

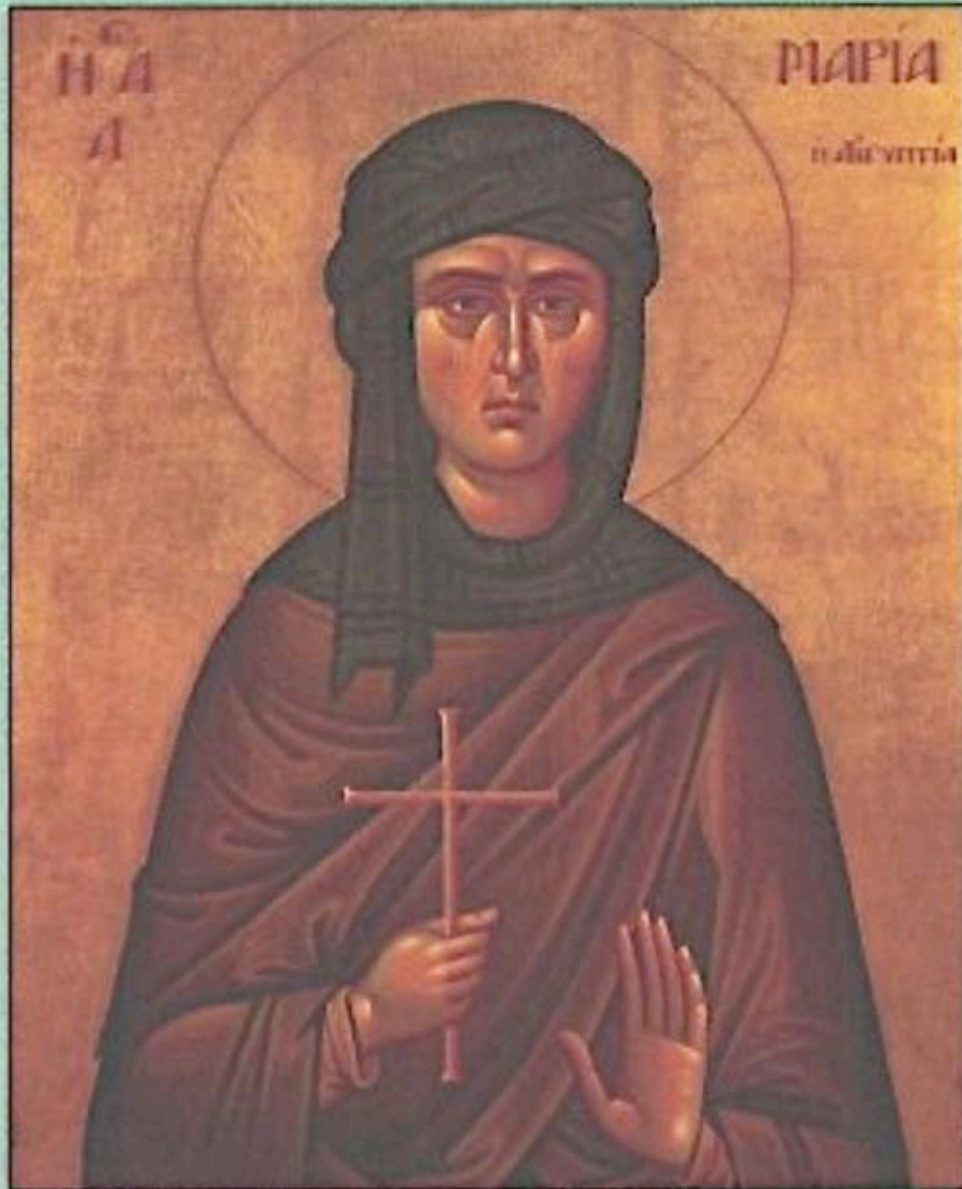


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 17th, 2016
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
MEMORY OF OUR MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saint Mary of Egypt

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St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 9:11-14

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.

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 9:11-14

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ α´.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὄσιος.

