

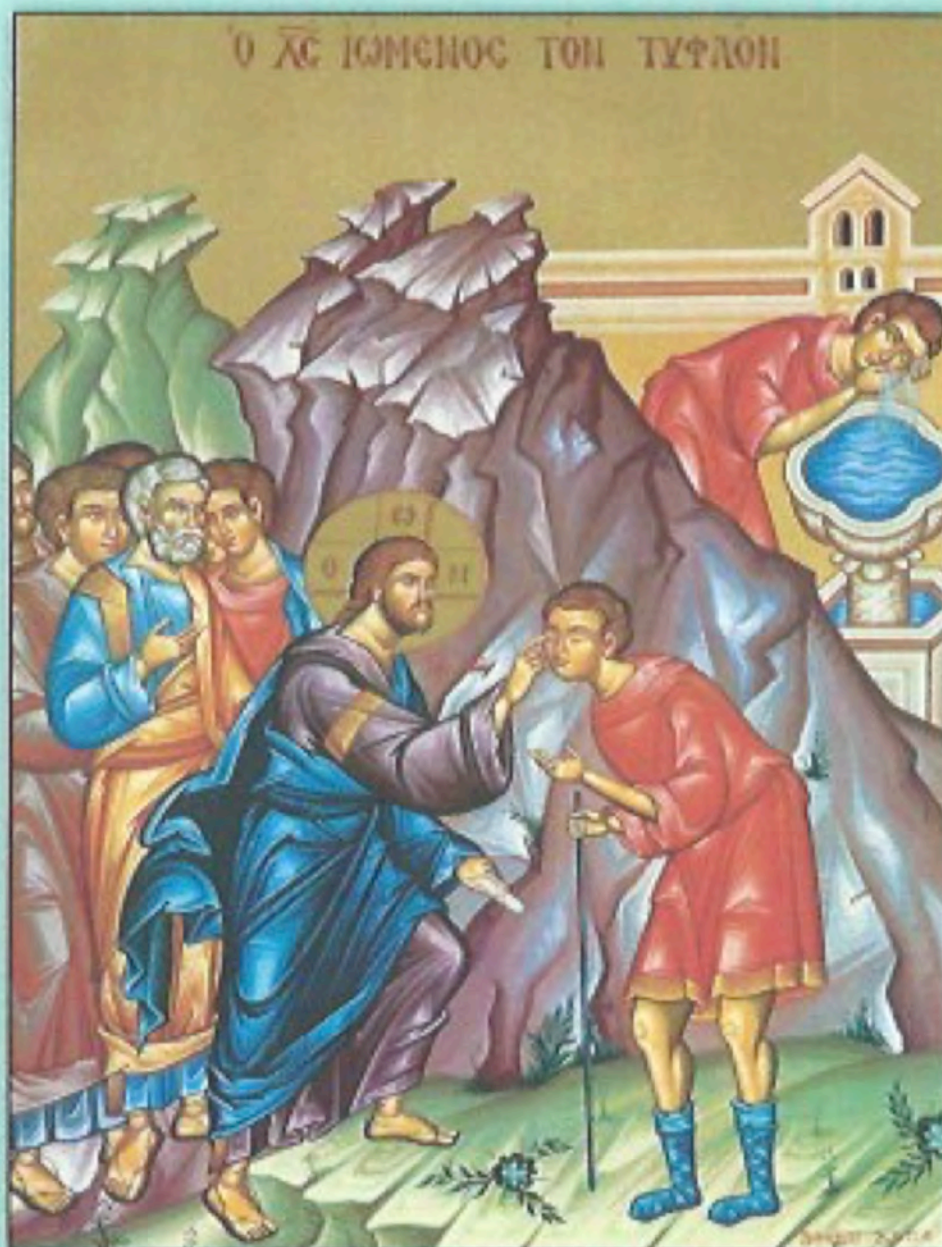


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 5th., 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



*Icon of Christ and the Man Born Blind*

## Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34

**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.

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.

