



JUBILEE 85<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 10th, 2015

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN



*Icon of the Samaritan Woman*

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O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

IN THOSE DAYS, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**Πράξεις Αποστόλων 11:19-30** Προκειμενον. Ἦχος δ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, διασπαρέντες οἱ Ἀπόστολοι ἀπὸ τῆς θλίψεως τῆς γενομένης ἐπὶ Στεφάνῳ διήλθον ἕως Φοινίκης καὶ Κύπρου καὶ Ἀντιοχείας, μηδενὶ λαλοῦντες τὸν λόγον εἰ μὴ μόνον Ἰουδαίους. Ἦσαν δὲ τινες ἐξ αὐτῶν ἄνδρες Κύπριοι καὶ Κυρηναῖοι, οἵτινες εἰσελθόντες εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν, ἐλάλουν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑλληνιστάς, εὐαγγελιζόμενοι τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν. Καὶ ἦν χεὶρ κυρίου μετ' αὐτῶν· πολὺς τε ἀριθμὸς πιστεύσας ἐπέστρεψεν ἐπὶ τὸν κύριον. Ἠκούσθη δὲ ὁ λόγος εἰς τὰ ὄρα τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις περὶ αὐτῶν· καὶ ἐξαπέστειλαν Βαρνάβαν διελθεῖν ἕως Ἀντιοχείας· ὃς παραγενόμενος καὶ ἰδὼν τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐχάρη, καὶ παρεκάλει πάντας τῆ προθέσει τῆς καρδίας προσμένειν τῷ κυρίῳ· ὅτι ἦν ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς καὶ πλήρης πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ πίστεως· καὶ προστετέθη ὄχλος ἱκανὸς τῷ κυρίῳ. Ἐξήλθεν δὲ εἰς Ταρσὸν ὁ Βαρνάβας ἀναζητῆσαι Σαῦλον, καὶ εὐρὼν ἤγαγεν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν. Ἐγένετο δὲ αὐτοὺς ἐνιαυτὸν ὅλον συναχθῆναι τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ καὶ διδάξαι ὄχλον ἱκανόν, χρηματίζου τε πρῶτον ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ τοὺς μαθητὰς Χριστιανούς. Ἐν ταύταις δὲ ταῖς ἡμέραις κατήλθον ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων προφῆται εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν. Ἀναστὰς δὲ εἰς ἐξ αὐτῶν ὀνόματι Ἄγαβος, ἐσήμανεν διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος λιμὸν μέγαν μέλλειν ἔσθαι ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν οἰκουμένην· ὅστις καὶ ἐγένετο ἐπὶ Κλαυδίου Καίσαρος. Τῶν δὲ μαθητῶν καθὼς εὐπορεῖτό τις, ὥρισαν ἕκαστος αὐτῶν εἰς διακονίαν πέμψαι τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ἀδελφοῖς· ὁ καὶ ἐποίησαν, ἀποστειλάντες πρὸς τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους διὰ χειρὸς Βαρνάβα καὶ Σαύλου.

