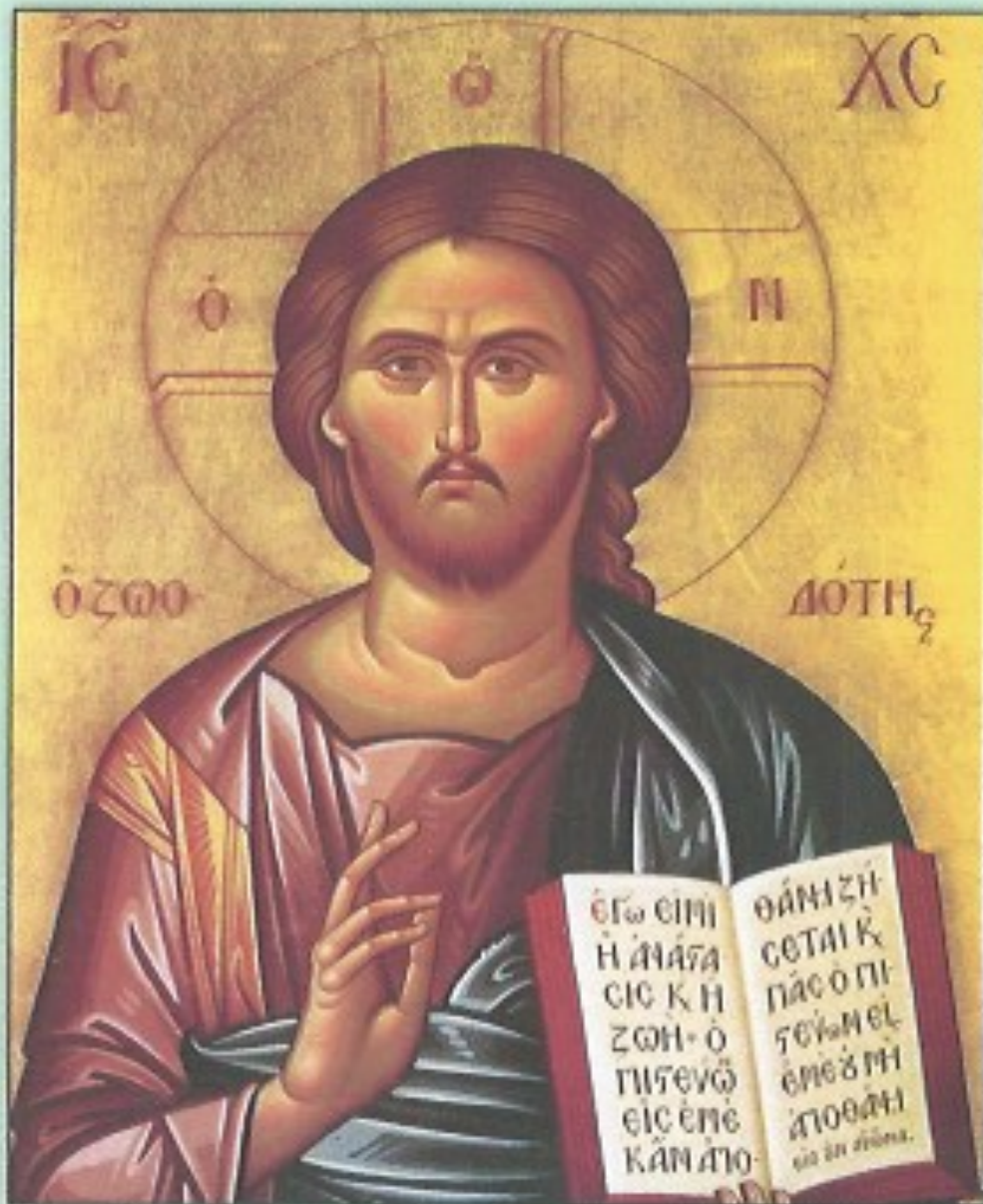


THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN February 7th , 2016
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Christ the Teacher

St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

BRETHREN, working together with him, then, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:1-10

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχύϊ τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες δὲ καὶ παρακαλοῦμεν μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ Θεοῦ δεξασθαι ὑμᾶς - λέγει γάρ, Καὶ τῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου, καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ, νῦν καιρὸς εὐπρόσδεκτος, ἰδοὺ, νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας - μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπήν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία· ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς Θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις, ἐν πληγαῖς, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν νηστείαις, ἐν ἀγνόητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν πνεύματι ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτῳ, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει Θεοῦ, διὰ τῶν ὅπλων τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὡς πλάνοι καὶ ἀληθεῖς· ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι, καὶ ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι· ὡς ἀποθνήσκοντες, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ζῶμεν· ὡς παιδευόμενοι, καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι· ὡς λυπούμενοι, αἱ δὲ χαίροντες· ὡς πτωχοί, πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες· ὡς μηδὲν ἔχοντες, καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.

