

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 15th, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS



*Icon of the Myrrh-Bearing Women*

## Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

IN THOSE DAYS, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

## Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 6:1-7

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος β΄.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαιδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἄρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἑπτὰ, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσομεν. Καὶ ἤρρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικάνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχείᾳ, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἤϋξανεν, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

## Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

### The Gospel according to Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

### Κατὰ Μάρκον 15:43-47, 16:1-8

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτής, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ἠτήσατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἦδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλαι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυρίωνος ἔδωκέν αὐτῳ τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδόνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία Ἰωσήφ ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. καὶ λίαν πρῶτ' τῆς μᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθημένον ἐν τοῖς δεξιῶν, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβείσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητῶνα τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε εἰπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

**SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

- MONDAY, May 16th,** SECRET SISTER'S DINNER hosted by the Demetra Chapter #33 of the Daughters of Penelope at Three Hierarchs. Venue – FLORIDIAN DINER at 7:00 P.M. For details call ( 718 ) 339-0280
- WEDNESDAY, May 18th,** The SENIOR CLUB hosts Pre - celebration of Saints Constantine and Helen at 1:00 P.M. -4:00 P.M. Sweets and BINGO!
- FRIDAY, May 20th,** Great Vesper of Saints Constantine and Helen at the BROOKLYN CATHEDRAL 64 SCHERMERHORN STREET AT 7:00 P.M.
- SATURDAY, May 21th,** DIVINE LITURGY FEAST of SAINTS CONSTANTINE and HELEN at Three Hierarchs starting at 9:00 A.M.  
Chronia Polla to all the Constantine, Kosta, Gus, Helen, Elaine and Eleni faithful.  
(ARTOKLASIES ARE WELCOMED!)
- MONDAY, May 23rd,** GENERAL PHILOPTOCHOS MEETING at 7:00 P.M. All ladies!

BRAVA! AXIA! FELICITATIONS are extended to the Parish WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2016 who was selected by the powerful committee of 20 female parish leaders representing the various organizations and clubs of the church.

**CONGRATULATIONS MRS. EFTHYMIA (EFFIE) PAPPAS.**

**INTERESTED IN ADULT BAPTISIM OR ADULT CONFIRMATION:** into the Faith? Services will be held privately on Saturday, May at 3:30 and 4:30 P.M. To witness the sacred mysteries please contact Father Eugene for accommodation through the Church Office. (718) 339 -0280.

**ARCHDIOCESAN PRESBYTERS' COUNCIL:** will convene in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania May 23-25 ( Monday through Wednesday. Father Eugene will represent the Holy Archdiocese District STATE of NEW YORK and WASHINGTON D.C.

**FREE PARISH BREAKFAST** to be hosted by the Coney Island Chapter of AHEPA #200 is scheduled for TODAY – MAY 15th on the PLAZA or in case of inclement weather - in Whitehall. OPEN TO EVERYONE FREE!! The AHEPA is honoring their past PRESIDENT PETER MOSCOVITIS. AXIOS!

**FATHER EUGENE** will be honored as a distinguished alumnus of Holy Cross Seminary on the 50th Anniversary of his graduation and ordination in BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS May 18 – 19th.

**THREE HIERARCHS U.P.K. OBSERVATION REPORT** from the City of New York earned ABOVE AVERAGE RATING in overall score to program structure. Hence we have ONE of the BEST U.P.K. PROGRAMS IN THE city. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR GRAND-CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE IN SEPTEMBER THAT CAN BE ENROLLED? This program 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. DAILY --- is TUITION FREE. There is no COST to the parents. It is a service offered by the city department of education. SIGN UP NOW!

**CENTERFOLD TODAY:** We are pleased to include a collage of photos from the Paschal celebration of Good Friday and Holy Saturday. This year's faithful attendance was overwhelming and most orderly. Thank you all for cooperating during the anointings and Eucharistic distribution.

**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.

**TURKISH COMMUNITY of BROOKLYN:** will honor Father Eugene at the BAKU RESTAURANT on Emmons Avenue on the evening of Thursday, May 26th at 7:00 P.M. The Annual Inter – faith Event highlights people with outreach efforts for mutual understanding and tolerance.