#### **Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 4:5-42**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἔρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς πόλιν τῆς Σαμαρείας λεγομένην Συχάρ, πλγσίον τοῦ χωρίου ὃ ἔδωκεν Ἰακώβ Ἰωσήφ τῷ υἱῷ αὐτοῦ· ἦν δὲ ἐκεῖ πηγὴ τοῦ Ἰακώβ. Ὁ οὖν Ἰησοῦς κεκοπιακῶς ἐκ τῆς ὁδοπορίας ἐκαθέζετο οὕτως ἐπὶ τῇ πηγῇ· ὥρα ἦν ὥσει ἔκρη. Ἐρχεται γυνὴ ἐκ τῆς Σαμαρείας ἀντλήσαι ὕδωρ. λέγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· δός μοι πιεῖν. οἱ γὰρ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἀπεληλύθεισαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἵνα τροφὰς ἀγοράσωσι. λέγει οὖν αὐτῇ ἡ γυνὴ ἡ Σαμαρεῖτις· πῶς σὺ Ἰουδαῖος ὢν παρ' ἐμοῦ πιεῖν αἰτεῖς, οὐσης γυναικὸς Σαμαρεῖτιδος; οὐ γὰρ συγχρῶνται Ἰουδαῖοι Σαμαρεῖταις. ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· εἰ ἤδεις τὴν δωρεάν τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ τίς ἐστὶν ὁ λέγων σοι, δός μοι πιεῖν, σὺ ἂν ἤτησας αὐτόν, καὶ ἔδωκεν ἂν σοι ὕδωρ ζῶν. λέγει αὐτῇ ἡ γυνὴ· Κύριε, οὐτε ἀντλημα ἔχεις, καὶ τὸ φρέαρ ἐστὶ βαθύ· πόθεν οὖν ἔχεις τὸ ὕδωρ τὸ ζῶν; μὴ σὺ μείζων εἶ τοῦ πατρὸς ἡμῶν Ἰακώβ, ὃς ἔδωκεν ἡμῖν τὸ φρέαρ, καὶ αὐτὸς ἐξ αὐτοῦ ἔπιε καὶ οἱ υἱοὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰ θρέμματα αὐτοῦ; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· πᾶς ὁ πίνων ἐκ τοῦ ὕδατος τούτου διψήσει πάλιν· ὃς δ' ἂν πῖνῃ ἐκ τοῦ ὕδατος οὗ ἐγὼ δώσω αὐτῷ, οὐ μὴ διψήσῃ εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἀλλὰ τὸ ὕδωρ ὃ δώσω αὐτῷ, γενήσεται ἐν αὐτῷ πηγὴ ὕδατος ἀλλομένου εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. λέγει πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡ γυνὴ· Κύριε, δός μοι τοῦτο τὸ ὕδωρ, ἵνα μὴ διψῶ μηδὲ ἔρχομαι ἐνθάδε ἀντλεῖν. λέγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ὑπάγε φώνησον τὸν ἄνδρα σου καὶ ἐλθὲ ἐνθάδε. ἀπεκρίθη ἡ γυνὴ καὶ εἶπεν· οὐκ ἔχω ἄνδρα. λέγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καλῶς εἶπας ὅτι ἄνδρα οὐκ ἔχω· πέντε γὰρ ἄνδρας ἔσχες, καὶ νῦν ὃν ἔχεις οὐκ ἔστι σου ἀνὴρ· τοῦτο ἀληθὲς εἶρηκας. λέγει αὐτῇ ἡ γυνὴ· Κύριε, θεωρῶ ὅτι προφήτης εἶ σὺ. οἱ πατέρες ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ ὄρει τούτῳ προσεκύνησαν· καὶ ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις ἐστὶν ὁ τόπος ὅπου δεῖ προσκυνεῖν. λέγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· γύναι, πιστευσόν μοι ὅτι ἔρχεται ὥρα ὅτε οὔτε ἐν τῷ ὄρει τούτῳ οὔτε ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις προσκυνήσετε τῷ πατρί. ὑμεῖς προσκυνεῖτε ὃ οὐκ οἴδατε, ἡμεῖς προσκυνοῦμεν ὃ οἴδαμεν· ὅτι ἡ σωτηρία ἐκ τῶν Ἰουδαίων ἐστίν. ἀλλ' ἔρχεται ὥρα, καὶ νῦν ἐστὶν, ὅτε οἱ ἀληθινοὶ προσκυνῆται προσκυνήσουσι τῷ πατρί ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθείᾳ· καὶ γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ τοιοῦτους ζητεῖ τοὺς προσκυνοῦντας αὐτόν. πνεῦμα ὁ Θεός, καὶ τοὺς προσκυνοῦντας αὐτόν ἐν πνεύματι καὶ ἀληθείᾳ δεῖ προσκυνεῖν. λέγει αὐτῇ ἡ γυνὴ· οἶδα ὅτι Μεσσίας ἔρχεται ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός· ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐκεῖνος, ἀναγγελεῖ ἡμῖν πάντα. λέγει αὐτῇ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἐγὼ εἰμι ὁ λαλῶν σοι. καὶ ἐπὶ τούτῳ ἦλθον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐθαύμασαν ὅτι μετὰ γυναικὸς ἐλάλει· οὐδεὶς μὲντοι εἶπε, τί ζητεῖς ἢ τί λαλεῖς μετ' αὐτῆς; Ἀφῆκεν οὖν τὴν ὑδρίαν αὐτῆς ἡ γυνὴ καὶ ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὴν πόλιν, καὶ λέγει τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· δεῦτε ἴδετε ἄνθρωπον ὃς εἶπέ μοι πάντα ὅσα ἐποίησα· μήτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ Χριστός; ἐξῆλθον οὖν ἐκ τῆς πόλεως καὶ ἤρχοντο πρὸς αὐτόν. Ἐν δὲ τῷ μεταξύ ἠρώτων αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ λέγοντες· ῥάββι, φάγε. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐγὼ βρῶσιν ἔχω φαγεῖν, ἦν ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἴδατε. ἔλεγον οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους· μή τις ἤνεγκεν αὐτῷ φαγεῖν; λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἐμὸν βρῶμά ἐστιν ἵνα ποιῶ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ πέμψαντός με καὶ τελειώσω αὐτοῦ τὸ ἔργον. οὐχ ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι ἔτι τετράμηνός ἐστι καὶ ὁ θερισμὸς ἔρχεται; ἰδοὺ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐπάρατε τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ὑμῶν καὶ θεάσασθε τὰς χώρας, ὅτι λευκαὶ εἰσι πρὸς θερισμὸν ἤδη. καὶ ὁ θερίζων μισθὸν λαμβάνει καὶ συνάγει καρπὸν εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον, ἵνα καὶ ὁ σπείρων ὁμοῦ χαίρῃ καὶ ὁ θερίζων. ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ ὁ λόγος ἐστὶν ὁ ἀληθινός, ὅτι ἄλλος ἐστὶν ὁ σπείρων καὶ ἄλλος ὁ θερίζων. ἐγὼ ἀπέστειλα ὑμᾶς θερίζειν ὃ οὐχ ὑμεῖς κεκοπιάκατε· ἄλλοι κεκοπιάκασι, καὶ ὑμεῖς εἰς τὸν κόπον αὐτῶν εἰσεληλύθατε. Ἐκ δὲ τῆς πόλεως ἐκείνης πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν εἰς αὐτόν τῶν Σαμαρεῖτῶν διὰ τὸν λόγον τῆς γυναικὸς, μαρτυροῦσης ὅτι εἶπέ μοι πάντα ὅσα ἐποίησα. ὡς οὖν ἦλθον πρὸς αὐτόν οἱ Σαμαρεῖται, ἠρώτων αὐτὸν μείναι παρ' αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐκεῖ δύο ἡμέρας. καὶ πολλῶν πλείους ἐπίστευσαν διὰ τὸν λόγον αὐτοῦ, τῆ τε γυναικὸς ἔλεγον ὅτι οὐκέτι διὰ τὴν σὴν λαλίαν πιστεύομεν· αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀκηκόαμεν, καὶ οἴδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ἀληθῶς ὁ σωτὴρ τοῦ κόσμου ὁ Χριστός.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:**

