

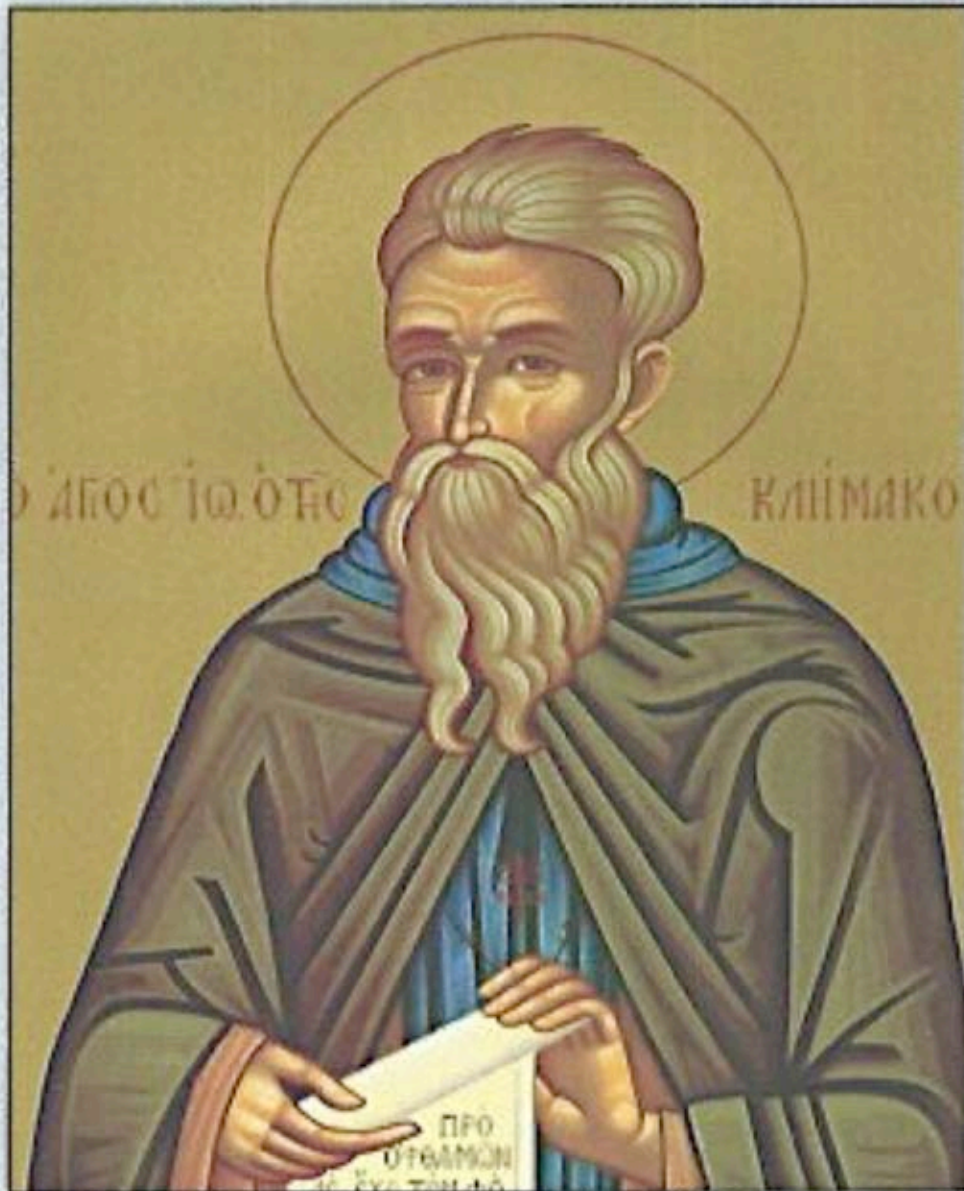


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 10th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST MEMORY OF OUR HOLY FATHER JOHN CLIMACUS



*Icon of Saint John Climacus*

## St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 103.24,1

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

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

## Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 6:13-20

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

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

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγελιάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, ἼΗ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσώτερον βουλόμενος ὁ θεὸς ἐπιδείξει τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