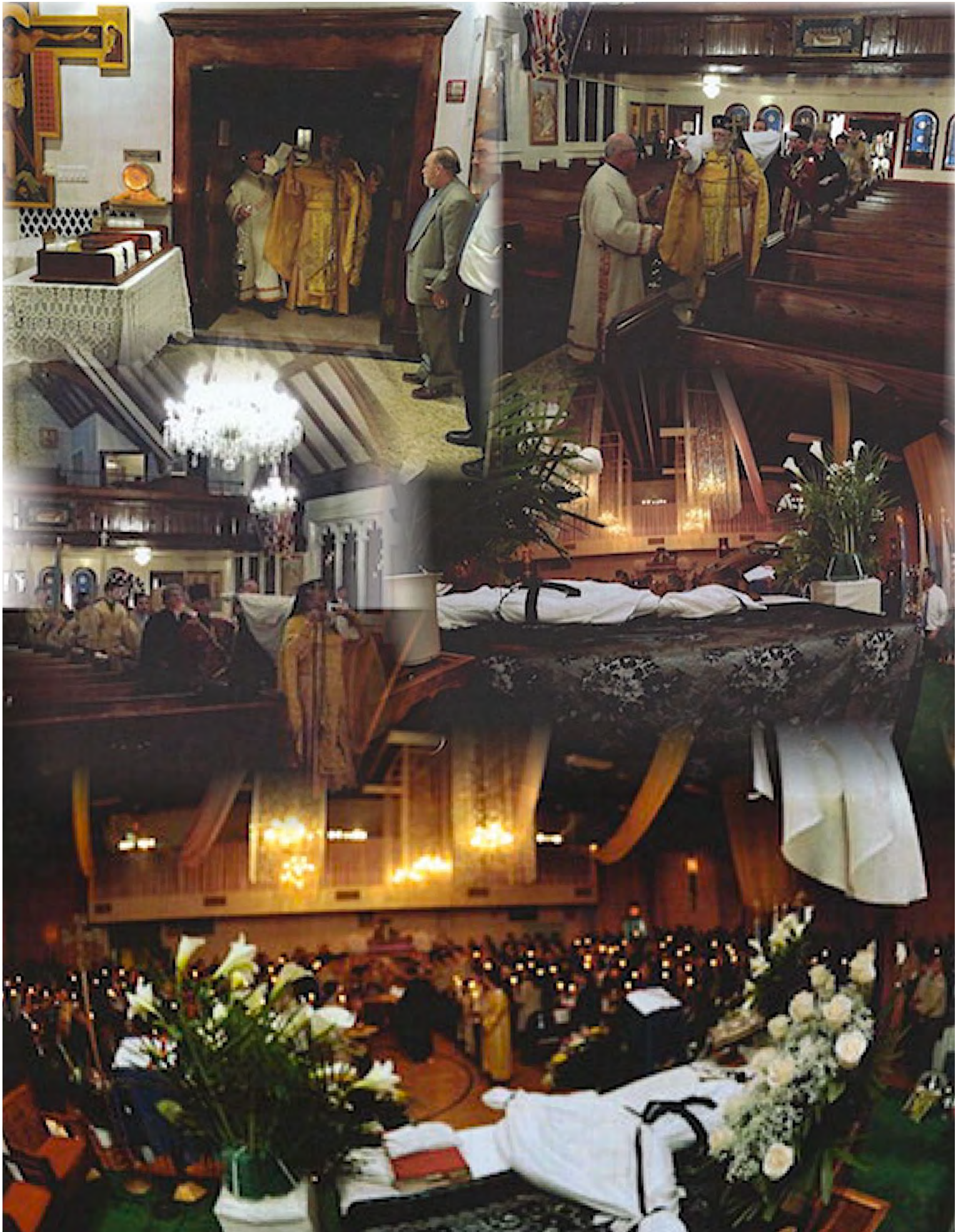
**U.P.K. REGISTRATION** is NOW GOING ON at THREE HIERARCHS SCHOOL for children born in 2012. This is accredited U.P.K. of the Department of Education of the City of New York. IT IS TUITION FREE. All 4 year olds born in 2012 are eligible to attend full day classes from 8:00 A.M. to 3☺ P.M. with snacks 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](#) . The website address. [W.W.W.gaepis.org](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live audio](#))

**MEMORIALS TODAY:**

+ EUGENIA TOULANTIS + CHRISTOS VELLIOS + BEATRICE (PANAGIOTA) DOUVRES







# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Εγενήθη εν Πνεύματι εν τη Κυριακή ημέρα και ήκουσα φωνήν οπίω μου μεγάλην ως σάλπιγγος» (Απ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ' - Έτος ΛΓ' Φλώρινα - αριθμ. φύλλου 1945	Κυριακή τῶν Μυροφόρων 15 Μαΐου 2016 πρῶν	Συντάκτης (7) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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### “Όλα φωνάζουν «Χριστός ανέστη»!

