



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN March 27th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST  
SUNDAY OF SAINT GREGORY PALAMAS



*Icon of Saint Gregory Palamas*

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## St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1.

Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

"IN THE BEGINNING, Thou, Lord, didst found the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of thy hands; they will perish, but thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But thou art the same, and thy years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make thy enemies a stool for thy feet?" Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation?

Therefore we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

## Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 1:10-14, 2:1-3

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ α΄.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκκέλοιπεν ὁσῖος.

Κατ' ἀρχάς, Κύριε, τὴν γῆν ἐθεμελίωσας, καὶ ἔργα τῶν χειρῶν σου εἰσιν οἱ οὐρανοί· αὐτοὶ ἀπολοῦνται, σὺ δὲ διαμένεις· καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμάτιον παλαιωθήσονται, καὶ ὡσεὶ περιβόλαιον ἐλίξεις αὐτούς, καὶ ἀλλαγῆσονται· σὺ δὲ ὁ αὐτὸς εἶ, καὶ τὰ ἔτη σου οὐκ ἐκλείψουσιν. Πρὸς τίνα δὲ τῶν ἀγγέλων εἶρηκέν ποτε, Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου, ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; Οὐχὶ πάντες εἰσιν λειτουργικὰ πνεύματα, εἰς διακονίαν ἀποστελλόμενα διὰ τοὺς μέλλοντας κληρονομεῖν σωτηρίαν; Διὰ τοῦτο δεῖ περισσοτέρως ἡμᾶς προσέχειν τοῖς ἀκουσθεῖσιν, μήποτε παραρρυθῶμεν. Εἰ γὰρ ὁ δι' ἀγγέλων λαληθεὶς λόγος ἐγένετο βέβαιος, καὶ πᾶσα παράβασις καὶ παρακοή ἔλαβεν ἔνδικον μισθαποδοσίαν, πῶς ἡμεῖς ἐκφευξόμεθα τηλικαύτης ἀμελήσαντες σωτηρίας; Ἦτις, ἀρχὴν λαβοῦσα λαλεῖσθαι διὰ τοῦ κυρίου, ὑπὸ τῶν ἀκουσάντων εἰς ἡμᾶς ἐβεβαιώθη.

## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

### The Gospel according to Mark 2:1-12

At that time, Jesus entered Capernaum and it was reported that he was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and he was preaching the word to them. And they came, bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near him because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts, "Why does this man speak thus? It is a blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And immediately Jesus, perceiving in his spirit that they thus questioned within themselves, said to them, "Why do you question thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your pallet and walk? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins'"-he said to the paralytic-"I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home." And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all; so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

## Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas

### Κατὰ Μάρκον 2:1-12

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσηλθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς εἰς Καπερναοὺμ δι' ἡμερῶν καὶ ἠκούσθη ὅτι εἰς οἶκόν ἐστι. καὶ εὐθέως συνήχθησαν πολλοί, ὥστε μηκέτι χωρεῖν μηδὲ τὰ πρὸς τὴν θύραν· καὶ ἐλάλει αὐτοῖς τὸν λόγον. καὶ ἔρχονται πρὸς αὐτὸν παραλυτικὸν φέροντες, αἰρόμενον ὑπὸ τεσσάρων· καὶ μὴ δυνάμενοι προσεγγίσει αὐτῷ διὰ τὸν ὄχλον, ἀπεστέγασαν τὴν στέγην ὅπου ἦν, καὶ ἐξορύξαντες χαλῶσι τὸν κράβαττον, ἐφ' ᾧ ὁ παραλυτικὸς κατέκειτο. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· τέκνον, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου. ἦσαν δὲ τινες τῶν γραμματέων ἐκεῖ καθήμενοι καὶ διαλογιζόμενοι ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν· τί οὗτος οὕτω λαλεῖ βλασφημίας; τίς δύναται ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας εἰ μὴ εἰς ὁ Θεός; καὶ εὐθέως ἐπιγνοὺς ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῷ πνεύματι αὐτοῦ ὅτι οὕτως αὐτοὶ διαλογίζονται ἐν ἑαυτοῖς, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τί ταῦτα διαλογίζεσθε ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; τί ἐστιν εὐκοπώτερον, εἰπεῖν τῷ παραλυτικῷ, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι, ἢ εἰπεῖν, ἔγειρε καὶ ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ περιπάτει; ἴνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀφιέναι ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἁμαρτίας - λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· σοὶ λέγω, ἔγειρε καὶ ἄρον τὸν κράβαττόν σου καὶ ὑπάγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. καὶ ἠγέρθη εὐθέως, καὶ ἄρας τὸν κράβαττον ἐξῆλθεν ἐναντίον πάντων, ὥστε ἐξίστασθαι πάντας καὶ δοξάζειν τὸν Θεὸν λέγοντας ὅτι οὐδέποτε οὕτως εἶδομεν.

