TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Icon of Saints Irenaeus, Lupus and Callinicus -- August 23rd
Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

12th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel of Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?"

And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

And he said to him, "Why do you call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.

When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men it is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

- **Sunday, August 23rd:** Feast of Saint Loupos Liturgy (10:30 A.M.)
- **Sunday, August 23rd:** APODOSIS of the HOLY ASSUMPTION (12:00 P.M.)
- **Thursday, August 27th:** St. Phanourios Divine Liturgy (Cakes) (9:30 A.M.)
- **Friday, August 28th:** VESPER of the BAPTIST’S BEHEADING (7:00 P.M.)

HOSTING FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR: Will be served on the Church Plaza. Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR: During the summer months refreshments will be hosted on the PLAZA of the community center weather permitting. With inclement weather, the fellowship will be hosted in WHITEHALL as usual. The reception in the outdoors has been met with thorough enthusiasm by the congregation. Do you wish to host a fellowship coffee in thanksgiving or a memorial tribute? Contact the Church office for details. It is not expensive.

ARTOKLASIES ACKNOWLEDGED: May we extend our gratitude to the blessed faithful who supplied the ARTOS, WINE and OIL for the Solemnity of the Holy Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary: MARY NICHOLAS, DR. DIANA GREGOROPOULOS, JIMMY and KALLOPE KOKOTAS, ALEXANDROPOULOS FAMILY, GAVARIS FAMILY, STELLA TSIMENAKIS ELIZABETH and ANASTASIOS PERLEGIS ‘The Lord blesses those who love the beauty of His House’

CHURCHING TODAY: We are pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church, ‘Lawrence’ the first born son of Happy and Marina FAHMY. NA SAS ZESI! CONGRATULATIONS.

ENGAGEMENT BLESSINGS: are always appropriate through the Divine Liturgy of the Church. Upon the exchange of rings and promises the young couple should seek out the blessing of the CHURCH and the consecration of the ring (s) by the clergy on a SUNDAY service. It is indeed a joy for the immediate families, parents, siblings, and koumbaroi to share in the announcement of the forthcoming nuptials. THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION REJOICES WITH PLEASURE AS WELL. We hear the expression repeatedly… “KALA STEPHANA”!

SARANTISIS: The formal reception of a new born 40 day old child (male and female) is traditionally the first step toward the baptismal sacrament. Even if a child is well past the 40th day after birth the ritual blessing should be imparted upon the mother and child. DO NOT HESITATE OR IGNORE THIS PRIVILEGE AND OBLIGATION. Such GRACE is beneficially to the new born as well as restorative to the recent mother.

ADULT BAPTISMS: There are individuals who may have married into the family that are NOT Christian Orthodox or in some rare cases were NEVER BAPTIZED. The clergy are most receptive to all particular cases and will individually handle the private requests of all parties concerned. Just make an appointment with Father Eugene for direction and counseling to accommodate your request and desire. WE ARE PLEASED TO OBLIGE!

HIERARCHS VISIT: On the occasion of the Feast of Saint Panteleimon (Old Calendar - August 9th) our parish was graced with the presence of 2 hierarchs of the UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH in AMERICA, His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony and His Grace Bishop Daniel who con-celebrated the Liturgical Observance. GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS! EIS POLLA TA ETH DEPOTA!

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN: comes back to Three Hierarchs Parish this September 2015. THREE CLASSES are open (48 seats) 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!

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 16TH 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 TODAY: + ATHANASIA LOUGARIS + WOLFGANG STELLMACH

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + STAVROS THEODOROS KALOGEORGIS
Bake a “Phanouro-pita” (Saint Phanourios Cake) in honor of the Saint for the Liturgy. What you lost will be found through supplication by calling out the name of Saint Phanourios. All “Phanouro-Pita” cakes will be blessed on the Solea with his prayer of intercession. Bake a cake and place it at the Icon Shrine. The cakes will be cut and served to all in attendance.
Thursday
August 27
Saint Phanourios

Like the unknown soldier at whose grave a wreath is placed annually, St. Phanourios lies in honored glory “known but to God.” This saint’s name, however, is known to be Phanourios.