**Ω**s ἱεροκήρυξ, ἀγαπητοί μου, εὐρίσκομαι ἐδῶ καὶ σὺς ἀπευθύνω τὸν χαιρετισμὸ τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, τὸ «**Χριστὸς ἀνέστη**».

**Οἱ δύο αὐτές λέξεις** εἶνε τὸ θεμέλιον τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας, δυναμίτης κατὰ τοῦ σατανᾶ. Ἔχουν τὴ δύναμι τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Ὁ διάβολος προσπαθεῖ νὰ τίς σβῆσῃ, ἀλλὰ ἔδεν θά μπορέσῃ. Ὅσο περνοῦν οἱ αἰῶνες τόσο φιλῶνουν βαθύτερα.

Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ εὐλογημένα χρόνια τὸ «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη» τὸ ἔλεγαν σαράντα μέρες, μέχρι τῆς Ἀναλήψεως πανταῦ, ἀντὶ γιὰ κάθε ἄλλο χαιρετισμῷ. Σήμερα δυστυχῶς **φραγκέψομε** τὸ «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη» δὲν λέγεται, δὲν ἀκούγεται. Καὶνούργιοι ἀνεμοὶ ἐπνευσαν, νέα ἦθη καὶ ἔθιμα ζητοῦν νὰ νοθεύσουν τὸ ὀρθόδοξο πνεῦμα, νέοι ἐχθροὶ ζητοῦν νὰ βάλουν δυναμίτες στὰ θεμέλιά μας, νὰ τινάξουν στὸν ἀέρα ὅ,τι σεβάστηκαν αἰῶνες. Κρύωσε, πάγωσε ἡ καρδιά μας, ποῦ ὁ Θεὸς τὴν ἔπλασε ν' ἀγαπᾷ πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα τὸ Χριστό.

Ἐπάρχουν δυστυχῶς τώρα πολλοὶ ποῦ ἐπαψαν νὰ πιστεύουν. Ἐπάρχουν ἐδῶ **ἄθεοι**, σὲ μὴ χῶρα ποῦ ἄπιστος δὲν ὑπῆρχε οὔτε γιὰ σπύρο. Καὶ τίς ἄγιες αὐτές ἡμέρες σὲ περιοδικὰ καὶ ἐφημερίδες καὶ μὲ πολλοὺς ἄλλους τρόπους προωθοῦν τὴν ἄθεϊα καὶ ἄπιστία.

Αὐτοὶ ὅταν δοῦν κάποιον ν' ἀγαπᾷ τὸ Χριστό, πέφτουν πάνω του μὲ ὅλα τὰ ὄπλα τους, γιὰ νὰ μὴ μείνῃ παρὰ ψυχὴ ποῦ νὰ πιστεῦσῃ. – Ἐσύ – τοῦ λένε καὶ τὸν φουσκώνουν σὰν μπαλόνι–, ἐσύ ποῦ ζῆς στὸν αἰῶνα αὐτόν, ποῦ πῆγες στὰ σχολεῖα καὶ μορφώθηκες καὶ πῆρες διπλώματα πανεπιστημίου, ἐσύ ποῦ διαβάσεις περιοδικὰ καὶ βιβλία ἐπιστημονικὰ, ἐσύ λοιπὸν πιστεύεις αὐτὰ ποῦ λέει ἡ Ἐκκλησία κ' οἱ παπᾶδες; μὰ εἶνε δυνατόν ἕνας πεθαμένος ν' ἀναστηθῇ; ὑπάρχει ἀνάστασι νεκρῶν;... **πάλιωσε ἡ θρησκεία καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία**, λένε.