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

<b>Sunday ,</b>	<b>March 27th,</b>	<b>Liturgy of Saint Gregory Palamas</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>March 27th,</b>	<b>DOXOLOGY for GREEK INDEPENDENCE</b>	<b>Noon</b>
		<b>School Children will present their Independence program</b>	
<b>Monday,</b>	<b>March 28th,</b>	<b>BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL CEREMONIES</b>	<b>6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>March 30th</b>	<b>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>April 01st,</b>	<b>AGIASMOS-Blessing of Holy Water for Pascha!</b>	<b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>Friday,</b>	<b>April 01st,</b>	<b>THIRD STANZA of SALUTATIONS to BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
<b>SUNDAY,</b>	<b>April 03rd,</b>	<b>STAVRO-PROSKYNISIS (Cross Veneration)</b>	<b>Noon</b>

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** is being hosted today by the Greek School P.T.A. Please join us in WhiteHall for refreshments. ZETO H ELLADA! ZETO TO ETHNOS ! ZETO H PATRIDA!

**NARTHEX RENOVATION COMMENCES:** Please excuse our narthex conditions while we are under renovation and renewal of the area. With your support and assistance the finished product will be a pride to our church. Solicitation of donation for the NARTHEX will commence after Pascha.

**GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM :** in church today at the conclusion of Divine liturgy by selected students of the school honoring Greek Independence Day 195th, Anniversary and the SACRED ANNUNCIATION ( Evangelismos ) of Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary. We salute their proud parents and the faculty members Zoe Anastasakos and Maria Halkias.

**LENTEN FULL SCHEDULE** of all services from NOW until HOLY WEEK has been printed and mailed to all member stewards of the parish. If you have NOT received one please register with the church office NOW! Upon request of the staff, copies of the schedule are available in the OFFICE. Take special note of the evening sacred devotions and liturgies.

**PASCHA DONATIONS** :are requested for the Holy Week Services. Please do not purchase any items unless you confirm with Father Eugene as to what is required. Too much of one thing and little of another does not help us. DO NOT SPEAK TO FATHER AT THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANTIDORON, P L E A S E ! See him in the office after services or by telephone. OUR NEEDS EACH YEAR:

1. Aromatics for the Sacrament of Euchelaion
2. PURE OLIVE OIL FOR THE ANOINTINGS OF HOLY WEDNESDAY,
3. Large King Size WHITE FLAT sheets for the APOKTHELOSIS of Good Friday afternoon Descent from the Cross.
4. Funeral Wreaths for the Holy Cross CRUCIFIXION of Good Friday. Dimensions are available. upon request.
5. Sacramental wine for altar use Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday and PASCHA. Special wine is prescribed, SO ASK!
6. VOLUNTEERS! VOLUNTEERS! VOLUNTEERS! To help weave 5,000 palm crosses for PALM SUNDAY distribution. Other hands to help DYE the RED EGGS of PASCHA night!

**PASCHAL (Easter Card)** In anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord, and keeping this Great Lent period of spiritual reflection, we are offering you the opportunity to be included in our "Parish Easter Card". Your name will be listed on the card for a nominal donation of \$20.00. In this manner you will benefit our Church, sending the good news of our Lord's Resurrection to over 1,000 families and friends of the Three Hierarchs parish. If you wish to be listed on the Parish Easter Card, please complete the form sent to you and return it in the enclosed envelope, together with your check payable to "Three Hierarchs Church:. DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2016.

