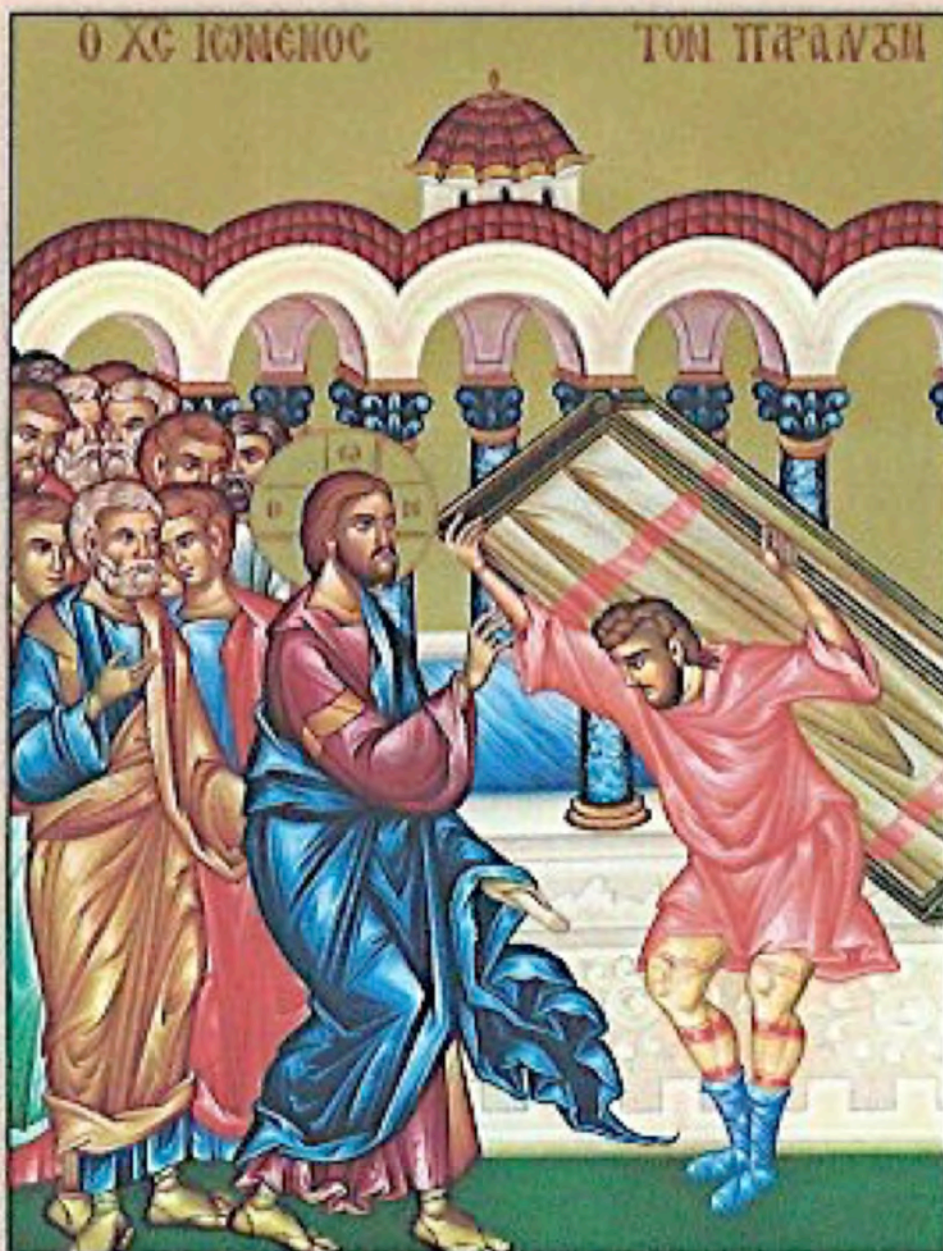




# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 22nd, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC



*Icon of Christ and the Paralytic Man*

## Acts of the Apostles 9:32-42

Prokeimenon. Mode 3.