Sunday May 10th,

Feast of the Samaritan Woman  
Woman of the Year 2015 Honors9:30 AM  
12:00 PM

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** is hosted today in Whitehall directly after Divine Liturgy by the Philoptochos Society. Please join us in fellowship and honor the ladies of the Parish.

**MOTHER'S DAY CEREMONIES** at Three Hierarchs Parish will include the honors bestowed upon the WOMAN of the YEAR 2015. A committee of the clergy and 20 ladies representing the various organizations of the church and fraternal groups will make the selection in private conclave and secret vote. WHO CAN SHE BE? Come and find out. Don't forget MOTHER'S DAY !

**MANY THANKS TO THE ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
MOTHER'S DAY SELECTION COMMITTEE 2015**

LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS- Maria Plessias, SUNDAY SCHOOL-Christine Hantzopoulos/Maria Apergis,  
GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A. – Michelle Lambrakis/Zoe Anastasakos/Maria Halkias, SENIOR CLUB- Nicolita Theophilus,  
G.A.V.A. –Helen Pavlides, CHOIR- Katie Hambas, ALTAR BOYS- Rose Palividas, ATHLETIC TEAM- Maria Plevritis, GIRL  
SCOUTS-Stella Oberle, BOY SCOUTS- Susie Veroutis/Callie Savas, MR/MRS/MS CLUB- Sylvia Vellios,  
DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE-Marie Paizis, AHEPA- Carol Moschovites, HOLY ORDER-Toula Orthos- PARISH COUNCIL-  
Alexander Diolis, Executive Board- Maria Lambrianakos- PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT, Joanna Vassilas.

**NOMINATION QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Greek Orthodox Christian
2. Registered Members of the Parish
3. Married in the Orthodox Church
4. Raised their children in the faith
5. Served volunteer organizations in the parish
6. Sacramentally participates in worship services
7. Morally and ethically an example within the parish
8. Congenially admired respected and loved by many

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for up-coming events of importance:

<b>WOMAN of the YEAR 2015 HONORS -</b>	Today	May 10th	12:00 Noon
<b>A.H.E.P.A.</b> Chapter 200 Breakfast Honors on Plaza (FREE)	Sunday	May 17th	12:00 Noon
<b>VESPER</b> Saints Constantine/Helen and Ascension at the Brooklyn Cathedral	Wednesday	May 20th	7:00 P.M.
<b>ASCENSION (ANALYSIS) and FEAST of SAINTS CONSTANTINE/HELEN</b> at THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH.		9:30 A.M.	
<b>HOLY ORDER MEMORIAL SERVICE</b>	Sunday .	May 24th	10:30 A.M.
<b>PSYCHOSABBATON MEMORIAL SERVICE</b>	Saturday	May 30th	9:00 A.M.
<b>PENTECOST (Feast of the Holy Spirit )</b>	Sunday,	May 31st	10:30 A.M.
<b>GRECIAN FESTIVAL</b>	Friday, Saturday, Sunday )	May 29,30,31st	

**SAVANON DISTRIBUTION:** the burial shroud of the corpus of Christ from **GOOD FRIDAY** will be cut and distributed with the sacred anointing on **ASCENSION THURSDAY MAY 21st**. Be at the Liturgy to secure one or more for yourself and others.

**UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN:** comes back to Three Hierarchs Parish this September 2015. THREE CLASSES are open for full day lessons for children 4 years of age (born in 2011). The STATE SPONSORED PROGRAM is open enrollment FREE of CHARGE! Visit the web-site and register NOW! TODAY! IMMEDIATELY! Give your child a head start.

**GOOD NEWS FOR THE PARISH:** NEW YORK STATE and the CITY of NEW YORK have endorsed our PARISH FACILITY to operate a UNIVERSAL PRE-K ( GRATIS – FREE) for the greater community with seats for 48 ( 4 year olds ) starting in September 2015! We are also granted a STATE CHARTER for the opening of a **PUBLIC ACCESSED CHARTER SCHOOL** (Grades kindergarten through 8th grade) it was a long and hard struggle --- but we met the requirements!