There are more obscure saints whose biographies have been written in detail and who fill more pages in Church literature. Phanourios has been revered as a saint (his feast day has been celebrated) for more than 500 years. There is testimony that he died the death of a martyr after having been horribly tortured. In addition to mystery there is an aura of divine manifestation in the man whom nobody knows.

A fortuitous discovery by nomadic pagans, (not Christians ), brought to light this unheralded saint when a roving band of Arabs, pillaged the island of Rhodes. They uncovered amid the ruins of an ancient church a group of icons, among other artifact. All of the icons were in a state of decay or near ruin with the exception of one, which appeared as new and as fresh as though it had been painted the day before.

This icon was discarded by the Moslem Arabs , who failed to attach any importance to it. At a safe distance a group of monks hiding in the rubble observed this phenomenon and waited patiently until the Arabs left the scene. Whereupon they rushed to reclaim this fantastic image in its remarkable state of preservation. They beheld a clearly outlined face of a saint with the name inscribed in what appeared to be fresh lettering that spelled out “Phanourios.” On closer examination they fell on their knees at what they saw. Drawn about the saint were twelve distinct frames in each of which Phanourios was shown enduring a cruel form of torture in realism that suggested the artist must have been witness to the atrocity.

The icon of Phanourios had, indeed, been one of a group that had been exhumed after untold centuries and that its freshness was a divine manifestation of the complete saintliness of this man about whom they were now determined to learn more.

No more was known about Phanourios than the day on which his icon was snatched from the ruins of that ancient Greek church. The torture scenes of the icon provided no clues, which showed Phanourios being stoned, on the rack, being slashed, behind bars, standing before a judge, tied to a frame, being burned with candles, tied to a post, thrown to wild animals, crushed by a boulder, holding hot coals, and a demon hovering against a background of flames.

**Phanourios lost for centuries in the ruins of a church, became the patron saint of things lost.** To this day his name is invoked when prayers are asked for the recovery of lost items. He is commemorated on August 27, the day his sacred icon was found. Have you lost something? Call upon him!
Στις 15 Αυγούστου, ἄγαπτοι μου, γῆς καὶ οὐρανοῦ πανηγύρισα. Ἡ Ὠρόθωδος Ἐκκλησία μας ἔφτασε τὴν Κοιμήσιν τῆς Θεοτόκου καὶ δῆλη τὴν περίοδο τοῦ Δεκαπενταετοῦ κόμητος καθ’ ἅμα ψάλλονταν ἐνελάκτων οἱ δύο παρακηγορούντες Κανώνες, ὁ Μικρός καὶ ὁ Μέγας, πρὸς τιμὴν τῆς Παναγίας.

Πῶς μία γυναῖκα ἐφάσες σὲ τέτοιο ὑπόσ τυμῆς καὶ δόξης; Ἡ αἰτία, ποῦ ἡ ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκου υψώθηκε τόσο ὡστε νὰ γίνῃ ἡ γλυκεῖα Μάνα τοῦ κόσμου, εἶναι ἡ ἀρετὴ τῆς. Καὶ ἵνα μία ἀρετή, τὴν ὁποία βραβεύει τιμᾶ ὁ Θεὸς περισσότερο ἀπ’ ὅλης τὰς άλλες. Καὶ ἡ ἀρετή αὐτὴ εἶναι ἡ ταπεινωσία!

Ἄξιος, ἄγαπτοι μου, νὰ ἐβέβαιουμε κ’ ἐμεῖς, ποῦ φαίνεται ἡ ταπεινωσία τῆς.

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Ἡ Παναγία ἀπὸ τὸ μικρὰ τῆς χρόνια ἦταν ταπεινή. Ταπεινή ἦταν ὁ νῖττος, ταπεινή ἦταν ὁ παϊδισμός, ταπεινή ἦταν κόρη. Δὲν εἶχε τὰ πείραμα ἐκεῖνα ποῖ ἔχουν τὰ παιδιά. Ἰδιαίτερα ήταν η προδόσιμη νὰ ἐκτελέσῃ κάθε ἐπιτάξιμο τῶν γονέων τῆς, τοῦ ἱκανοῦ καὶ τῆς Ἀνής.