6th Sunday of Matthew The Gospel according to Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord said this parable: "A man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them; and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not winnow; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed, and gather where I have not winnowed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to every one who has will more be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.' As he said these things he cried out: 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear!'"

16th Sunday of Matthew Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 25:14-30

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπος ἀποδημῶν ἐκάλεσε τοὺς ἰδίους δούλους καὶ παρέδωκεν αὐτοῖς τὰ ὑπάρχοντα αὐτοῦ, καὶ ᾧ μὲν ἔδωκε πέντε τάλαντα, ᾧ δὲ δύο, ᾧ δὲ ἓν, ἐκάστῳ κατὰ τὴν ἰδίαν δύναμιν, καὶ ἀπεδήμησεν εὐθέως. πορευθεὶς δὲ ὁ τὰ πέντε τάλαντα λαβὼν εἰργάσατο ἐν αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐποίησεν ἄλλα πέντε τάλαντα. ὡσαύτως καὶ ὁ τὰ δύο ἐκέρδησε καὶ αὐτὸς ἄλλα δύο. ὁ δὲ τὸ ἓν λαβὼν ἀπελθὼν ὥρυξεν ἐν τῇ γῇ καὶ ἀπέκρυψε τὸ ἀργύριον τοῦ κυρίου αὐτοῦ. μετὰ δὲ χρόνον πολὺν ἔρχεται ὁ κύριος τῶν δούλων ἐκείνων καὶ συναίρει μετ' αὐτῶν λόγον. καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ τὰ πέντε τάλαντα λαβὼν προσήνεγκεν ἄλλα πέντε τάλαντα λέγων· κύριε, πέντε τάλαντά μοι παρέδωκας· ἴδε ἄλλα πέντε τάλαντα ἐκέρδησα ἐπ' αὐτοῖς. ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ· εὖ, δοῦλε ἀγαθὲ καὶ πιστέ! ἐπὶ ὀλίγα ἦς πιστός, ἐπὶ πολλῶν σε καταστήσω· εἰσελθε εἰς τὴν χαρὰν τοῦ κυρίου σου. προσελθὼν δὲ καὶ ὁ τὰ δύο τάλαντα λαβὼν εἶπε· κύριε, δύο τάλαντά μοι παρέδωκας· ἴδε ἄλλα δύο τάλαντα ἐκέρδησα ἐπ' αὐτοῖς. ἔφη αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ· εὖ, δοῦλε ἀγαθὲ καὶ πιστέ! ἐπὶ ὀλίγα ἦς πιστός, ἐπὶ πολλῶν σε καταστήσω· εἰσελθε εἰς τὴν χαρὰν τοῦ κυρίου σου. προσελθὼν δὲ καὶ ὁ τὸ ἓν τάλαντον εἰληφώς εἶπε· κύριε· ἔγνων σε ὅτι σκληρὸς εἶ ἄνθρωπος, θερίζων ὅπου οὐκ ἔσπειρας καὶ συνάγων ὅθεν οὐ διεσκόρπισας· καὶ φοβηθεὶς ἀπελθὼν ἔκρυψα τὸ τάλαντόν σου ἐν τῇ γῇ· ἴδε ἔχεις τὸ σόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· πονηρὲ δοῦλε καὶ ὀκνηρέ! ἦδεις ὅτι θερίζω ὅπου οὐκ ἔσπειρα καὶ συνάγω ὅθεν οὐ διεσκόρπισα! ἔδει οὖν σε βαλεῖν τὸ ἀργύριόν μου τοῖς τραπεζίταις, καὶ ἔλθων ἐγὼ ἐκοιμίσάμην ἂν τὸ ἐμὸν σὺν τόκῳ. ἄρατε οὖν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὸ τάλαντον καὶ δότε τῷ ἔχοντι τὰ δέκα τάλαντα. τῷ γὰρ ἔχοντι παντὶ δοθήσεται καὶ περισσευθήσεται, ἀπὸ δὲ τοῦ μὴ ἔχοντος καὶ ὃ ἔχει ἀρθήσεται ἀπ' αὐτοῦ. καὶ τὸν ἀχρεῖον δοῦλον ἐκβάλετε εἰς τὸ σκότος τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being hosted and served today in WHITEHALL by the Greek Ladies Basilopita