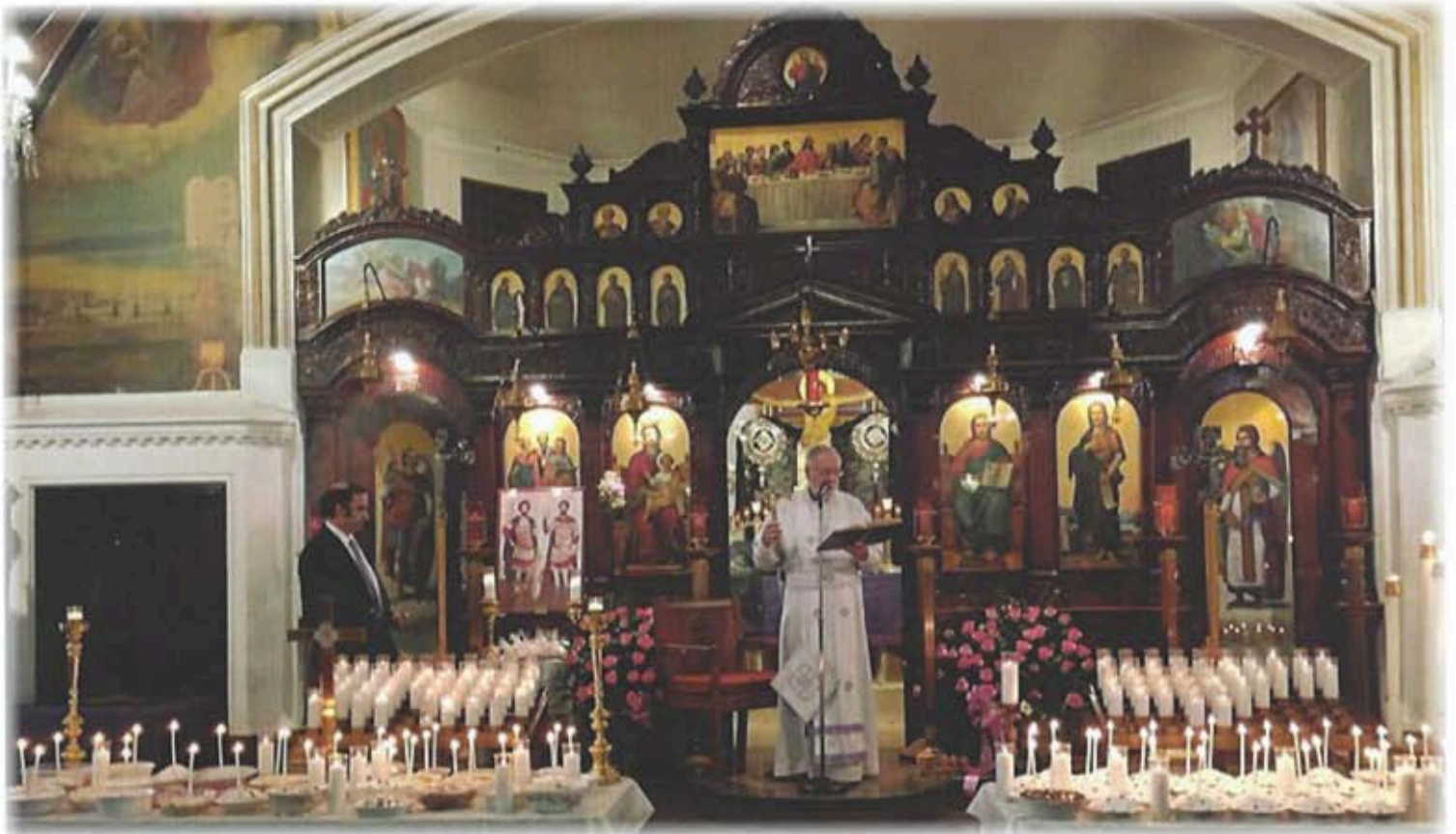
**EMMAUS ADULT EDUCATION LECTURE SERIES:** Continues each month. On Thursday evening, March 31st, at 7:00 P.M. V.Rev. Fr. Gerasimos (Pastor of Holy Cross Parish) will speak on the theme of CHRISTIAN ORTHODOX SACRAMENT of BAPTISM at the Koimisis Theotokou Church in Brooklyn. An open reception of Lenten goodies and coffee follows at 8:00 P.M.

**HELLENIC HERITAGE EVENT:** The annual observance of Hellenic Heritage will be held at BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL tomorrow, Monday evening March 28th, from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. with dinner and desserts and drinks offered FREE TO ALL ATTENDING. We are pleased and acknowledge the TWO CANDIDATES from Three Hierarchs selected for the borough citation **MR. HARRY LAMBRAKIS and MR. JOHN EUGENIS** we appreciate all they have done for our Parish over these many decades of service. Let us honor them with our presence. A FREE BUS will be available ON A FIRST COME BASIS FOR THOSE WISHING A SEAT TO THE EVENT. Please register with the OFFICE by signing the roster. SEE THE INSERT FLYER.

