

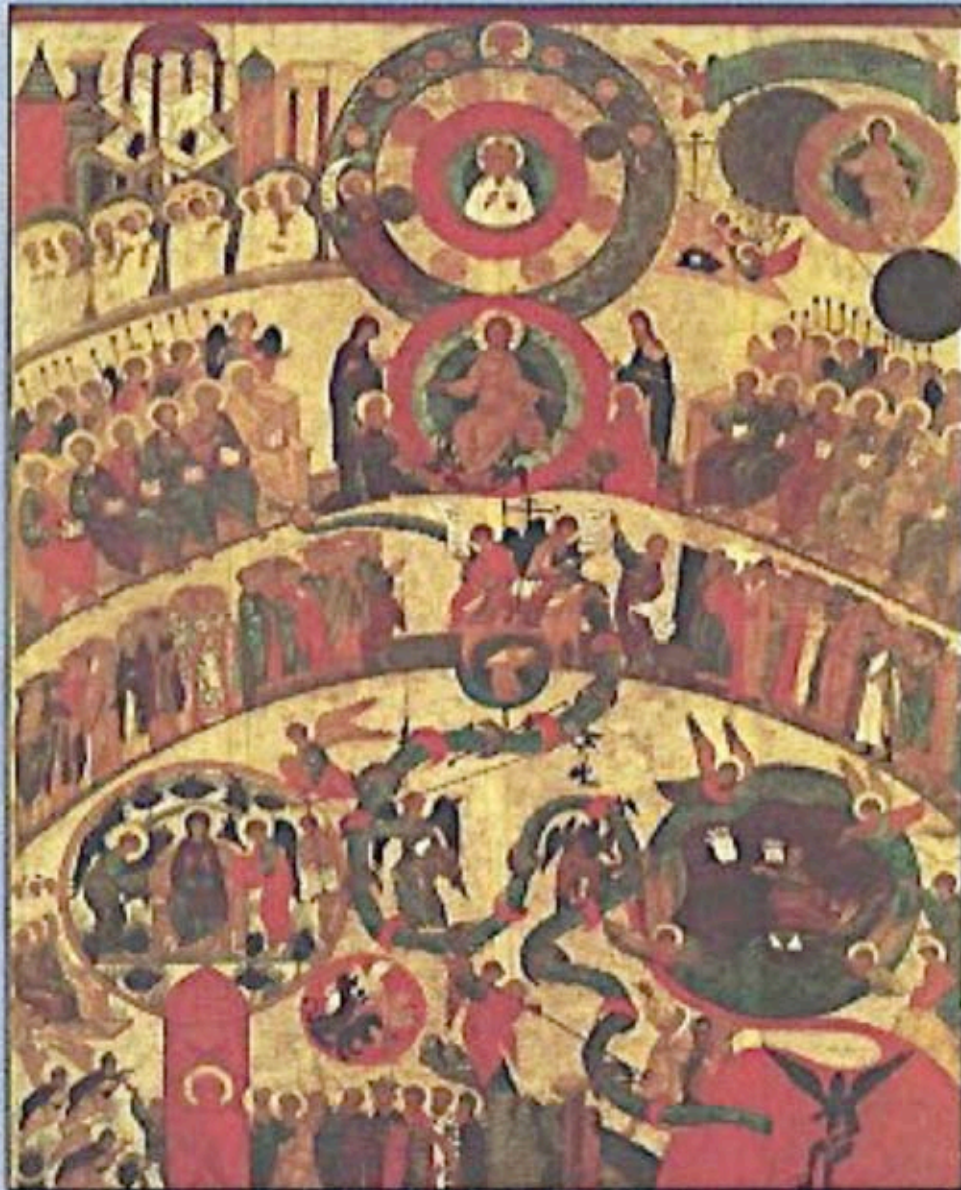


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESEAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN March 6th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## JUDGMENT SUNDAY



*Icon of the Last Judgment*

## St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 146.5;134.3

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

## Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 8:8-13, 9:1-2

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 146.5;134.3

Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχύς αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.

Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησιν τῷ θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. Ἐὰν γάρ τις ἴδῃ σε τὸν ἔχοντα γνῶσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακειμένον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οικοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολείται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῆ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὕτως δὲ ἁμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἁμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμι ἐλεύθερος; Οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἑώρακα; Οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γέ υμῖν εἰμι· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

## Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

### The Gospel according to Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

## Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

### Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 25:31-46

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναθήσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὡσπερ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ ἐωνύμων. τότε ἔρει ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπεινάσα γάρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἤμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιβάλετέ με, ἡσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἤμην, καὶ ἤλθετε πρὸς με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἢ διψῶντα καὶ ἐποτίσαμεν; πότε δὲ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἢ γυμνὸν καὶ περιβάλομεν; πότε δὲ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν πρὸς σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἔρει αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. τότε ἔρει καὶ τοῖς ἐξ ἐωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπεινάσα γάρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἤμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιβάλετέ με, ἀσθενῆς καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἢ διψῶντα ἢ ξένον ἢ γυμνὸν ἢ ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐ διηκονήσαμεν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον οὐκ ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:** Sunday, March 06th, SUNDAY OF APOKREES (CARNIVALE ) ALL DAY  
 Saturday, March 12th, Second PSYCHOSABBATON LITURGY 9:00 A.M.  
 Sunday, March 13th, SUNDAY of CHEESEFARE (St. Christina) 10:30 A.M.  
 Sunday, March 13th BOY SCOUT TROOP 'PASTA LUNCHEON' 12:30 P.M.


**AGAPE COFFEE HOUR:** Hour Fellowship is being hosted by the COSTANTAKOS Family in blessed memory of +CHRYSSI COSTANTAKOU.

**PSYCHOSABBATON:** Please refer to the insert PSYCHO-CHARTION to submit the names of your beloved deceased for memorial commemoration. The names of the faithfully departed will be read for the Saturday of All Souls next week. Please deposit the envelope at the altar basket as per usual. Let us remember our loved ones in blessed commemoration. After Saturday March 12th, there is only ONE MORE COMMEMORATION on Saturday March 19th.

**SENIOR CLUB:** This Wednesday March 09th will have a lecture on 'daylight saving time' by Fr. Eugene, answering all the questions of clocks springing forward in the SPRING and falling back in the FALL. The Greeks had many words for time: 'chronos', 'kairos', 'epochi' and 'aeona'. Let's examine the differences. TRY TO ATTEND! EVERYTHING BEGINS AT 1:30 P.M.

**ADULT EDUCATION:** Emmaus Lecture Series continues with the MARRIAGE SACRAMENT in ORTHODOXY on Thursday evening, March 10th, HOLY CROSS PARISH 8401 Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn, WITH HOMILIST Fr. Michael Elias of the Antiochian Archdiocese of America. Refreshments will be served at 8:00 P.M. Everyone is welcome!

**BISHOP'S VISITATION:** We are pleased to receive His Grace + DEMETRIOS Bishop Of Mokissos (Auxiliary to the Metropolis of Chicago, who will preach the homily today, March 6th. His Grace is a most welcomed guest who has made many appearances on a pastoral level to our parish. POLLA TA ETI DESPOTA AGIE!

**MR. MRS. MS. CLUB:** After a two month respite due to the inclement weather of January and February, will host their MARCH 8th. Tuesday night pizza party AT 7:00 P.M. in WhiteHall. Everyone is cordially invited to share the fun and join the 'club'. There is NO CHARGE to attend the event. For further details contact SYLVIA VELLIOS (718) 763-7077. 

**SENIOR CLUB NEWS:** Please take note of the 'Seniors' programming for the month of March. There's plenty to do and share. Come down any Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 - 5:00 P.M. And H A V E F U N !

**DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE :** Chapter #33 DEMETRA, will host a BINGO NIGHT on Monday, March 07th, in WHITEHALL at 7:00 P.M. refreshments, prizes with a donation of \$10.00 for the FIRST CARD and \$1.00/xx for additional cards. OPEN TO ALL ... FUN TIME FOR YOU!

**HELLENIC HERITAGE EVENT:** The annual observance of Hellenic Heritage will be held at BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL on 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 LAMBAKIS 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.



**PSYCHOSABBATA** ( Saturday of All Souls) Saturdays March 12th and 19th- 9:00 - 11:00 A.M

**BOY SCOUT TROOP PASTA LUNCHEON** - Sunday MARCH 13th, (support the troop) 12:00P.M.  
**LENT COMMENCES (TESSARRAKOSTI)** - Monday MARCH 14th 



**A.H.E.P.A. Chapter #200 Coney Island** Hosts FREE the SARAKOSTINANO DINNER, (LENTEN FOODS ONLY) Monday March 14th **FREE .....EVERYONE IS INVITED** Congratulations and best wishes Jimmy Kokotas, President.