PHILOPTOCHOS BASILOPITA: The Ladies of the Society will offer their Luncheon today for the benefit of Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, New York. The luncheon including participation in the cutting of the BASILBREAD with gold coin will include everyone present. Suggested donation for the event is only \$10.00 (TEN DOLLARS).... it's worthy cause! JOIN US!

FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE: Executive Board will meet in closed session at our Parish on Tuesday evening February 9th at 7:00 P.M. This is a courtesy of our community to the police society each year. We love and support our POLICE DEPARTMENT at all times and places.

MR. MRS.MS. CLUB: Regular scheduled meeting for February 16th, will be confirmed in next week's bulletin. The group meets every 3rd TUESDAY EVENING of the MONTH at 7:00 P.M. Wonderful activities, prizes, dinners and parties are scheduled. Consider joining us!

50TH GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY: Our Pastor Father Eugene will open his golden anniversary jubilee of his ORDINATION to Holy Orders on THREE HIERARCHS DAY. January 30th, at the Divine Liturgy. 50 years ago -1966 Father was ordained at this very altar by the Primate of the Church in the Western Hemisphere, HIS EMINENCE + ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS. Despite the BLIZZARD of '66 (a snowstorm that commenced on Saturday night) His Eminence and hundreds of faithful were at the 'ordination ceremonies'. Classmates from Saint John's University, and Holy Cross Seminary as well as IOTA SIGMA FRATERNITY alumni joined the festivities. Priests from all over Brooklyn came to join the local event. His Eminence, Metropolitan Polyzoidis of blessed memory and renowned respect also made it through the 'blizzard' accompanied by Metropolitan Titus of Rethymnon (CRETE) who was from the beginning a 'MENTOR' TO FR. EUGENE. the ladies of the Philoptochos hosted a reception for hundreds in attendance for the first native son of the parish to be ordained. That same day was the inauguration of the HOLY ORDER where Archbishop Iakovos inscribed his name as member #1. Father Eugene's initial steps into the priesthood inspired others who had served with him as an altar boy at Three Hierarchs, namely Fr. Bill Bassakytros, Fr. Dean Martin, and Fr. Nick Krommydas.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: The ladies Board Members will meet Monday, February 8th, at 7:00 P.M. The GENERAL PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING is scheduled for MONDAY-FEBRUARY 22nd. at 7:00 P.M. Isn't about time YOU joined the philanthropic arm of your parish church. Share the joy of philanthropy! It will open a vista of blessings for you and those you love.

THREE HIERARCHS PATRONAL OBSERVANCE: was a major success for 3 days, (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, January 29, 30, 31st.) His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios graced our GREAT VESPER as the celebrant with local Greek, Russian, Ukrainian and Georgian clergy. One priest came from as far as Alaska! Many thanks are extended to the following organizations who each hosted a coffee and sweets reception each day. THE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, THE DEMETRA DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE and the GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A. One of the highlights of the weekend was the HELLENIC HERITAGE AWARD PRESENTATION TO Professor Lou Urenick, Ph. D. OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY for his historical tomes THE GREAT FIRE (an account with historical verification of the first genocide of the 20th century – the destruction of the City of SMYRNA! His Eminence was also honored on the occasion of his birthday with a festive cake from the community. The CONSULS GENERAL of Greece and Cyprus also attended with commentaries. Andrew Gounardes on behalf of Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams presented Father Eugene with a COMMENDATION CITATION for his 50th, Jubilee Anniversary of Ordination which occurred at Three Hierarchs on January 30th, 1966.

(SAINT HARALAMBOS FEAST: is being observed by anticipation TODAY! The February 10th date is transferred to this Liturgy. Chronia Polla to those named HARRY, HARIETTE, HARILAOS... The ICON will be presented for veneration.