## Sunday of St. John Climacus The Gospel according to Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

## Sunday of St. John Climacus Κατὰ Μάρκον 9:17-31

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ λέγων, διδάσκαλε, ἤνεγκα τὸν υἱόν μου πρὸς σε, ἔχοντα πνεῦμα ἄλαλον. καὶ ὅπου ἂν αὐτὸν καταλάβῃ, ῥήσσει αὐτόν, καὶ ἀφρίζει καὶ τρίζει τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ξηραίνεται· καὶ εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου ἵνα αὐτὸ ἐκβάλωσι, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτῷ λέγει· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος, ἕως πότε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετε αὐτὸν πρὸς με. καὶ ἤνεγκαν αὐτὸν πρὸς αὐτόν. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν εὐθέως τὸ πνεῦμα ἐσπάραξεν αὐτόν, καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐκυλίετο ἀφρίζων. καὶ ἐπηρώτησε τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ· πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· παιδιόθεν. καὶ πολλάκις αὐτὸν καὶ εἰς πῦρ ἔβαλε καὶ εἰς ὕδατα, ἵνα ἀπολέσῃ αὐτόν· ἀλλ' εἶ τι δύνασαι, βοήθησον ἡμῖν σπλαγχνισθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ τὸ εἰ δύνασαι πιστεῦσαι, πάντα δυνατὰ τῷ πιστεύοντι. καὶ εὐθέως κράζας ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ παιδίου μετὰ δακρύων ἔλεγε· πιστεύω, κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐπισυντρέχει ὄχλος, ἐπετίμησε τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ λέγων αὐτῷ· τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγώ σοι ἐπιτάσσω, ἔξελθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς εἰς αὐτόν. καὶ κράζαν καὶ πολλὰ σπαράζαν αὐτὸν ἐξῆλθε, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός, ὥστε πολλοὺς λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς κρατήσας αὐτὸν τῆς χειρὸς ἤγειρεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἰσελθόντα αὐτὸν εἰς οἶκον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν κατ' ἰδίαν, ὅτι ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό. καὶ εἶπον αὐτοῖς· τοῦτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται ἐξελεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ἐξελθόντες παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ἠθέλην ἵνα τις γινῶ· ἐδίδασκε γὰρ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀποκτανθεὶς τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται.

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

Sunday,	April 10th,	Saint John Climacos Liturgy	10:30 A.M.
Sunday,	April 10th	GREEK INDEPENDENCE DOXOLOGY	Noon
Wednesday,	April 13th,	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	9:30 A.M.
Thursday,	April 14th,	Emmaus Lecture Series	7:00 P.M.
		Fr. Thomas Zain at Holy Cross Parish	
Friday,	April 15th,	AKATHIST HYMN	7:00 P.M.
Sunday,	April 17th,	Saint Mary of Egypt ( GENERAL ABSOLUTION )	
		Everyone is encouraged to kneel and pray.	11:30 A.M.
		Confessional prayers to be read	

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR** is being hosted today by the Parish Council in WHITEHALL. Please join us for refreshments.

**TODAY:** Two Buses will be departing from the Church after the Divine liturgy for the **GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE** on Fifth Avenue. Seats are available for those interested to parade with the THREE HIERARCHS contingent. SEATS ARE FREE! The buses will return to the church at 5:00 p.m. This is the 195th Annual Anniversary Of Independence from the yoke of Turkish Ottoman oppression. Liberty was declared on march 25th. 1821!

THANKS, EUCHARISTO, MERCI, DANKE to Mr. Anthony Kallinikos who diligently and professionally was instrumental in decorating the business office and the pastor's study with appropriate hangings.

**POPE SAINT GREGORY of ROME** an Orthodox Saint of the undivided CHURCH prescribed the PRE – SANCTIFIED LITURGY of the Lenten period. Have you NOT attended any of these 'unique', inspirational and most moving liturgical services? Make an effort THIS WEDNESDAY 9:30 AM .....receive the LIVING LORD in the EUCHARIST! You will never be the same again. Next Wednesday April 20th at 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. with Lenten Pot Luck Dinner at 7:15.

**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 donations for the NARTHEX will commence after PASCHA. Please consider a POST – PASCHA memorial tribute to our loved one.

