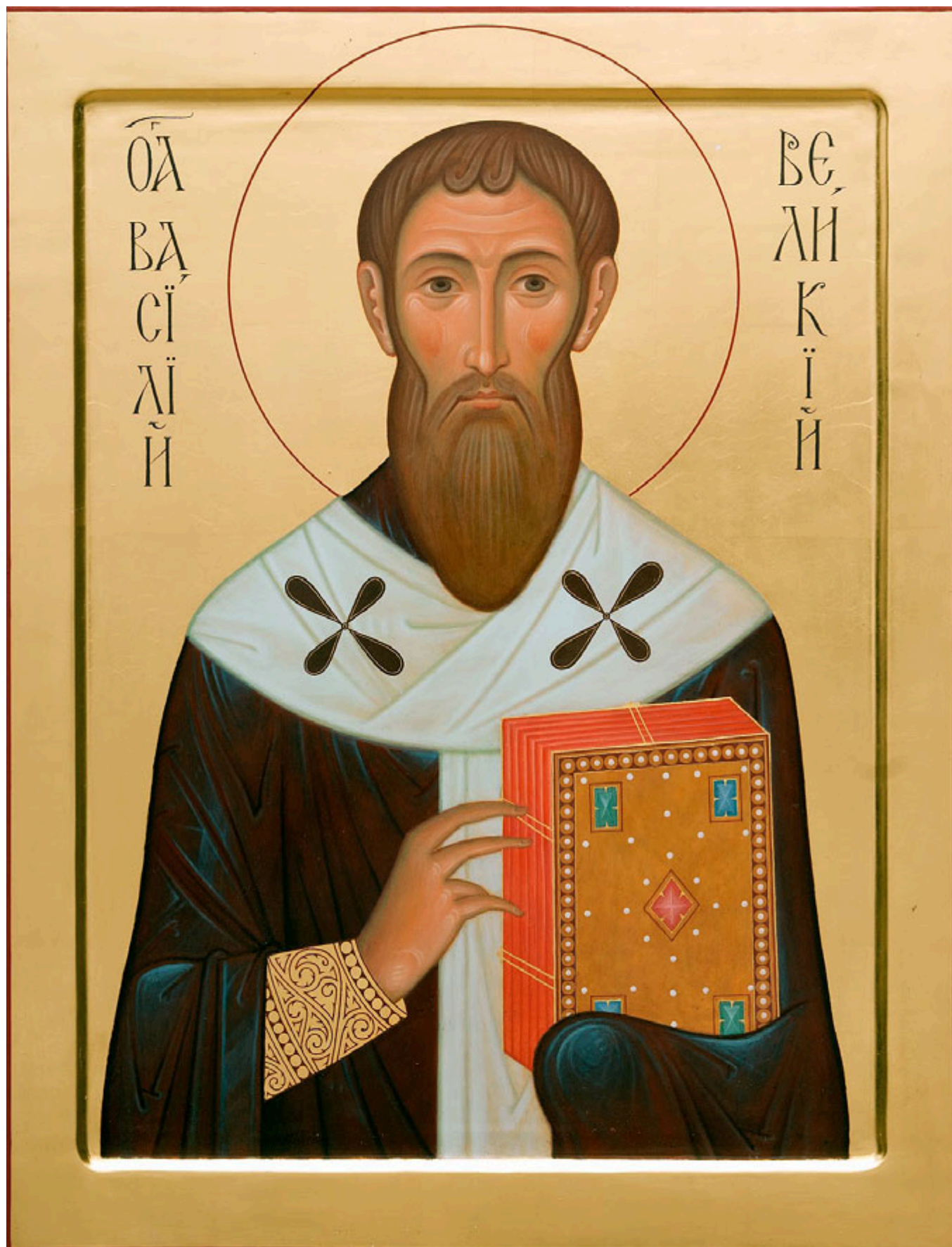
PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The NEW UPDATED STEWARDSHIP/MEMBERSHIP FEE is as follows:

HUSBAND and WIFE FAMILY is	\$300 for the year
SINGLE MEMBERSHIP is	\$250 for the year
SINGLE SENIOR CITIZEN is	\$200 for the year
SENIOR CITIZEN COUPLE is	\$225..... please register

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)

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: There are NO MEMORIALS between the Nativity Feast and the Holy Epiphany (THEOPHANIA) – December 25-January 6th.