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς δὲ παραγενόμενος ἀρχιερεὺς τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ τελειότερας σκηνῆς, οὐ χειροποιήτου, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, οὐ ταύτης τῆς κτίσεως, οὐδὲ δι' αἵματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων, διὰ δὲ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος εἰσηλθεν ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ ἅγια, αἰωνίαν λύτρωσιν εὐράμενος. Εἰ γὰρ τὸ αἷμα ταύρων καὶ τράγων, καὶ σποδὸς δαμάλεως ῥαντίζουσα τοὺς κεκοινωμένους, ἀγιάζει πρὸς τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα, πόσω μᾶλλον τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς διὰ πνεύματος αἰωνίου ἐαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν ἄμωμον τῷ θεῷ, καθαριεῖ τὴν συνείδησιν ὑμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν ἔργων, εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν θεῷ ζῶντι;

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

The Gospel according to Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Κατὰ Μάρκον 10:32-45

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς δώδεκα μαθητάς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἤρξατο αὐτοῖς λέγειν τὰ μέλλοντα αὐτῷ συμβαίνειν, ὅτι ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδοθήσεται τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσι καὶ γραμματεῦσι, καὶ κατακρινούσιν αὐτὸν θανάτῳ καὶ παραδώσουσιν αὐτὸν τοῖς ἔθνεσι, καὶ ἐμπαίξουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ μαστιγώσουσιν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπτύσουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται. Καὶ προσπορεύονται αὐτῷ Ἰακώβος καὶ Ἰωάννης υἱοὶ Ζεβεδαίου λέγοντες· διδάσκαλε, θέλομεν ἵνα ὁ ἐὰν ἀιτήσωμεν ποιήσης ἡμῖν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τί θέλετε ποιῆσαι με ὑμῖν; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς ἡμῖν ἵνα εἴς ἐκ δεξιῶν σου καὶ εἴς ἐξ ἐυωνύμων σου καθίσωμεν ἐν τῇ δόξῃ σου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐκ οἶδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε. δύνασθε πίνειν τὸ ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ πίνω, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθῆναι; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δυνάμεθα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τὸ μὲν ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ πίνω πίεσθε, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθήσεσθε· τὸ δὲ καθίσει ἐκ δεξιῶν μου καὶ ἐξ ἐυωνύμων οὐκ ἔστιν ἐμὸν δοῦναι, ἀλλ' οἷς ἠτοίμασται. Καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ δέκα ἤρξαντο ἀγανακτεῖν περὶ Ἰακώβου καὶ Ἰωάννου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτοὺς λέγει αὐτοῖς· οἶδατε ὅτι οἱ δοκοῦντες ἄρχειν τῶν ἐθνῶν κατακυριεύουσιν αὐτῶν καὶ οἱ μεγάλοι αὐτῶν κατεξουσιάζουσιν αὐτῶν· οὐχ οὕτω δὲ ἔσται ἐν ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ὃς ἐὰν θέλῃ γενέσθαι μέγας ἐν ὑμῖν, ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος, καὶ ὃς ἐὰν θέλῃ ὑμῶν γενέσθαι πρῶτος, ἔσται πάντων δοῦλος· καὶ γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἤλθε διακονηθῆναι, ἀλλὰ διακονῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ λύτρον ἀντι πολλῶν.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

April 17th,	Sunday,	Saint Mary of Egypt (GENERAL ABSOLUTION) Everyone is encouraged to kneel and pray. Confessional prayers to be read	11:30 A.M.
April 20th,	Wednesday,	Prayer and Healing Service	5:30 P.M.
April 20th,	Wednesday,	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	6:00 P.M.
April 20th,	Wednesday,	Lenten Pot – Luck Dinner by DAUGHTERS	7:15 P.M.
April 23rd,	Saturday,	Liturgy of Saint Lazarus ICON	11:00 A.M.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR is being hosted today by the A.H.E.P.A . in WhiteHall. Join us for refreshments.

CHURCHING TODAY: of the new born son “ GREGORY MANOUSOS “ of Gregory and Gina (GALLIGANO) PAPANANOUSAKIS. NA SAS ZESI!