**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 3:00 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)

**MEMORIALS TODAY:** +CHRYSOULA (Chryssie) COSTANTAKOS +INESSA VLADYSIK + ETERI TKEBUCHAVA  
**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + DR. JOHN ELEFTERAKIS + JOHN ELEFTERAKIS SR. + HELEN GARDIANOS



BROOKLYN BOROUGH PRESIDENT **ERIC L. ADAMS**  
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO  
"EMBRACE YOUR HYPHEN"  
AT HIS

# GREEK-HERITAGE CELEBRATION

EDUCATION AND THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:  
**SOPHIA PAPPAS**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR NYC DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## IN RECOGNITION OF HONOREES

**PETER MAVROMIHALIS**

**TED MAVROMIHALIS**

**HARRY LAMBRAKIS**

**JOHN EUGENIS**

**NIKOLAOS LAMBROS**

**ELEFThERIA IKOUTA**

**STELLA SEREMETIS**

**STEVEN D. SIDERATOS**

**MARIA HAVIARAS**

**GEORGE LEONARDOS**

**METAXIA KONSTANTOPOULOS**

**GEORGE BUTSIKARIS**



[brooklyn-usa.org](http://brooklyn-usa.org)



[EricAdams](#) [@EPforAdams](#)



Buses: B25, B26, B38, B41, B52, and B103  
Brooklyn Borough Hall is ADA-accessible  
and breastfeeding friendly

**MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL 209 JORALEMON STREET**

**TO RSVP, GO TO [BROOKLYN-USA.ORG/AMERICAN](http://BROOKLYN-USA.ORG/AMERICAN)**



# THREE HIERARCHS PARISH SENIOR CLUB NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016



Wednesday March 02nd,

Regular Meeting  
B I N G O  
Coffee and sweets  
1:00 P.M.

Wednesday March 09th,



CLOCKS GO FORWARD!  
WE ALL GAIN AN HOUR ON SUNDAY ...  
Lecture on Daylight Saving Time – WHY?  
B I N G O ... if we have time.  
Coffee and sweets if there's time  
Has anyone ' - got - ' the time?  
1:00 P.M.

Wednesday, March 16th,



Saint Patrick's Day Party  
Wearing of the GREEN' ....  
Irish folklore, Shamrocks,  
leprechauns, and pots o 'gold.  
IRISH SODABREAD, jellies, jams,  
fruits and ' NUTS ".... and we have plenty  
of " them."  
B I N G O  
Coffee and refreshments and IRISH TEA.  
1:00 P.M.

Wednesday March 23rd,



EVANGELISMOS (Annunciation)  
Greek Independence Day Feast  
Hellenic sweets and treats for the  
holiday, with Folk Greek Dance.  
B I N G O and coffee and sweets  
1:00 P.M.



Wednesday March 30th,



APRIL FOOL'S DAY PARTY  
Jokes and pranks for all.  
LENTEN LUNCHEON HOSTED  
B I N G O  
LENTEN SWEETS and COFFEE  
1:00 P.M.



**SPECIAL PLANS:** are in order for the club to visit  
SHEEPSHEAD BAY UNITED ARTISTS to see  
Big Fat Greek Wedding #2  
afternoon matinee showing  
Wednesday, APRIL 6th, ....to be announced!

**BLESSED LENTEN SEASON TO ALL!**

HELEN PAVLIDES



PRESIDENT



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΓ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1231²

Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἀπόκρεω (Ματθ. 25,31-46)  
6 Μαρτίου 2016 πρωί

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Τὸ βῆμα τῆς παγκοσμίου κρίσεως

«*Δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτομασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου*» (Ματθ. 25,34)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἀπόκρεω. Καὶ λέγεται *Ἀπόκρεω*, διότι σημαίνει τὸ τέλος τῆς κρεοφαγίας. Ἀπὸ αὐριο εἶνε ἐλαφρὰ νηστεία· ὅλα ἐπιτρέπονται πλην τοῦ κρέατος.

Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ποῦ ἀκούστηκε, ὁμιλεῖ γιὰ **κάτι φοβερό**, ποῦ ὄσο ἀπίστευτο κι ἂν φαίνεται εἶνε ὁμως γεγονός. Διαβάζοντας ἢ ἀκούγοντας τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο νομίζεις ὅτι ὁ οὐρανὸς ἀστράφτει καὶ βροντᾷ.

Ὅμιλεῖ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο γιὰ **μία δίκη**. Ἐὰν εἶχατε –σᾶς ἐρωτᾷ– κάποιον δικαστήριον καὶ ἐπρόκειτο νὰ δικασθῆτε, θὰ μένατε ἀδιάφοροι; Ἀσφαλῶς ὄχι. Προτοῦ νὰ φτάσῃ ἡ ἡμέρα τῆς δίκης θὰ φροντίζατε νὰ βρῆτε δικηγόρο ἰκανό, μάρτυρες ὑπερασπίσεως, καὶ ἀπὸ νωρίς θὰ σχεδιάζατε τί θὰ ἀπολογηθῆτε, ὥστε ν' ἀπαλλαγῆτε ἀπὸ τὴν κατηγορία.

Ἄλλ' ἐὰν ἔτσι σκεπτώμαστε γιὰ **μία δίκη ἐνώπιον ἀνθρωπίνου δικαστηρίου**, πῶς πρέπει νὰ σκεπτώμαστε γιὰ τὴ δίκη μας ἐνώπιον τοῦ θεοῦ δικαστηρίου, τὴν **παγκόσμιο δίκη**; Μηδέν, σκιά οἱ δίκες στὸν κόσμον αὐτὸν μπροστὰ σ' ἐκείνη τὴ δίκη ποῦ μᾶς περιμένει. Ἐγὼ εἶμαι ἁμαρτωλὸς καὶ φοβάμαι τὴν ἡμέρα ἐκείνη· ἐσεῖς δὲν φοβάστε; εἰστε ἅγιοι;

\*\*\*

Τί λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο; Ὅτι **θὰ ἔρθῃ ἡ ἡμέρα τῆς δίκης**. Ναι, νὰ εἰστε βέβαιοι. Ὅσο βέβαιο εἶνε ὅτι αὐριο ξημερώνει Δευτέρα, τόσο βέβαιο εἶνε καὶ ὅτι θὰ ἔρθῃ ἡ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη. Κι ὅπως εἰστε βέβαιοι ὅτι ἀνατέλλει καὶ βασιλεύει ὁ ἥλιος, ἔτσι νὰ εἰστε βέβαιοι καὶ ὅτι θὰ ἔρθῃ καὶ ἡ δύσις, ἢ συντέλεια τοῦ κόσμου τούτου, καὶ θ' ἀκολουθήσῃ ἡ παγκόσμιος δίκη.

Ἐκεῖ θὰ βρίσκωμαι κ' ἐγὼ ὑπόδικος, κ' ἐσεῖς ἀγαπητοί μου ὑπόδικοι· ἐκεῖ θὰ βρίσκωνται **ὅλοι ἀνεξαιρέτως ὑπόδικοι**, στὸ ἐδώλιο τοῦ κατηγορουμένου. Ἐκεῖ θὰ εἶνε καὶ οἱ βασιλιά-

δες ποῦ εἶχαν στὸ κεφάλι κορώνες καὶ στέμματα ποῦ ἀστραφταν ἀπὸ διαμάντια, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ φτωχοὶ καὶ οἱ ἄσημοι τοῦ κόσμου τούτου. Ἐκεῖ θὰ εἶνε οἱ μεγάλοι ἐπιστήμονες ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ ἀγράμματοι ποῦ δὲν εἶνε εἰς θέσιν οὔτε τὴν ὑπογραφή τους νὰ βάλουν. Ἐκεῖ θὰ εἶνε οἱ ἄντρες, οἱ γυναῖκες, τὰ παιδιά, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, ἀπ' ὅλα τὰ ἔθνη, τοὺς λαοὺς, τίς φυλὰς καὶ τίς γλώσσες τοῦ κόσμου. Μπροστὰ στὸν Κριτὴ θὰ στέκουν καὶ θὰ περιμένουν τὴν ἀπόφασιν τοῦ δικαστηρίου.