Κι όταν κατὰ τὴν παράδοσιν τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας «ὡς τριετίσθησα δάμαλις» προσεφέρθη ὡς θεία στὸ Θεό, ἦταν τὴν ὁδήγησαν στὸ ναό δηλαδὴ τὴν ἡμέρα τῶν Εἰσοδίων, τότε πολὺ ἔδειχε ταπεινωσία.

"Ὅταν παρέστη ἀνάγκη, κατὰ τὶς βουλές τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἡ Παναγία νὰ ἐκλέξῃ καίγοντο ὡς μνημεία τῆς, δὲν ἔδειξε κανένα στρατηγό ἢ κανένα βασιλικό. Ὅσο ἐραμμονιακοὶ τῆς ἔδειξαν ἐνῶν ἑραστικό ἄνθρωπο, ἕνα τίμιο μαραγκό, τὸν ὁδικὸ παραμένει εἰς ἑκατον τῷ Θεοτόκῳ." Ἡ ἡμέρα τῆς Εὐαγγελισμοῦ. Τότε ποῦ «ἀγγέλους προστάτας οὐρανόθεν ἔπειθη ἐπεὶ τὸ Θεοτόκος τὸ χαίρειν» (Ἔκδηλον Ἀλλα). "Ὅταν ὁ ἄγγελος ἐφερὲ τὸ μήνυμα, δὲν αὐτὴ ἀνέδωσε νὰ γεννήσῃ τὸν Βασιλέα τοῦ κόσμου, τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ ὁποῖος "οὐκ ἔσται τέλος" (Νεκτ. 133), δὲν ὑπερφανεύθηκε. Τουντάντον αἰσθάνθηκε ὁμίλος καὶ φόβος. Καὶ μόνο ὁ πείραμα ἤπειρα ἢ τὸ ἄλλο τὸ Θεοῦ, τότε ἔλαβε τὴν κεφαλή ἢ εἶπε: "Ἰδοὺ ὁ δουλείς Κυρίου γένοιτο μοι κατὰ τὸ βήμα σου" (δ. 13).

Πάντως, ἡ ταπεινωσία τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου, ὑποτεκτέων ἁγία τῆς κλήσης τῆς ἁγίας αὐτῆς ἀρετής. Ταπεινὴ ἀπ’ τὴν ἀρχὴ μέχρι τὸ τέλος τῆς ἡμέρας. Ταπεινὴ στὸ Σταυρός, ταπεινὴ ἀκόμη καὶ ὅταν ἔπειρα καὶ ἀπαύγαζε, δίδυ μη Ὀδός τῆς ἔφεσε καὶ πρόκειται, δια τοῦ Θεοῦ, δὲν ὑπερφανεύθηκε. Λέει μάλιστα τὸ συναξάρι, ὃτι εἶχε συνήθεια καθ’ βραδινὸ τὸ βιασμό τὸ πνευματικό τοῦ, νὰ παγείη στὴν Ἐδεσσαμάνη, κ’ ἔκει, κατὰ ἀπὸ τὰ δέντρα ποὺ προκευόταν ὁ Χριστός, νὰ προεξερέχεται καὶ ἀυτὴ νὰ πάνω στὸ Γόλγαθα, ἔκει ποὺ ἔφεσε τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἔφεσε ἐκ τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῆς καὶ παρακλώσασε γιὰ δόλο τὸν κόσμο.

"Ἤτοι πέρασε τὴν ζωὴ τῆς- μέσα σὲ μια βαθεία ταπεινωσία. Ὡς εἶμαι ἀναπνέουμε ἰδιαρκῶς ἄρσην. Εἶπε καὶ ἡ ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκου ἀνέπτυξε τὴν ἀμύθοπο μας ὑπεραγία." Καὶ ὁ προασθάνθηκε τὸν θανάτο τῆς, καὶ ἔδειξε τοὺς φτωχοὺς καὶ μοίρασε δ.τ.ι εἶχε.