Psalm 46.6,1

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

IN THOSE DAYS, as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints that lived at Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden for eight years and was paralyzed. And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity. In those days she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter rose and went with them. And when he had come, they took him to the upper room. All the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing tunics and other garments which Dorcas made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, rise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and lifted her up. Then calling the saints and widows he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

## Πράξεις Αποστόλων 9:32-42

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος γ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 46.6,1

Ψάλατε τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν, ψάλατε.

Στίχ. Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, ἐγένετο Πέτρον διερχόμενον διὰ πάντων κατελθεῖν καὶ πρὸς τοὺς ἀγίους τοὺς κατοικοῦντας Λύδδαν. Εὗρεν δὲ ἐκεῖ ἄνθρωπον τινα Αἰνέαν ὀνόματι, ἐξ ἐτῶν ὀκτῶ κατακείμενον ἐπὶ κρᾶββάτῳ, ὃς ἦν παραλελυμένος. Καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος, Αἰνέα, ἰάται σε Ἰησοῦς ὁ Χριστός· ἀνάστηθι καὶ στρώσον σεαυτῷ. Καὶ εὐθέως ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἶδον αὐτὸν πάντες οἱ κατοικοῦντες Λύδδαν καὶ τὸν Ἀσάρονα, οἵτινες ἐπέστρεψαν ἐπὶ τὸν κύριον. Ἐν Ἰόππῃ δὲ τις ἦν μαθήτρια ὀνόματι Ταβηθά, ἣ διερμηνευομένη λέγεται Δορκάς· αὕτη ἦν πλήρης ἀγαθῶν ἔργων καὶ ἐλεημοσυῶν ὧν ἐποίει. Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκεῖναις ἀσθενήσασαν αὐτὴν ἀποθανεῖν· λούσαντες δὲ αὐτὴν ἔθηκαν ἐν ὑπερώῳ. Ἐγγὺς δὲ οὔσης Λύδδης τῇ Ἰόππῃ, οἱ μαθηταὶ ἀκούσαντες ὅτι Πέτρος ἐστὶν ἐν αὐτῇ, ἀπέστειλαν πρὸς αὐτόν, παρακαλοῦντες μὴ ὀκνήσει διελθεῖν ἕως αὐτῶν. Ἀναστὰς δὲ Πέτρος συνῆλθεν αὐτοῖς· ὃν παραγενόμενον ἀνήγαγον εἰς τὸ ὑπερῶον, καὶ παρέστησαν αὐτῷ πᾶσι αἱ χῆραι κλαίουσαι καὶ ἐπιδεικνύμεναι χιτῶνας καὶ ἱμάτια ὅσα ἐποίει μετ' αὐτῶν οὔσα ἡ Δορκάς. Ἐκβαλὼν δὲ ἔξω πάντας ὁ Πέτρος θείσ τὰ γόνατα προσηύξατο· καὶ ἐπιστρέψας πρὸς τὸ σῶμα, εἶπεν, Ταβηθά, ἀνάστηθι. Ἡ δὲ ἤνοιξεν τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτῆς· καὶ ἰδοῦσα τὸν Πέτρον, ἀνεκάθισεν. Δοὺς δὲ αὐτῇ χεῖρα, ἀνέστησεν αὐτήν· φωνήσας δὲ τοὺς ἀγίους καὶ τὰς χήρας, παρέστησεν αὐτὴν ζῶσαν. Γνωστὸν δὲ ἐγένετο καθ' ὅλης τῆς Ἰόππης, καὶ πολλοὶ ἐπίστευσαν ἐπὶ τὸν Κύριον.

## Sunday of the Paralytic

### The Gospel according to John 5:1-15

At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water; for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool, and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked.

Now that day was the sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.' "They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befall you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him.