Καὶ **ποιὸς θὰ εἶνε ὁ δικαστής**; Ὅχι ἄνθρωπος. Δικαστής θὰ εἶνε Ἐκεῖνος ποῦ ἐγένε ἀνθρωπος γιὰ νὰ μᾶς σώσῃ, ποῦ κατέβηκε στὴ Γῆ καὶ γεννήθηκε στὸ σπήλαιον μέσα στὴ φάτνη τῶν ἀλόγων· ἐκεῖνος ποῦ βαπτίσθηκε στὸν Ἰορδάνη καὶ πολέμησε στὴν ἔρημον μὲ τοὺς πειρασμοὺς τοῦ διαβόλου· ἐκεῖνος ποῦ δίδαξε τὰ ὠραιότερα λόγια, ποῦ ἂν τὰ ἐφαρμόζαμε ὁ κόσμος θὰ ἦταν παράδεισος· ἐκεῖνος ποῦ ἔκανε τὰ μεγαλύτερα θαύματα· ἐκεῖνος ποῦ τὸν συνέλαβαν καὶ τὸν ὠδήγησαν μπροστὰ στὸν Πιλάτο, καὶ δικάστηκε καὶ καταδικάστηκε εἰς θάνατον, καὶ σταυρώθηκε καὶ κεντήθηκε μὲ τὴ λόγχη.

Ἄλλὰ τώρα, τὴν ὥρα τῆς παγκοσμίου δίκης, ὅπως λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, **«ὄψονται εἰς ὃν ἐξεκέντησαν»** (βλ. 18,37). Δηλαδή, τί θὰ πῆ «ὄψονται εἰς ὃν ἐξεκέντησαν»; Ὅλοι αὐτοὶ ποῦ συνετέλεσαν νὰ σταυρωθῇ ὁ Χριστός, **θὰ τὸν δοῦν** τώρα σὲ ἄλλη κατάστασι, μέσα σὲ δόξα ἀπερίγραπτη, νὰ περικυκλώνεται ἀπὸ ἀγγέλους καὶ ἀρχαγγέλους. Ἡμέρα φοβερά, κατὰ τὴν ὁποία ὁ **δίκαιος Κριτὴς** θὰ δικάσῃ ὅλους μας.

«Ὅψονται εἰς ὃν ἐξεκέντησαν»! Ὁ λόγος **ὅμως αὐτὸς πιάνει κ' ἐμᾶς**, ἀγαπητοί. Διότι ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος λέει, ὅτι καὶ ὁ Χριστιανὸς ποῦ βαπτίσθηκε στὸ ὄνομα τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος καὶ ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ ἁμαρτάνῃ, αὐτὸς δὲν

κάνει τίποτε άλλο παρά να «**σταυρώνη ἐκ νέου**» τὸν Υἱὸ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅπως οἱ Ἑβραῖοι (ἔβ. 68). Naί. Ἐκεῖνος ποὺ πάει στὸ δικαστήριό καὶ ξαπλώνει τὸ βρωμερὸ τοῦ χέρι πάνω στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ ὀρκίζεται, αὐτὸς τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη βάζει καρφιὰ στὰ χέρια τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Κ' ἐκεῖνος ποὺ ἀνοίγει τὸ στόμα τοῦ τὸ βρωμερὸ καὶ βλαστημάει τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ τὴν Παναγία, δὲν κάνει τίποτε άλλο παρά νὰ ποτίζη μὲ δξος καὶ χολή τὸ στόμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Ἐκεῖνος ὁ ἄλλος, ποὺ τρέχει τὴ νύχτα στὰ κέντρα, δὲν κάνει τίποτε άλλο παρά νὰ καρφώνη καρφιὰ στὰ πόδια τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Ἐκεῖνος ὁ ἄλλος, ποὺ ἔχει μίσος καὶ κακία στὴν καρδιά του, δὲν κάνει τίποτε άλλο παρά νὰ λογχίζη τὴν πλευρὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Κι ὁ ἄλλος, ὁ ἐγωιστὴς καὶ ὑπερήφανος, βάζει ἀγκάθινο στεφάνι ἐπάνω στὴν κεφαλὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ. «Ὁψονταί εἰς ὃν ἐξεκέντησαν». Naί· καὶ οἱ μὲν Ἑβραῖοι σταύρωσαν τὸ Χριστὸ μιά φορά, ἡμεῖς τὸν **σταυρώνουμε κάθε μέρα!** Δὲν ὑπάρχει μέρος ποὺ νὰ μὴν τὸν σταυρώνουμε, ὁ καθένας μὲ τὸν τρόπο του.

