



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE FOURTH ECUMENICAL COUNCIL



*Icon of the First Six Ecumenical Councils*

**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2**

**Psalm 31.11,1**

**Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous.**

**Verse: Blessed are they whose transgressions have been forgiven.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I desire you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to apply themselves to good deeds; these are excellent and profitable to men. But avoid stupid controversies, genealogies, dissensions, and quarrels over the law, for they are unprofitable and futile. As for a man who is factious, after admonishing him once or twice, have nothing more to do with him, knowing that such a person is perverted and sinful; he is self-condemned. When I send Artemas or Tychicos to you, do your best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I have decided to spend the winter there. Do your best to speed Zenas the lawyer and Apollos on their way; see that they lack nothing. And let our people learn to apply themselves to good deeds, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not to be unfruitful. All who are with me send greeting to you. Greet those who love us in the faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. β'**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 31.11,1**

**Εὐφράνθητι ἐπὶ Κύριον, καὶ ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι.**

**Στίχ. Μακάριοι, ὧν ἀφέθησαν αἱ ἀνομίαι.**

Πρὸς Τίτον 3:8-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τίτε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος, καὶ περὶ τούτων βούλομαί σε διαβεβαιουῦσθαι, ἵνα φροντίζωσιν καλῶν ἔργων προϊστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστιν καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις · μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔριν καὶ μάχας νομικὰς περιύστασο, εἰσὶν γὰρ ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἰρετικὸν ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἀμαρτάνει, ὧν αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὅταν πέμψω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σὲ ἢ Τυχικόν, σπουδάσον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς Νικόπολιν, ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ Ἀπολλῶν σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπη. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων προϊστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες. Ἀσπασαὶ τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν πίστει. ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν.

**The Gospel According to Matthew 5:14-19**

The Lord said to his disciples, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἐαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου. οὐ δύναται πόλις κρυβῆναι ἐπάνω ὄρους κειμένη· οὐδὲ κείουσι λύχνον καὶ τιθέασιν αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τὸν μῶδιον, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ τὴν λυχνίαν, καὶ λάμπει πᾶσι τοῖς ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ. οὕτω λαμψάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅπως ἴδωσιν ὑμῶν τὰ καλὰ ἔργα καὶ δοξάσωσι τὸν πατέρα ὑμῶν τὸν ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς. Μὴ νομίσητε ὅτι ἦλθον καταλύσαι τὸν νόμον ἢ τοὺς προφῆτας· οὐκ ἦλθον καταλύσαι, ἀλλὰ πληρῶσαι. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἕως ἂν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰῶτα ἐν ἡ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου ἕως ἂν πάντα γένηται. ὃς ἐὰν οὖν λύσῃ μίαν τῶν ἐντολῶν τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων καὶ διδάξῃ οὕτω τοὺς ἀνθρώπους, ἐλάχιστος κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν· ὃς δ' ἂν ποιήσῃ καὶ διδάξῃ, οὗτος μέγας κληθήσεται ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τῶν οὐρανῶν.

**CLERGY LAITY UPDATE:** The National Congress of the Greek Orthodox Church in America which met in San Diego, California on the first week of July was a major success in administrative financial and visionary direction for the CHURCH! One of the personal highlights of the 6 day Congress was the special elevation of our beloved Pastor, Father Eugene to the post of ARCHIMANDRITE of the EUMENICAL THRONE of CONSTANTINOPLE. The auspicious ceremony presided over by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros was accompanied in the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas of the United Kingdom ( ENGLAND) and His Eminence Metropolitan Cleopas of Sweden and All Scandinavia. Father Eugene received the Patriarchal Cross of Saint Sophia (Constantinople) and the Citation signed by His All Holiness Bartholemew, Patriarch of Constantinople. The Cross and document will be displayed at the conclusion of today's worship service.

**CENTERFOLD:** Photos of the 'elevation ceremony' are posted in today's bulletin.

**TODAY:** We are commemorating the pre-feast of SAINT MARINA ( Wednesday, July 17<sup>a</sup> ). The Icon of the venerable Saint will be processed in honor and tribute.

**Chronia Polla to all named MARINA or MARINOS!**

**NEXT WEEK:** Sunday, July 21<sup>a</sup>, we shall celebrate BIRTHDAY of the ' good shepherd ' Father Eugene. Cake, sweets, treats, soda and coffee will be served to all in WHITEHALL.