## Sunday of the Paralytic

### Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 5:1-15

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ἀνέβη ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἔστι δὲ ἐν τοῖς Ἱεροσολύμοις ἐπὶ τῇ προβατικῇ κολυμβήθρα, ἣ ἐπιλεγομένη Ἑβραϊστὶ Βηθεσδά, πέντε στοᾶς ἔχουσα. ἐν ταύταις κατέκειτο πλῆθος πολὺ τῶν ἀσθενούντων, τυφλῶν, χωλῶν, ξηρῶν, ἐκδεχομένων τὴν τοῦ ὕδατος κίνησιν. ἄγγελος γὰρ κατὰ καιρὸν κατέβαινεν ἐν τῇ κολυμβήθρα, καὶ ἐταράσσετο τὸ ὕδωρ· ὁ οὖν πρῶτος ἐμβὰς μετὰ τὴν ταραχὴν τοῦ ὕδατος ὑγιῆς ἐγένετο ᾧ δήποτε κατείχετο νοσήματι. ἦν δὲ τις ἄνθρωπος ἐκεῖ τριάκοντα καὶ ὀκτῶ ἔτη ἔχων ἐν τῇ ἀσθενείᾳ αὐτοῦ. τοῦτον ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς κατακείμενον, καὶ γνοὺς ὅτι πολὺν ἤδη χρόνον ἔχει, λέγει αὐτῷ· θέλεις ὑγιῆς γενέσθαι; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ ὁ ἀσθενῶν· Κύριε, ἄνθρωπον οὐκ ἔχω, ἵνα ὅταν ταραχθῇ τὸ ὕδωρ, βάλῃ με εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν· ἐν ᾧ δὲ ἔρχομαι ἐγώ, ἄλλος πρὸ ἐμοῦ καταβαίνει. λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· ἔγειρε, ἄρον τὸν κρᾶββάττον σου καὶ περιπάτει. καὶ εὐθέως ἐγένετο ὑγιῆς ὁ ἄνθρωπος, καὶ ἦρε τὸν κρᾶββάττον αὐτοῦ καὶ περιπάτει. ἦν δὲ σάββατον ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ. ἔλεγον οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι τῷ τεθεραπευμένῳ· σάββατόν ἐστιν· οὐκ ἔξεστί σοι ἄραι τὸν κρᾶββάττον. ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς· ὁ ποιήσας με ὑγιῆ, ἐκεῖνός μοι εἶπεν· ἄρον τὸν κρᾶββάττον σου καὶ περιπάτει. ἠρώτησαν οὖν αὐτόν· τίς ἐστὶν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὁ εἰπὼν σοι, ἄρον τὸν κρᾶββάττον σου καὶ περιπάτει; ὁ δὲ ἰαθεὶς οὐκ ᾔδει τίς ἐστίν· ὁ γὰρ Ἰησοῦς ἐξένευσεν ὄχλου ὄντος ἐν τῷ τόπῳ. μετὰ ταῦτα εὗρίσκει αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἴδε ὑγιῆς γέγονας· μηκέτι ἀμάρτανε, ἵνα μὴ χεῖρόν σοί τι γένηται. ἀπῆλθεν ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ ἀνήγγειλε τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ ποιήσας αὐτόν ὑγιῆ.

## SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK:

<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>May 22nd,</b>	<b>Gospel of the Paralytic (St. Basiliskos)</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Wednesday,</b>	<b>May 25th,</b>	<b>MESO-PENTECOST ( Observance – in Pittsburgh, Penn)</b>	
<b>Thursday,</b>	<b>May 26th,</b>	<b>Interfaith Dinner and Outreach Dinner (BAKU)</b>	<b>7:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Sunday,</b>	<b>May 29th,</b>	<b>HOLY ORDER MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>
		Feast Of Saints Theodosia And Olvianos	

**CENTERFOLD:** Please take note of the photo collage of the Mother's Day observance and ceremonies (May 08th) and the selection of the THREE HIERARCHS WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2016. Also pictured are the Georgian Christian Orthodox celebrations of the same day at the MASTERS THEATER where Father Eugene represented the Archdiocese on behalf of Archbishop Demetrios. He is photographed with RUSSIAN ARCHBISHOP HILARION and GEORGIAN ARCHBISHOP SABBAS.

**PHILOTOCHOS GENERAL MEETING:** for all members will be held Monday evening, May 23rd, in Whitehall at 7:00 P.M. Refreshments are always served. Preparations for the Greek Festival are underway!

**MEMORIAL WEEKEND OBSERVANCE:** Special ceremonies will highlight next week's liturgical cycle as the NATION recognizes the passing of our beloved faithful here and everywhere. Please join us in tribute to those who have gone into eternal memory and God's embrace. Commemoration forms are in the NARTHEX and may be submitted for reading at the altar service.