## Sunday of the Blind Man Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 9:1-38

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν ἐκ γενετῆς. Καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ῥαββί, τίς ἡμαρτεν, οὗτος ἢ οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἵνα τυφλὸς γεννηθῆ; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς· οὔτε οὗτος ἡμαρτεν οὔτε οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῆ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ. ἐμὲ δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἕως ἡμέρας ἐστίν· ἔρχεται νῦν ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι. ὅταν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ᾧ, φῶς εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου. ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἔπτυσε χαμαὶ καὶ ἐποίησε πηλὸν ἐκ τοῦ πτύσματος, καὶ ἐπέχρισε τὸν πηλὸν ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τοῦ τυφλοῦ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὕπαγε νίψαι εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ, ὃ ἐρμηνεύεται ἀπεσταλμένος. ἀπῆλθεν οὖν καὶ ἐνίψατο, καὶ ἤλθε βλέπων. Οἱ οὖν γείτονες καὶ οἱ θεωροῦντες αὐτὸν τὸ πρότερον ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν, ἔλεγον· οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ καθήμενος καὶ προσαιτῶν; ἄλλοι ἔλεγον ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν· ἄλλοι δὲ ὅτι ὅμοιος αὐτῷ ἐστίν. ἐκεῖνος ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ· πῶς ἀνεφώχθησάν σου οἱ ὀφθαλμοί; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· ἄνθρωπος λεγόμενος Ἰησοῦς πηλὸν ἐποίησε καὶ ἐπέχρισέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς καὶ εἶπέ μοι· ὕπαγε εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ καὶ νίψαι· ἀπελθὼν δὲ καὶ νιψάμενος ἀνέβλεψα. εἶπον οὖν αὐτῷ· ποῦ ἐστίν ἐκεῖνος; λέγει· οὐκ οἶδα. Ἄγουσιν αὐτὸν πρὸς τοὺς Φαρισαίους, τὸν ποτε τυφλόν. ἦν δὲ σάββατον ὅτε τὸν πηλὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἀνέφωξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. πάλιν οὖν ἠρώτων αὐτὸν καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι πῶς ἀνέβλεπεν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πηλὸν ἐπέθηκέ μου ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς, καὶ ἐνιψάμην, καὶ βλέπω. ἔλεγον οὖν ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων τινές· οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐκ ἐστὶ παρὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅτι τὸ σάββατον οὐ τηρεῖ. ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· πῶς δύναται ἄνθρωπος ἀμαρτωλὸς τοιαῦτα σημεῖα ποιεῖν; καὶ σχίσμα ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς. λέγουσι τῷ τυφλῷ πάλιν· σὺ τί λέγεις περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν ὅτι προφήτης ἐστίν. οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι περὶ αὐτοῦ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέβλεπεν, ἕως ὅτου ἐφώνησαν τοὺς γονεῖς αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀναβλέψαντος καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτοὺς λέγοντες· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ὑμῶν, ὃν ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη; πῶς οὖν ἄρτι βλέπει; ἀπεκρίθησαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶπον· οἶδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ἡμῶν καὶ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη· πῶς δὲ νῦν βλέπει οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἢ τίς ἠνοιξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς ἡμεῖς οὐκ οἶδαμεν· αὐτὸς ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε, αὐτὸς περὶ ἑαυτοῦ λαλήσει. ταῦτα εἶπον οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς Ἰουδαίους· ἦδη γὰρ συνετέθειντο οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἵνα, ἐάν τις αὐτὸν ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν, ἀποσυνάγωγος γένηται. διὰ τοῦτο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπον ὅτι ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε. ἐφώνησαν οὖν ἐκ δευτέρου τὸν ἄνθρωπον ὃς ἦν τυφλός, καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ· ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος ἀμαρτωλὸς ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· εἰ ἀμαρτωλός ἐστιν οὐκ οἶδα· ἐν οἶδα, ὅτι τυφλὸς ὦν ἄρτι βλέπω. εἶπον δὲ αὐτῷ πάλιν· τί ἐποίησέ σοι; πῶς ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς· εἶπον ὑμῖν ἤδη, καὶ οὐκ ἠκούσατε· τί πάλιν θέλετε ἀκούειν; μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς θέλετε αὐτοῦ μαθηταὶ γενέσθαι; ἐλοιδόρησαν αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπον· σὺ εἰ μαθητὴς ἐκείνου· ἡμεῖς δὲ τοῦ Μωϋσέως ἐσμὲν μαθηταί. ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι Μωϋσεὶ λελάληκεν ὁ Θεός· τοῦτον δὲ οὐκ οἶδαμεν πόθεν ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ θαυμαστόν ἐστίν, ὅτι ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἶδατε πόθεν ἐστί, καὶ ἀνέφωξέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ἀμαρτωλῶν ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἀκούει, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις θεοσεβῆς ἦ καὶ τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ ποιῇ, τούτου ἀκούει. ἐκ τοῦ αἰῶνος οὐκ ἠκούσθη ὅτι ἠνοιξέ τις ὀφθαλμούς τυφλοῦ γεγεννημένου. εἰ μὴ ἦν οὗτος παρὰ Θεοῦ, οὐκ ἠδύνατο ποιεῖν οὐδέν. ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν ἀμαρτίαις σὺ ἐγεννήθης ὅλος, καὶ σὺ διδάσκεις ἡμᾶς; καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω.

Ἦκουσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω, καὶ εὐρῶν αὐτὸν εἶπεν αὐτῷ· σὺ πιστεύεις εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπε· καὶ τίς ἐστι, Κύριε, ἵνα πιστεύσω εἰς αὐτόν; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἑώρακας αὐτόν καὶ ὁ λαλῶν μετὰ σοῦ ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν. ὁ δὲ ἔφη· πιστεύω, Κύριε· καὶ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ.

**DEVOTIONS: PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICE :** Wednesday June 08th, 6:30 P.M.

**ASCENSION THURSDAY:** Feast and Liturgy will be celebrated this week at Three Hierarchs on Thursday June 09th, at 9:00 A.M.

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:** will be hosted by the Greek School. Please join us for coffee and sweets:

**FLAG DAY OBSERVANCE:** will be part of the Divine Services of Sunday June 12th. Join us in celebrating our 'OLDE GLORY' which of late has been desecrated in abuse by some. It's a Grande - Olde Flag worthy of being proud of by all, here and abroad.

**PHILOTOCHOS LADIES:** WILL HOLD THEIR SPRING SOCIAL DINNER ON MONDAY EVENING, JUNE 13TH, AT 7:00 P.M. at the Floridian Diner. MEMBERS AND THEIR SPOUSE and significant others are invited. Tickets are available at \$30.00 a person. Please call the Church OFFICE: (718) 339- 0280 / EFFIE. Every Lady should be a member, join us.

**FINAL PSYCHO/SABBATON** for this year is being observed Saturday, June 18th with Divine Liturgy commemorating our beloved faithful in repose at 9:30 A.M. Kollyva will be blessed and distributed to the faithful in attendance. REMEMBER THOSE WHO HAVE GONE INTO ETERNAL MEMORY. Commemoration sheets are included in the bulletin.

**PENTECOST:** The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the foundation day of the earthly church (CHUCH MILITANT) is invoked and intended for the grace of the Holy Spirit upon the congregation for life, health, restored health, peace, joy, and salvation. Don't miss the opportunity for this 'blessing' most significant. Lord, fill us with the Grace of the Holy Spirit.

**FATHER EUGENE'S ANNIVERSARY** date : PENTECOST SUNDAY (June 19th ) will complete the 50th, ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY of our beloved Pastor's service in the vineyard of the Lord. Each year on Pentecost Sunday it is another year of service to Jesus Christ and His BODY of FAITHFUL EIS. POLLA TA ETH! EIS POLLA TA ETH!

**MS. MR. AND MRS CLUB :** Coney Island Nite ~ Whitehall on June 21st, 7:00 P.M.

**GREEK FESTIVAL:** at the Three Hierarchs Parish is scheduled today June 5th. 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.

**GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION** is scheduled today, 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.

**CONEY ISLAND** will be the venue for the Greek School children students after a long year of study. Hot dogs, fries, coca cola, ice cream soda, cotton candy and RIDES, RIDES, RIDES at TOM'S of CONEY ISLAND, and the VOUDERIS BROTHERS of DENO'S WONDER – WHEEL gather on WEDNESDAY afternoon JUNE 08th, at 4:00 P.M. on the boardwalk at TOM'S ..... see you there! Father Eugene NEVER misses the Coney Island Day. See you on the 'bumping cars'.....

**SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB:** will meet for festivities every Wednesday through June. They meet at 1:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL for refreshments and games. OPEN TO ALL! COME ON DOWN! Each Wednesday is an adventure. PIZZA PARTY JUNE 8TH.