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT







ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Τετρὴ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΗ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 745²	Κυριακὴ πρὸ τῶν Φώτων (Μάρκ. 1,1-8) 30 Δεκεμβρίου 2018 (2001)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ἔνας ἔνσαρκος ἄγγελος

«Ἴδου ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου» (Μάρκ. 1,2 = Ματθ. 3,1)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐορτάζει ἕνας ἄγγελος. Ποιὸς ἄγγελος, ὁ Μιχαὴλ ἢ ὁ Γαβριὴλ ὁ ἀρχάγγελος; Οὔτε ὁ ἕνας οὔτε ὁ ἄλλος. Ὁ ἄγγελος ποὺ ἐορτάζει εἶνε... ἄνθρωπος. Μὰ ὑπάρχει ἄνθρωπος ποὺ νὰ εἶνε ἄγγελος; Ναί, ὑπάρχει. Ἄνθρωπος ἦταν, καὶ ἐγίνε ἄγγελος. Ποιὸς εἶνε αὐτός; Ἄν κοιτάξουμε στὶς εἰκόνες, θὰ δοῦμε ἕναν ἅγιο ποὺ τὸν ζωγραφίζουν μὲ φτερά. Ποιὸς εἶνε; Εἶνε ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Πρόδρομος. Τὸν ζωγραφίζουν μὲ φτερά, γιατί ἦταν ἄνθρωπος σὰν κ' ἐμᾶς, ἀλλὰ ἐζήσε σὰν ἄγγελος.

Μικρὸ παιδί, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐζήσε κοντὰ στὸν πατέρα του, ποὺ λεγόταν Ζαχαρίας κ' ἦταν ἱερεὺς, καὶ στὴ μητέρα του, ποὺ λεγόταν Ἐλισάβετ. Αὐτοὶ ἦταν ἅγιοι ἄνθρωποι, καὶ τὸ παιδί αὐτὸ ἦταν ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό.

Μόλις μεγάλωσε **ἔφυγε** ἀπὸ τὸ χωριό του, ὄχι νὰ πάη νὰ μαζέψῃ λεφτά, ἀλλὰ γιὰ ἕνα μεγάλο σκοπό. Ποῦ πήγε; Πέρα ἀπὸ τὸν Ἰορδάνη, ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἦταν ἡ **ἐρημος**. Εἶχε ἐκεῖ φαγητὸ καὶ κουζίνα; Ὅχι. Εἶχε στρώμα καὶ κρεβάτι; Ὅχι. Εἶχε σπίτι; Ὅχι. Ὡς ἄγγελος ζοῦσε. Τὸ ρούχο του ἦταν φτιαγμένο ἀπὸ τρίχες καμήλου. Τὸ ποτό του δὲν ἦταν κρασί, οὔζο καὶ μπίρες. Τέτοια πράγματα δὲν ἔβαζε στὸ στόμα του. Πήγαινε στὸ ποτάμι καὶ μὲ τὶς χουφτες του ἔπινε ἀπὸ τὸ νερὸ τοῦ Ἰορδάνου. **Τροφή** του, λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ἦταν «**ἀκρίδες καὶ μέλι ἄγριον**» (Ματθ. 3,4). Τί ἦταν αὐτὲς οἱ «**ἀκρίδες**»; Δύο ἐρμηνεῖες ὑπάρχουν. Κάτω στὴν Ἀραβία, ποὺ ὑπάρχουν ἀκρίδες, τὶς πιάνουν, τὶς ξηραίνουν στὸν ἥλιο καὶ τὶς παστώνουν μὲ ἀλάτι. Καὶ ὅπως ἄλλοι τρῶνε τὶς γαρίδες καὶ τοὺς ἀστακοὺς, ἔτσι ἐκεῖ τρῶνε καὶ τὶς ἀκρίδες. Ἀλλὰ καὶ δευτέρη ἐρμηνεῖα ὑπάρχει, ποὺ λέει ὅτι «**ἀκρίδες**» εἶνε οἱ ἄκρες ἀπὸ τὰ

ἄγρια χόρτα. Εἶτε τὸ ἕνα εἶνε εἶτε τὸ ἄλλο, ἡ τροφή του ἦταν πολὺ ἀπλή. **Συντροφιά** του εἶχε ὄχι ἄνθρώπους ἀλλὰ τὰ ἄγρια θηρία, τὰ λιοντάρια καὶ τοὺς λύκους, ποὺ στέκονταν σὰν ἀρνάκια κοντὰ του.