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 AMreceive the LIVING LORD in the EUCHARIST! You will never be the same again. Wednesday April 20th at 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. with Lenten Pot Luck Dinner at 7:15.

PALM WEAVERS: are needed THIS WEEK (MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY<) from 11:00 A.M. through the afternoon. Can you spare an hour or two to create these woven crosses to the GLORY of GOD? Come to RoseHall, learn the weaving process, satisfy your soul in service to Christ. Refreshments are served to all. Please show up any day any time. We are pleased to have you!

EGG DYING: The preparation of the 2,000 (TWO THOUSAND RED EGGS) for PASCHA will be done by the Ladies of the Philoptochos on HOLY TUESDAY from 10:30 A.M. till early afternoon. Please join us and learn the technique of the crimson red color that is the BYZANTIN EMAGDALENE COLOR of tradition (Blood of Christ).

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!

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 16TH YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM, with listener** telephone participation. Subjects of interest regarding Greek Orthodox theology, faith and practice, as well as secular topics confronting the nation and the world are discussed. Tune in and join the dialogue by calling 718-204-8900. Check our live audio at LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER . The website address. W.W.W.gaepis.org ([Click live audio](#))

MEMORIALS TODAY: + OURANIA GIANNOPOULOS + IOANNIS ZACHARIAS + PANTELEIMON EUGENIS
+ GEORGIA PERTSAS + GEORGE MAILLIS + DON McCOMISKY





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 ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1243²	Κυριακὴ Ε' Νηστειῶν (Μάρκ. 10,32-45) 17 Ἀπριλίου 2016 (2006)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ξέρετε τί ζητᾶτε;

«Οὐκ οἶδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε» (Μάρκ. 10,38)

Πλησιάζουμε πλέον, ἀγαπητοί μου, στοῦ τέλους τῆς ἀγίας καὶ μεγάλης Τεσσαρακοστής. Τριανταπέντε μέρες ἔχουν περάσει ἀπὸ τὴν Καθαρὰ Δευτέρα, λίγο ὑπολείπεται. Εἶνε ἔξοχα ὅσα ἔχει ἡ λατρεία μας τὴν περίοδο αὐτή. Ἐὰν ἀκολουθούσαμε ὅλα αὐτά, ποῦ πρωὶ καὶ βράδυ μᾶς παραγγέλλει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας, **θὰ κάναμε φτερά.**

Σήμερα ἡ Ἐκκλησία βάζει μπροστά μας ἕνα καθρέφτη. Ἐνα καθρέφτη, ποῦ ὅποιος κοιτάξῃ μέσα σ' αὐτόν, ἀπὸ ἄσχημος γίνεται ὠραῖος· καὶ ὁ πιὸ ἄσχημος, ἂν τὸν κοιτάξῃ, θὰ γίνῃ πεντάμορφος. Δὲν σᾶς εἶπα τίποτε· ὅποιος κοιτάξῃ μέσα στὸν καθρέφτη αὐτόν, καὶ ἂν ἀκόμη εἶνε ὁ πιὸ ἁμαρτωλός, μπορεῖ νὰ γίνῃ ὁ πιὸ δίκαιος. Καθρέφτης εἶνε ἡ μορφὴ τῆς ὁσίας **Μαρίας τῆς Αἰγυπτίας**. Ποιὸς διάβασε τὸν βίο τῆς ὁσίας Μαρίας καὶ λέει πὼς δὲν ὑπάρχει σωτηρία; Μιὰ γυναίκα, ποῦ ἦταν κουρέλι ψυχικό, σκουπίδι σ' αὐτὸ τὸν κόσμο, ποῦ ἐπανελημμένες φορές ἐπιχείρησε νὰ προσκυνήσῃ τὸν τίμιον σταυρὸ καὶ ὁ σταυρὸς ἔδειξε ἀποστροφή στὸ πρόσωπό της γιατί δὲν ἦταν ἀξία νὰ τὸν ἀσπασθῇ, αὐτὴ ἡ γυναίκα κατάρθρωσε νὰ διαβῇ τὸν Ἰορδάνη ποταμό, νὰ ἀλλάξῃ ζωὴ τελείως, καὶ τέλος νὰ πεθάνῃ μὲ τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ στὰ χεῖλη της.