**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.

**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! GRADUATION JUNE 24TH ,2016 !**

**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 :** + KONSTANTINOS KAFETZIS + DIMITRIOS ANTIARIS + GEORGE ANASTASIADIS  
**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + XENOPHON RAPTIS + PENELOPE KANTANAS + IOANNIS ZACHARIAS

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK FESTIVAL

June 3, 4 & 5, 2016

Friday: 5pm - Midnight (Cretan Night)

Saturday: Noon - Midnight (Greek Night)

Sunday: Noon - 8pm

**\*\*We accept Credit Cards\*\***



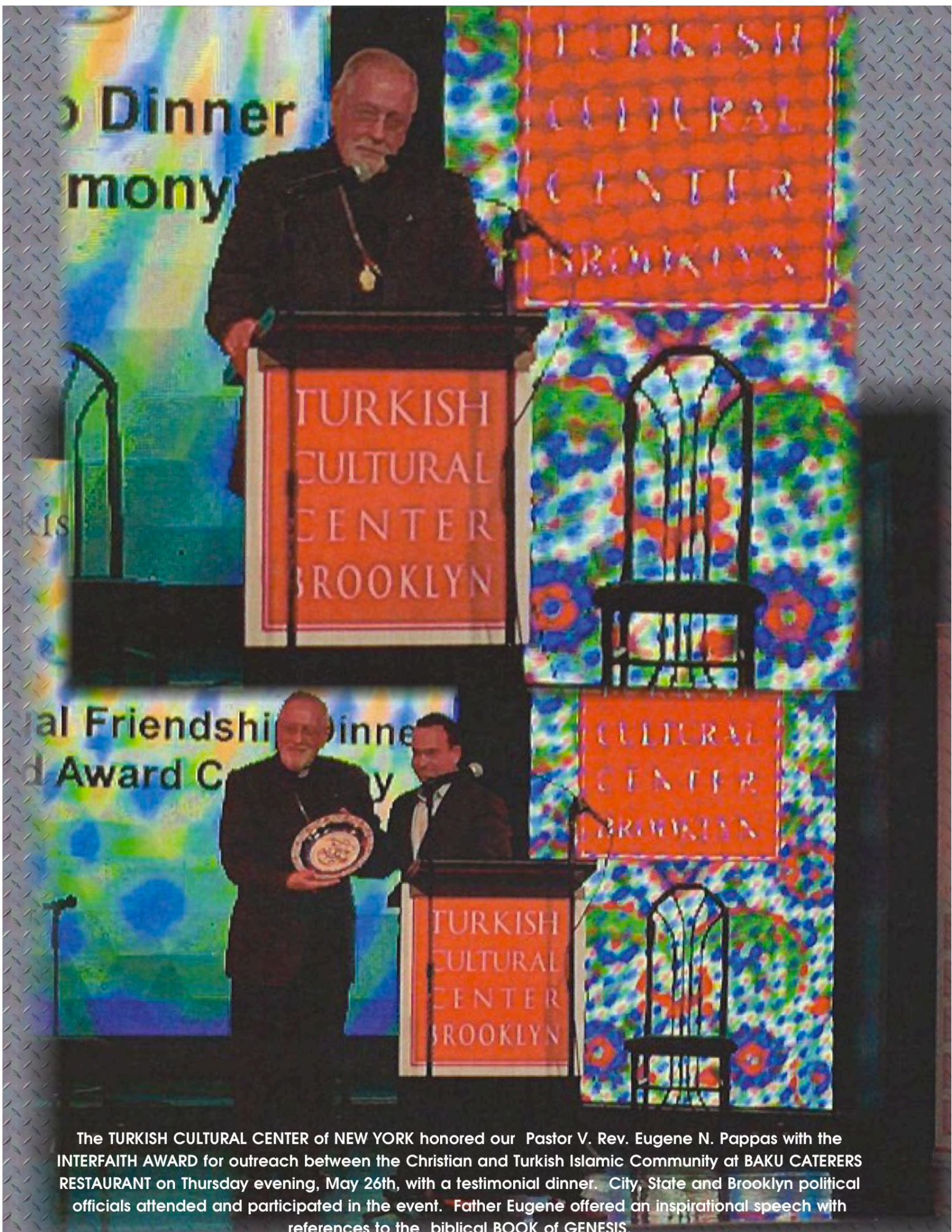
- FREE ADMISSION
- LIVE GREEK MUSIC
- DELICIOUS GREEK FOOD
- PASTRIES AND LOUKOUMADES
- GAMES AND RIDES
- GREEK SOUVENIRS AND VENDORS
- WINE WHEEL
- GREEK DANCING AND PERFORMANCES
- FUN FOR ALL AGES

**Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church**

1724 Avenue P ♦ Brooklyn, NY 11229

Info: 347-509-3215 ♦ Church: 718-339-0280

Like us on Facebook "Three Hierarchs Festival"



The TURKISH CULTURAL CENTER of NEW YORK honored our Pastor V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas with the INTERFAITH AWARD for outreach between the Christian and Turkish Islamic Community at BAKU CATERERS RESTAURANT on Thursday evening, May 26th, with a testimonial dinner. City, State and Brooklyn political officials attended and participated in the event. Father Eugene offered an inspirational speech with references to the biblical BOOK of GENESIS.



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1953	Κυριακὴ τοῦ Τυφλοῦ (Πα. 9,1-38) 5 Ιουνίου 2016	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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### Τὸ θάρρος τοῦ τυφλοῦ

**Κ**αὶ πάλι, ἀγαπητοί μου, μᾶς ἀξιώνει ὁ Κύριος νὰ συναντηθούμε. Ἄς εὐχαριστήσουμε τὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν Ἀναστάνα, πού μᾶς δίνει τὴν εὐκαιρίαν νὰ κηρύξουμε τὸν λόγο τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Τὸ θέμα μᾶς εἶνε, ὅτι κάποιος ἔγινε **ἔγκλημα** καὶ πρέπει νὰ τιμωρηθῇ! Προσῆλθε ὁμοῦ δὲν πρόκειται γιὰ ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ γνωστὰ ἐγκλήματα· πρόκειται γιὰ κάτι πού δὲν εἶνε πράγματι ἔγκλημα, ἀλλὰ κάποιος τὸ θεωροῦν ἔγκλημα.

Στὸ βασίλειο τοῦ διαβόλου τὸ **καλὸ ὄνομα** ζεταί **κακό**. Καὶ ἐγκληματίας σήμερον θεωρεῖται ὁ εὐσεβής· «οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται» (1 Πέτρ. 2,12). Παρομοίως δὲν ἔγινε καὶ στὴν ἀρχαία Ἀθήνα μὲ τὸν δίκαιον **Ἀριστείδην** πού τὸν ἐξώρισαν δι' ἐξοστρακισμοῦ ἢ καὶ τὸν **Σωκράτη** πού τὸν πάτισαν τὸ κῶνειον.

Ἄλλ' ἄς φύγουμε τώρα ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀθήναν καὶ ἄς πάμε στὸ **Ἱεροσόλυμα**. Ἐκεῖ λοιπόν, σ' ἓνα σταυροδρόμι, στεκόταν **ἓνας τυφλὸς ζητιάνος** ζητώντας ἐλεημοσύνη. Μιὰ μέρα σταμάτησε μπροστά του ἓνας ἀγνωστος· ἦταν ὁ **Χριστός**· εὐλογημένη στιγμή! Ὁ τυφλὸς περιμένε κανένα νόμισμα, ὁ ἀγνωστος ὁμοῦ δὲν εἶχε στὴν τσέπη οὔτε φράγκο. Ὅπως λέει ὁ Τζοβάννι Παπίνι, ὁ Χριστός δὲν ἔπιασε στὰ χέρια του χρήματα, πού ἐν ἐσχάτῃ ἀναλύσει εἶνε «ἡ κοπρὰ τοῦ διαβόλου» (βλ. Ἰωάν. 8,12). Ἄλλ' ἐνῶ δὲν εἶχε χρήματα, εἶχε κάτι ἄλλο ἀνώτερο· ἡ δύναμι καὶ τὰ θαύματά του, ὅπως ἀκούσαμε σήμερον, δὲν περιγράφονται· «Τίς λαλήσει τὰς δυναστείας σου, Χριστέ; ἢ τίς ἐξαιθρήσει τὸν θαυμάτων σου τὰ πλήθη» (Ἰηλ. 40,5).

Ἐκανε λοιπόν κ' ἐδῶ τὸ θαῦμα Του. Ἐσκυψε μὲ ἀπλότητα, ἔφτυσε κάτω, ἔκανε μὲ τὸ σάλιο λάσπη, ἔλειψε τὰ μάτια τοῦ τυφλοῦ καὶ τοῦ λέει Πήγαινε στὴν κολυμβήθρα τοῦ Σιλωάμ καὶ πλύσου. Κι αὐτός, χωρὶς νὰ τοῦ φανῇ προσβλητικό, πήγε, πλύθηκε, καὶ γύρισε βλέποντας!