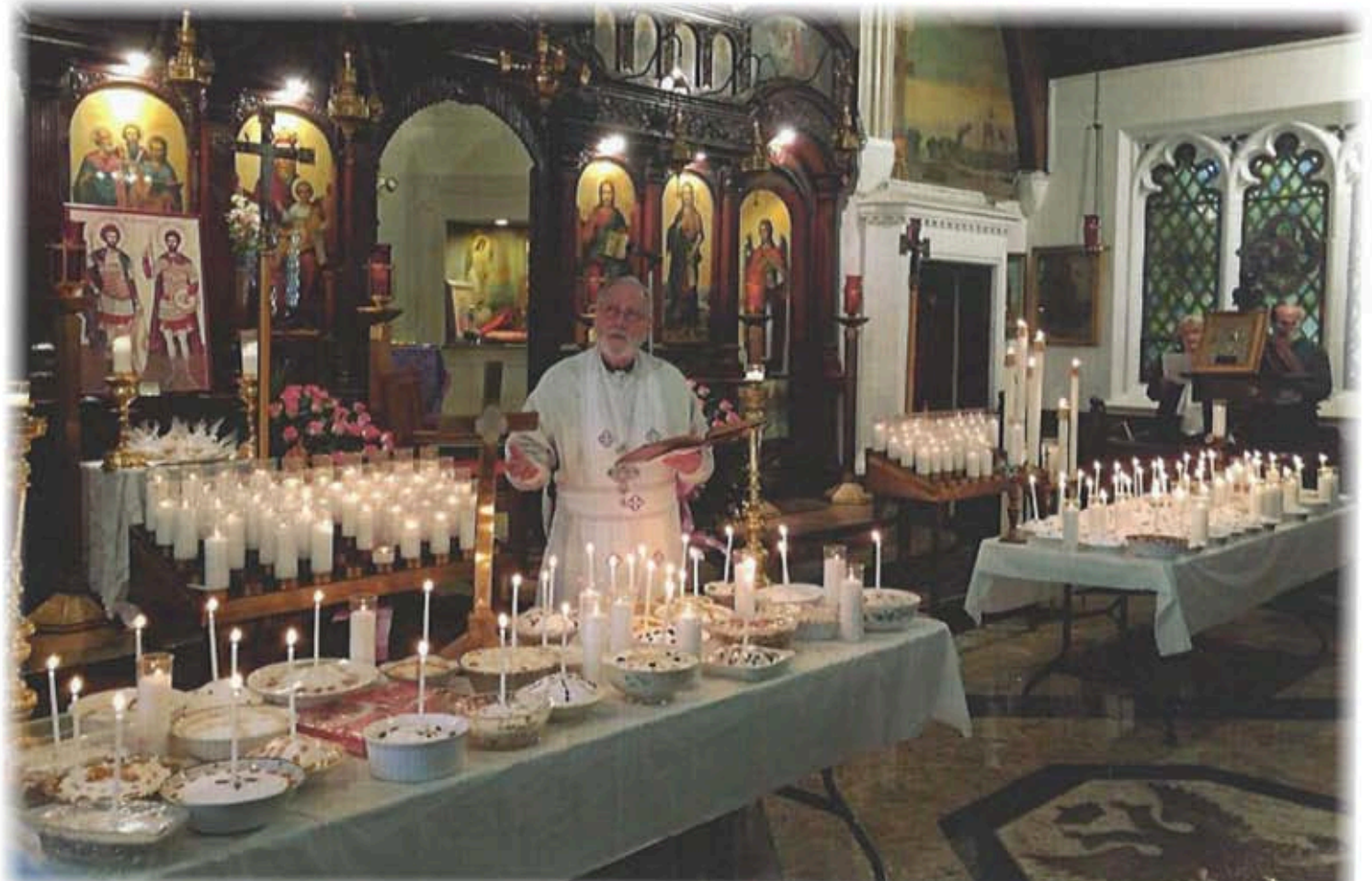
**U.P.K. REGISTRATION** is NOW GOING ON at THREE HIERARCHS SCHOOL for children born in 2012. This is accredited U.P.K. of the Department of Education of the City of New York. IT IS TUITION FREE. All 4 year olds born in 2012 are eligible to attend full day classes from 8:00 A.M. to 3☺ P.M. with snacks and Lunch provided by the CITY.....FREE. Call the administration at (347) 729 – 0446 Ms. Eugenia the Principal , or Ms. Georgia the Secretary for full details. don't miss this opportunity to give your child a 'HEAD START' in formal education through UNIVERSAL PRE – KINDERGARTEN. CALL NOW!

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 16<sup>TH</sup> 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](http://LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER) . The website address. [W.W.W.gaepis.org](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live audio](#))

**MEMORIAL TODAY:** + **CHRISTOS VLAHOS** + **MARY TERZIDIS**  
**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + **EILEEN PINES**



**PSYCHO - SABBATON CEREMONIES WERE A MAJOR SUCCESS THIS YEAR!  
FOR THREE CONSECUTIVE SATURDAYS IN MARCH WE LIFTED OUR PRAYERS FOR THE  
FAITHFULLY DEPARTED. KOLLYVA DISHES WERE PREPARED BY THE LADIES OF THE PARISH  
AS THE NAMES WERE INTONED.**



WE SALUTE TWO GENTLEMEN OF OUR PARISH WHO WILL BE HONORED WITH THE COVETED HELLENIC HERITAGE AWARD AT BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL TOMORROW EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. BOROUGH PRESIDENT ERIC ADAMS AS HOST WILL PRESENT THE CITATIONS TO EACH HONOREE. FATHER EUGENE IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EVENT ON BEHALF OF THE ARCHDIOCESE.



HARRY LAMBRAKIS

**HARRY LAMBRAKIS**

Born in Neapolis, Laconias, Greece. With generation of family in the United States of America homesteading in Brooklyn, New York he established success in real estate and food business. From his early arrival in Brooklyn he was instrumental in civic, church and fraternal service areas. He served the Three Hierarchs Parish in Midwood Brooklyn for over two decades as a Council Member and as President of the Board. He has represented the Midwood Brooklyn Greek community as representative to the GREEK FEDERATION of NEW YORK CITY, as well as long time A.H.E.P.A. President of the Coney Island Chapter #200 . Active in the Fraternal Society of Epidaurou Limiras of LACONIA as present Vice – President supporting Greek culture and language. Mr. ‘HARRY’ as he is favorable nick – named , is an avid supporter of the Greek Independence Day Parade of New York City, each year. He is a philanthropist in New York, Greece and the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of New York Headquarters.