Μιλᾶνε ἔτσι, λὲς καὶ πρόκειται γιὰ κανένα ροῦχο, ποῦ παλιώνει καὶ τὸ πετᾷ, Ἄλλ' ὄχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Ἡ θρησκεία μας δὲν εἶνε ἕνα ροῦχο φτιαγμένο ἀπὸ κλωστὲς ἀνθρώπινες. Ἡ Ἐκ-

κλησία μας ναί, εἶνε ροῦχο, ἀλλὰ ροῦχο φτιαγμένο μὲ βελόνες ἀγγελικῆς, ἔνδυμα ὑφασμένο στὸν ἀργαλεῖο τῆς αἰωνιότητος, περιβάλαϊ σὸν ποῦ δὲν θά παλιώσῃ ποτέ. Ἀνοιξτε καὶ διαβάστε τὴν πρὸς Ἑβραίους ἐπιστολή, καὶ θά ὀητε ἐκεῖ νὰ λέη· «αὐτοὶ ἀπολοῦνται», ὅλα δηλαδὴ θά παλιώσουν καὶ θά σβῆσουν· «καὶ πάντες ὡς ἱμῶν παλαιωθήσονται»· **σύ ὁμως, Κύριε, ζῆς καὶ ὑπάρχεις εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας** (Ἑβρ. 1,11-12=Ἠμ. 10,27-28).

**“Όχι, δὲν παλιώνει ἡ πίστι μας.** Εἶνε σὰν νὰ λὲς, ὅτι πάλιωσε ὁ Δούναβις ἢ ὁ Βόλγας ἢ ὁ Ἀχελῷος. Ἀπ' τὸν καιρὸ ποῦ ἐφτείαξε ὁ Θεὸς τῆ Γῆ, τὰ ποτάμια τρέχουν καὶ ποτίζουν. **Τὸ ποτάμι** εἶνε πάντοτε χρήσιμο καὶ ἀναγκαῖο· ἔτσι καὶ ἡ θρησκεία, σὰν ποτάμι ποῦ βγῆκε ἀπὸ τοὺς κόλπους τῆς Θεότητος, θά ἀρδεύῃ αἰωνίως τίς ψυχές. Ἐσύ ποῦ λὲς ὅτι ἡ θρησκεία πάλιωσε, εἶνε σὰν νὰ λὲς ὅτι πάλιωσε ὁ ἥλιος. Μὰ ὁ ἥλιος ἐξακολουθεῖ καὶ σήμερα νὰ λάμπη ὅπως στὰ χρόνια τοῦ Ὀμήρου· δὲν πάλιωσε. Γιὰ τὴν ἀκρίβεια, βέβαια, καὶ τὰ ποτάμια καὶ ὁ ἥλιος καὶ τὰ ἄστρα κάποτε θά παλιώσουν· τὸ εἶπε ὁ Χριστὸς (βλ. Ματθ 24,29). Μόνο ἐκεῖνος ζῆ καὶ βασιλεύει καὶ δὲν παλιώνει ποτέ. Γι' αὐτὸ **κλειστε τ' αὐτιά σας στὶς φωνές τῆς ἄπιστίας**.

–Καλὰ εἶν' αὐτὰ, θά πῆτε, ἀλλὰ ἐδῶ δίνουμε μάχη· ἔχουμε ἐχθρούς, ποῦ θέλουν ἐπιχειρήματα, ζητοῦν **θαύματα** γιὰ νὰ πιστέψουν· ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἀνάστασις Χριστοῦ καὶ νεκρῶν.

Ἐλάτε λοιπὸν, ἀδελφοί μου, νὰ κάνουμε ἕνα περὶπατο. Ἄς βγοῦμε ἀπὸ τὴν ἀσπικτικὴ ἀτμόσφαιρα ποῦ δημιουργοῦν στὴν ἀτμόσφαιρα τὰ φυσικὰ καυσσέρια καὶ πρὸ παντὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ **καυσσέρια τῆς ἄπιστίας καὶ τῆς ἄθεϊας**. Γιατὶ ὠρισμένοι κόπτονται νὰ καθαριστῇ ἡ ἀτμόσφαιρα ἀπὸ τοὺς βιομηχανικοὺς ρύπους, ἀδιαφοροῦν ὁμως γιὰ τὴν ἠθικὴ ἀτμόσφαιρα καὶ τὸ νέφος τῆς ἄπιστίας, ποῦ ἀπειλεῖ ὅλους μὲ ἀσφυξία καὶ ψυχικὸ θάνατο. Ἄς δοῦμε λοιπὸν στὴ φύσι τὸ θαῦμα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως.