**GREEK FESTIVAL:** at the Three Hierarchs Parish is scheduled for the first weekend in JUNE 3rd, 4th, and 5th, (FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY). Please clear your calendar to be with us over the festivities. FOOD, DRINK, GRECIAN DESSERTS, WINE DANCING, LIVE MUSIC, GAMES and RIDES will supply everyone of every age with fun. Please see the insert for details, or call Chairperson GEORGE PLEVITIS at (917) 541- 7034 VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! PLEASE HELP MAKE THE FESTIVAL A SUCCESS.

**GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION** is scheduled for Sunday, June 5th, at 12:00 P.M. at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy. Promotions, and awards will be distributed to our students who have achieved excellence in various areas of study, service, testing and attendance. We congratulate the parents who see the value of BI-LINGUAL GREEK EDUCATION! The children will never regret the sacrifice made.

**INTERESTED IN ADULT BAPTISM 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.

**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!

**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 NEXT WEEK: + HOLY ORDER DECEASED MEMBERS.**







# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΓ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1950

Κυριακὴ τοῦ Παραλύτου (Πράξ. 9,32-42)  
22 Μαΐου 2016 πρωί

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Τὸ μέγα ὄνομα

«Καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος· Αἰνέε, ἰάταί σε Ἰησοῦς ὁ Χριστός» (Πράξ. 9,34)

Θὰ ἀρχίσω, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ σύντομο κήρυγμά μου μὲ μία ἐρώτησι. **Υπάρχει ἐδῶ κανεὶς ἀβάπτιστος;** Θεὸς φυλάξει. Ἀπὸ τὸ γεροντότερο μέχρι τὸ μικρὸ παιδάκι, **ὄλοι εἶμαστε βαπτισμένοι.** Ἀβάπτιστος δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται νὰ μπη στὴν Ἐκκλησία· ἐὰν δὲν βαπτισθῆ ὁ ἄνθρωπος «εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος», δὲν ἀνοίγουν τὰ παλάτια τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος. Ἄλλωστε «εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τῆς Ἁγίας καὶ Ὁμοουσίου καὶ Ἀδιαιρέτου Τριάδος» στηρίζεται καὶ τὸ ἔθνος μας, ποῦ εἶνε τὸ μόνο μ' αὐτὴ τὴν ἐπικεφαλίδα στὸ Σύνταγμα τοῦ [Ἐπίσκοπος, Βουλὴ τῶν Ἐλλήνων, Ἀθήνα Νοέμ. 2006, σ. 25].

Εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος, «τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ ἁγίου Πνεύματος», βαπτισθήκαμε. Τὴν ὥρα λοιπὸν τοῦ βαπτίσματος **πῆραμε δύο ὀνόματα**, ἓνα μικρὸ καὶ ἓνα μεγάλο.

● **Τὸ μικρὸ ὄνομά** μας εἶνε αὐτὸ τὸ ἓνα, ποῦ μᾶς ἔδωσε ὁ ἱερεὺς. Δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται νὰ ἔχουμε δύο ἢ τρία ὀνόματα· αὐτὰ εἶνε φράγκικες καὶ προτεστάντικες συνήθειες. Καὶ τὸ ὄνομα ποῦ θὰ πάρῃ ὁ ὀρθόδοξος πρέπει νὰ εἶνε ὄχι ξενικὸ ἀλλὰ **ὄνομα ἁγίου** τῆς πίστεώς μας. Τὸ ὄνομα αὐτὸ πρέπει νὰ τὸ κρατήσῃ σ' ὅλη του τὴ ζωὴ, **νὰ μὴν τὸ ἀλλάξῃ.** Στὴν ἐποχὴ μας, ποῦ ὄλα ἔγιναν μόδα, κινδυνεύουμε καὶ τὰ ὀνόματά μας νὰ λησμονήσουμε. Ὁ Κωνσταντῖνος ἔγινε Ντίνος, ὁ Παναγιώτης Τάκης, ἡ Μαρία Μαίρη, ἡ Αἰκατερίνα Καίτη. Δηλαδή ξεβαφτισθήκαμε. Μὰ δὲν σὲ βάπτισαν ἔτσι. Ὁ καθένας πρέπει νὰ ὀνομάζεται μὲ τὸ ὄνομα ποῦ βγήκε μέσα ἀπὸ τὰ νερά τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, ἀπὸ τὴν κολυμβήθρα. Ἀκόμα **νὰ γνωρίζῃ τὸν βίον τοῦ ἁγίου του**, ποῦ εἶνε ὁ προστάτης του. Καὶ τὸ σπουδαιότερο, νὰ ἀγωνίζεται, **ἡ ζωὴ του νὰ εἶνε σύμφωνη** μὲ τὸν βίον τοῦ ἁγίου του. Τὰ χριστιανικά μας ὀνόματα μᾶς λένε, Φανήτε ὄξιοι τῶν ἁγίων· φωνάζουν αὐτὸ ποῦ λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, «*Μιμηταί μου γίνεσθε, καθὼς καὶ γὰρ Χριστοῦ*» (1 Κορ. 11,1).