**See you there!**

**UP-COMING BAPTISMS:** With pride and joy we are embracing FOUR new babies into the parish:

**'DAYANA'** daughter of Serhii and Alina KOKHANIVA – KONDRATSKA

**'THEODORE'** son of Pavel and Yekaterina VODOLAGIN

**'THOMAS'** son of George and Anne Allaire VELLIOS

**'MICHAEL ANDREW'** son of Jeffrey Jay and Eleni MENDES

**Congratulations to the proud parents kin and friends alike.....NA SAS ZESOUN!**

**FEAST and FAST** of the Holy Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU) is rapidly approaching Thursday – August 1<sup>a</sup> Thursday August 15<sup>a</sup>. Artoklasies are most welcomed to honor the MOTHER of the LORD JESUS. Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us!

**SUMMER HOURS:** The Sunday Divine Liturgy will commence with Orthros at 9:00 A.M. and the Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. This will afford everyone ample time to travel to beaches, parks and outdoor events for recreation. This schedule will remain through LABOR DAY. Have a wonderful vacation, keep safe and always know ---'WE'RE OPEN ON SUNDAYS'! Church Office hours will continue each weekday from 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

**BASTILLE DAY** this year falls on a Sunday – July 14<sup>a</sup>. Come and share our Greco – Gallo observance with French treats, historical review and the 'Marseilles'. The French Greek Orthodox Church is vital and vibrant in the Republique Francaise. Come and learn the rest of the Story.

**BOY SCOUT CAMP:** The 'GOLDEN GREEKS' Troop #531 will host the two week camping experience for young lads of scouting age from JULY 20<sup>a</sup> through AUGUST 03<sup>a</sup>. This Inspiring and unique experience in nature will reinforce the young boy's strengths and reveal his communion with God and the natural environment. Have you considered registering your son or grand-son in the troop? It is a rite of passage where boys become men! Best wishes to all the campers and an accolade of gratitude to the escort scout leaders.

**Hierarchal Visit:** His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony and Eminence Archbishop Daniel will make the Annual visitation and celebrate the Hierarchal Liturgy of SAINT PANTELEIMON at Three Hierarchs on Sunday, July 21<sup>a</sup>. A community reception will follow the Divine Liturgy at 3:00 P.M. in Whitehall. We extend to our Ukrainian hierarchs POLLA TA ETI!

**TRISAGION SERVICES** will be intoned for the faithful repose in the embrace of the Lord for +ANATOLY FREYDOVICH and +SOPHIA TZOUGRANOS  
**ETERNAL BE THEIR MEMORY!**





*The Clergy Laity 47th. Biennial Congress of the Holy Archdiocese of America was the auspicious occasion of 'ELEVATION' for our Pastor Father Eugene. Two years ago (2022), His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America declared the pronouncement of dignity to Father Eugene at the New York Congress. Official ceremonies were offered in San Diego, California on July 02nd, 2024 at the 47th. Congress. Two Patriarchal Representatives were present for the rite: His Eminence NIKITAS of the United Kingdom (GREAT BRITAIN) and His Eminence CLEOPAS Metropolitan of SWEDEN and ALL SCANDINAVIA. Father Eugene was invested with the CROSS of SAINT SOPHIA as Archimandrite of the Ecumenical Throne of Constantinople with the blessings of His All-Holiness Bartholemew Patriarch of Constantinople. The pectoral 'cross' and written decree is signed by the Ecumenical Patriarch and is on display after the Divine Liturgy today.*





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Τετρὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – [imsaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imsaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1272 <sup>2</sup>	Κυρ. Πατέρων Δ' Οἰκ. Συν. (Ματθ. 5,14-19) 14 Ἰουλίου 2024 (2006)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντκώτης
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## Νὰ γίνουμε φῶτα!

«Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Ὑμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου...» (Ματθ. 5,14)

**Ἀ**ρχίζω, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὴν ὁμιλία μὲ μιὰ ἐρώτησι· **Ὑπάρχει κανεὶς ποὺ ἀγαπάει τὸ σκοτάδι;** Κανεὶς ἀσφαλῶς. Ὅλοι ἀγαποῦμε τὸ φῶς. Χωρὶς φῶς δὲν μπορούμε νὰ κινηθοῦμε καὶ νὰ ἐργαστοῦμε. Γι' αὐτό, ὅταν τὸ πρωὶ βγαίνει ὁ ἥλιος λαμπρὸς καὶ σκορπάει σ' ὅλη τὴ γῆ τὶς ζωογόνες ἀκτίνες του, ὅλοι αἰσθανόμαστε χαρά. Πόσο πρέπει νὰ συμπαθοῦμε τοὺς τυφλοὺς ἀδελφούς μας, ποὺ δὲν ἔχουν μάτια γιὰ νὰ δοῦν τὸ φῶς· καὶ πόσο εὐγνώμονες πρέπει νὰ εἶνε ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ἔχουν τὰ μάτια καὶ βλέπουν τὰ ὠραῖα τῆς δημιουργίας καὶ τοῦ Θεοῦ! Γι' αὐτὸ καὶ ἕνας ποιητὴς λέει·