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Σὰ ἔδωσα μὲ λίγες λέξεις μιᾶ εἰκόνα τῆς ταπεινώσεώς τῆς Θεοτόκου. Τώρα δὲ παραβάλομε μὲ τὴν εἰκόνα αὐτῆ τοῦ ἐαυτοῦ μας.

Εἴμαστε ἔμεινες ταπεινοὶ ὡστε ἦταν ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκος; Τὸ παράδειγμα τῆς ἑως ἔχει μεγάλη σημασία γιὰ τὸν γυναικείο κόσμο. "Υπάρχουσα σήμερα στὸν κόσμο ταπεινεὶς γυναίκες; Μποροῦμε, μέσα σ’ αὐτές ποὺ ἔρχονται καὶ προσκυνοῦντες τὴν εἰκόνα τῆς, νὰ βροῦμε γυναίκες ποὺ νὰ ἔχουν τὴν ταπεινώσιμο αὐτῆ τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου;"
Δυστυχώς, άδελφοι μου, ή ύπερηφάνεια σήμερα βασίλευε. Βλέπετε τη σημερινή γυναίκα να ύπερηφανεύεται. Να ύπερηφανεύεται για χάλες - ό,τι μόνα απεικόνιση απεικόνισης. Τη βλέπετε να ύπερηφανεύεται πρώτα - πρώτα για τά κάλλη της, να ξεγυμνάνεται, για να επιδεικνύει της σάρκες της. Και έως: αυτή ή γυναίκα του λούσσου και της επιδεικνύει, που φτάνει έτσι άκομα και μέσα στον ναό, έχει και μια σχέση με την ύπερηφανία Θεσσαλοκρίτης. Ας βίβλοις οι γυναίκες μια ματιά σ’ έκεινη δύνας είναι σεμί ντυμένη. Μπορεί το μικρό τους να φανταστεί την Παναγία μας διαφορετικά;

Υπερηφανεύονται άλλες γυναίκες για τη μόρφωση τους, όπως η ύπερηφανεύεται για τη θέα που κατέχουν. Υπερηφανεύονται για τον άντρα τους, για τα παιδιά τους. Υπερηφανεύονται, όταν κατάγονται από υψηλές οικογένειες, και για τόσα άλλα.

Και η ύπερηφάνεια της γυναίκας άρχισε από την κοινή. Εάν σήμερα υπάρχουν εγγυαμμένοι γάμοι, ή αρχηγοί τους βρίσκονται στην ηθική ήλια. Είναι προοδευτική διαφορετική θέση. Υπερηφανεύονται για τον άντρα τους, για τα παιδιά τους. Υπερηφανεύονται, όταν κατάγονται από υψηλές οικογένειες, και για τόσα άλλα.

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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**
**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**

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**Wisdom from the Bishop of Lyons**

One should not seek among others the truth that can be easily gotten from the Church. For in her, as in a rich treasury, the apostles have placed all that pertains to truth, so that everyone can drink this beverage of life. She is the door of life. He who shall preserve the life bestowed upon him, and give thanks to Him Who imparted it, shall receive also length of days forever and ever. But he who shall reject it, and prove himself ungrateful to His Maker, inasmuch as he has been created, and has not recognized Him Who bestowed the gift upon him, deprives himself of the privilege of continuance forever and ever. And, for this reason, the Lord declared to those who showed themselves ungrateful towards Him: If you have not been faithful in that which is little, who will give you that which is great? (cf. Lk. 16:11) indicating that those who, in this brief temporal life, have shown themselves ungrateful to Him Who bestowed it, shall justly not receive from Him length of days forever and ever.

We have learned the plan of our salvation from no one else other than from those through whom the gospel has come down to us. For they did at one time proclaim the gospel in public. And, at a later period, by the will of God, they handed the gospel down to us in the Scriptures to be the ‘ground and pillar of our faith.’

He who was the Son of God became the Son of man, that man ... might become the son of God.

The glory of God is the human person fully alive.

*St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

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

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