● Τὴν ὥρα λοιπὸν ποῦ βαπτίστηκες πῆρες τὸ

μικρὸ σου ὄνομα, ἀλλὰ κοντὰ σ' αὐτὸ πῆρες κ' ἓνα ἄλλο **μεγάλον ὄνομα**, τὸ ὄνομα **Χριστιανός**. Τὸ σκέφτηκες ποτὲ τί θὰ πῆ **Χριστιανός**; ὅτι, μέσα στὰ ἑκατομμύρια τοῦ κόσμου μὲ τίς τόσες θρησκείες (μουσουλμάνους, βουδδιστὰς κ.λπ.), ἐσύ ἔχεις τὸ ὄνομα **Χριστιανός**, ἐπάνω σου εἶνε αὐτὴ ἡ σφραγίδα ἡ βασιλική; Σκέφτηκες ὅτι ἔχεις ὄνομα ποῦ βγαίνει ἀπὸ τὸ **Χριστός**, τὸ ὄνομά σου συνδέεται μὲ τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ **Χριστοῦ**; Τὸ ὄνομα **Χριστός** εἶνε τὸ **γλυκύτερο** ἀλλὰ καὶ δυνατώτερο. Γλυκύτερο, γιατί κανεὶς ἄλλος δὲν ἀγάπησε τὸν ἄνθρωπο περισσότερο. Ὁ Χριστὸς ἔγινε ἄνθρωπος γι' αὐτὸν ποῦ «δὲν εἶχε ἄνθρωπο» βλ. 157. Εἶνε αὐτὸς ποῦ ὁ Πιλάτος τὸν ἔδειξε καὶ εἶπε «*Ἴδε ὁ ἄνθρωπος*» (16 19). Τὰ λόγια του θαυμαστά· κάνουν καὶ τὸν πιὸ ἀπελπισμένο νὰ θέλῃ νὰ ζήσῃ, κάνουν καὶ τὸν πιὸ εὐτυχισμένο νὰ θέλῃ νὰ πεθάνῃ γιὰ νὰ ἔναι μαζί του στὴν ἄλλη τὴν πιὸ εὐτυχισμένη ζωὴ. Τὰ λόγια του βάλοσμο παρηγοριᾶς. Εἶπε κάποιος ὅτι, κι ἂν ἀκόμα σὲ ἄλλους πλανήτες ὑπῆρχαν ὄντα λογικά, δὲν θὰ μπορούσαν νὰ ἔχουν ἄλλη θρησκεία ἀπὸ τὴν πίστι στὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν.