**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.

**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)

**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + OURANIA GIANNOPOULOS +IOANNIS ZACHARIAS + PANTELEIMON EUGENIS + GEORGIA PERTSAS**





EVZONES ARE THE ELITE GUARD FOR THE GREEK PARLIAMENT. AS WE CAN SEE THEY COME IN ALL SIZES! EVZONES WILL PARADE ON FIFTH AVENUE TODAY!



# THREE HIERARCHS PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 24th. ROSEHALL  
Three Hierarchs Church  
1724 Ave P  
Brooklyn NY  
718-339-0280

MENU  
FASOULADA SOUP  
SALAD  
BAKALIARO & SKORDALIA  
COFFEE or TEA  
FRESH FRUIT

ADULTS: \$15:00  
CHILDREN: \$10:00 (Special Menu)

FISH STICKS  
FRENCH FRIES  
SODA

ALL PROFITS (TOTAL DONATION)  
DEDICATED TO THE ELEVATOR FUND



PLEASE JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP AS WE OPEN THE HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR.  
OUR LENTEN MEAL OFFERS US THE BREAKING OF BREAD TOGETHER AND THE  
SHARING OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CROSS. MAKE YOUR PLANS TO BE WITH US.  
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED INVITING A FRIEND OR TWO TO LUNCH THIS DAY?



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1940	Κυριακὴ Δ' Νηστειῶν (Μάρκ. 9,17-31) 10 Ἀπριλίου 2016	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Ἡ εὐθύνη τῆς ἀγωγῆς τῶν παιδιῶν

«Ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Παιδιόθεν» (Μάρκ. 9,21)

**Ἀ**κούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἅγιο καὶ ἱερό εὐ-  
αγγελίον. Σήμερα ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς Μάρκος  
μᾶς διηγεῖται ἕνα θαῦμα· ἕνα ἀπὸ τὰ ἄπειρα  
θαύματα, ποῦ ἔκανε, κάνει καὶ θὰ κἀνὲ μέχρι  
τῆς συντελείας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

Μᾶς διηγεῖται ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς πῶς ὁ Κύριος  
θεράπευσε ἕνα νέο, ποῦ εἶχε προσβληθῆ –Θεὸς  
φυλάξει– ἀπὸ δαιμόνιο· εἶχε **δαιμονοπληξία**. Ἦ-  
ταν ἀξιοθρήνητος· αὐτιά εἶχε ἀλλὰ τ' αὐτιά του  
τὰ ἔχε φράξει ὁ σατανᾶς καὶ δὲν ἄκουγε, γλῶσ-  
σα εἶχε ἀλλὰ τὴ γλῶσσα του τὴν εἶχε δέσει ὁ  
διάβολος καὶ δὲν μπορούσε νὰ προφέρῃ λέξι· κι  
ὅταν τὸν ἐπιανε ἡ κρίσι, ἐπεφτε ἄλλοτε στὴ φω-  
τιά κι ἄλλοτε στὸ νερό, ἄφριζε, ἔτριζε τὰ δόντια,  
σπαρταροῦσε ὅπως τὸ ψάρι ἔξω ἀπ' τὸ νερό.

Ἀξιολύπητος ὁ νέος, μὰ **πιὸ ἀξιολύπητος ὁ  
πατέρας**. Θέλω νὰ προσέξουμε ἕνα μόνο ση-  
μεῖο· τὴν **ἐρώτησι** ποῦ ἀπηύθυνε ὁ Κύριος στὸν  
πατέρα καὶ τὴν **ἀπάντησι** ποῦ αὐτὸς τοῦ ἔδωσε.

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Ἡ **ἐρώτησι** τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε· «*Πόσος χρό-  
νος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῶ;*» ἀπὸ πό-  
τε τοῦ συνέβη αὐτὸ τὸ κακὸ (Μάρκ. 9,21). Περιέργη ἡ  
ἐρώτησι. Ὅλοι ρωτᾶμε γιὰ νὰ μάθουμε κάτι ποῦ  
δὲν ξέρομε· ὁ γιατρός π.χ. ρωτᾶει τὸν ἄρρωστο.  
Ὁ Χριστὸς ὁμως δὲν εἶνε ἕνας κοινὸς θνητός·  
εἶνε Θεὸς καὶ ὡς Θεὸς **τὰ γνωρίζει ὅλα**. Συνε-  
πῶς ἡ ἐρώτησις αὐτὴ φαίνεται περιττή. Γνώ-  
ριζε ἀκριβῶς τὴν ὥρα καὶ τὴ στιγμή ποῦ τὸ πο-  
νηρὸ πνεῦμα βρῆκε ἀνοιχτὴ τὴ θύρα καὶ φώ-  
λιασε μέσα στὸ νέο. Κι ἀφοῦ τὸ γνωρίζε, **για-  
τί νὰ ρωτήσῃ** πότε συνέβη ἡ ἀσθένεια;