Ἄλλὰ κ' ἕναν ἄλλο καθρέφτη, κρυστάλλινο, βάζει μπροστά μας σήμερα ἡ Ἐκκλησία, καθρέφτη ποῦ θαμπώνει· εἶνε ἡ **εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ**. Ἀξίζει νὰ τὴν προσέξουμε ὄχι μόνο μὲ τὰ σωματικά μας αὐτιά ἀλλὰ προπαντὸς μὲ τὰ αὐτιά τῆς ψυχῆς.

Ὁ Χριστός, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀνεβαίνει γιὰ τελευταία φορὰ στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα. Πηγαίνει γιὰ νὰ θυσιασθῇ. Προλέγει δὲ στοὺς μαθητάς του τί θ' ἀκολουθήσῃ, γιὰ νὰ μὴ βρεθοῦν ἀπροετοίμαστοι. Οἱ μαθηταὶ ὅμως ἀλλοῦ ἔ-

χουν τὸ νοῦ τους. Νομίζουν, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς θ' ἀναγορευθῇ ἐπίγειος βασιλεὺς. Δύο μάλιστα ἀπὸ αὐτούς, ὁ Ἰάκωβος καὶ ὁ Ἰωάννης, τὸν πλησιάζουν καὶ τοῦ ζητοῦν νὰ τοὺς δώσῃ τίς πρώτες θέσεις δίπλα του. Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τί ἀπαντᾷ; «Οὐκ οἶδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε», δὲν ξέρετε τί ζητᾶτε (Μάρκ. 10,38). Νὰ ζητᾶτε ὄχι πρωτοκαθεδρίες ἀλλὰ **ὑποταγή**, ὄχι ἐξουσίες ἀλλὰ **διακονία**, ὄχι δόξες ἀλλὰ **ταπείνωση**.

Ἐσὺ λοιπὸν ὁ μεμψίμοιρος, ποῦ ὄλο γογγύζεις καὶ δὲν ἀνοίγεις ποτέ τὸ στόμα σου νὰ πῆς ἕνα «δόξα σοὶ ὁ Θεός»· ἐσὺ ὁ φιλάργυρος, ποῦ θὰ ἔθελες καὶ οἱ πέτρες νὰ γίνουν χρυσάφι· ἐσὺ ὁ φιλόδοξος κ' ἐγωιστῆς καὶ ὑπερήφανος, ποῦ δὲν διστάζεις νὰ γκρεμίζης τοὺς ἄλλους χρησιμοποιώντας μέσα σκληρὰ καὶ ἀπάνθρωπα, μόνο καὶ μόνο γιὰ ν' ἀνεβῇ ἡ ἀφεντιά σου στὰ ἀξιώματα· ἐσὺ ποῦ χαζεύεις σὲ ὅ,τι κι ἂν δῆς σὲ βιτρίνες καὶ διαφημίσεις· ἐσὺ ὁ φιλήδονος, ποῦ θεωρεῖς ὅτι ἡ ζωὴ εἶνε μιὰ ἀπόλαυσις καὶ τίποτ' ἄλλο, ἐλάτε ὄλοι ν' ἀκούσετε καὶ νὰ **ἐμβαθύνετε** στὸ νόημα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου.

Πλανᾶσθε ἂν νομίζετε ὅτι ἡ ζωὴ εἶνε ἔτοι ὅπως τὴ βλέπετε κι ὅπως τὴν παρουσιάζουν. Πάρτε χαρτί καὶ γράψτε. Ρωτήστε τὸν πλούσιο ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ φτωχό, τὸ μασόνο ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν κομμουνιστῆ, τί εἶνε ζωὴ; καὶ οἱ δύο θὰ σᾶς ποῦν, πὼς στὴ ζωὴ τὸ πᾶν εἶνε τὸ χρῆμα, τὰ πλούτη, ἡ καλοπέρασις. Ρωτήστε ἔπειτα καὶ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, τί εἶνε ζωὴ; Ἡ ἀπάντησις τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου εἶνε· ζωὴ θὰ πῇ **ἀγάπη, θυσία, ἀγώνας**· ὅποιος ἀγαπάει, φτάνει μέχρι τὸ σταυρὸ γιὰ νὰ καταλήξῃ μιὰ μέρα στὴν ἀνάστασις.