Ἄλλὰ τὸ ὄνομα **Χριστός** εἶνε καὶ τὸ **δυνατώτερο**. Ἀπὸ ὄλους ὄσους πέρασαν ἀπὸ τὴ Γῆ, ὁ πιὸ δυνατὸς εἶνε αὐτός. Ὅχι μόνο ὅσο ζοῦσε ἐδῶ ἀλλὰ καὶ μετὰ τὴν ἀνοδοῦ του στοὺς οὐρανοὺς, ὄχι πλὴν ὁ ἴδιος αὐτοπροσώπως ἀλλὰ καὶ μόνο ἡ ἐπικλήσι τοῦ ὀνόματός του ἔχει δύναμι· καὶ σήμερα ζῆ, θριαμβεύει καὶ πάντα θὰ θριαμβεύῃ. Γνωρίζουμε π.χ. ὅτι, ὅταν ζοῦσε ἐδῶ, ἓναν ἐπὶ 38 χρόνια παράλυτον τὸν θεράπευσε ἀμέσως· ἀλλὰ καὶ μετὰ τὴν ἀνάληψί του, ὅπως εἶδαμε σήμερα, τὸ ὄνομά του «*ἐνεργεῖ δυνάμεις*» (16 35), θαυματουργεῖ δηλαδή. Προσέξατε τί λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος:

Σὲ κάποια πόλι τῆς Παλαιστίνης, στὴν Λύδδα, ἦταν ἓνας ἀσθενὴς ποῦ λεγόταν **Αἰνέας**. Ὁκτὼ χρόνια ἦταν ξαπλωμένος σ' ἓνα κρεβάτι, τελείως **παράλυτος** ἀπὸ τὴ μέση καὶ κάτω· δὲν μπορούσε

νά κουνήση καθόλου τὰ πόδια του. Αὐτὸς λοιπόν, ἐνῶ οἱ συγγενεῖς του ἦταν ἀπελπισμένοι, τί ἔγινε; Θεραπεύθηκε! Πῶς; μὲ τί; Μιὰ μέρα περνοῦσε μπροστά του ὁ ἀπόστολος Πέτρος καὶ τοῦ λέει· «*Αἰνέα, ἰστάει σε* (=σὲ θεραπεύει) *Ἰησοῦς ὁ Χριστός*» (Ἰβρ. 13). Καὶ μόλις ἀκούστηκε τὸ ὄνομα αὐτό, ἀμέσως ὁ παράλυτος σηκώθηκε ὄρθιος. Ἄς μὴν πιστεύουν οἱ ἄπιστοι, δικαίωμά τους εἶνε· ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε, καὶ γι' αὐτὸ βρισκόμαστε ἐδῶ στὴν ἐκκλησία. Πιστεύουμε, ὅτι αὐτὰ εἶνε ἀληθινά, ὅτι τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔχει δύναμι· καὶ μόνο πού ἀκούστηκε, ἀμέσως θαυματουργήσε. Τὸ εἶπε ὁμοῦς μὲ πίστι· ποιός; ὄχι ὁ τυχόν, ἀλλὰ ὁ ἀπόστολος Πέτρος.

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Αὐτὸ εἶνε, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸ «ὄνομα τὸ ὑπὲρ πάν ὄνομα» (Ἰβρ. 13), τὸ μόνο πού σώζει, δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλο. Καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ ὄνομα **πρέπει νὰ τὸ ἀγαπήσουμε**. Ἐμᾶς πόσο μᾶς συγκινεῖ τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Τὸν ἀγαποῦμε ἄραγε ὅπως τοῦ ἀξίζει; Ἡ ἀπάντησι δὲν εἶνε εὐχάριστη. Αὐτὰ πού εἶπα ὡς ἐδῶ ἦταν **θεωρία**, καὶ ὅσοι κάνατε στρατιῶτες ξέρετε ὅτι χρειάζεται καὶ **ἡ πράξις**.

Εἶπαμε, ὅτι **Χριστός** εἶνε τὸ γλυκύτερο καὶ τὸ παντοδύναμο ὄνομα. Ἐχεις μέσα σου τὸ Χριστό; μὴ φοβᾶσαι τίποτα, θὰ εἶσαι ἐν ἀσφαλείᾳ. Ἀλλὰ τώρα μοῦ ἔρχεται νὰ κατεβῶ ἀπ' τὸ βῆμα, νὰ φύγω καὶ νὰ κρυφθῶ. Τὸ μικρὸ μας ὄνομα πάει, τὸ «ξεβαφτίσαμε», ἀλλάξαμε τὰ ὀνόματά μας. Καὶ τὸ μεγάλο μας ὄνομα, τὸ ὄνομα «**Χριστιανός**», τί τὸ κάναμε; Λέμε θεωρητικὰ ὅτι πρέπει ν' ἀγαποῦμε τὸ Χριστὸ παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα, ἀλλὰ στὴν πράξι **τί γίνεται;**