«Ὅταν τριγύρω βλέπω τῆς φύσεως τὰ κάλλη,  
τὸν ἥλιο, τὴ σελήνη, τ' ἄστρα τὰ φωτεινά,  
τὴ θάλασσα, π' ἀφρίζει κι ἀπλώνεται μεγάλη,  
τοὺς ποταμούς, τὰ δένδρα, τοὺς κάμπους, τὰ βουνά,  
καὶ τ' ἄνθη ποὺ στολιζοῦν ἀγροὺς καὶ μονοπάτια,  
Σ' εὐχαριστῶ, Θεέ μου, ποὺ μοῦ ἔδωκες τὰ μάτια»

(ἡ Παύλος Ἀποστολὴ τῆς Ε' ἡμ. σ. 26).

Ἄνεκτίμητη δωρεὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ εἶνε τὸ **ὕλικό φῶς**. Καὶ ὑπάρχουν διάφορα εἶδη ὑλικοῦ φωτός. Στὴν ἐκκλησία λ.χ. φῶς εἶνε ἡ κανδήλα, φῶς τὸ κεράκι ποὺ ἀνάβουμε μπροστὰ στὶς εἰκόνες, φῶς καὶ ὁ πολυέλεος. Κ' ἕνα δαδί, ποὺ ἀνάβει ὁ τσοπάνος τὴ νύχτα καὶ φωτίζει τὴν καλύβα του τὸ χειμῶνα, εἶνε κι αὐτὸ ἕνα φῶς. Δυνατὸ φῶς εἶνε τὸ ἠλεκτρικό, αὐτὸ ποὺ ἐκπέμπουν οἱ ἠλεκτρικοὶ λαμπτήρες. Ἀπ' ὅλα ὁμως τὰ ὑλικά φῶτα, φυσικά καὶ τεχνητά, ἀσφαλῶς ὑπερέχει ὁ ἥλιος, ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ φωτός.

Ἄλλ' ὅπως ὑπάρχει ὑλικὸ φῶς, ὑπάρχει καὶ πνευματικὸ φῶς. Καὶ γιὰ τὸ **πνευματικὸ φῶς** ὁμιλεῖ σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Πνευματικὸ φῶς εἶνε ἡ διδασκαλία τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Θὰ πῆ κάποιος· Δὲν ὑπάρχουν κι ἄλλες διδασκαλίες; μόνου τοῦ Χριστοῦ ὑπάρχει;... Δὲν ἀρνούμεθα· ὑπάρχουν κι ἄλλες διδασκαλίες, σοφῶν διδασκάλων, μεγάλων ἀνθρώ-

πων· καὶ τοῦτος ὁ τόπος, ἡ Ἑλλάδα, ἀνέδειξε σπουδαῖα πνεύματα. Ἀλλὰ ἡ διδασκαλία ὄλων αὐτῶν, καὶ τῶν πιὸ σοφῶν, τὰ φῶτα ποὺ προσέφεραν στὸν κόσμον (φῶτα τεχνῶν, ἐπιστημῶν, γνώσεως, μαθήσεως), ἐν συγκρίσει μὲ τὸ φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε πολὺ μικρά. Ξέρετε πῶς μοιάζουν; Ὅσοι εἶνε ἀπὸ χωριὰ ξέρουν, ὅτι σὲ ὠρισμένα μέρη τῆ νύχτα λάμπουν στιγμιαίως κάτι μικρὰ φωτάκια· εἶνε ὠρισμένα ἔντομα ποὺ ὀνομάζονται **πυγολαμπίδες**, διότι καθὼς πετοῦν ἢ οὐρά τους ἐκπέμπει μέσα στὸ σκοτάδι μερικὲς ἀκτίνες. Ὅ,τι λοιπὸν εἶνε οἱ πυγολαμπίδες τῆ νύχτα, εἶνε καὶ οἱ διδασκαλίες τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐν συγκρίσει μὲ τὸ ἀνέσπερο φῶς τῆς θείας διδασκαλίας τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ ὁποῖος εἶπε μὲ ἀπόλυτο τρόπο· «**Ἐγὼ εἶμι τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου**» (ἡ 812).