Ὅλοι ἔχουν πρόγραμμα στὴ ζωὴ τους. Στὰ γραφεῖα, στὴν ἐργασία, στὰ ἐργοστάσια, στὰ σπίτια, παντοῦ ὑπάρχει ἕνα πρόγραμμα. Ἐσεῖς **τί πρόγραμμα ἔχετε;** Ἐὰν στὸ πρόγραμμά σας δὲν λαμβάνετε ὑπ' ὄψιν τὸ θέλημα

του Χριστού, εάν κάτω από το πρόγραμμά σας δεν υπάρχει ή υπογραφή του Χριστού, τότε «*οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε*».

Μὴν πῆ κάποιος, Αὐτὰ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο δὲν τὰ γράφει γιὰ μᾶς· γιὰ κάποιους ἄλλους τὰ γράφει, γιὰ τὸν Ἰάκωβο καὶ τὸν Ἰωάννη τοὺς μαθητὰς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. **Γιὰ ὄλους μας τὰ γράφει.** Αὐτοὶ ποὺ ἀκολούθησαν τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ ἀκουγαν τὰ κηρύγματά του, σκέφτονταν κι αὐτοὶ ἀνθρώπινα, σὰν ἐμᾶς· νόμισαν πὼς ὁ Χριστὸς ἦρθε νὰ γκρεμίση τὰ παλάτια, τοὺς βασιλεῖς καὶ τοὺς ἄρχοντες, ὅτι θὰ κυριαρχήση στὸν κόσμον κι ὅτι θὰ εἶνε σὰν τοὺς παλαιούς αυτοκράτορες, θὰ ἔχη σπαθιά, σπιρούνια κ.τ.λ.. Ἐβαλαν λοιπὸν καὶ τὴ μάνα τους πρεσβευτὴ β. καὶ ζήτησαν νὰ καθίσουν δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερὰ στὸ θρόνον του. **Ζητοῦσαν ὑπουργιλία.** Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τί τοὺς εἶπε:

«*Οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε*». Ὁ θρόνος μου δὲν εἶνε ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ, εἶνε ἐπάνω στὰ οὐράνια. Στὴν οὐράνια βασιλεία δὲν θὰ κυβερνοῦν ἄρχοντες τοῦ κόσμου τούτου, ποὺ γκρεμίζουν σφάζουν καὶ κυλίουν τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα στὸ αἷμα. Πάνω στὸ θρόνον θὰ εἶνε καὶ θὰ κυβερνᾷ ἓνα **ἐσφαγμένο ἀρνίον** (β. 1:13). Τώρα τὸ ποιοὶ θὰ καθίσουν δεξιὰ καὶ ἀριστερὰ μὴ σὰς νοιάζει. Κάτω ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ, δεξιὰ μου θὰ δῆτε ἓνα ληστὴ μετανοημένο ποὺ θὰ λέη τὸ «*Μνησθητί μου...*» (β. 2:4) καὶ ἀριστερὰ ἓναν ἄλλο ληστὴ ποὺ θὰ μὲ βλαστημάη. Πάνω στὸν οὐρανὸ τὸ ποιὸς θὰ καθίσῃ δεξιὰ καὶ ἀριστερὰ θὰ τὸ ὀρίση ἄλλος. Ἐσεῖς κοιτάξετε νὰ **ἐργάζεσθε ταπεινά, χωρὶς φιλοδοξίες**· αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ δουλειὰ σας.