SENIOR CLUB PARTY: The membership and friends will celebrate the Saint Valentine Holiday Party THIS Wednesday afternoon February 10th, at 1:00 P.M. You must wear RED and WHITE to get in... 'PINK' is acceptable but NOT preferable! Come to the party! A CHINESE NEW YEAR (Year of the Monkey) is scheduled for the following Wednesday (Feb. 17th)

HELLENIC RELIEF EFFORT: A GRECIAN NIGHT out hosted by the Hellenic Relief Foundation a service preserving dignity in crisis, will be held as a DINNER-DANCE, ART AUCTION, COMEDY PRESENTATION and LIVE GREEK BAND for DANCING PLEASURE at Archangel Michael Church, in Port Washington, Long Island SATURDAY EVENING 7:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 27TH, Please refer to the flyer for all details.

U.P.K. REGISTRATIONS are going on for children born in 2012! Do you have youngsters, grandchildren or relatives kids born in 2012 who may be registered for FREE SCHOOLING by the Department of EDUCATION at Three Hierarchs School? Enquire today! Register today! Be pro-active today! NO CHILD SHOULD MISS THE OPPORTUNITY.

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](#))

TODAY: + ANNA KOUGENTAKIS + NATALIA GARADAHLYAN + BEATRICE (PANAGIOTA) DOUVRES
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + ANA BRINN KALLININKOS + GALATEA APHRODITE MASTRANTONAKIS



Children of the GREEK SCHOOL with Principal Fr. Eugene and Faculty Mrs. Zoe Anastasakos , and Mrs. Maria Halkias



Students dressed as the THREE HOLY HIERARCHS, Saint Basil, Gregory and John Chysostom delivering their orations.

Professor Lou Ureneck, Ph.D. of Boston University received
the coveted award of HELLENIC HERITAGE 2016



Pictured here are the Consuls General of GREECE and CYPRUS with
Council President George Annis and Philoptochos President Kay Diamond





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΒ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1137²

Κυριακὴ ΙΣΤ' (ΙΣΤ' Ματθ.) (Β' Κορ. 6,1-10)
7 Φεβρουαρίου 2016 (2005)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

«Ὅσο ὑπάρχει καιρὸς!...

«Καιρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου» (Β' Κορ. 6,2 = Ἦσ. 49,8)

Θὰ παρακαλέσω, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ προσέξετε. Ἀπ' ὅλα ὅσα ἀκούσατε σήμερα, θὰ ἐρμηνεύσουμε μόνο αὐτὲς τὶς λίγες λέξεις τοῦ ἀποστόλου, ποὺ εἶνε καὶ προφητεία τοῦ Ἰησοῦ: «Καιρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου» (β' Κορ. 6,2-3). Ἐὰν νιώσετε καὶ ἐφαρμόσετε τὰ λόγια αὐτά, **κερδίσατε τὸ πρῶτο λαχεῖο**. Διαφορετικά, ἐγὼ νίπτω τὰς χεῖρας μου.

Τὶ σημαίνουν τὰ λόγια αὐτά; Θ' ἀρχίσω ἀπὸ κάπως μακριά.

Ἕνας ἄνθρωπος ποὺ πρόκειται νὰ φύγῃ στὸ ἐξωτερικόν, φροντίζει νὰ κἀνῃ τὰ χαρτιά του ἐντὸς τῆς προθεσμίας ποὺ ὀρίζει ἡ πρεσβεία. Γενικά ὁποῖος θέλει νὰ ταξιδέψῃ, ρωτᾷ πότε φεύγει τὸ λεωφορεῖο ἢ τὸ τραῖνο ἢ τὸ πλοῖο ἢ τὸ ἀεροπλάνο, καὶ προσπαθεῖ νὰ ἔχῃ τὸ εἰσιτήριο στὸ χέρι καὶ νὰ βρίσκεται ἐγκαίρως στὸ σταθμό. Καὶ ὁ νέος ποὺ θέλει νὰ σπουδάσῃ, διαβάζει καὶ ὑποβάλλει τὰ χαρτιά του μέσα στὸ χρόνο ποὺ ὀρίζει τὸ ὑπουργεῖο, ὥστε νὰ μπορέσῃ νὰ δώσῃ ἐξετάσεις. Καὶ ὁ ἔμπορος ποὺ χρωστάει γραμμάτια, προσπαθεῖ νὰ τὰ ἐξοφλήσῃ προτοῦ νὰ διαμαρτυρηθοῦν... Τί θέλω νὰ πῶ ὅπως ὑπάρχει **προθεσμία** γιὰ νὰ βγάλῃς εἰσιτήριο ἢ διαβατήριον ἢ μηχανογραφικὸ γιὰ ἐξετάσεις ἢ ἐξοφλητικὸ ἐνὸς λογαριασμοῦ, ὅπως ὑπάρχει ὠρισμένος καιρὸς γιὰ νὰ πῆς στρατιώτης ἢ γιὰ νὰ πιάσῃς δουλειά ἢ γιὰ νὰ παντρευτῇς κ.λπ., ἔτσι ὑπάρχει καὶ κάποιος καιρὸς, γιὰ μιὰ ἄλλη ὑπόθεσι, πολὺ σπουδαιότερη ἀπὸ κάθε ἄλλη.