«Ὁψονταί εἰς ὃν ἐξεκέντησαν». Ὅλοι αὐτοὶ θὰ ἔχουν τὴν τιμωρία τους. Ἀλλὰ μπορεῖ νὰ πῆ κάποιος· Ἐγὼ δὲν ὠρκίστηκα σὲ δικαστήρια, δὲν βλαστήμησα, δὲν πῆγα σὲ νυχτερινὰ κέντρα, δὲν μπῆκα στὸ σπίτι τοῦ ἄλλου νὰ ἀτιμάσω τὴν οἰκογένειά του, δὲν ἐπόρνευσα, δὲν ἐμοίχευσα, δὲν σκότωσα, ἐγὼ δὲν ἔκανα τὸ κακό... Ἐδῶ εἶνε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἡ σημασία τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, ποὺ δὲν εἶνε μόνο ἄρνησις ἀλλὰ εἶνε καὶ θέσις. Δὲν θὰ δικαστοῦν δηλαδὴ μόνο αὐτοὶ ποὺ διέπραξαν τὸ κακό, ἀλλὰ καὶ – ποιοὶ ἄλλοι; **ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ δὲν ἔκαναν τὸ καλό!** Δὲν ἄρκει μόνο νὰ λές, Δὲν ἔκανα τίποτα κακό. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἔχει καὶ μία ἄλλη ὄψι· ζητάει νὰ πράττουμε καὶ τὸ ἀγαθό.

Αὐτὸ ἀκριβῶς τονίζει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα. Ὅπως ὁ τσοπάνος, λέει, χωρίζει τὸ βράδου τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τὰ γίδια, ἔτσι ὁ Χριστὸς στὴ δύσι τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης ἱστορίας **θὰ μᾶς χωρίσῃ** σὲ δύο καταστάσεις· τοὺς μὲν δεξιὰ, τοὺς δὲ ἀριστερά.

Σ' αὐτοὺς ποὺ θὰ εἶνε **στὰ δεξιὰ** θὰ πῆ· –Ἐλᾶτε νὰ κληρονομήσετε τὴν αἰώνιο βασιλεία. Διότι πείνασα, καὶ μοῦ δώσατε νὰ φάω· δίψασα, καὶ μοῦ δώσατε νὰ πιῶ· ἤμουν γυμνός, καὶ μὲ σκεπάσατε· ἤμουν ξένος, καὶ μὲ μαζέψατε· ἤμουν ἀσθενής, καὶ μὲ ἐπισκεφθήκατε· ἤμουν στὴ φυλακὴ, καὶ ἤρθατε κοντὰ μου. Θὰ ποῦν ἀπὸ κάτω οἱ δίκαιοι· –*Κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν*· ἔτσι; Τί εἶνε αὐτὰ ποὺ μᾶς λές; πότε ἤσουν γυμνός, ξυπόλητος, πεινασμένος, διψασμένος, ἄρρωστος, σὲ ἐλεεινὴ κατάστασι; **ἢ καὶ**

253738). Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τί θ' ἀπαντήσῃ· –*Ὅ, τι καλὸ κάνατε στὸ δυστυχισμένο, εἶνε σὰν νὰ τὸ κάνατε σ' ἐμένα τὸν ἴδιο!* Ὑπάρχει πλάστιγγα νὰ ζυγίσῃ τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας;

Καὶ **πρὸς τοὺς ἀριστερὰ** ὁ Χριστὸς μας θὰ πῆ· –*Πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι...*» (ἔβ. 24). Πείνασα, καὶ δὲν μοῦ δώσατε ἕνα κομμάτι ψωμί· δίψασα, καὶ δὲν μοῦ δώσατε ἕνα ποτήρι νερό· ἤμουν γυμνός, καὶ δὲν μοῦ δώσατε ἕνα ρούχο νὰ σκεπαστώ· ἤμουν ξένος, καὶ δὲν μὲ περιμαζέψατε ἤμουν ἄρρωστος καὶ φυλακισμένος, καὶ δὲν μ' ἐπισκεφθήκατε. Λοιπὸν *«πορεύεσθε ... εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον»!* Καὶ θὰ ποῦν ἐκεῖνοι· –*Κύριε, πότε σὲ εἶδαμε γυμνό, πεινασμένο, ξυπόλητο; Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς θὰ πῆ λόγια ποὺ ὅπως εἶπα δὲν ὑπάρχει ζυγαριὰ νὰ τὰ ζυγίσουμε*· –*Ὅ, τι δὲν κάνατε στὰ δυστυχισμένα ἀδέρφια μου, εἶνε σὰν νὰ μὴν τὸ κάνατε σ' ἐμένα τὸν ἴδιο!*