Ἦσως παρεξηγηθῶ σ' αὐτὸ πού θὰ πῶ, ἀλλὰ δὲ μ' ἐνδιαφέρει. Δὲν εἶμαι ἐναντίον τῶν ἀρχῶν καὶ ἐξουσιῶν· ὑπηρετήσα τὸ ἔθνος σὲ κρίσιμες στιγμὲς καὶ κανεὶς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ μὲ κατηγορήσῃ πῶς δὲν ἀγαπῶ τὴν πατρίδα. Ἐρωτῶ λοιπόν· **πρέπει νὰ τιμοῦμε τὸν ἀνώτατο ἄρχοντα;** Πρέπει ἀσφαλῶς. Καὶ ὄντως, ὅπου κι ἂν πᾶς, δὲν θ' ἀκούσης κακὸ λόγο γι' αὐτόν· καὶ ἂν καταγγεληθῇ κάποιος ὅτι τὸν βλαστήμησε, ἀμέσως θὰ τὸν ἀρπάξουν νὰ τὸν τιμωρήσουν. Ὅταν ὁμοῦς **ὑβρίζεται τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ;**...

Σὰν στρατιωτικὸς ἱερεὺς ἔκανα κάποτε τὸ ἐξῆς σ' ἓνα στρατηγό, πού δὲν ἔδινε σημασία στὶς καταγγελίες μας γιὰ βλασφημία. Πῆγα στὸ γραφεῖο του καὶ τοῦ λέω· «Στρατηγέ μου, βλαστημᾶνε τὸ Χριστό». «Ὦχ, λέει, ρε παιδί μου, ἀφῆσέ με τώρα... Ἄ, ἔτσι εἶσαι; Πέρασε κανένας μῆνας καὶ τὸν παίρνω τηλεφώνω. «Στρατηγέ μου, λέω, ἔχω νὰ σοῦ καταγγείλω, ὅτι ἓνας λοχίας εἶπε **τὰ αἰσχροτέρα λόγια γιὰ τὴ βασίλισσα** τῶν Ἑλλήνων. «Τί... πῶς;... λέει, καὶ νά-

τος ἔφτασε ἀμέσως. Τότε τοῦ λέω· «**Λάθος καταλάβατε**· δὲν βλαστημοῦν, δὲν τολμοῦν νὰ ποῦν λόγο κακὸ ἐναντίον τῶν βασιλέων καὶ τοῦ πρωθυπουργοῦ – πού τί εἶνε κι αὐτοί; ἄνθρωποι θνητοὶ εἶνε· τολμοῦν ὁμοῦς καὶ προσβάλλουν Ἐκεῖνον πού πιστεύουμε καὶ λατρεύουμε.

Καὶ μόνο στὸ στρατό; Ὅπου νὰ πᾶς, δὲν ὑπάρχει σημεῖο πού νὰ μὴν ἀκούσης βλαστήμια· γίναμε τὸ πιὸ βλάστημο ἔθνος. Ποιοὶ φταῖνε; Ὅλοι· καὶ οἱ ἄρχοντες, καὶ ὁ κληρὸς, καὶ ὁ λαός. Ἄν ἤμασταν ὀρθόδοξο κράτος, ἔπρεπε νὰ μὴν εἶνε ἀνεκτὴ οὔτε ἡ παραμικρὴ προσβολὴ τῶν θείων ἀλλὰ νὰ τιμωρῆται παραδειγματικῶς. **Ἡ πιστεύουμε ἢ δὲν πιστεύουμε.**

Πότε θὰ ῥθῃ ἡ ἅγια μέρα, πού ὅλοι οἱ Χριστιανοὶ θὰ κάνουμε μιὰ **εἰρηνικὴ ἐπανάστασι**, ὄχι μὲ ὄπλα φονικά, ὥστε στὴν εὐλογημένη πατρίδα μας νὰ μὴν ὑπάρχη στόμα βλάσφημο!