Ποιά εἶνε ἡ ὑπόθεσι αὕτη; Δὲν μᾶς ἔφερε ὁ Θεὸς στὸν κόσμον γιὰ ταξίδια καὶ ἐπιχειρήσεις, γιὰ διπλώματα καὶ τίτλους, γιὰ προίκες καὶ παντρεῖες. Δὲν εἶν' αὐτὸς ὁ μεγάλος σκοπὸς μας. **Ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ σκοπὸς μας;** Τὸ λέει καθαρά σήμερα ὁ ἀπόστολος. Ὅπως ὑπάρχει καιρὸς γιὰ ὅλα τὰ ἐγκόσμια πράγματα, ἔτσι ὑπάρχει καιρὸς γιὰ κάτι ἄλλο ποὺ εἶνε τὸ σπου-

δαιότερο ἀπ' ὅλα. Ἀλλὰ ποιὸς τὸ νιώθει; Πρέπει νὰ κατεβῇ ἄγγελος, νὰ στάξῃ στὴ νεκρωμένη καρδιά μας μιὰ σταγόνα ἀπὸ τὴν πίστι καὶ τὴν ἀγάπῃ τῶν ἁγίων. Τότε θὰ αἰσθανθοῦμε αὐτὸ ποὺ λέει σήμερα ὁ ἀπόστολος.

«Καιρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου». Δηλαδή, ὁ καιρὸς αὐτὸς ποὺ ζοῦμε ἐδῶ στὸν κόσμον εἶνε **καιρὸς ἀνεκτίμητος**, καιρὸς σωτήριος. Γιατὶ μέσα στὸν καιρὸ αὐτό, στὰ εἴκοσι, τὰ σαράντα, ἢ ὀγδόντα χρόνια – τί μπορεῖς νὰ κάνῃς; Ἐμένα ρωτᾷς; Ἄνοιξε τὰ βιβλία καὶ τὰ συναξάρια, ἄντε στὰ μνημάτα ποὺ 'νε θαμμένοι ὅλοι, κοίταξε τὰ ἀστρά τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ψάξε τὴν καρδιά σου, καὶ ἐπειτα πές μου: **γιατί ἤρθες στὸν κόσμον αὐτόν;** τί νὰ κάνῃς μέσα στὸ χρόνο αὐτῆς τῆς ζωῆς; Θὰ τὰ πῶ, ἀλλὰ ποιὸς θὰ μ' ἀκούσῃ;

● Ἐλα ὦ, ἐσύ κοπέλλα μου, ποὺ κάθεσαι τόση ὥρα μπροστὰ στὸν καθρέφτη ἢ ξενοχτᾷς στὶς διασκεδάσεις. Ἐλα, ἐσύ νέε μου, ποὺ δαπανᾷς τὸ χρόνο σου τρέχοντας μὲ τὶς μηχανὲς δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά. Ἐλα ὦ, ἐσύ κυρά μου, ποὺ ὅλη μέρα συργιάνῃς στὶς βιτρίνες. Ποῦ σπαταλᾷς τὸ χρόνο σας! Δὲν σοῦ ζητῶ πολλὰ ἀπ' ὅλη τὴν ἡμέρα, **πέντε λεπτά** νὰ γονατίσῃς νὰ κάνῃς λίγη **προσευχή**, νὰ μιλήσῃς μὲ τὸ Θεό.