Ὁ Χριστὸς ἔκανε τὴν ἐρώτησι αὐτὴ σκοπί-  
μως, γιὰ νὰ κἀνὲ τὸν πατέρα νὰ δώσῃ τὴν **ἀ-  
πάντησι** ποῦ ἔδωσε. Ὁ πατέρας εἶπε «*Παιδι-  
όθεν*» (ἐν ἑνί), ὅτι δηλαδὴ τὸ κακὸ τὸ ἐπαθε ὁ-  
ταν ἦταν παιδί. Καὶ τί ἤθελε ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ διδά-  
ξῃ μ' αὐτό; ὅτι τὸ παιδί, ἂν ὁ πατέρας τὸ πρό-  
σεχε, δὲν θὰ ἴφτανε στὸ θλιβερὸ αὐτὸ σημεῖο.

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Ὅλοι, ἀγαπητοί μου, συνήθως **εἴμαστε εὐ-  
κολοὶ στὸ νὰ κατηγοροῦμε τοὺς νέους**. Εἶνε  
γεγονὸς ὅτι οἱ νέοι ἔχουν ἐκτραπῆ ἀπὸ τὸν ἴ-  
σιο δρόμο, κι ὁ καθένας σχολιάζει ὅτι ἀγόρια  
καὶ κορίτσια δὲν στέκουν στὸ ὕψος τους. Ἄλλ'  
ἀντὶ νὰ πιάνουμε πέτρες καὶ νὰ πετροβολοῦ-  
με τοὺς νέους καὶ τίς κοπέλλες, πιὸ σωστὸ θὰ  
ἦταν νὰ χτυπᾶμε οἱ ἴδιοι τὰ κεφάλια μας.

Ὁ Χριστὸς ὑπενθύμισε, ὅτι αἴτιος τῆς τρα-  
γωδίας τοῦ σπιτιοῦ ἐκείνου ἦταν ὁ ἴδιος ὁ πα-  
τέρας, ὁ ὁποῖος δὲν ἔλαβε ἐγκαίρως τὰ μέτρα  
ὥστε τὸ παιδί του νὰ μὴ καταντήσῃ στὴν δαι-  
μονιώδη αὐτὴ κατάστασι. Καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς λοιπὸν  
σήμερα ὑπενθυμίζει, ὅτι **ἔχουμε εὐθύνη μεγά-  
λη γιὰ τὰ παιδιά**. Ὅλοι ὅσοι ἐρχονται σὲ ἐπαφή  
μὲ τὰ παιδιά κ' ἐπηρεάζουν τὴν ἀγωγή τῶν νέ-  
ων (γονεῖς, ἐκπαιδευτικοί, κληρικοί, ἀξιωματικοί,  
πολιτικοί, διευθυνταὶ σταθμῶν, ἐκδότες, δημο-  
σιογράφοι, συγγραφεῖς, ἡθοποιοί, τραγουδισταί,  
ἀθληταὶ κ.λπ.), ὅλοι αὐτοὶ εὐθύνονται σοβαρὰ  
γιὰ τὸ σημερινὸ κατάντημα. Ἡ νεολαία παρου-  
σιάζει φαινόμενα δαιμονικά, ποῦ οὔτε ἕνας  
Ντοστογιέφσκου δὲν θὰ μπορούσε νὰ περιγρά-  
ψῃ. Ὅχι ἕνας καὶ δύο ἀλλὰ πλῆθος νέοι συμπε-  
ριφέρονται μὲ κακία διαβολική.