**JOHN EUGENIS:**

Born in Diiplatanos, Trihonidos, Greece. Immigrating as a youngster he settled in Midwood Brooklyn where he was educated in electrical sciences, and employed with the prestigious Bandis Electric Corporation. He has served the Greek Community of the Three Hierarchs for over three decades on the Parish Council, and presently as Executive Vice President of the Board. He is instrumental in all areas of Greek education and youth teen programming. As a member the Greek School P.T.A. he demonstrated philanthropy and support for Greek School Education both parochial and private. As Vice – President of the Saint Marina Diplatanos Society he has been effective in Greek Relief projects here and overseas. Initiated as a member of the A.H.E.P.A. Coney Island Chapter #200 he has involved himself in charitable Hellenic efforts all these years. Professionally “ John ” has never declined any request for charitable pro-bono work. His outreach is immeasurable.



JOHN EUGENIS



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΓ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1938

Κυριακὴ Β' Νηστειῶν (Ἔβρ. 1,10 - 2,3)  
27 Μαρτίου 2016

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο

«Διὰ τοῦτο δεῖ περισσοτέρως ἡμᾶς προσέχειν τοῖς ἀκουσθεῖσι, μὴ ποτε παραρρυώμεν» (Ἔβρ. 2,1)

**Ἐ**δῶ, ἀγαπητοί μου, κηρύσσεται τακτικὰ ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Σᾶς παρακαλῶ νὰ κάνετε **ὑπομονή**, γιὰ ν' ἀκούσετε αὐτὴ τὴν ὁμιλία.

Εἶστε ἄξιοι ἐπαίνου τόσο γιὰ τὴν ἐκκλησία πού ἔχετε ὅσο καὶ γιὰ τὸν ἐκκλησιασμό σας. Ἀλλὰ φτάνουν αὐτά; Βεβαίως καὶ ὁ ναὸς χρειάζεται καὶ οἱ εἰκόνες καὶ τὰ ἄμφια, ἀλλὰ ἡ οὐσία εἶνε κάπου ἄλλου· στὴν **εὐσέβεια** (βλ. Ἀ' Τιμ. 2,2-4,7-8,11).

Καὶ τί εἶνε ἡ εὐσέβεια; εἶνε ἡ ἐλπίδα, εἶνε ἡ πίστι, εἶνε ἡ ἀγάπη. Ὑπάρχουν αὐτὰ τὰ τρία; Ὑπάρχει **πίστι** σὰν τῶν τεσσάρων ἀνδρῶν τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου (βλ. Μάρκ. 2,1-12), πού ἔφεραν τὸν παράλυτο μπροστὰ στὸ Χριστό; Ὑπάρχει **ἐλπίδα** σὰν τοῦ Δαυὶδ, πού ἔλεγε: Κι ἂν ἀκόμη, Θεέ μου, περάσω τὸ γεφύρι τοῦ θανάτου, δὲν θὰ φοβηθῶ, διότι μαζί μου εἶσαι σύ; (βλ. Ψαλμ. 22,4). Ὑπάρχει **ἀγάπη** σὰν τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, πού ἔλεγε «*Ἐὰν ταῖς γλώσσαις τῶν ἀνθρώπων λαλῶ καὶ τῶν ἀγγέλων, ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, ... οὐδὲν εἶμι*»; (1 Κορ. 13,1-2). Ἄν ὑπάρχουν αὐτά, τότε ὑπάρχει θρησκεία, ὑπάρχει Ἰησοῦς Ναζωραῖος, ὑπάρχει ζωντανὴ Ἐκκλησία πού κάνει θαύματα. Ἐὰν ὁμως αὐτὰ δὲν ὑπάρχουν, τότε μᾶς μένει μόνο ὁ φλοιός, ἡ οὐσία ἔχει ἐξατμισθῆ.

Γιὰ γυρίστε στὰ περασμένα· θυμηθῆτε τοὺς **τρεις πρώτους αἰῶνες τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ** μὲ τοὺς διωγμούς! Ἐπάνω στὴ Γῆ δὲν ὑπῆρχε οὐτε μίᾳ ἐκκλησία, δὲν χτυποῦσε καμπάνα, μὰ ὑπῆρχε ἓνας ζωντανὸς Χριστιανισμός. Ὅσοι πίστευαν στὸ Χριστὸ πῆγαιναν σὲ σπηλιές. Δὲν ὑπῆρχαν ἐκεῖ φῶτα καὶ πολυέλεοι, χρυσᾶ εὐαγγέλια καὶ δισκοπότηρα, καλλίφωνοι ψάλτες· ὑπῆρχε ὁμως πίστι. Ἐνας παπᾶς, πού δὲν εἶχε βγῆ ἀπὸ θεολογικὲς σχολές κι ἀκαδημίες μὲ διπλώματα, μὰ ἦταν ἔτοιμος νὰ χύσῃ τὸ αἷμα του γιὰ τὸ Χριστό· ὅταν κρατοῦσε τὸ ξύλινο δισκοπότηρο ἔκλαιγε καὶ τὰ δάκρυά του ἔπεφταν μέσα κ' ἔσιμιγαν μὲ τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας, κι ὅταν ἔπιανε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τὰ χέρια του