Ἔχουμε λοιπὸν **δύο ἡλίους**· ἕναν ἥλιο ποὺ φωτίζει τὸν φυσικὸ κόσμον, καὶ τὸν πνευματικὸ ἥλιο ποὺ ὀνομάζεται Χριστός. Εὐχαριστοῦμε τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὸν φυσικὸ ἥλιο· ἀλλὰ θὰ εἴμαστε ἀνάξιοι νὰ ὀνομαζώμαστε Χριστιανοί, ἐὰν δὲν εὐχαριστοῦμε τὸν ἐν Τριάδι Θεὸ διότι διὰ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἀναψε ἐν μέσῳ τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος τὸν πνευματικὸ ἥλιο ποὺ φωτίζει καὶ θὰ φωτίζει αἰώνως τὰ πάντα.

Μεταξὺ τοῦ φυσικοῦ ἡλίου καὶ τοῦ πνευματικοῦ ἡλίου **ὑπάρχει μιὰ μεγάλη διαφορά**. Ὁ ἥλιος αὐτὸς ποὺ βλέπουμε κάθε πρωὶ ν' ἀνατέλλει καὶ κάθε βράδυ νὰ βασιλεῦει καὶ λάμπει χιλιάδες τῶρα χρόνια, ὁ ἥλιος αὐτὸς μιὰ μέρα θὰ σβήσει. Ὅπως σβήνει μιὰ καντήλα στὸ ναό, ὅπως σβήνει ἕνα δαδί, ὅπως σβήνει ἕνας ἠλεκτρικὸς λαμπτήρας, ἔτσι θὰ σβήσει μιὰ μέρα κι αὐτὸς καὶ θὰ πέσει σκοτάδι στὸν κόσμον. Τὸ λέει ὁ Χριστὸς αὐτό (βλ. Ματθ. 24,29 ἠβκ. 13,24). Κι ὄχι μόνου ὁ ἥλιος ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡ σελήνη καὶ τὰ ἄστρα καὶ οἱ γαλαξίες τοῦ σύμπαντος, ὅλα θὰ σβήσουν. Ἐνα δὲν θὰ σβήσει! Ποιό; Τὸ λέει

σήμερα ὁ Χριστός· «*Ἔως ἂν παρέλθῃ ὁ οὐρανός καὶ ἡ γῆ, ἰώτα ἓν ἢ μία κεραία οὐ μὴ παρέλθῃ ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου...*» (Ματθ. 5:18). Κι ἄλλοῦ ἐπαναλαμβάνει· «*Ὁ οὐρανός καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι*» (Ἐβ. 24:35). Ἄτρεπτος καὶ ἀναλλοίωτος ὁ Χριστός, ἀφθαρτὴ καὶ αἰώνια ἡ διδασκαλία του.

**Φῶς ἀναλλοίωτο ὁ Χριστός·** φῶς τὰ λόγια του, φῶς ἡ ζωὴ του, φῶς τὰ θαύματά του, φῶς τὰ πάθη καὶ ὁ σταυρός του, φῶς ἡ ἀνάστασις καὶ ἡ ἀνάληψί του, φῶς ἡ Πεντηκοστή. Ὅλο φῶς εἶν' ὁ Χριστός. Ὁ φυσικὸς ἥλιος ἔχει τίς κηλίδες του, ὁ Χριστός μας δὲν ἔχει οὔτε τὴν παραμικρὴ σκιά. Εἶνε ὁ ἅγιος καὶ ἀμόλυντος κατὰ πάντα.