**GRECIAN FESTIVAL PLANNED:** Please see the flyer insert and SAVE THE DATES! Friday , Saturday and Sunday, MAY 29, 30, AND 31ST. . This is the week – end after MEMORIAL WEEKEND! Hope to see you there. No excuses.

**PRE-CANA CONFERENCES** for those young couples preparing for marriage are being conducted privately. If you are interested in participating in the ‘ OBLIGATORY ‘ PRE – REQUISITE TO MARRIAGE, PLEASE CONTACT THE REVEREND CLERGY ..... NOW! Do not procrastinate because the paper – work takes time as do the necessary licenses.



MONTHLY UPDATE

# THE SAINT NICHOLAS NATIONAL SHRINE AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER



APRIL 24, 2015 • #RebuildStNicholas



Tel: 212-774-0227 • rebuildstnicholas@goarch.org

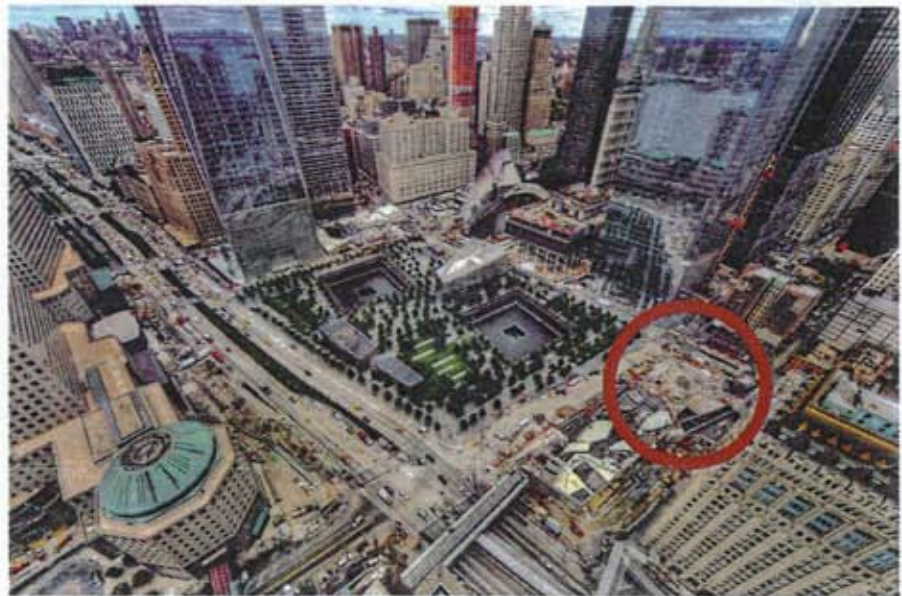
## Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

Dear Generous Friends of the Saint Nicholas National Shrine,

With this update, I want to inaugurate a regular, monthly communication to you, the benefactors of the Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox National Shrine at Ground Zero. Included with this update will be Internet links that you can click on and explore the rebuilding for yourselves. (At anytime you can check out the website: [www.stnicholaswtc.org](http://www.stnicholaswtc.org) for recent news.)

### What's New?

As we all know, from the Ground Blessing last October 18th until now, construction has not yet commenced above ground. Let us all remember that there was no Ground Breaking at that solemn service. In fact, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has spent tens of millions of dollars to construct a platform three feet thick, bomb-proof, and with all service requirements of the future Church building. There was no way to break that! But this aspect of the construction project is often overlooked. We should never forget that building within the sixteen acre



The construction of the future Saint Nicholas National Shrine at The World Trade Center is slated to begin in early June 2015.

World Trade Center site costs at least four times as much as building elsewhere. Not only is it New York City, but the site has many anti-terrorist constraints, whether making the platform bomb-proof or making the interior walls to the standard of a Federal Court House!

Additionally, the hard and long work of preparation has continued unabated. Building this remarkable design has required much more evaluation, testing and review than anyone originally envisaged. The fusion of glass and stone, the process that gives the building the glowing effect,





We are grateful to the Orthodox Christian faithful for their prayers and support, especially on the day of the Ground Blessing Ceremony, in October, 2014.

has required significant extra attention and testing. *Nevertheless, we expect to begin construction on the site by early June*, if not sooner. Once we begin, there will be visual updates on a daily basis by going to our website.

### A Thought about the Shrine....

As we think about the firefighters, police and emergency personnel who perished that fateful day trying to save others, let us reflect what Saint Nicholas Shrine will mean to their memory...

From the *Επιτάφιος Λόγος*, the Funeral Oration of Pericles, these words ring out across the centuries:

*“κοινηγάρ τὰ σώματα  
διδόντες ἰδίᾳ τὸν ἀγῆρων ἔπαινον  
ἐλάβανον καὶ τὸν τάφον ἐπισημώτατον,  
οὐκ ἐν ᾧ κείνται μᾶλλον,  
ἀλλ’ ἐν ᾧ ἡ δόξα αὐτῶν  
παρά τ’ ὄντων χέροντι αἰεὶ....”*

*“For they gave their lives  
for the common weal,  
and in so doing won for themselves  
the praise which grows not old  
and the most distinguished  
of all sepulchers—  
not that in which they lie buried,  
but that in which their glory survives in  
everlasting remembrance.”*

*—Επιτάφιος Λόγος,  
the Funeral Oration of Pericles*

### The Site as it is Today:

On the opposite side of this page, you will see a photograph of the site as it exists today. Again, the location of 130 Liberty Street, the location selected by the Archdiocese, State, the City and the Port Authority so many years ago; the location that became a controversy and forced the Archdiocese to resort to the Federal Court; the location ultimately vindicated by Governor Cuomo – this could not be a more appropriate and significant location for our National Shrine.