Μετὰ ἦρθε στὸν Ἰορδάνη ποταμὸ καὶ **κήρυξε στὸν κόσμον μετάνοια**. Νὰ μετανοήσουν οἱ φτωχοί, οἱ πλούσιοι, οἱ βασιλιᾶδες, οἱ γέροι μὲ τ' ἄσπρα μαλλιά, οἱ γυναῖκες καὶ οἱ ἄντρες, νὰ μετανοήσουν ὅλοι, ἀφοῦ ὅλοι ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη μετάνοιας. Καὶ ὁ κόσμος ἐρχόταν. Ὅπως τὸ μελίσι τρέχει στὰ λουλούδια, ἔτσι ἔτρεχαν στὸν Ἰωάννη, σ' αὐτὸ τὸν ἔνσαρκο ἄγγελο. Καὶ τί ἔκαναν κοντὰ του; Ἐξωμολογοῦντο «**τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν**» (Ματθ. 3,6).

Ὅπως ἔκαναν αὐτοὶ ποὺ πήγαιναν στὸν Ἰωάννη, **ἔτσι νὰ κάνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς**, ἀγαπητοί μου. Κάθε ἄνθρωπος ποὺ αἰσθάνεται τὸν ἑαυτό του, πρέπει νὰ πηγαίη νὰ ἐξομολογηθῆ. Καὶ ἀφοῦ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐζήσε σὰν ἄγγελος, ἔτσι νὰ ζοῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς σὰν ἄγγελοι.

Ἔχει ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἕνα μεγάλο προορισμό. Τὸ ἀκοῦμε κάθε φορὰ ποὺ λέμε τὸ «**Πάτερ ἡμῶν**» «**Γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς**» (Ματθ. 6,10). Παρακαλοῦμε τὸ Θεό, ὅπως οἱ ἄγγελοι πάνω στὰ οὐράνια κάνουν τὸ θέλημά του, ἔτσι κ' ἐμεῖς κάτω στὴ γῆ· νὰ κάνουμε ὄχι τὸ κέφι τοῦ διαβόλου ἀλλὰ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ τὸ ξέρουμε. Εἶνε γραμμένο στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Κι ὅταν κάνουμε τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὰ χωριά μας, οἱ πολιτεῖες, ἡ ἀνθρωπότης ὅλη θὰ γίνῃ παράδεισος. Δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχουν κλέφτες, φονιάδες, ψευδομάρτυρες, πόρνοι, μοιχοί, πλεονέκτες καὶ ἄρπαγες, ἀλλὰ θὰ ὑπάρχῃ ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

Δυστυχῶς οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν ἀκοῦνε τὸ Εὐ-

αγγέλιο και δὲν ζοῦν ἀγγελικά, σὰν τὸν Ἰωάννη· **ζοῦν σὰν τὰ ζῶα καὶ χειρότερα ἀπὸ τὰ ζῶα**. Τὸ λέει ὁ ἱερός Χρυσόστομος. Οἱ ἄνθρωποι ποὺ δὲν κάνουν τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ γίνονται σὰν τὰ τετράποδα. Μία ζούγκλα ἔγινε ὁ κόσμος. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔγινε θηρίο – τί λέω; τίποτε δὲν εἶνε τὸ θηρίο μπροστὰ στὸν κακὸ ἄνθρωπο.

Ὡ ὁ ἄνθρωπος! Ἔγινε **ἓνα ἐπιστημονικὸ θηρίο**. Ξέρεις πόσα ἀεροπλάνα εἶνε ἔτοιμα νὰ πετάξουν ἐπάνω στὸν οὐρανό; Γλέντα καὶ διασκεδάζε, ἄνθρωπε· ἔννοια σου ὅταν θὰ παρουσιαστοῦν τὰ μαυροπούλια, τ' ἀεροπλάνα. Καὶ πάνω στ' ἀεροπλάνα θὰ εἶνε ἄνθρωποι, ἐπιστήμονες. Αὐτοὶ θὰ πατήσουν τὰ κουμπιά. Καὶ μετὰ..., Θεέ μου Θεέ μου! Μία βόμβα νὰ πέση στὴ Θεσσαλονίκη, μία στὴν Ἀθήνα, μία στὴ Σόφια, μία στὸ Βελιγράδι, μία στὴ Μόσχα, μία στὸ Λονδίνο, μία στὴ Νέα Ὑόρκη, μία στὸ Σικάγο..., καὶ τίποτα δὲν θὰ μείνη, κάρβουνο θὰ γίνῃ ἢ γῆ.