ἔτρεμαν. Καὶ οἱ ἐκκλησιαζόμενοι γονάτιζαν κ' ἔβρεχαν τὸ δάπεδο μὲ τὰ δάκρυά τους· σὰν τὸ ἔσπρὸ χῶμα πού ρουφάει τὸ νερό, σὰν τὸ παιδί πού μὲ ὄρεξι βυζαίνει τὸ γάλα τῆς μάνας, σὰν τὴ μέλισσα πού ρουφάει τὸ νέκταρ ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνθη, ἔτσι οἱ πιστοὶ ρουφούσαν σὰν σφουγγάρι τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. Τὰ πίστευαν. Προσπαθοῦσαν νὰ τὰ ζήσουν, νὰ τὰ κάνουν πράξι - βίωμά τους, νὰ ἔνῃ ἡ ζωὴ τους ἓνα ἔμπρακτο Εὐαγγέλιο.

Συμβαίνει τέτοιο πρᾶγμα σήμερα; ἀκούμε ἐμεῖς τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο μὲ τέτοια ὄρεξι, τέτοια πίστι, τέτοια ἀπόφασι, ὅπως οἱ πρῶτοι Χριστιανοί; Ἄκριβῶς αὐτὸ τονίζει σήμερα ὁ ἀπόστολος. Προσέξτε καλά, μᾶς λέει· ὅταν διαβάζεται τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, ὅταν κηρύττεται ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, **ἀνοιξτε τ' αὐτὰ σας** ν' ἀκούσετε αὐτὴ τὴ μελωδία καὶ ἁρμονία, νὰ μὴ μέσα ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· διότι, ἂν δὲν προσέξετε τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, **θὰ κολασθῆτε**, λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος (βλ. Ἐβρ. 2,1).

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Μὰ ἔχουν λοιπὸν τόση σημασία τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου; Ναι, ἀγαπητοί μου. Διότι τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ πού εἶνε γραμμένα στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ στὸ «Πιστεύω» δὲν εἶνε λόγια ἀνθρώπινα· **εἶνε λόγια θεϊκά**. Δὲν εἶνε λόγια κάποιων σοφῶν, πού ἔρχονται κατόπιν ἄλλοι καὶ τ' ἀνατρέπουν ἄρδην. Τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου εἶνε σὰν τὰ βράχια μέσα στὴ θάλασσα, πού τὸ κύμα πέφτει ἀφρισμένο πάνω τους μὰ δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὰ κλονίσῃ· εἶνε σὰν τὰ βουνά, σὰν τὸν Ὀλυμπο, πού δὲν μπορεῖ κανένα χέρι νὰ τὸν κλονίσῃ· εἶνε σὰν τὸν ἥλιο, πού δὲν μπορεῖ κανεὶς νὰ τὸν σβῆσῃ· εἶνε σὰν τὰ ἄστρα, πού δὲν μπορεῖ κανεὶς νὰ τὰ φτάσῃ. Ἀλλὰ τί λέω; μιά μέρα καὶ τὰ ἄστρα κι ὁ ἥλιος καὶ τὸ φεγγάρι θὰ σβήσουν, καὶ ἡ Γῆ θὰ ὑποστῇ μίᾳ κοσμογονίᾳ· μέσα ὁμως στὴν ἀεῖρη τροπὴ τῶν πραγμάτων καὶ στὰ παφλάζοντα κύματα τοῦ κόσμου, τὸ ἱερό καὶ ἅγιο Εὐαγγέλιο

γέλιο θά στέκη πάντοτε, θά φωσφορίζη, θ' ἀστράφτη καί θά λάμπη αἰωνίως. «Διά τοῦτο δεῖ περισσοτέρως ἡμᾶς προσέχειν τοῖς ἀκουσθεῖσι, μή ποτε παραρρωῶμεν» (Εφ. 2!).

Εἶνε ἀλήθεια ὅτι τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου **περιφρονοῦνται**, τὰ λόγια τοῦ Κυρίου **πολεμοῦνται** μέ σφοδρότητα καί λύσσα. Τόν 17ο αἰῶνα κάποιος ἀπό τοὺς πιθ. εὐφυεῖς καί δραστηρίους ἀθέους βουτοῦσε τὴν πέννα του σὲ φαρμάκι καί ἔγραψε τὰ φοβερώτερα λόγια ἐναντίον τοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, μέχρι τοῦ σημείου ν' ἀποκαλέσῃ τὸν Υἱὸν τῆς Παρθένου ἄτιμο! Προτοῦ νὰ ξεψυχήσῃ ἔγραψε, ὅτι μετὰ ἀπὸ ἑκατὸ χρόνια οὔτε Εὐαγγέλιο θά ὑπάρχη οὔτε Χριστιανοὶ ποὺ νὰ πιάνουν στὰ χέρια τους τὴν ἁγία Γραφή. Καί τί ἔγινε· πέθανε αὐτός, ἐτάφη, καί ὕστερα ἀπὸ ἑκατὸ χρόνια τὸ σπίτι ποὺ καθόταν καί ἔγραφε καί ὕβριζε τὸν Υἱὸν τῆς Παρθένου, τὸ σπίτι ἐκεῖνο –σφάζεται σήμερα– ἔγινε βιβλιοπωλεῖο τῆς ἁγίας Γραφῆς! Δὲν ἐπαλήθευσε ἢ πρόβλεψί του· ἀντιθέτως ἐκπληρώθηκε ὁ λόγος ποὺ εἶπε ὁ Χριστός, ὅτι «Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι» (Ματθ. 21,33).