Πῶς τὰ παιδιά μας κατήντησαν δαιμονόπλη-  
κτα; **Δὲν βλέπουν καλὸ παράδειγμα**. Στὸ σπίτι  
οἱ γονεῖς διαρκῶς νὰ διαπληκτίζονται. Ὁ πατέ-  
ρας χαρτοπαίζει κι ὁ,τι βγάζει τὰ ἐξανεμίζει  
φεύγει, γυρίζει ἔξω, ἐπιστρέφει μεσάνυχτα με-  
θυσομένος, μπαίνει μέσα καὶ βρίζει. Ἡ μάνα τὰ  
κλείνει μέσα κι αὐτὴ τρέχει σὲ διασκεδάσεις  
μὲ φίλους καὶ φιλενάδες. Στὸ σχολεῖο δάσκα-  
λοι καὶ δασκάλες, καθηγηταὶ καὶ καθηγήτρι-  
ες, ἀντὶ γιὰ γνῶσι καὶ ἤθος, μεταδίδουν προ-  
σωπικὲς ἀπόψεις καὶ σκανδαλώδεις συμπε-  
ριφορές. Στὸ στρατὸ ἀξιωματικοὶ καὶ ὑπαξιω-  
ματικοὶ βλαστημοῦν τὰ θεῖα καὶ καλλιεργοῦν  
ἄρρωστημένη ἐγωπάθεια καὶ σκληρότητα. Καὶ  
στὴν κοινωνία, τὸ μεγάλο αὐτὸ σχολεῖο, ἐπι-



κρατεί και επιβραβεύεται όχι το δίκαιο, όχι η αξία και η ἀρετή (ἐργατικότητα, τιμιότητα, εὐφροσύνη, ικανότητα, ἀληθινὰ προσόντα), ἀλλὰ τὸ μέσον, ἡ κολακεία, ἡ ἀπάτη, οἱ ἰσχυροὶ προστάτες, ἡ ἀδικία. Ὅταν λοιπὸν τὸ παιδί βλέπη καιρὸν τέτοια πράγματα κι ἄλλα ἀκόμη χειρότερα, θὰ εἶνε θαῦμα ἂν μείνῃ ἀνεπηρέαστο.

Ἐὰν λοιπὸν λάβουμε ὑπ' ὄψιν ὅλα αὐτά, θὰ καταλάβουμε, ὅτι τὴν εὐθύνη γιὰ τὸν ἐκτροχιασμὸ παιδιῶν και νέων τὴν φέρουν κυρίως οἱ λεγόμενοι **παράγοντες τῆς ἀγωγῆς**.

Τεράστια ἡ εὐθύνη, ἀλλὰ ποιὸς τὴν αἰσθάνεται; Τὰ σημερινὰ παιδιὰ δὲν μᾶς ἤρθαν ἀπὸ τὸ φεγγάρι· ἐδῶ γεννήθηκαν, μέσα στὰ σπίτια μας μεγάλωσαν, στὰ σχολεῖα μας σπούδασαν, στὸ στρατό μας ἐκπαιδεύτηκαν· **εἶνε προϊόντα και καρποὶ δικοὶ μας**. Δὲν θὰ ἔπρεπε και κάποιος ὑπουργεῖο ν' ἀπασχοληθῆ σὲ συσκέψεις μὲ τὸ ἐρώτημα, γιατί χάνονται τὰ παιδιὰ; γιατί γίναμε μία γενεὰ «ἀπιστος» και «διστραμμένη» ὅπως λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο; (Μάρκ. 9:19. Ματθ. 17:17. Λουκ. 9:41).