Ἄλλ' ὅπως ὁ Χριστός εἶνε φῶς, ἔτσι καὶ αὐτοὶ ποῦ πιστεύουν σ' αὐτὸν πρέπει νὰ εἶνε φῶτα. Καὶ τέτοια φῶτα, πνευματικὰ φῶτα, εἶνε οἱ ἅγιοι ποῦ ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα. Σήμερα ἡ ἁγία μας Ἐκκλησία ἐορτάζει τὴ μνήμη τῶν **πατέρων τῆς Τετάρτης (Δ') Οἰκουμενικῆς Συνόδου**, ποῦ συνήλθαν τὸ 451 στὴ Χαλκηδόνα, γιὰ νὰ πολεμήσουν τὴν αἵρεσι τοῦ Εὐτυχοῦς καὶ τοῦ Διοσκόρου, τὴν τρομερὴ αἵρεσι τοῦ *μονοφυσισμοῦ*, ποῦ ἀνέτρεπε τὴν ὀρθόδοξη διδασκαλία γιὰ τὸ θεανδρικό πρόσωπο τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Ἡ Τετάρτη Οἰκουμενικὴ Σύνοδος καταδίκασε αὐτοὺς τοὺς αἰρετικούς, τοὺς λεγομένους *μονοφυσίτες*, ποῦ δίδασκαν ἀντίθετα ἀπὸ τὴ διδασκαλία τῆς ἁγίας Γραφῆς, τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου καὶ τῶν ἀποστόλων. Ἦταν ἐν ὄλῳ **630 πατέρες, 630 «ἀστέρες πολύφωτοι»**. Ἐὰν ὁ Χριστός εἶνε ἥλιος, οἱ ἅγιοι πατέρες καὶ διδάσκαλοι τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, μὲ τὰ συγγράμματά τους καὶ τὴ σοφία τους, μὲ τὴν παρρησία καὶ τὴν ὁμολογία τους, μὲ τὴν ὄλη ἁγία ζωὴ τους, ὑπῆρξαν «*ἀστέρες πολύφωτοι τοῦ νοητοῦ στερεώματος*», ὅπως ψάλλει τὸ ὠραῖο δοξαστικό τους.

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Φῶς λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστός, φῶς οἱ ἀπόστολοι, φῶς οἱ προφῆται, φῶς οἱ πατέρες καὶ διδάσκαλοι. Αὐτὰ τὰ φῶτα φωτίζουν τὸν πνευματικὸ οὐρανὸ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας. Ἄλλὰ δὲν ἀρκεῖ νὰ ἐκθειάζουμε μόνο τοὺς πατέρας καὶ διδασκάλους· πρέπει καὶ νὰ τοὺς ἀκολουθοῦμε. Ὁ λόγος τοῦ Χριστοῦ «*Ἦμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου*» (Ματθ. 5:14) ἰσοδυναμεῖ μὲ ἰσχυρὴ προτροπὴ - ἐντολὴ **νὰ γίνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς φῶτα**.

Σεῖς οἱ Χριστιανοί, λέει ὁ Κύριος, εἶστε φῶτα μέσ' στὴ νύχτα τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Θεοῦ, οἱ πιστοὶ ἄνθρωποι, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, ὁ ἀσπρομάλλης γέρος καὶ τὸ νήπιο ποῦ κρατᾷ στὴ ἀγκαλιά της ἡ μάνα, τὰ

παιδιά τῶν κατηχητικῶν σχολείων καὶ οἱ νέοι, κάθε ὀρθόδοξη ψυχὴ, αὐτοὶ ἀποτελοῦν τὸ «*μικρὸν ποίμνιον*» (Ἰωκ. 12:32), αὐτοὶ εἶνε ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε ἡ «*γυνὴ περιβεβλημένη τὸν ἥλιον*» (Ἰκ. 12:1), τὰ παιδιά της «*ἐνδύθηκαν τὸν Χριστό*» (Ἰαλ. 3:27) ποῦ εἶνε «*τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου*» (Ἰω. 8:12), καὶ μὲ τὴν παρουσία καὶ τὴ διαγωγὴ τους «*φῶς Χριστοῦ φαίνει πᾶσι*» (Ἰακ. 1:7-9).

Ὅταν ὁ ἥλιος δὲν ἐμποδίζεται ἀπὸ τὰ σύννεφα καὶ λάμπει, τότε εἶνε χαρὰ Θεοῦ, θερμαίνεται καὶ ζωογονεῖται κάθε πλάσμα. Ὅταν ἀντιθέτως τὸ χειμῶνα ὁ ἥλιος κρύβεται ἐπὶ πολλὰς μέρες κι ὁ οὐρανὸς σκοτεινιάζει, οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν βλέπουν ἥλιο καὶ λυποῦνται. Κάτι παρόμοιο συμβαίνει σήμερα καὶ στὸν πνευματικὸ ὀρίζοντα, στὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ὑπάρχει **σκοτάδι**. Χειμῶνας βαρὺς ἐπικρατεῖ, ἥλιος δὲν λάμπει, ἀστρα δὲν φαίνονται, σελήνη δὲν φέγγει.