● –Τό θαύμα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως **στή φύσι**; τί λέει...; Εἴμαστε τυφλοί καί κουφοί· ἔχουμε μάτια καί αὐτιά, μὰ οὔτε βλέπουμε οὔτε ἀκοῦμε.

Εἶδατε ποτέ γεωργό, τί κάνει. Κάνει ὃ, τι καί ὁ νεκροθάφτης· σκάβει λάκκο καί θάβει μέσα στή γῆ τὸ σπόρο, ἓνα πράγμα μικρούτσικο, πολλές φορές σάν τὸ κεφάλι τῆς καρφίτσας. Ὁ γυμνός αὐτός **σπόρος** σαπίζει μέσα στή γῆ, ὅπως τὸ σῶμα τοῦ πεθαμένου· κι ἀφοῦ σαπίσῃ, μετὰ –ὡ τοῦ θαύματος– βλαστάνει! ἀπὸ ἑκεῖνο τὸ σῶμα πράγμα βγαίνει ἓνας ὡραίος στάχυς καί βλέπεις στὸν κάμπο τῆς Θεσσαλίας μιά πρῶσινη θάλασσα νὰ κυματίζει στίς πνοές τοῦ ἀνέμου. Ἔτσι καί οἱ νεκροὶ θ' ἀναστήθουν μιά μέρα. Ἀνοιῖτε στὸ σπίτι τὸ 15ο κεφάλαιο τῆς Α' πρὸς Κορινθίους ἐπιστολῆς κ' ἐκεῖ θὰ δεῖτε νὰ τὸ λέη αὐτό. Νά γιατί οἱ ὀρθόδοξοὶ στὸ μνημόσυνο βρόζουμε οὐτάρι καὶ κάνουμε κόλλυβα· ἔχει σημασία, εἶνε σύμβολο τῆς ἀναστάσεως.

Τὸ ἴδιο καί τὸ **ἄβγδ** τοῦ πουλιοῦ. Πήγατε ποτέ μέσα σέ δάση πάνω σέ ψηλὸ βουνά; Μὲ ἄξιωσε ὁ Θεὸς στὸ στρατό ν' ἀνεβῶ στὴν Πίνδο. Ἐκεῖ μιά μέρα, κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ ἀντίσκηνο ποὺ ἴμουν, ἓνας στρατιώτης, ἀγράμματος βοσκός ποὺ καταγόταν ἀπὸ τὴν ἥρωικὴ Μάνη, ἔρχεται καί μοῦ λέει –Πάτερ, βλέπω καὶ θαυμάζω ἓνα θαῦμα –Τί θαῦμα, παιδάκι μου; –Ἀκοῦς ἐδῶ ποὺ κελαηδοῦν τ' ἀηδόνια; –Ναί. –Κοίταξε λοιπὸν ἀπὸ παῦ βγήκε τ' ἀηδόνι καὶ λέγοντας αὐτὸ μοῦ δείχνει ἓνα μικρὸ ἄβγουλάκι ποὺ εἶχε φέρει ἀπὸ μιά φωλιά. Τὸ ἄβγδ τοῦ ἀηδονιοῦ δὲν εἶνε σάν τῆς στρουθοκαμηλίου ἢ τῆς χήνας ἢ τῆς ὄρνιθας· εἶνε πολὺ μικρὰ. Ποιὸς περίμενε μέσ' ἀπ' αὐτὸ νὰ βγαίη ἓνα πουλάκι ποὺ κελαϊδάει; Καὶ τί κελαϊδήμα!

Ναί, Χριστιανὲ μου· κάθε φορὰ ποὺ βλέπεις στὴ γλάστρα νὰ βγαίη ἓνα τριανταφυλλο ἢ τὴ γῆ νὰ γεμίζῃ στάχυα, κάθε φορὰ ποὺ ἀκοῦς νὰ κελαϊδοῦν πουλιά, εἶνε καὶ ἓνα **νέο «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»**. Τὸ φωνάζουν ὅλα.