Θέλετε **ἓνα φρικαλέο δεῖγμα**; Κάθε μέρα οἱ ἐφημερίδες στάζουν λάσπη, βόρβορο και αἷμα ἀπὸ τὴ νεανική ἐγκληματικότητα. Πρὸ ἐτῶν ἔγραψαν, ὅτι στὸν Πειραιᾶ δύο ναῦτες πήραν μία κουτσὴ δυστυχημένη κοπέλλα, μιὰ ζητιάννα, τὴν ἔβαλαν σ' ἓνα ταξί, τὴν ἔβγαλαν σὲ κάποιον παραθαλάσσιο μέρος, και ἐκεῖ τὴ νύχτα ὠργίασαν πάνω της, τῆς πήραν ὅ,τι χρήματα εἶχε, και μετὰ τὴν ἔρριξαν ἀπὸ ἓνα βράχο στὰ νερά και τὴν ἐπιβίβαν· μοναδικὸς μάρτυρας τοῦ ἐγκλήματος βρέθηκε κατόπιν τὸ δεκανίκι της. Αὐτοὶ γύρισαν στὸν Πειραιᾶ, ἔφαγαν και διασκεδάσαν μὲ τὰ λεπτὰ τῆς δυστυχημένης κοπέλλας, μετὰ ἔβγαλαν εἰσιτήριο κ' ἔφυγαν στὸ χωριό τους, σὰν νὰ μὴ συνέβη τίποτε. Μὰ τί τέρατα, τί δαίμονες εἶνε αὐτοὶ; Φτάσαμε σὲ σημεῖο τρομερό. Θὰ ῥθῃ μέρα ποῦ τὰ παιδιὰ μας δὲν θὰ ἔχουν τίποτα τὸ ἐλληνικό, τὸ χριστιανικό, τὸ ἀνθρώπινο· θὰ εἶνε χειρότεροι ἀπὸ τοὺς δαιμονισμένους ποῦ λέει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Γι' αὐτὸ τονίζω ὅτι αὐτὸ τὸ «**παιδιοθέν**», ποῦ ἀκούσαμε, ἔχει μεγάλη σημασία.

Πρὶν ἀπὸ καιρὸ ἐγίνε ἓνα δικαστήριο. Στὸ ἐδῶλιο τοῦ κατηγορουμένου καθόταν ἓνας νέος ποῦ εἶχε ἐγκλημάτησει. Ἀφοῦ τελείωσαν οἱ μάρτυρες κατηγορίας, ὁ εἰσαγγελεὺς ἀπηύθυνε δριμύτην κατηγορῶν και ζήτησε τὴν καταδίκη του σὲ θάνατο. Ἀλλὰ ἐνῶ ὁ νέος ἔτρεμε σὰν τὸ φύλλο, κάποιος Χριστιανὸς συνήγορος πήρε τὸ λόγο και εἶπε· Ἐδῶ στὸ δικαστήριο σας εἶνε τὸ εὐαγγέλιο και πάνω ἀπὸ τὸ κεφάλι τοῦ προέδρου ὁ Ἐσταυρωμένος. Τὸ παιδί ὅμως αὐτὸ ἐδῶ γιὰ πρώτη φορὰ βλέπει

μπροστὰ του εὐαγγέλιο και τὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο. Ἄν ὑπῆρχε κάποιος νὰ τοῦ μιλήσῃ γιὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο και νὰ τοῦ δείξῃ τὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο, ἡ ἐξέλιξι του θὰ ἦταν πολὺ διαφορετική. Γι' αὐτὸ, κύριοι δικασταί, προτείνω νὰ τὸν ἀθωώσουμε, και στὸ ἐδῶλιο αὐτὸ νὰ καθίσῃ ἡ μάνα του, ὁ δάσκαλός του, ὁ παπᾶς του, ὁ ἐπίσκοπός του, οἱ διευθυνταὶ τῶν κινηματογράφων και τῶν ψυχαγωγικῶν κέντρων. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε **οἱ ἠθικοὶ αὐτουργοὶ** τοῦ ἐγκλήματός του...

\* \* \*

Ἐάν, ἀγαπητοὶ μου, εἶχαμε μανάδες, δασκάλους και παπᾶδες πιστοὺς στὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο, ἐγὼ σᾶς λέω ὅτι τὰ παιδιὰ μας θὰ ἦταν ἀγγελοι. Γιατί ἔχουμε καλὸ «**ἀλεύρι**», ἡ «**πάστα**» μας εἶνε καλὴ, εὐγενικιά· ἀλλὰ μέσ' στὸ ἀλεύρι αὐτὸ πρέπει νὰ πέσῃ «**μαγιά**», και ἡ μαγιά εἶνε ὁ Χριστιανισμὸς, ἡ πίστι μας.

Καλὸ **χωράφι** εἶνε ἡ νεολαία μας· μὰ ὅσο καλὸ κι ἂν εἶνε ἓνα χωράφι, ἄμα τ' ἀφήσῃς θὰ γεμίσῃ ἀγκάθια. Καὶ γέμισε ἤδη **ἀγκάθια** τὸ χωράφι μας· και πρέπει νὰ περάσῃ γερὸ τρακτέρ γιὰ νὰ τὸ καθαρίσῃ. Διαφορετικά, θὰ θρηνήσουμε πολλὰ θύματα και μεγάλη συμφορά.