Sincerely in the Risen Christ,



### Donations to Date

As of April 21, 2015, donations are:



Make your donation by credit card, check, or wire transfer, visit: [StNicholasWTC.org/donate](http://StNicholasWTC.org/donate)



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΒ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1885

Κυριακὴ Σαμαρείτιδος (Πράξ. 11,19-30)  
10 Μαΐου 2015

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Εἴμαστε Χριστιανοί;

«Ἐγένετο ... χρηματίσαι τε πρῶτον ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ τοὺς μαθητὰς Χριστιανούς» (Πράξ. 11,26)

**Θ**αυμάζει, ἀγαπητοί μου, κανεὶς πολλὰ πράγματα. Πῶς π.χ. ἀπὸ ἓνα μικρὸ σπόρο βγαίνει ἓνα λουλούδι ἢ ἓνα μεγάλο δέντρο. Ἀλλὰ πολὺ περισσότερο πρέπει νὰ θαυμάσουμε πῶς ἀπὸ τὸ λόγο, τὰ λόγια ποὺ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος καὶ οἱ ἀπόστολοι, λόγια ἀπλᾶ, φύτρωσε ἓνα οὐράνιο δέντρο, ἡ **πίστις μας**, ἡ ἀγία μας θρησκεία.

Μιὰ **εἰκόνα** ζωντανὴ τῆς δυνάμεως τοῦ λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τῆς ταχείας ἐξαπλώσεως τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, μᾶς παρουσιάζει σήμερα, Κυριακὴ τῆς Σαμαρείτιδος, ὁ ἀπόστολος. Τί μᾶς λέει;

Πόσοι ἦταν οἱ ἀπόστολοι; 12. Ἔμειναν 12; Ὅχι. Αὐτοὶ οἱ 12 ἔγιναν 70, οἱ 70 ἔγιναν 120, οἱ 120 ἔγιναν 3.000, οἱ 3.000 ἔγιναν 5.000, καὶ συνεχῶς αὐξάνονταν. Ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ δὲν περιωρίστηκε στὰ ὄρια τῆς Παλαιστίνης· οἱ ἀπόστολοι ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄλλοι ποὺ πίστευαν στὸ Χριστὸ ξεκίνησαν ἀπὸ τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ διέδιδαν τὸ κήρυγμα στὶς γειτονικὲς χώρες· ἄλλοι πῆγαν στὴν Κύπρο, ἄλλοι στὴ Φοινίκη, καὶ ἄλλοι ἔφτασαν στὴν **Ἀντιόχεια** ποὺ τότε ἦταν ἡ δεύτερη ἢ τρίτη πόλι τῆς οἰκουμένης (ὑπάρχει καὶ σήμερα ἐκεῖ τὸ ὀρθόδοξο πατριαρχεῖο Ἀντιοχείας). Ἐκεῖ κήρυξε πρῶτος ὁ Βαρνάβας· καὶ ταπεινὸς ὅπως ἦταν, ὅταν εἶδε ὅτι τὸ κήρυγμα ἔχει ἀνάγκη κι ἀπὸ ἄλλους ἐργάτες, πῆγε στὴν Ταρσό, βρῆκε τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο, τὸν ἔφερε στὴν Ἀντιόχεια καὶ ἐν συνεχείᾳ κήρυτταν καὶ οἱ δύο μαζί. Ἐνα χρόνο ἐργάστηκαν. Καὶ ἐκεῖ συνέβη ἓνα σημαντικὸ γεγονός. Μέχρι τότε ὅσοι πίστευαν στὸ Χριστὸ λέγονταν «**μαθηταί**» - «**μαθητρίαι**» ἢ «**οἱ τῆς ὁδοῦ**» ἢ περιφρονητικὰ «**Γαλιλαῖοι**» - «**Ναζωραῖοι**»· μὰ τώρα ποὺ οἱ πιστοὶ αὐξήθηκαν, πῆραν γιὰ πρώτη φορὰ νέο ὄνομα, τιμητικὸ καὶ σχετικὸ μὲ «**τὸ ὑπὲρ πάντων ὀνομα**» (Φιλ. 2,9)· ὠνομάστηκαν «**Χριστιανοί**» (Πράξ. 11,26).