Αὐτὸ ἦταν μεγάλο θαῦμα. Γιατί κι ἄλλα θαύματα ἔκανε ὁ Χριστός σὲ ἀσθενεῖς, ἀλλὰ ἐκεῖνα ἦταν θεραπεία κάποιου ἀσθενεῖος. Ἐδῶ δὲν εἶνε θεραπεία ἀσθενείας· εἶνε **δημιουργία** ἐκ

τοῦ μηδενός! Διότι ὁ τυφλὸς αὐτὸς μέσα στὶς κόγχες του δὲν εἶχε μάτι· βολβό. Ὑπάρχουν τέτοιες περιπτώσεις. Εἶδα σὲ χωριὸ τῶν Γρεβενῶν μιὰ μάνα μὲ ἓνα παιδάκι τυφλὸ καὶ μοῦ λέει· «Γιὰ τίς ἀμαρτίες μᾶς γεννήθηκε ἔτσι. Καὶ ὄντως τὸ παιδί προερχόταν ἀπὸ ἀθέμιτη σχέση».

Καὶ στὸν τυφλὸ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου δὲν ὑπῆρχε καθόλου βολβός· ἐκ τοῦ μηδενός ὁ Χριστὸς δημιούργησε μάτια. Ἡ ἐπιστήμη τῶρα προσπαθεῖ νὰ μεταφτεύσῃ μάτια σὲ τυφλοὺς. Ἐνας τραγουδιστής, πᾶμπλούτος, ἔδινε ἑκατομμύρια γιὰ νὰ τοῦ δώσουν ἓνα μάτι, καὶ βρέθηκε ἓνας Ἕλληνας φτωχαδάκι νὰ πουλήσῃ τὸ ἓνα του μάτι! Προχωρεῖ λοιπόν ἡ ἐπιστήμη, ἔφτασε νὰ κῆνη **μεταμόσχευσι** ζωντανοῦ ὀφθαλμοῦ, ἀλλὰ νὰ φτεριάξῃ μάτι δὲν κατώρθωσε.

Θαυμαστὸ δημιούργημα τὸ μάτι· εἶνε ἡ τέλεια φωτογραφικὴ μηχανή. Φτάνει καὶ μόνο ἓνα μάτι γιὰ νὰ πιστέψῃς ὅτι **ὑπάρχει Θεός**.

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Ὁ Χριστὸς λοιπόν ἐφτείαξε μάτια στὸν τυφλὸ καὶ ὁ φτωχός, γιὰ πρώτη φορά, εἶδε τὸν κόσμον! Αὐτὸ ὁμοῦ, πού ἦταν μιὰ **εὐεργεσία** γιὰ τὸν ἴδιον καὶ τοὺς γύρω του, ὅταν τὸ ἔμαθαν οἱ φαρισαῖοι τὸ χαρακτηρίσαν **ἔγκλημα**.

Οἱ **νόμοι** εἶνε μαχαίρι δίκαιο· στὰ χέρια ἀγαθῶν δικαστῶν λειτουργοῦν εὐεργετικά, στὰ χέρια ὁμοῦ κακοποιῶν ἀλλοίμονο· αὐτοὶ κάνουν ὅπως ὁ ἀγγελιοπλάστης· «ὅπου θέλει ὁ τοσουκαλὸς τὰ κολλάει τ' αὐτιά». Ἡ δικαιοσύνη εἶνε ἀτελής· ἡ νομοθεσία στηρίζεται ἐπὶ τοῦ ῥωμαϊκοῦ δικαίου, ὄχι στὴ διδαχὴ τοῦ Ναζωραίου.

Οἱ φαρισαῖοι ἔψαξαν τὸ νόμον καὶ βρῆκαν, ὅτι τὸ Σάββατον ἀπαγορεύεται κάθε ἐργασία. Κατὰ τὸ σκεπτικὸν τοὺς τὸ θαῦμα εἶνε ἐργασία, ὁρα ἀπαγορεύεται κι αὐτό. Δὲν βλέπουν τὸ γεγονός, βλέπουν τὴν ἡμέραν. Ἐπομένως ὁ Χριστός, πού «διήλθεν εὐεργετῶν» (Ἰω. 10,41), ἔκανε **ἔγκλημα**. Καὶ δὲν τολμοῦν νὰ τὸν πιάσουν, στήνουν ὁμοῦ **δικαστήριον** νὰ τὸν δικάσουν ἐρήμην. Μάρτυρες δύο, ὁ τυφλὸς καὶ οἱ γονεῖς του.