Ξένος δημοσιογράφος ἔγραψε σὲ γερμανικὸ περιοδικό, ὅτι ἐπὶ ἓνα χρόνον ἔγινε ἔρευνα καὶ διαπίστωσαν, ὅτι οἱ Ἕλληνες, μόλις σηκώνουν τὸ τηλέφωνο, **ἀντὶ γιὰ καλημέρα βλαστημοῦν**. Ἀγνώριστοι γίναμε. Πού εἶσαι Κολοκοτρώνη καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ἥρωες, πού εἶσαι πρόγονοι καὶ πατέρες μας ἀγράμματοι, πού προτιμοῦσατε νὰ πεθάνετε παρὰ νὰ βλαστημήσετε τὸ Χριστό! Ὁ ξένος αὐτὸς δημοσιογράφος ἀνέφερε καὶ τὴν πληροφορία, ὅτι μιὰ τηλεφωνήτρια παραιτήθηκε γιὰτὶ δὲν μποροῦσε νὰ ὑποφέρῃ ν' ἀκούῃ νὰ βλασφημῆται τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τῆς Παναγίας, καὶ τῶν ἁγίων.

**Φοβῶμαι, ἀδέρφια μου, ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς δὲν θὰ τὸ ἀνεχθῇ αὐτό.** Σὲ ἄλλα ἁμαρτήματά μας φαίνεται ἐπιεικής, ἀλλὰ στὸ ἁμάρτημα αὐτὸ δὲν θὰ φανῇ ἐπιεικής. Ἐδῶ ἔχεις ἓνα σκυλί, τοῦ πετᾶς ἓνα κόκκαλο, κ' ἐπειδὴ δὲν ἔχει γλώσσα νὰ μιλήσῃ κουνάει τὴν οὐρά του γιὰ νὰ σοῦ πῇ «Σ' εὐχαριστῶ, ἀφέντη»· καὶ ἐμεῖς;... Ὁ Χριστὸς σοῦ ἔδωσε γυναῖκα, παιδιά, ὑγεία, σπιτί, πατρίδα ἐλεύθερη, κι ἀντὶ γιὰ εὐχαιστῶ τί ἀκούει; Ἀμαρτωλὸς εἶμαι, ἀνάξιος νὰ φιλήσω τὰ πόδια σας, ἀλλὰ πιστεύω στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, καὶ σοῦ λέω ὅτι, ἐὰν δὲν μετανοήσουμε καὶ δὲν ληφθοῦν δρακόντεια μέτρα νὰ ξερριζωθοῦν οἱ γλώσσες αὐτῶν πού βλαστημοῦν, νὰ τὸ θυμᾶστε, μιὰ νύχτα θὰ γίνῃ σεισμὸς στὴν Ἀθήνα, καὶ τότε δὲν θὰ προλάβουμε οὔτε νὰ ποῦμε τὸ «*Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε*» (Ἰακ. 2:2).

Ὅλοι μας, ἄντρες γυναῖκες παιδιά, **ν' ἀγωνιστοῦμε νὰ σβήσουμε ἀπὸ τὸν τόπο μας τὴ βλασφημία**, καὶ ὅλες οἱ γλώσσες νὰ γίνουν μιὰ κιθάρα, πού νὰ ὑμνῇ καὶ νὰ δοξάζῃ εἰς αἰῶνας αἰῶνων Πατέρα, Υἱὸν καὶ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα· 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 Mercy Jesus Proclaimed*

What tongue can describe the heart of the divine mercy? What mind is not amazed by the riches of such great love? The psalmist was thinking of these riches of divine love when he said: My helper, I will sing a psalm to you. It is you, O God, who are my protector, my God, my mercy. Carefully weighing the labors surrounding our humanity, he called God his helper. He calls his "protector" the one who protects us in the midst of our present distress until we come to eternal rest. But bearing in mind that God sees our evil deeds and bears with them, that He puts up with our sins and still preserves us for His rewards because of repentance, he could not just speak of God

as being merciful but called him mercy itself, saying: My God, my mercy.

Let us then recall before our eyes the evil deeds we have done, let us consider with how much goodness God puts up with us, let us bear in mind the depth of His love. He is not only lenient toward our sins, but He even promises the heavenly kingdom to those who repent after sinning. Let each of us say from the very depths of our hearts, let us all say, My God, my mercy.

*St. Gregory the Great*

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