«*Οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε*». **Τί ζητάει σήμερα ὁ κόσμος;** Τρέχουν οἱ ἀνθρωποὶ στὰ ὑπουργεῖα καὶ ζητᾶνε, ὄλο ζητᾶνε. Ἀλλὰ οὔτε ἡ ἐργασία οὔτε οἱ ὑψηλοὶ μισθοὶ λύνουν τὸ πρόβλημα. Ἀπόδειξις, ὅτι κι αὐτοὶ ποὺ τὰ πέτυχαν αὐτὰ δὲν αἰσθάνονται ἱκανοποιημένοι. Οἱ νέοι τί ζητᾶνε; Νὰ πάρουν πλοῦσια γυναῖκα μὲ μεγάλη προίκα· γιατί ἔτσι τοὺς ἔμαθαν. Ξεχνᾶνε, πὼς μιὰ τέτοια γυναῖκα, μὲ τὰ πάθη της τὰ λοῦσα τοὺς ἐγωισμοὺς καὶ τὰ καπρίτσια της, θὰ τοὺς πικράνη. Ὁ ἄλλος ζητάει γυναῖκα ὁμορφῆ, ἐμφανίσιμη, κατὰ τὰ κοσμικὰ μοντέλλα· καὶ ἔρχεται ἡ στιγμή ποὺ αὐτὴ, μὲ τὴν ἀπιστία της, τὸν ποτίζει φαρμάκι. Ἡ νέα ζητάει νὰ βρῆ τὸ πριγκιπόπουλο· δὲν ξέρεει, ὅτι ἓνας τσοπάνος ποὺ ποτίζει τὴ γῆ μὲ ἰδρώτα ἀξίζει περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὸν ἀξιωματοῦχο καὶ τὸ μασόνου, ποὺ θὰ τὴν κἀνη αὐριο νὰ φτύνη αἷμα. Διάβασα κάπου, ἴσως τὸ διά-

βασαν καὶ πολλοὶ ἀπὸ σᾶς, ὅτι ἓνας ἔλεγε συνέχεια «*Θεὸ μου*» κ' ἔκανε μετάνοιες στὸν ἅγιο Φανούριο καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους ἁγίους καὶ κολλοῦσε νομίσματα στὶς εἰκόνες, ζητώντας νὰ τοῦ πέση τὸ πρῶτο λαχεῖο. Καί, πρὸς τιμωρίαν του, τοῦ ἔπεσε ὁ πρῶτος λαχνός, καὶ τρελλάθηκε καὶ τράβηξε γιὰ τὸ φρενοκομεῖο. Ἄλλος ζητάει ν' ἀποκτήσῃ παιδί· μὲ τὰ πολλὰ τὸ ἀποκτᾷ, ἀλλὰ τὸ παιδί μεγαλώνει καὶ ἀντὶ νὰ τὸν ἀναπαύσῃ τὸν πικραίνει, καὶ φτάνει νὰ μετανοιώνῃ γι' αὐτὸ ποὺ ζήτησε. Ἄλλος ζητάει ἀξίωμα καὶ διακεκριμένη θέσι· ἐν τέλει ἀνεβαίνει ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἐπιθύμησε, ἀλλὰ εἶνε τόσα καὶ τέτοια ἐκεῖνα ποὺ καλεῖται ν' ἀντιμετωπίσῃ, ὥστε δηλώνει· Ἄν ἤξερα τί θὰ συναντήσω, ποτέ δὲν θὰ τὸ ἐπιδίωκα.