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Θὰ ἤθελα, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ σταθοῦμε ἐδῶ καὶ νὰ ἐξετάσουμε τί **σημαίνει Χριστιανός**. Σκεφτήκαμε ποτὲ τί σημαίνει τὸ ὄνομά μας;

Χριστιανὸς λέγεται αὐτὸς ποὺ ὄχι ἀπλῶς βαπτίστηκε καὶ πῆρε ἓνα ὄνομα ἀγίου, ἀλλὰ ἐκεῖνος ποὺ βαδίζει ἓνα δρόμο «στενὸ καὶ τεθλιμμένο» (βλ. Ματθ. 7,14), πάνω **στὰ ἴχνη ποὺ χάραξε ὁ Χριστὸς** μὲ τὸ αἷμα του. Καὶ ὅπως κάθε δρόμος ἔχει ἀρχὴ καὶ τέλος, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ δρόμος αὐτὸς ἀρχίζει ἐδῶ ἀπὸ τὴ γῆ καὶ τέρμα του εἶνε τ' ἀστέρια, ὁ οὐρανός. Χριστιανὸς λοιπὸν εἶνε ὅποιος βαδίζει τὸ δρόμο τοῦ Χριστοῦ **μέχρι τέλους**.

Ὁ δρόμος τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε γνωστός· εἶνε ἡ ὁδὸς τῆς αὐταπαρνήσεως, τῆς ἀληθείας, τῆς δικαιοσύνης, τῆς ἀγνότητος, τῆς φιλανθρωπίας καὶ ἐλεημοσύνης, **ἡ ὁδὸς τῆς ἀγάπης**. Γιατί, ὅπως εἶπε ὁ Χριστός, ὄλες οἱ ἐντολὲς «**κρέμονται**» ἀπὸ τὶς δυὸ μεγάλες ἀγάπες· ἡ μία εἶνε φλόγα ποὺ φτάνει μέχρι τὸν οὐρανό, καὶ ἡ ἄλλη ἀπλώνεται ὀριζοντίως ὡς τὰ πέρατα τῆς γῆς. Ἡ μία εἶνε ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ, «**Ἀγαπήσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου ἐξ ὅλης τῆς καρδίας σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς ψυχῆς σου καὶ ἐξ ὅλης τῆς δυνάμεώς σου**» (Λευτ. 6,5), καὶ ἡ ἄλλη ἡ ἀγάπη τοῦ πλησίον, «**Ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν**» (Ματθ. 22,37-40).

**Τὸ ἄριστο ὑπόδειγμα** τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτῆς εἶνε ὁ Χριστός, ὁ «**ἀρχηγὸς τῆς σωτηρίας**» μας (Ἐβρ. 2,10). Ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ ὁ Πιλάτος κάρφωσε τὴν **ἐπιγραφή Ἰησοῦς Ναζωραῖος «ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν Ἰουδαίων»** (Μάρκ. 15,26). Πιὸ ταιριαστὴ θὰ ἦταν μιὰ ἄλλη ἐπιγραφή, ποὺ νὰ φανερώνη πῶς πέρασε τὴ ζωὴ του στὴ γῆ καὶ νὰ διαλαλῇ τὴν ἀγάπη του γιὰ τὸν κόσμον. Κατάλληλα λόγια γιὰ μιὰ τέτοια ἐπιγραφή βρίσκω ἐκεῖνα ποὺ ἔγραψε ὁ ἀπόστολος Πέτρος· ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς «**διῆλθεν εὐεργετῶν**» (Πράξ. 10,38), πέρασε τὴ ζωὴ του σκορπώντας τὸ φῶς· δὲν ὑπῆρχε ὥρα τῆς ζωῆς του ποὺ ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ μὴ σκορπᾷ τὸ καλὸ στὸν κόσμον. «**Διῆλθεν εὐεργετῶν**», αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ ἐπιγραφή ποὺ ἔπρεπε νὰ μῆ ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρό.

«**Διῆλθεν εὐεργετῶν**». Ἄρρωστοι στὸ Χριστὸ βρῆκαν τὸ γιατρὸ καὶ τὸ φάρμακο, πεινασμένοι βρῆκαν ψωμί, διψασμένοι σωματικὰ καὶ



πνευματικά ὅπως ἡ Σαμαρείτιδα ξεδίψασαν, πονεμένοι βρῆκαν τὴν παρηγοριά, παιδιὰ ἀπροστάτευτα βρῆκαν τὸν προστάτη, ἁμαρτωλὲς γυναῖκες βρῆκαν τὴν ἄφεσι, ἄσωτοι ἄντρες βρῆκαν τὸν Πατέρα. Ὁ Χριστὸς πέρασε ἀπὸ τὴ γῆ αὐτὴ σκορπώντας συμπόνια, ἔλεος, ἀγάπη.

Ὅπως λοιπὸν ἔζησε ὁ Χριστὸς, **ἔτσι νὰ βαδίσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς** στὸ δρόμο τῆς ἀγάπης πρὸς τὸ Θεὸ καὶ τὸ συνάνθρωπο, στὸ δρόμο τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἀρετῆς. Ὅποιος βαδίζει ἔτσι, αὐτὸς λέγεται Χριστιανός. Δὲν μᾶς δόθηκε τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστιανοῦ χωρὶς ὑποχρεώσεις.