Νά, λοιπόν, ποὺ ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἶνε χειρότερος ἀπὸ θηρίο. Χίλιες φορές νὰ μὴν εἶχαμε σχολειὰ καὶ πανεπιστήμια, καὶ οἱ ἄνθρωποι νὰ ἦταν ἀγράμματοι. Τέτοια γράμματα, ποὺ θὰ καταστρέψουν τὸν κόσμο, τί νὰ τὰ κάνης; Θὰ ποῦμε σὲ λίγο αὐτὸ ποὺ λέει μία προφητεία· **Ἀνοίξτε, βουνὰ καὶ σπηλιές, νὰ μᾶς κρύψετε** (ἠβλ. Λευκ. 23,30). Γιατὶ ἔφθασε ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπάνω σ' αὐτὸ τὸν ἁμαρτωλὸ κόσμο.

–**Πολὺ ἀπελπιστικὰ μᾶς τὰ λές.**

Ἀπὸ μᾶς ἐξαρτᾶται νὰ μὴν εἶνε ἀπελπιστικά, ἀλλὰ νὰ εἶνε γεμάτα ἐλπίδα καὶ χαρά. Πῶς; Ποιὸς μπορεῖ νὰ μᾶς ἀλλάξῃ; Ποιὸς μπορεῖ ν' ἀλλάξῃ τὸν κόσμο; Πῶς θὰ πᾶμε μπροστὰ καὶ πῶς θὰ δοῦμε καλὲς ἡμέρες; Μὲ τὸ νὰ χτυπᾶ ἡ καμπάνα τὴν Κυριακὴ κ' οἱ Χριστιανοὶ νὰ μὴν πατᾶνε στὴν ἐκκλησία; ἔτσι θὰ πᾶμε καλά; Πῶς θ' ἀλλάξουμε; Ἄμα ἀκούσουμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ τὸ ἐφαρμόσουμε, ἅμα ἀκούσουμε τὸν Ἰωάννη ποὺ μᾶς φωνάζει **«Μετανοεῖτε»** (Ματθ. 3,2), ἂν ἀνοίξουμε τὰ φυλλοκάρδια μας καὶ γίνουμε ἄνθρωποι.

Ἔνας ἀρχαῖος φιλόσοφος, ὅταν ἔγινε μεσημέρι κι ὁ ἥλιος ἔκαιγε τίς πέτρες, αὐτὸς ἀναψε ἓνα φανάρι καὶ γύριζε μέσα στοὺς δρόμους καὶ τίς πλατεῖες. Ὅλοι ἔλεγαν, ὅτι παλάβωσε. Ἄλλ' αὐτὸς δὲν εἶχε παλαβώσει. Τὸ ρωτοῦσαν· Τί ἔπαθες, τί ζητᾶς; Κι αὐτὸς ἀπαντοῦσε· **«Ἄνθρωπον ζητῶ»**.

Καὶ σήμερα, ποὺ εἶνε οἱ ἄνθρωποι; Δὲν ρωτᾶς, τί τραβᾶνε οἱ γυναῖκες ἀπὸ τοὺς ἄντρες τους, καὶ οἱ ἄντρες ἀπὸ τίς γυναῖκες τους; τί

τραβᾶνε οἱ μανάδες ἀπὸ τὰ παιδιὰ ποὺ γέννησαν, καὶ οἱ πατεράδες ἀπὸ τὰ παιδιὰ ποὺ κοπίασαν νὰ τὰ θρέψουν; **Θηρία γινήκαμε**, δαίμονες καὶ χειρότεροι ἀπὸ τοὺς δαίμονες.

Τί νὰ κάνουμε; **Νὰ μετανοήσουμε ὅλοι** ἄσπροι, μαῦροι, κόκκινοι, κίτρινοι. Αὐτὸ φωνάζει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, αὐτὸ μᾶς φωνάζει ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης.