Σήμερα, ἅγια μέρα, ποῦ ἡ Ἐκκλησία παρουσιάζει μπροστὰ στὰ μάτια μας τὴν εἰκόνα τοῦ δαιμονισμένου νέου, ἄς ἀναλογισθοῦμε τὴν ὥρα αὐτὴ ὅλα τὰ παιδιὰ τῆς Ἑλλάδος, ποῦ θὰ μπορούσαν νὰ εἶνε συντελεσταὶ εὐημερίας και δόξης τῆς πατρίδος μας, ἀλλὰ παρεξέκλιναν. **Μὴ ρίζουμε τὸ λιθάρι ἐπάνω τους**· νὰ τὸ ρίζουμε ἐπάνω σὲ ὅλους ἐμᾶς, ποῦ ἀδιαφορήσαμε γιὰ ὅ,τι πιὸ πολύτιμο ἔχει αὐτὴ ἡ γῆ.

Νὰ προσέξουμε, ἀδελφοὶ μου, διότι ὁ Κύριος εἶπε ἓνα φοβερὸ λόγο κι ἄς τὸν ἀκούσουμε. Ὅποιος σκανδαλίσῃ, εἶπε, ἓνα παιδί, αὐτὸς εἶνε προτιμότερο νὰ πάρῃ ἓνα λιθάρι νὰ τὸ δέσῃ στὸ λαιμό του και νὰ καταποντισθῇ στὴ θάλασσα (βλ. Ματθ. 18:6). **Ἀλλοίμονο σ' αὐτοὺς ποῦ σκανδαλίζουν τὰ παιδιὰ**· ἡ εὐθύνη τους εἶνε μεγάλη. Ναὶ μάνα, ναὶ πατέρα, ναὶ δάσκαλε, ναὶ ἀξιωματικέ, ναὶ κοινωνία, ναὶ παπᾶδες, θὰ κολαστοῦμε γιὰ ὅλα τὰ παιδιὰ ποῦ ἀφήσαμε και καταστράφηκαν, ἔγιναν τεντυμπόδες και δαιμονισμένοι. Ὡ πατρίδα, πότε θὰ ξυπνήσῃς νὰ κοιτάξῃς τὰ παιδιὰ σου, ποῦ τὰ κατέλαβε «**πνεῦμα ἀλαλον και κωφόν**»; (Μάρκ. 9:17,25). Αὐτὸ τὸ «**παιδιοθέν**» ποῦ εἶπε ὁ πατέρας εἶνε ἡ καταδίκη ὄλων μας.

Ἄς παρακαλέσουμε τὸ Θεὸ νὰ ῥθῇ μιὰ **συντριβὴ** μέσ' στὶς καρδιές μας και ὅλοι νὰ πλησιάσουμε τὸ Χριστὸ, τὸν ὅποιον εἶθε νὰ ὑμνοῦμε και δοξάζουμε εἰς ὅλους τοὺς αἰῶνας· 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**

### *Wisdom from St. John Climacus*

Forgetting offences is a sign of sincere repentance. If you keep the memory of them, you may believe you have repented but you are like someone running in his sleep. Let no one consider it a minor defect, this darkness that often clouds the eyes even of spiritual people.

When the soul betrays itself and loses the blessed and longed-for fervor, let it carefully investigate the reason for losing it. And let it arm itself with all its longing and zeal against whatever caused this. For the former fervor can return only through the same door through which it was lost.

When a man has found the Lord, he no longer has to use words when he is praying, for the Spirit Himself will intercede for him with groans that cannot be uttered.

Do not be surprised that you fall every day; do

not give up, but stand your ground courageously. And assuredly, the angel who guards you will honor your patience.

As fire does not give birth to snow, so those who seek honor here will not enjoy it in heaven ... As those who climb a rotten ladder are in danger, so all honor, glory, and power are opposed to humility.

It happens, I do not know how, that most of the proud never really discover their true selves. They think they have conquered their passions and they find out how poor they really are only after they die.

Humility is the only virtue that no devil can imitate. If pride made demons out of angels, there is no doubt that humility could make angels out of demons.

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

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