**Ἄλλὰ θαρσεῖτε, ἀδελφοί!** Θὰ λάμπει πάλι φῶς, θὰ λάμπει ἡ ἀλήθεια. Δὲν θὰ νικήσῃ τὸ σκότος. Τὰ σύννεφα δὲν νικοῦν τελικὰ τὸν ἥλιο· γιὰ λίγο μόνο τὸν σκιάζουν. Καὶ τὰ σύννεφα ποῦ λέγονται εἴτε ψεύδη εἴτε συκοφαντίες εἴτε διαβολὲς εἴτε ἀδικίες εἴτε περιορισμοὶ καὶ φυλακίσεις εἴτε ἐκτοπισμοὶ καὶ ἐξορίες εἴτε διωγμοὶ καὶ βασανιστήρια, δὲν μποροῦν νὰ καλύψουν γιὰ πάντα τὸν ἥλιο τῆς ἀληθείας, τὸ φῶς τοῦ δικαίου, τὴ λάμψη τῆς ἀγιότητος, τὴν ἀξία κάθε τιμίου ἀγωνιστοῦ. Ὅπως δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ σβῆσῃ ὁ ἥλιος, ἔστω κι ἂν χιλιάδες ἄνθρωποι βγοῦν ἔξω κι ἀρχίσουν νὰ τὸν φτύνουν, διότι εἶνε ἀδύνατον τὰ σάλια τους νὰ τὸν φτάσουν, κατὰ παρόμοιο τρόπο **εἶνε ἀδύνατον νὰ σβηστῇ ἡ ἀλήθεια**.

Γιὰ λίγο σκιάζεται ὁ ἥλιος, προσωρινὰ ἐπικρατεῖ χειμῶνας, προσωρινὰ ἀποκρύπτεται ἡ ἀλήθεια. **Χρειάζεται πίστις, ὑπομονή, καρτερία**. Μέσ' στὸ σκοτάδι νὰ μὴ χαθῇ ἀπ' τὸ μάτι μας ἓνα ἀστέρι. Καὶ τὸ ἀστέρι, ποῦ πρέπει νὰ κρατήσουμε στὸν οὐρανὸ τῆς καρδιᾶς μας ὅλοι, εἶνε ἡ **ἐλπίδα στὸ Χριστό**. «*Ἡ ἐλπίς οὐ καταισχύνει*» (Ρωμ. 5:5). Μὲ τὴν ἐλπίδα αὐτὴ θ' ἀντιμετωπίσουμε κάθε θύελλα. Σὰς ὁμιλεῖ ἓνας γέροντας ἐπίσκοπος, ποῦ δὲν πέρασε τὴ ζωὴ του μὲ εὐκολίες, ἀλλὰ διῆλθε διὰ μέσου πολλῶν περιπετειῶν. Πιστεύω ἀκραδάντως, ὅτι ὅσες σκοτεινὲς δυνάμεις καὶ ἂν δροῦν στὸν κόσμον, ὅσο μαύρη καὶ ἂν εἶνε ἡ ἀτμόσφαιρα ἢ πνευματικὴ, ἢ ἠθικὴ, ἢ ἐκκλησιαστικὴ, ἢ ἐθνικὴ, ἢ παγκόσμιος, στὸ τέλος θὰ νικήσῃ τὸ φῶς, ὁ ἥλιος, ὁ Χριστός· ἀμήν.

(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: \$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 2024 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

*Teachings of the 4th Ecumenical Council*

The Council of Chalcedon Latin: Concilium Chalcedonense) was the fourth ecumenical council of the Christian Church. It was convoked by the Roman emperor Marcian. The council convened in the city of Chalcedon, Bithynia (today Kadıköy, Istanbul) from 8 October to 1 November 451. The council was attended by over 520 bishops or their representatives, making it the largest and best-documented of the first seven ecumenical councils. The principal purpose of the council was to re-assert the teachings of the ecumenical Council of Ephesus against the teachings of Eutyches and Nestorius. Such doctrines viewed Christ's divine and human natures as separate (Nestorianism) or viewed Christ as solely divine (monophysitism).  
As recorded by American Christian scholar Jaroslav Pelikan, it was stated:

"We all teach harmoniously [that he is] the same perfect in godhead, the same perfect in manhood, truly God and truly man, the same of a reasonable soul and body; homoousios with the Father in godhead, and the same homoousios with us in manhood ... acknowledged in two natures without confusion, without change, without division, without separation."

While this judgment marked a significant turning point in the Christological debates, it also generated heated disagreements between the council and the Oriental Orthodox Church, who did not agree with such conduct or proceedings.

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 26th 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 radio**)

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