Αὐτὰ νὰ τὰ προσέξουμε. Τὴν ἡμέρα ἐκείνη θὰ δικαστῇ καὶ ὁποῖος παρέλειψε τὸ καλό.

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**Ὁ Χριστὸς περπατᾷ ἀνάμεσά μας.** Τί συγκλονιστικός, ἀγαπητοί μου, αὐτὸς ὁ λόγος! Ὅπου χήρα, ὅπου ὀρφανό, ὅπου πεινασμένος καὶ δυστυχισμένος, στὸ πρόσωπο αὐτῶν εἶνε ὁ Χριστὸς. Αὐτὴ τὴν ὥρα, κάποιος δυστυχοῦν. Γι' αὐτὸ θὰ δικαστοῦμε. Ἀκούμε, ὅτι πεθαίνουν ἑκατομμύρια παιδιὰ γιὰ ἕνα κομμάτι ψωμί, κ' ἡμεῖς ἀνοίγουμε λάκκους καὶ θάβουμε πολῦτιμα προϊόντα. Ὅταν ὁμως πεινούσαμε ἡμεῖς, τὸ '40 τὸ '42 - '44, θέλαμε νὰ ἴρχωνται καράβια ἀπὸ τὰ ἄλλα ἔθνη νὰ μᾶς τροφοδοτοῦν.

Σήμερα, ἅγια μέρα, ποὺ ἀκούσαμε τὸ φοβερὸ εὐαγγέλιο τῆς μελλούσης κρίσεως, ἂς προσπαθήσουμε ὄχι μόνο ν' ἀποφεύγουμε τὸ κακό –αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ λιγώτερο–, ἀλλὰ καὶ νὰ κάνουμε τὸ καλό. Εἶνε σὰν νὰ τὸ κάνουμε στὸν ἴδιο τὸ Χριστό. Τότε ἡ γῆ θὰ γίνῃ παράδεισος. Ἐνῶ τώρα **κυριαρχεῖ ἡ κακία**· τὰ χέρια κλέβουν, γιὰ τὴν καρδιά δὲν ἔχει οὔτε σταλαγματιὰ ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ μας.

Ἄς ἐξετάσουμε βαθεῖα τὸν ἑαυτὸ μας κι ἂς προσπαθήσουμε στὸ ἐξῆς **νὰ κάνουμε τὸ καλό** στὸν κόσμον τοῦτο πρὸς δόξαν Θεοῦ! Ἔτσι, ὅταν ἔρθῃ ἡ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη τῆς κρίσεως, νὰ μὴν ἀκούσουμε τὰ φοβερὰ λόγια «Πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι...», ἀλλὰ ὅλοι ν' ἀκούσουμε τὰ ἄλλα ἐκεῖνα λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ· *«Δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου»* (ἔβ. 234)· 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 Lord Suffers in His Saints*

"I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink." Jesus mentions many other things, which we have recited. Having been given the faith, the righteous say, "Lord, when did you see me hungry and fed me, thirsty, and gave me something to drink, naked and clothed you?" Other things also follow. What then, my most beloved? Does our Lord hunger and thirst? Is He who Himself made everything in heaven and on earth, who feeds angels in heaven and every nation and race on earth, who needs nothing of an earthly character, as He is unfailing in His own nature, is this one naked? It is incredible to believe such a thing. Yet what must be confessed is easy to believe. For the Lord hungers not in

His own nature but in His saints; the Lord thirsts not in His own nature but in His poor. The Lord who clothes everyone is not naked in His own nature but in His servants. The Lord who is able to heal all sicknesses and has already destroyed death itself is not diseased in His own nature but in His servants. Our Lord, the one who can liberate every person, is not in prison in His own nature but in His saints. Therefore, you see, my most beloved, that the saints are not alone. They suffer all these things because of the Lord. In the same way, because of the saints the Lord suffers all these things with them.

*Epiphanius the Latin*

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