«*Οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε*». Μοιάζουμε κ' ἐμεῖς μὲ τοὺς Ἰουδαίους, ποὺ ὁ Θεὸς τοὺς ἔτρεφε μὲ τὸ μάννα, τὴ γλυκύτατη καὶ ὠφέλιμη τροφή, ἀλλ' αὐτοὶ βαρέθηκαν τὸ μάννα, κ' ἐπιθύμησαν τὰ κρέατα τῆς Αἰγύπτου. Τὴν ἄλλη μέρα λοιπὸν δὲν ἔπεσε μάννα ἀπὸ τὸν οὐρανὸ. Ὁ Θεός, πρὸς τιμωρίαν τους, τοὺς ἔριξε ὄρτύκια. Κ' ἔφαγαν ἔφαγαν μέχρι σκαμοῦ ὥσπου τοὺς ἔπιασε δυσεντερία καὶ πέθαναν. Καὶ στοὺς τάφους ὁ Μωυσῆς ἔγραψε· «*Μνήματα τῆς ἐπιθυμίας*» (β. 1:35). Ὅπως τὸ μικρὸ παιδί πλησιάζει τὸ μαγκάλι μὲ τὰ κάρβουνα καὶ ὑπάρχει κίνδυνος νὰ καη, ἔτσι κάρβουνο εἶνε καὶ οἱ κακὲς ἐπιθυμίαι, κάρβουνο ἢ ἁμαρτία. Νέε μου, σοῦ ἦρθε μιὰ ἐπιθυμία; Μὴν τρέξης ἀμέσως νὰ τὴν κἀνης πρᾶξι, νὰ τὴν κἀνης πρόγραμμα στὴ ζωὴ σου. Πρὶν τὴν κἀνης πρόγραμμα, νὰ τὴν περάσῃς ἀπὸ κόσκινου· καὶ τὸ κόσκινου αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιου. Ἄν συμφωνῆ μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιου, τότε νὰ προχωρήσῃς.

Ἀδελφοὶ μου, ὁ Κύριος εἶπε· «*Αἰτεῖτε, καὶ δοθήσεται ὑμῖν*» (β. 7). Ἀλλὰ μὴ ζητοῦμε ἐπίγεια, μάταια, ἐπιζήμια πράγματα· νὰ ξέρουμε τί ζητοῦμε. Καὶ ἂν βλέπουμε ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς δὲν ἱκανοποιεῖ ἓνα αἶτημα, ἂς σκεφθοῦμε· Μήπως αὐτὸ ποὺ ζητῶ δὲν εἶνε πρὸς τὸ πνευματικὸ μου συμφέρον; Ἄς μὴν ἐπιμένουμε σὲ τέτοιου εἴδους αἰτήματα. Καὶ νὰ ξέρουμε, ὅτι ἡ ἀναβολὴ εἶνε γιὰ τὸ καλὸ μας καὶ ὅτι πίσω κι ἀπὸ τίς πιὸ μεγάλες δυσκολίες κρύβεται τὸ χέρι τοῦ Θεοῦ. Σὲ ἄλλα αἰτήματα νὰ ἐπιμένουμε καὶ αὐτὰ νὰ προτάσσουμε. «*Ζητεῖτε πρῶτον τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τὴν δικαιοσύνην αὐτοῦ, καὶ ταῦτα πάντα προστεθήσεται ὑμῖν*» (ἐ.δ. 6,33)· ἀμήν.

(f) 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

St. Mary of Egypt

At this point in the Great Fast, we're very often tempted by the demons to lessen our efforts, to make some concessions to the desires of the flesh. We're tempted by thoughts of, "what are we doing, anyway? Are we actually accomplishing anything by all this fasting and spiritual struggle?"

The life of St. Mary of Egypt shows us how easily our temptations can gain control over us. She was so given to her life of sin that she lived by begging, she lived on the streets, she wasn't even able to properly care for herself. All of her time was spent seeking after the sin of her choosing. She lost herself - she was totally consumed by her desires, and she became something that would later shock even her. She laments to the Abbot Zosimos how many people she led astray by her life of sin. Not only was her own life practically destroyed before her conversion to Christ, but the lives of others were affected in a very sinful and

negative way.

St. Mary shows us that overcoming passions and temptations is a long and difficult process, even for those who have no other desire than to please Jesus. It takes a great struggle to put off the old person and be clothed in the new. But God gave her the grace in every step of the way. He was always there with her, supporting her, holding her hand, and guiding her to the Heavenly Kingdom. The life of St. Mary gives us a lot to think about as we come to the final weeks of the Great Fast. If we truly desire Christ, her story will make us reflect on the lives we're living, to hold ourselves up to the measure of Christ's teaching, and ask ourselves "am I living my love for Christ every day of my life in every aspect of being?"

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