Εἶνε ἀλήθεια ὅτι σήμερα ὑπάρχουν κράτη ποὺ ἔχουν κηρύξει πόλεμο ἐναντίον τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. Στὰ κράτη αὐτά, ποὺ ἔχουν προσδεύσει τεχνικῶς καί ἐπιστημονικῶς –δὲν τὸ ἀρνούμεθα–, ὑπάρχει ὠμὴ ἀθεΐα. Καί ἐκδίδονται μὲν τόνοι ἀπὸ βιβλία, περιοδικὰ καί ἐφημερίδες, δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται ὁμως νὰ τυπωθῇ οὔτε ἓνα κομματάκι χαρτί μὲ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο **ἀπαγορεύεται**.

Καί ὁμως τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο **δὲν ἔσβησε**· μέσα σὲ καλύβες, σὲ σπίτια, ἀλλὰ καί στὰ παλάτια ὑπάρχουν ψυχές, ποὺ διαβάζουν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καί μουσκεύουν τίς σελίδες του μὲ δάκρυα.

Τὸ 1964 συνάντησα στὴ Φλώρινα μία εὐγενῆ Ἑλληνίδα, ποὺ ἔμενε ὑπὸ τραγικὲς συνθήκες σὲ γειτονικὴ χώρα ὅπου θριάμβευε ἡ ἀπιστία. –Δὲν τολμᾶμε, μοῦ ἔλεγε, νὰ κάνουμε τὸ σταυρό μας ἢ νὰ πᾶμε στὴν ἐκκλησία, γιατί μᾶς παρακολουθοῦν· ἀλλὰ **δὲν χάσαμε τὴν πίστι** στὸ Θεό. Πρῶτ - πρῶτ, νύχτα, κατεβαίνουμε στὰ ὑπόγεια, ἀνάβουμε κερί, βάζουμε τὸ ραδιόφωνο τῶν Ἀθηνῶν, ἀκοῦμε τὴ θεία λειτουργία τὸ εὐαγγέλιο τὸ κήρυγμα, κ' ἡ ψυχὴ μας παίρνει φτερά...

Ὅποιος νομίζει ὅτι τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο θά σβῆσῃ, εἶνε **ἀνόητος**. Αὐτὸς μοιάζει μὲ ἓνα **παράφρονα** ποὺ εἶδα κάποτε στὴ Θεσσαλονικὴ σκαρφάλωσε σ' ἓνα τηλεγραφόξυλο καί τί ἔκανε· ἔφτυνε συνεχῶς. Τὸν πλησίασαν τὰ ὄργανα τῆς τάξεως καί τὸν ρώτησαν· –Τί θέλεις; –Περιμένετε, λέει, θά σβῆσω τὸν ἥλιο... Ὅσο εἶνε δυ-

νατὸν ἓνας τρελλὸς νὰ σβῆσῃ τὸν ἥλιο μὲ τὰ πτύσματά του, ἄλλο τόσο μπορεῖ καί ὁ νᾶνος ἄνθρωπος, ὅ,τι κι ἂν εἶνε αὐτός, νὰ σβῆσῃ τὸν ἥλιο τῆς δικαιοσύνης, τὸ φῶς τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου. «Διά τοῦτο δεῖ περισσοτέρως ἡμᾶς προσέχειν τοῖς ἀκουσθεῖσι, μή ποτε παραρρωῶμεν».