Στὸν κόσμο αὐτόν, ποὺ βασιλεύει σκοτάδι, κάθε Χριστιανὸς καὶ κάθε Χριστιανὴ πρέπει νὰ 'νε **φῶς**, ἕνας μικρὸς ἥλιος. Τὸ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος: «*Ἔμεῖς ἐστε τὸ φῶς τοῦ κόσμου*» καὶ «*Οὕτω λαμψάτω τὸ φῶς ὑμῶν ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων...*» (Ματθ. 5,14-16). Στὴν κοινωνία αὐτὴ, ποὺ βασιλεύει ἡ διαφθορά, ὁ Χριστιανὸς νὰ 'νε τὸ **ἀλάτι** ποὺ ἐξυγιαίνει καὶ νοστιμίζει, νὰ 'νε τὸ **προζύμι** ποὺ ζυμώνει κι ἀνακουφίζει ὅλο τὸ κοινωνικὸ φύραμα, κάθε ψυχὴ, κάθε οἰκογένεια.

Γιὰ νὰ γίνουν αὐτά, ὁ Χριστιανὸς πρέπει ν' ἀγωνίζεται διαρκῶς, νὰ μὴν ἀφήνῃ ποτὲ τὰ ὄπλα του, νὰ 'νε πάντα ἐν ἐγρηγόρσει, νὰ 'νε **στρατιώτης** Χριστοῦ. Ν' ἀγωνίζεται πρῶτα - πρῶτα ἐναντίον τοῦ σατανᾶ ποὺ ἐξαπατᾷ, ἐναντίον τοῦ διεφθαρμένου κόσμου ποὺ περιβάλλει καὶ ἐπηρεάζει, καὶ περισσότερο ἐναντίον τοῦ ἑαυτοῦ του, τοῦ διεφθαρμένου ἐγὼ καὶ τῶν παθῶν του, τοῦ «*παλαιοῦ ἀνθρώπου*» (Ρωμ. 6,6. Ἐφ. 4,22. Κολ. 3,9).

\* \* \*

Ὅτι αὐτὴ, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ἡ ἀποστολὴ τοῦ Χριστιανοῦ δὲν ὑπάρχει ἀμφιβολία. Ἀλλὰ γεννᾶται τὸ ἐρώτημα: ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε Χριστιανοί; ἀκολουθοῦμε τὰ ἴχνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας; Στὰ χαρτιὰ βέβαια εἴμαστε ὅλοι Χριστιανοί: κουράστηκαν τὰ χέρια τῶν ἀστυνόμων νὰ γράφουν στὶς ταυτότητες «Χριστιανὸς ὀρθόδοξος». Ἀλλὰ εἴμαστε πραγματικὰ Χριστιανοί; Ἀπὸ ποῦ θὰ φανῆ ὅτι εἴμαστε; Τὸ δέντρο φαίνεται ἀπὸ τοὺς καρπούς, καὶ ὁ Χριστιανὸς θὰ φανῆ ἀπὸ **τὰ ἔργα** του. Καὶ τὰ ἔργα μας τί ἀποδεικνύουν, ἀδελφοί μου; Ζοῦμε μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο;

Μία ἀνατομία τῆς ὄλης ζωῆς μας (οἰκογένεια, κοινωνία, σχολεῖο, στρατός, δικαστήρια, ἀγορά, ἐμπόριο, καλύβες καὶ παλάτια) θὰ ἔδειχνε ὅτι ὁ **Χριστιανὸς σήμερα εἶνε σπάνιο πρᾶγμα**.

● Σὰς ἐρωτῶ: ἐκεῖνος ποὺ ἀγαπάει τὴν **πολυτέλεια**, ἄντρας ἢ γυναῖκα, καὶ δὲν ἀρκεῖται στὸ ἀπλὸ ροῦχο ἢ ἐπιπλο ὅπως οἱ πρόγονοί μας, ἀλλὰ ξοδεύει τόσα χρήματα γιὰ περιττὰ, μπορεῖ νὰ ὀνομάζεται Χριστιανός; Χριστιανὸς καὶ πολυτέλεια εἶνε δύο πράγματα ἀσυμβίβα-

στα. Εἶδαμε σήμερα τὸ Χριστό, ποὺ εἶνε ὁ «*βασιλεὺς τῶν βασιλευόντων καὶ κύριος τῶν κυριευόντων*» (Α' Τιμ. 6,15), νὰ κάθεται «*οὕτως ἐπὶ τῆ πηγῆ*» (Ψαλ. 4,6), νὰ κάθεται ἔτσι στὸ πηγάδι, χωρὶς καρέκλες καὶ πολυθρόνες, σὰν ἕνας ἀπλὸς ὁδοιπόρος, καὶ νὰ μιλᾷ μὲ μιὰ φτωχὴ γυναῖκα. Ὁ Χριστὸς ἔζησε ἀπλᾶ καὶ ταπεινά, καὶ οἱ Χριστιανοὶ πρέπει νὰ ζοῦν ἀπλᾶ καὶ ταπεινά, ὄχι μὲ ἐπιδείξεις καὶ σπατάλες.