Ὁ Χριστὸς λοιπὸν, ποὺ κάνει κάθε χρόνο τὴ φύσι ν' ἀνασταίνεται, ὁ ἴδιος νίκησε τὸ θάνατο καὶ ἀναστήθηκε ἀπὸ τὸ μνήμα. Δὲν εἶνε τυχαίὸ τὸ ὅτι ἡ **ἑορτὴ τῆς Ἀναστάσεως συμπίπτει μὲ τὸ «ἔαρ», μὲ τὴν ὄνοιξι**. Ἀνοιγεις τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ἀκοῦς **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»**· ἀνοιγεις καὶ τὸ βιβλίο τῆς φύσεως μὲ τίς ἀμέτρητες σελίδες τοῦ, κι ἀκοῦς πάλι **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»**.

● Θέλεις καὶ κάτι ἄλλο; Ἀνοιξε λοιπὸν τὴν **ἱστορία** τοῦ ἔθνους μας. Ἐχρὸν καὶ τὰ ἄλλα ἔθνη ἱστορία, δὲν τὸ ὑποτιμῶ, ἀλλὰ στὴ δική μας ἱστορία ἀκοῦγεται καθαρὰ τὸ **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»**.

Υπάρχει μιά χρονολογία ὀδυνηρὴ γιὰ μᾶς· εἶνε τὸ **1453 μ.Χ.**, ὅταν οἱ Τούρκοι ἀνέβηκαν

στὸν τροῦλλο τῆς Ἁγία-Σοφίας, γκρέμισαν τὸν τίμιο σταυρό καὶ ἔστησαν τὴν ἡμισέληνο. Ἀπὸ τότε, ἐπὶ τετρακόσα καὶ πλέον χρόνια, τὸν Χριστιανὸ Ἑλληνα τὸν ἔλεγαν **ραγιά**, ἢ Ἑλλάδα ἦταν σβησμένη ἀπὸ τοὺς γεωγραφικοὺς χάρτες, θαμμένη στὸ χῶμα. Καὶ **ἑρωτῶ**· ποιὸς ἀνόστησε τὴν Ἑλλάδα ἀπὸ τὸν τόφο τῆς; **Ὁ Χριστὸς**. Ἄς λένε οἱ ἄπιστοι ἓνα εἶνε γεγονός, ὅτι τὸ ἔθνος μας ἀναστήθηκε μὲ τὴ δύναμι τοῦ Χριστοῦ Ὅπως εἶπε **«Ἀλέξαρ, δεῦρο ἐξω»** (τὸ ἢ φ), ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ τὴ φωνή του ἦρθε σ' αὐτὸ τὸν τόπο καὶ εἶπε **«Ἑλλάς, δεῦρο ἐξω»**, κ' ἡ Ἑλλάς ἀναστήθηκε· μὲ τίς παντιέρες, μὲ τὰ ῥόσα, μὲ τὰ Εὐαγγέλια, μὲ τὰ ἐξαπτέρυγα, μὲ τὴν πίστι τῶν πατέρων μας. Καὶ στὸν χαιρετισμὸ **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»** ἀπαντοῦσαν **«καὶ ἡ Ἑλλάς ἀνέστη»**.

**«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»** λοιπὸν, ἀδελφοί μου. Τὸ φωνάζουν **οἱ ἄγγελοι** ποὺ πέταξαν ἀπὸ τὰ οὐράνια, ἀπὸ τὴ γῆ τὸ φωνάζουν ἄνθρωποι καὶ πρῶτες –πρὸς τιμὴν τους– **οἱ μυροφόρες γυναῖκες** τῶν ὁποίων τὴν ἱερὰ μνήμη ἐορτάζουμε, ποὺ ἔφεραν τὴν εἶδησι στοὺς φοβισμένους ὄντρες. Τὸ κηρύττουν **οἱ ἀπόστολοι** καὶ μάλιστα ὁ **Θωμᾶς**, ποὺ ἦταν ἄπιστος ἀλλὰ κατόπιν πίστεψε καὶ εἶπε **«Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεὸς μου»** (τὸ ἢ φ). Τὸ κήρυξε ὁ ἀπόστολος **Παῦλος**, ποὺ ἀπὸ βλάσφημος ἔγινε διαπρύσιος κήρικος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Τὰ φωνάζουν καὶ οἱ **ἄγιοι** τῆς παλαιᾶς διαθήκης (π.χ. ὁ προφήτης Ἠσαίας ποὺ λέει ὅτι **«ἀναστήσονται οἱ νεκροί**, θ' ἀναστήθουν οἱ νεκροὶ (τὸ ἢ φ 23 κ.λπ.) καὶ τῆς καινῆς διαθήκης (π.χ. ὁ ἅγιος Χριστοφόρος, ὁ ἅγιος Νεῖλος κ.λπ.)