● Βλέπω κ' ἐσένα τὸν ἄντρα, ὥρα ὁλόκληρη νὰ διαβάζῃς ἐντυπα μέχρι καὶ τὰ ψιλὰ γράμματα. Σὲ βλέπω στὸ τραῖνο ἢ στὸ σπίτι νὰ ἐκκοκαλίζῃς ἐφημερίδες καὶ περιοδικά. Τί βρίσκεις ἐκεῖ; Εἶδατε ἄνθρωπο μ' ἕνα καλάμι – μὲ συγχωρεῖτε – ν' ἀνασκαλεύῃ τὰ κόπρια; Ἐνα τέτοιο πρᾶγμα γίνεται βρῶμα καὶ δυσωδία... Ἐλα λοιπόν, Χριστιανέ μου, ἂν εἶσαι βαπτισμένος ὀρθόδοξος, ἄνοιξε **πέντε λεπτά τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο**, διάβασε μὲ τὴ γυναῖκα καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ σου, ν' ἀνοίξουν τὰ μάτια σας.

● Τί ἄλλο. Πάρτε μολύβι, μετρήστε τὶς ὥρες. Ὅλη ἡ ἐβδομάδα ἔχει 168 ὥρες. Ἀπὸ αὐτὲς τί σοῦ ζητᾷ ὁ Θεός; **Μιὰ ὥρα νὰ ἐκκλησια-**

στης. Ἀπ' τὸ «*Εὐλογημένη ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Πατρὸς...*» μέχρι τὸ «*Δι' εὐχῶν τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων...*» μιά ὥρα εἶνε. Ἄν ὁ παπᾶς πῇ, Ἐλάτε στὴν ἐκκλησία νὰ κάνουμε ἀγρυπνία, ποιοὶ πηγαίνουν; Φωνάζει ὁ διάβολος, καὶ τρέχουν στὰ «μαντριά» του καὶ μένουν ἐκεῖ καὶ πέρα ἀπ' τὰ μεσάνυχτα. Στὴν ἐκκλησία ρωτᾶνε: Πότε θὰ σχολάσῃ;...

● Τέλος, Χριστιανέ μου, ὁ Θεὸς σοῦ δίνει κάθε χρόνο ἓνα νέο κύκλο ἡμερῶν. Κάθε ἔτος εἶνε ἓνα κομπολόι μὲ 365 χάντρες, κάθε μέρα καὶ μιά χάντρα χρυσή. Ναί, χρυσή· ὁ χρόνος εἶνε χρῆμα. Λοιπὸν ἀπὸ τίς 365 μέρες ἀφιέρωσε **μιά μέρα** καὶ ἔλα στὸ πνευματικὸ ἱατρεῖο, στὴν **ἐξομολόγησι**. Γιὰ τὴν ὑγεία τοῦ σώματος τρέχεις σὲ ἱατρεῖα καὶ νοσοκομεῖα· γιὰ τὴν ψυχὴ τί κάνεις; Ἀπὸ τίς 365 μέρες, λοιπὸν, μιά μέρα πῆγαινε νὰ βρῇς ἓναν ἐξομολόγο, νὰ γονατίσῃς νὰ πῇς τὰ κρίματά σου.

Δυστυχῶς οὔτε πέντε λεπτά γιὰ προσευχή, οὔτε πέντε λεπτά γιὰ ἁγία Γραφή, οὔτε μιά ὥρα γιὰ ἐκκλησιασμό, οὔτε μιά μέρα γιὰ ἐξομολόγησι. **Ἔ, τότε λοιπὸν...**