Θὰ μετανοήσουμε; Ποιὸς μπορεῖ νὰ μᾶς ἀλλάξῃ; Οὔτε ὁ βούρδουλας τοῦ χωροφύλακα, οὔτε τὰ δικαστήρια... Ὅλα τὰ δοκιμάσαμε, δὲν ἀλλάζει ἔτσι ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Ἔνας μπορεῖ νὰ ἀλλάξῃ τὴν καρδιὰ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, νὰ πάρῃ τὸ κοράκι καὶ νὰ τὸ κἀνῃ περιστέρι, νὰ πάρῃ τὸ λύκο καὶ τὸν κἀνῃ πρόβατο. Καὶ αὐτὸς ὁ ἕνας καὶ μοναδικὸς εἶνε ὁ **μεγαλοδύναμος Χριστός**.

–Μὰ ποῦ εἶνε ὁ Χριστός;

Ἐδῶ μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησιὰ εἶνε, κύριε, καὶ ἂν ἔχῃς μάτια, καρδιὰ καὶ μυαλό, ἔλα καὶ θὰ τὸν δῆς. Βλέπεις τὸν **παπᾶ**; Νά ὁ Χριστός. Αὐτὸ τὸν παπᾶ, ποὺ βλέπεις μπροστὰ σου, ἄγγελος εἶνε. Μπορεῖ ἔξω νὰ εἶνε σὰν τοὺς ἄλλους ἀνθρώπους. Μπήκε στὴν ἐκκλησιὰ, φόρεσε τὸ πετραχήλι, εἶπε τὸ **«Εὐλογημένη ἡ βασιλεία...»**; Ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη μὴ τὸν βλέπεις σὰν ἄνθρωπο, ἀλλὰ **σὰν ἄγγελο**. Κρατᾶει τὰ ἅγια στὰ χέρια του. Καὶ ὅπως ὁ στρατηγός, ὅταν φορέσῃ τὴ στολὴ του, δὲν εἶνε ἕνας ἀπλὸς πολίτης ἀλλὰ στρατηγός, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ παπᾶς, ὅταν βάλῃ τὸ πετραχήλι, δὲν εἶνε ὁ ἄλφα ἢ ὁ βῆτα· δὲν εἶνε ὁ Νικόλας, ὁ Ἀναστάσης, ὁ Παῦλος ἢ ὁ Πέτρος, δὲν εἶνε ὁ Μιχαῆλ ἢ ὁ Παντελῆς, ἀλλὰ εἶνε ἄγγελος Κυρίου. Εἶνε σὰν τὸν Ἰωάννη τὸν Πρόδρομο, ποὺ βάπτιζε στὸν Ἰορδάνη.

Τὸν παπᾶ νὰ τὸν βλέπῃς ὡς φορέα τῆς ὑψηλότερης ἐξουσίας. Τὸ λέει ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός· **«Ὁ παπᾶς ἔχει ἐξουσία παραπάνω ἀπὸ τοὺς βασιλεῖς, τοὺς ἀγγέλους καὶ τοὺς ἀρχαγγέλους»**. Ὁ παπᾶς μᾶς συνδέει μὲ τὸν οὐρανό, καὶ πρέπει νὰ τὸν σεβώμαστε ὅλοι. Κι ὅταν σεβώμαστε τὸν παπᾶ, εἶνε σὰν νὰ σεβώμαστε τὸ Χριστό.

Ἄγγελος εἶπαμε ὅτι ἦταν ὁ Ἰωάννης ὁ Πρόδρομος. Ἄγγελοι εἶνε στὸν κόσμο οἱ ἱερεῖς, οἱ ὁποῖοι ἐκτελοῦν τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ. **Ἄγγελοι πρέπει νὰ γίνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς**. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ προορισμὸς μας.

(†) **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: \$300 PER YEAR

SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR

SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 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 2019 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

The Flight into Egypt of the Holy Family

Egypt is situated to the southwest of Judea, and is distant from Bethlehem perhaps about 60 miles. It was at this time a Roman province. There were many Jews there, who had a temple and synagogues (see the notes at Isaiah 19:18), and Joseph, therefore, would be among his own countrymen, and yet beyond the reach of Herod.

The jurisdiction of Herod extended only to the River Sihon, or "river of Egypt," and, of course, beyond that Joseph was safe from his designs. For a description

of Egypt, see the notes at Isaiah 19. It is remarkable that this is the only time in which our Saviour was out of Palestine, and that this was in the land where the children of Israel had suffered so much and so long under the oppression of the Egyptian kings. The very land which was the land of bondage and groaning for the Jews, became now the land of refuge and safety for the new-born King of Judea.

God can overturn nations and kingdoms, so that those whom he loves shall be safe anywhere.