● Κ' ἐκεῖνος ποὺ δὲν ἀρέσκεται νὰ πίνῃ νεράκι ἀπὸ τὴν πηγὴ, ὅπως σήμερα ὁ Χριστὸς ποὺ εἶπε «*Δός μοι πιεῖν*» (ἔ.ἀ. 4,7), ἀλλὰ θέλει ποτὰ οἰνοπνευματώδη, καὶ τὴ νύχτα κυλιέται στοὺς δρόμους ἢ γυρίζει στὸ σπίτι καὶ τοὺς βασανίζει, ὁ ἄνθρωπος αὐτὸς τοῦ **ἄλκοολ** καὶ τῆς **μέθης**, ἔχει καμμιά σχέσι μὲ τὸ Χριστιανισμό;

● Κι ὁ ἄλλος ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ ἀπ' τὸ πρῶν ὡς τὸ βράδυ δὲν λέει ἀλήθεια, ἀλλὰ ψεύδεται, μπορεῖ νὰ ἔχη σχέσι μὲ τὸ Χριστό; Χριστιανὸς καὶ **ψέμα** δὲν συμβιβάζονται.

● Κ' ἐκεῖνος ποὺ δὲν ἀρκεῖται στὰ λίγα, ἀλλὰ προσπαθεῖ μὲ χίλια χέρια ν' ἀρπάξῃ τὸν κόπο τοῦ ἄλλου, νὰ πλουτίσῃ καὶ νὰ θησαυρίσῃ, αὐτὸς ποὺ ἀγαπάει τὴν **πλεονεξία**, τὴν **ἀδικία**, τὴν **ἀρπαγὴ**, ἔχει καμμιά σχέσι μὲ τὴν χριστιανοσύνη;

● Μὰ κι ὁ ἄλλος ποὺ δὲν ἀγαπάει τὴν γυναῖκα ποὺ στεφανώθηκε ἀλλὰ ἀλλάζει γυναῖκες ὅπως ἄλλαζε τοὺς ἄντρες ἢ Σαμαρείτιδα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου (βλ. ἔ.ἀ. 4,18), ἔχει καμμιά σχέσι μὲ τὸ Χριστό; Χριστιανὸς καὶ **μοιχεία ἢ πορνεία** δὲν συμβιβάζονται.

● Μὰ κ' ἐκεῖνος, ὁ χειρότερος ἀπ' ὄλους, ποὺ μὲ τὴν μπουκιά στὸ στόμα βλαστημάει τὰ θεῖα καὶ ἅγια, ἔχει καμμιά σχέσι μὲ τὸ Χριστό; Χριστιανὸς καὶ **βλαστήμια** συμβιβάζονται;

**Δὲν ὑπάρχει** λοιπὸν **χριστιανοσύνη**. Χριστιανὸς θὰ πῆ διαμάντι, φῶς: ἀπλότης, δικαιοσύνη, φιλαλήθεια, ἀγνότης, ἐλεημοσύνη, ἀγάπη. Ἄν αὐτὰ δὲν τὰ 'χουμε, εἴμαστε δέντρα ἄκαρπα καὶ «*Πᾶν δένδρον μὴ ποιοῦν καρπὸν καλὸν ἐκκόπτεται καὶ εἰς πῦρ βάλλεται*» (Ματθ. 3,10). Καὶ στὴν ἄκαρπη συκιά ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε «*Μηκέτι ἐκ σοῦ καρπὸς γένοιτο εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα*» (ἔ.ἀ. 21,19).

Ἄς πάρουμε στὰ χέρια τὴ ζυγαριὰ τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου νὰ ζυγιστοῦμε. Κι ἄς προσπαθήσῃ καθένας μας νὰ γίνῃ δένδρο καρποφόρο, μὲ καρπούς τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Καὶ εὐχομαι, ὅλοι, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, στὸ μάταιο αὐτὸ κόσμο, νὰ βαδίσουμε «*ἀξίως τῆς κλήσεώς*» μας (Ἐφ. 4,1), **ἀξίως τοῦ μεγάλου ὀνόματός μας**, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς ἀξιῶσῃ ὁ Θεὸς μιὰ μέρα νὰ γίνουμε τέκνα ἅξια τοῦ οὐρανοῦ Βασιλέως καὶ νὰ ἐορτάζουμε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς αἰῶνας αἰῶνων· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

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 2015 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**

*Good Advice*

I exhort you to continue your course in the grace in which you are clothed, and to exhort all to be saved. Justify your office by paying attention to the bodily and spiritual concerns of all; concentrate on unity, since there is nothing better than that. Be the same support to all as the Lord is to you; be loving and patient with everyone, as you already are.

Devote your time to unceasing prayer; ask for greater understanding than you have; be vigilant with unsleeping spirit. Speak to each individual just as God would; bear the sicknesses of all like a perfect champion of Christ. Where there is greater toil there is great benefit.

If you love good disciples, you do yourself no favor; rather try to use gentleness to subdue the more troublesome. Not every wound is healed with the same kind of medicinal

plaster. To bring spasms to an end you must use liniment.

Be intelligent like the serpent in all things and eternally innocent like the dove. The reason why you have a physical and a spiritual nature is so that you may have a softening effect on what is visible to you; but you must beg for the invisible to be revealed to you, so that you lack nothing and possess every gift in abundance.

As sailors require winds and the storm-tossed require harbors, the time requires you to attain God. Be vigilant, like a champion of God; the prize is immortality and eternal life, in which you also believe. In all things I and my bonds, which you loved, are a substitute for you.

*St. Ignatius of Antioch*

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**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.threehierarchbrooklynn.org](http://www.threehierarchbrooklynn.org)