Ἀδελφοί μου· πῆρα τὴ λίρα αὐτὴ ποὺ γράφει ἐπάνω «*Καιρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου*» καὶ τὴν ἔκανα λιανά, νὰ τὴν καταλάβετε ὅλοι. Τώρα ποιὸς ἀπὸ σὲς θὰ ἐφαρμόσῃ; Ποιὸς ἀπὸ αὐριο θὰ βάλῃ δρομολόγιο; Ποιὸς θὰ σηκωθῇ πρῶτ' ἀντὶ νὰ κοιτάξῃ τὸν καθρέφτη θ' ἀνοίξῃ τὸν καθρέφτη τὸν πνευματικὸ, τὴν ἁγία Γραφή, νὰ διαβάσῃ; Ποιὸς θὰ γονατίσῃ στὸ σπίτι νὰ κἀνῃ προσευχή; Ποιὸς θ' ἀρχίσῃ κάθε Κυριακὴ νὰ ῥχεταὶ στὴν ἐκκλησία; Ποιὸς θὰ πᾶν νὰ βρῇ πνευματικὸ πατέρα νὰ ἐξομολογηθῇ; Μέσα στὸν καιρὸ αὐτὸ τῆς ζωῆς μας **πρέπει νὰ γίνουν αὐτά**. Καὶ λάβετε ὑπ' ὄψιν σας, ἀδελφοί μου, ὅτι **ὁ καιρὸς εἶνε λίγος**, ὅς φαίνεται πολὺς. Τὸ λέει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας κάθε φορὰ: «*Τὸν ὑπόλοιπον χρόνον τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν ἐν εἰρήνῃ καὶ μετάνοιᾳ ἐκτελέσαι παρὰ τοῦ Κυρίου αἰτησώμεθα*». Πόσος εἶνε ὁ χρόνος τῆς ζωῆς μας, πόσο θὰ ζήσουμε ἀκόμη; Μήπως..., μήπως ὁ χρόνος αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ τελευταῖος μας; Τί λέω; Μήπως ὁ μήνας αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ τελευταῖος; Τί λέω; Μήπως αὐτὴ ἡ βδομάδα ποὺ ἔρχεται εἶνε ἡ τελευταία μας; Τί λέω; Μήπως ἡ σημερινὴ μέρα εἶνε ἡ τελευταία μας; Γιὰ διαβάστε τί γίνεται καθημερινῶς.

Κάποιος **δήμαρχος** εἶχε καλέσει σ' ἓνα ξενοδοχεῖο τῆς Κηφισιάς τοὺς φίλους του, πολιτικούς, ὑπουργοὺς καὶ ἄλλους, νὰ γιορτάσουν μαζί τὰ γενέθλιά του. Μαζεύτηκαν, κ' ἦταν ὅλοι χαρούμενοι. Τραπέζι στρωμένο, λου-

λούδια, μουσικὲς. Εἶχε στὴν τσέπη καὶ τὰ χαρτιά ἔτοιμα νὰ τοὺς προσφωνήσῃ. Στεκόταν στὴν πόρτα, τοὺς ὑποδεχόταν καὶ φωτογραφίζονταν. Ἀλλὰ προτοῦ νὰ καθίσῃ στὸ τραπέζι ἔλαβε κλῆσι! Δὲν τὸ περίμενε τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη. Τοῦ ἦρθε σὰν κεραυνὸς ἐν αἰθρίᾳ. Τί κεραυνός; **Καρδιακὴ προσβολή!** Ἐπεσε κάτω, τὸν πῆραν στὰ χέρια, πάει... Καὶ οἱ καλεσμένοι; ποῦ νὰ καθίσουν νὰ φᾶνε! Ὅσοι εἴστε ἀπὸ χωριά μπορεῖ νὰ ἔχετε δεῖ τὸ ἐξῆς· νὰ βόσκουν τὰ ὀρνίθια στὸ λιβάδι, καὶ ξαφνικά, ἐκεῖ ποὺ τρώνε τὸ χορταράκι τους, νὰ βουτᾶ τὸ γεράκι, ν' ἀρπάξῃ μιά ὀρνίθια καὶ νὰ φεύγῃ. Τότε τ' ἄλλα ὀρνίθια ταραζοῦνται. Ἔτσι, ἀδελφοί μου, πέφτει κι **ὁ χάρος**, σὰν γεράκι ποὺ ἀρπάζει. Σὲ **ἀρπάζει** στὸ μαγαζί, στὸ δρόμο, στὴν πλατεία, στὸ γάμο, στὰ βαφτίσια, στίς ἐκλογές, **ὅπου νά 'νε**. Ἀρπάζει γέρους μὲ ἄσπρα μαλλιά, ἀλλὰ καὶ μωρὰ ἀπὸ τίς κοῦνιες.