Ἄλλὰ γιατί ν' ἀναφέρω παραδείγματα ἀπὸ ἄλλες χώρες; Στὶς 25 Μαρτίου ἐορτάζουμε τὴν ἐθνικὴ μας ἑορτή· ὅτι ὁ Χριστός, ὅπως εἶπε «*Λάζαρε, δεῦρο ἔξω*» (Ἰω. 11,43) καί ἀνέστησε τὸ νεκρὸ φίλο του, ἔτσι ἀνέστησε καί τὸ ἔθνος μας, ποὺ ἦταν θαμμένο ὄχι τρεῖς μέρες ὅπως ὁ Λάζαρος ἀλλὰ τετρακόσια χρόνια. Ποιὸς στάθηκε μπροστὰ στὴν πλάκα τοῦ ἔθνους αὐτοῦ καί εἶπε «Ἑλλάς, *δεῦρο ἔξω*» κ' ἡ **Ἑλλάς ἀναστήθηκε**; Ἦρθε τὸ ρᾶσο, τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ἡ πίστι, καί μετακίνησε τὴν πλάκα τοῦ θανάτου. Εἶνε λόγια αὐτά; δὲν εἶνε μία πραγματικότητα; Τὰ χρόνια ἐκεῖνα στὸ Μοριά, στὴν Κρήτη, στὰ νησιά, στὴ Θεσσαλία, στὴ Μακεδονία, στὴν Ἠπειρο, παντοῦ στὴν Ἑλλάδα, σὰς ἐρωτῶ, ὑπῆρχαν σχολεῖα, ἀκαδημίαι, ξένες γλῶσσαι; Ὅχι. Μέσ' στὶς ἐκκλησιὰς καί στὰ μοναστήρια τὰ μόνα βιβλία ποὺ κρατοῦσαν ἦταν τὸ Ψαλτήρι, τὸ Ὁχτωήχι, τὸ ἅγιο Εὐαγγέλιο. Μὲ αὐτὰ ἀνατράφηκε, ἔζησε καί ἀναστήθηκε τὸ ἔθνος μας.

\* \* \*

Τελειώνω, ἀδελφοί· ἀλλὰ προτοῦ τελειώσω θά φέρω μπροστὰ σας τὴν ἡρωικώτερη μορφή τοῦ '21, τὸ Γέρο τοῦ Μοριά, τὸν **Θεόδωρο Κολοκοτρώνη**. Μετὰ τὴν ἀπελευθέρωσι, μίλησε στὰ παιδιὰ τοῦ πρώτου Γυμνασίου τῶν Ἀθηνῶν, ποὺ εἶχαν δάσκαλο τὸν σοφὸ Γεννάδιο, καί τοὺς λέει· –Ὅταν πιάσαμε τὰ ἄρματα, εἶπαμε πρῶτα ὑπὲρ πίστεως καί κατόπιν ὑπὲρ πατρίδος· κ' ἐσεῖς **μ' αὐτὴ τὴν πίστι νὰ ζήσετε**.

Τώρα μᾶς ἦρθαν σπουδασμένῃ παιδαγωγοὶ καί εἰρωνεύονται τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ἄλλὰ μὴν παραξενεύεστε. Τὸ λέει τὸ ἱερὸ βιβλίον· θά ῥθουν χρόνια κατηραμένα, ποὺ οἱ ἄνθρωποι θά φράξουν τ' αὐτιά τους νὰ μὴν ἀκοῦνε τὴν ἀλήθεια, καί θά τ' ἀνοίξουν γιὰ ν' ἀκοῦνε «*τοὺς μύθους*» τῆς ἀπιστίας (β' Τιμ. 4!). Γιατί **ὁποιος δὲν πιστεύει στὸ Θεό, θά πιστέψῃ στὸν διάβολο**.

Ἀδελφοί μου, μὴ στενοχωρεῖσθε. Δὲν θά νικῆσουν οἱ ἀπιστοὶ καί ἄθεοι· θά νικήσῃ ἡ πίστις. Γράψτε το στὶς ψυχές σας· **Ὅποιος πάη κόντρα μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, θά γίνῃ στάχτη**. Ἄλλὰ ἡ Ἑλλάς δὲν θά γίνῃ στάχτη· ἔχει ἱστορία, ἔχει τάφους, ἔχει μέλλον καί προορισμό. Καί ὅσοι πιστεύουμε στὸ Χριστό, ἂς ἀκολουθήσουμε τὴν πορεία τῆς νίκης, γιὰ νὰ ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος· ἀμήν.

(†) **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: \$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**

### *The Grace of Almsgiving*

Those who have suffered for Christ are adorned for ever with their wounds. Windows in a house do not make it less safe and are not something ugly but a necessary decoration for a building, to let in light and allow those within to look out. In the same way, the body's sufferings for Christ's sake and the resultant wounds become for those who bear them windows to let in the light without evening. And when that light shines forth they will be recognizable by the divine beauty and radiance of their wounds and not by their ugliness. Their scars will not be obliterated when suffering comes to an end, insofar as they procure immortality.

Christ's body held within it the Fount of divine light, which shone forth spiritually to enlighten the mind of him who hesitated, so that Thomas cried out at once, with perfect theology, "My Lord and my God" (Jn 20: 28). The Lord said to him, "Because you have seen me, you believed; blessed

are they that have not seen, and yet have believed" (Jn 20: 29), showing that those who saw the Lord with their own eyes are not in greater glory than those who have been brought through them to faith in Him. He did not say "yet believe" but "yet have believed," because with the divine power of foreknowledge whereby He saw everything before it happened, future events were like present facts.

I shall tell you, in your charity, something which has just occurred to me. I notice that Thomas lost his faith when he was absent, but when he was together with the believers his faith did not in any way fall short. So I have the idea that if only a sinner will flee the company of immoral men and associate with the just, he will never be found lacking in righteousness or the resultant salvation of his soul.

*St. Gregory Palamas*

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