Ὅπου νὰ πᾶς **ἐδῶ στὸν τόπο μας**, θ' ἀκούσῃς τὸ **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»** στὴ Μάνη, στὴν Τριπολιτσά, στὸ ἥρωικὸ Μεσολόγγι, στὸν κάμπο τῆς Θεσσαλίας ἀπὸ τὸ Ἑργα Φεραῖο, γυρῶ ἀπὸ τὸν Ὀλυμπο, στὴ Μακεδονία μας, στοὺς τόφους τῆς Καστοριάς, τῆς Φλωρῖνης, τῶν Γρεβενῶν, τῶν βουνῶν, τῶν ἀθανάτων βουνῶν μας. Τὸ **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»** ἀκούγεται ἀπὸ κάθε πέτρα, κάθε κλαρί, κάθε ὄβυσσος!..

Δὲν εἶνε πόησις αὐτὰ, εἶνε πίστις. Ἄν δὲν τὰ πιστεύω, θὰ προτιμοῦσα νὰ πάρω ἓνα κοσμέλι νὰ κάνω τὸ λουστρό. Τὰ πιστεύω, ἀδελφοί μου· πιστεύω, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε ὁ ἀληθινὸς Θεός· Πιστεύω σ' αὐτὸ, γράφω σ' αὐτὸ ὅλα θὰ γίνουν στὸν κόσμῳ αὐτό· καὶ ἡ γῆ θὰ σεισθῇ καὶ οἱ πολιτεῖες θὰ σεισθοῦν· **ἓνας μόνον θὰ ὑπάρχῃ, θὰ ζῇ καὶ θὰ βασιλεύῃ, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ὁ Ναζωραῖος**· ὄν, παῖδες. Ὑμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν.

**(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος**

The Lord gives us once again an opportunity to express our solidarity by becoming a supporting and registered member of the parish. We can only urge you to do so because your sustaining membership keeps this parish functioning and responding to the needs of all the faithful. Don't wait until some insignificant date on the calendar. Register with the Church Office **TODAY** and garner all the benefits of being a supporter of Christ's mission on earth.

**FAMILY REGISTRATION FOR HUSBAND & WIFE: \$275 PER YEAR**

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 PER YEAR**

**SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$150 PER YEAR**

**SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$200 PER YEAR**

**WE DO NEED YOUR HELP!**

Registering with your local parish is not so much a duty or obligation as it is a **PRIVILEGE**. By registering and offering your annual stewardship, you become an integral member of the living body of Christ as a faith community. By virtue of your Baptism, Chrismation (Confirmation), and Holy Eucharist (Communion), you claim to be a follower of Christ, a witness for Christ, and a practitioner for Christ. May we ask you then to live up to these promises by making your 2016 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrives thanks to your outreach.

## **YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH**

### *The First Witness*

The Resurrection of the Lord is the renewal of human nature, and the renewal, re-creation, and return to immortality of the first Adam who was swallowed up by death because of sin, and through death went back to the earth from which he was formed. In the beginning nobody saw Adam being made and brought to life, for no one existed yet at that time. However, once he had received the breath of life breathed into him by God (Gn 2:7), a woman was the first to see him, for Eve was the first human being after him. In the same way, no one saw the second Adam, that is the Lord, rising from the dead, since none of His disciples were present and the soldiers keeping the tomb had been shaken with fear and became like dead men. But after the Resurrection it was a woman who saw him first of all.

There is something which the Evangelists tell us in a veiled way, but which I shall reveal to your charity: As was right and just, the Mother of God was the first person to receive from the Lord the Good News of the Resurrection, and she saw Him risen and had the joy of His divine words before anyone else. She not only beheld Him with her eyes and heard Him with her ears, but was the first and only person to touch with her hands His most pure feet. If the Evangelists do not say all this openly it is because they do not want to put forward his Mother as a witness, lest they give unbelievers grounds for suspicion.

*St. Gregory Palamas*

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