Ἀδελφοί μου, ἕως πότε **ἀναίσθητοι**; ἕως πότε δὲν θὰ σκεπτόμαστε τὴν αἰωνιότητα;

«*Καιρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου*». Σ' ἓνα ἀρχαῖο βιβλίο διάβασα, ὅτι στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια ἦταν ἓνας βασιλεὺς ποὺ εἶχε τὴν ἐξῆς ἀρχή. Ὅπου ἄπλωνε τὸ βασίλειό του μὲ τὰ φουσάτα (τὸ στρατό) του, εἶχε δυὸ σημαίες, μιά ἄσπρη καὶ μιά μαύρη. Ὅταν πλησίαζε σὲ μιά πόλι, ὕψωνε τὴ **λευκὴ σημαία**, ποὺ ἐσήμαινε· ὅσο εἶνε ὑψωμένη αὐτή, στρατιώτης δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται νὰ πειράξῃ τίποτα, οὔτε μύτη ν' ἀνοίξῃ· κ' εἶχαν δικαίωμα ὅλοι νὰ τοῦ ζητήσουν ὅ, τι θέλουν. Αὐτὸ ἦταν μιά προθεσμία. Περνοῦσε ἡ προθεσμία; κατέβαζε τὴν ἄσπρη σημαία, ὕψωνε τὴ μαύρη, καὶ τότε κλάψτε μάνες! Σὲ ἀνθρώπους, σπίτια, χωράφια ἀρχίζε τσεκούρι καὶ φωτιά... Μὲ καταλάβετε; Ὁ Χριστὸς μας, ὁ καλὸς Βασιλεὺς τοῦ κόσμου, ὕψωνε τώρα λευκὴ σημαία πάνω ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμον, τὸν τίμιον σταυρὸ του. **Ἐλάτε ἀμαρτωλοί**, ἐλάτε κόσμε, ὅσο ὑπάρχει καιρὸς· «*Καιρῷ δεκτῷ...*»! Θὰ ῥθῃ ὥρα ποὺ θὰ κατεβάσῃ τὴ σημαία τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ τοῦ ἐλέους, καὶ τότε θὰ κλείσουν οἱ πόρτες. Θὰ ῥθῃς μιά μέρα καὶ θὰ βρῇς τὴν πόρτα τῆς ἐκκλησίας κλειστή· θὰ χτυπᾷς, παπᾶς καὶ ψάλτης δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχῃ. Τὰ ἄστρα καὶ ὁ ἥλιος θὰ σβήσουν, τὰ ποτάμια θὰ ξεραθοῦν. Θὰ εἶνε **ἐποχὴ τῆς κρίσεως καὶ δικαιοσύνης**.

Ἀδελφοί μου! Ὅσο ζοῦμε στὸ μάταιο αὐτὸ κόσμον ὅς μετανόησουμε, ὅς κλάψουμε, ὅς **ζητήσουμε τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ**. Καὶ νὰ μᾶς ἀξιῶσθ ὁ Θεός, τὸ ὑπόλοιπο τῆς ζωῆς μας νὰ τὸ περάσουμε «*ἐν εἰρήνῃ καὶ μετάνοιᾳ*», διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς Θεοτόκου καὶ ὅλων τῶν ἁγίων· ἀμήν.

(†) **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: \$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 2016 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

More Will Be Given

Let us flee from the deceit of life and its supposed happiness and run to Christ alone, who is the Savior of souls. Him let us endeavor to find who is present everywhere, and when we have found Him let us hold Him fast and fall at His feet (see Matthew 28: 9) and embrace them in the fervor of our souls. I entreat you, let us endeavor to see Him and contemplate Him even in this life. For if we are found worthy sensibly to see Him here we shall not die, "death will have no dominion over us" (Romans 6: 9). Let us not wait to see Him in the future, but strive to contemplate Him now, since John the Theologian tells us, "We know that we have God in our hearts, from the Spirit which we have received from him" (1 John 3: 24; 2: 27). If any of you, then, have shown by your works that your faith in Him is unbreakable and solid, and have well and truly examined what we have said before, see that you do not deceive yourselves! Do not imagine that

you have Christ in you when you have nothing, and so depart this life with empty hands and hear this word (I pray that He may preserve you from it): "Take away that which that wicked one thinks he has, and give to him who has more" (Matthew 25: 28f; Luke 19: 24ff). Then you will weep and lament, and you will have infinite grief forevermore ...

When we have kept God's commandments may our hearts be cleansed by tears and penitence, so that from henceforth we may see the divine Light, Christ Himself, and possess Him abiding in us. Through His most Holy Spirit may he feed our souls and keep them alive by making us taste the pleasant sweetness of those benefits of His kingdom, of which may we all be found worthy in Christ Jesus our Lord, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

St. Symeon the New Theologian

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