**Φωνάζουν τὸν τυφλό** κι ἀφοῦ βεβαιώνονται γιὰ τὴν ταυτότητά του τὸν ἀνακρίνουν. Σύντομες οἱ ἀπαντήσεις του: Ἕνας ἀνθρώπος ποῦ τὸν λένε Ἰησοῦ ἔκανε πηλό, μοῦ δάειψε τὰ μάτια, μοῦ εἶπε νὰ πάω νὰ πλυθῶ στὴν καλυμμένη θρα τοῦ Σιλωάμ· πῆγα καὶ τώρα βλέπω. Βεβαίωσε τὸ θαῦμα «καὶ ποῖός τὸ ἔκανε. Καὶ ἐνῶ ἤξερε τὴ δυσμένειά τους κατὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅταν τὸν ρώτησαν τί γνώμη ἔχει γι' αὐτόν, εἶπε: **Εἶνε προφήτης.** Δυσσεσπότηθηκαν. Ἀκούς ἐκεῖ, εἶπαν, νὰ θεωρῆ προφήτη τὸν ἐγκληματία...

**Φωνάζουν τώρα τοὺς γονεῖς** του. Τὸ δικαστήριο τοὺς ὑποβάλλει τρία ἐρωτήματα. Τὸ πρῶτο: –Εἶνε παιδί σας; –Μάλιστα. Τὸ δεύτερο: –Ἦταν τυφλός; –Ναί, ἔτσι γεννήθηκε. Τὸ τρίτο: –Ποῖός τὸν ἔκανε καλά; Ἐδῶ, ἐνῶ ἤξεραν τὴν ἀλήθεια καὶ ὠφείλαν νὰ τὴν ποῦν ὅ,τι κι ἂν κοστῆ, ἀπαντοῦν: «**Αὐτός ἡλικίαν ἔχει αὐτόν ἐρωτήσατε: αὐτός**» θά σᾶς πῆ β' 121. Μὲ ἄλλα λόγια εἶπαν σὺν τὸν Πέτρο: «**Οὐκ οἶδα τὸν ἄνθρωπον**» (Ματθ. 22,74. Μάρκ. 14,71. Λουκ. 22,57).

Μεταβίβασαν τὴν εὐθύνη στὸ παιδί τους, «**Ζνα μὴ ἀποσυνάγωγοι γένωνται**» (Πα. 1,22 βλ. κ' 124). Τὸ «**ἀποσυνάγωγος**» σήμαινε στέρηση πολιτικῶν καὶ θρησκευτικῶν δικαιωμάτων, κοινωνικῆ ἀπομόνωσης, ἀπάνθρωπη στάσι. Γι' αὐτὸ δέχτησαν οἱ γονεῖς νὰ δώσουν τὴ μαρτυρία τους.

Οἱ δικασταὶ **καλοῦν πάλι τὸν τέως τυφλό** καὶ τὸν καλοπιάνουν: στὰ χεῖλη γλύκα, ἀλλὰ στὴν καρδιά χολή. –Πρόσεξε, παιδί μου, λένε: «**δός δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ**», δόξασε τὸ Θεό, καὶ **κατάθεσέ μας ὅτι αὐτός ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶνε ἓνας «ἀμαρτωλός»** (Πα. 124). Ἕνας ἐγκληματίας!... Αὐτὸ ἤθελαν αὐτοὶ ν' ἀκούσουν, μὰ δὲν ἀπέσπασαν τέτοιο λόγο ἀπ' τὸ στόμα του. Μὲ θάρρος τοὺς ἀπαντᾷ: –Δὲν ξέρω ἂν εἶνε ἀμαρτωλός: ἕνα ξέρω, ὅτι ἤμουν τυφλός καὶ τώρα βλέπω.

Τὸν ξαναρωτᾶνε: –Τί σοῦ ἔκανε, πῶς σου ἀνοιξε τὰ μάτια; –Μὰ σᾶς τὸ εἶπα ἤδη: γιατί θέλετε νὰ τὸ ξαναλέω; μήπως θέλετε νὰ γίνετε κ' ἐσεῖς μαθηταὶ του;... Αὐτὸ ἔπασσε σὺν κεραιμίδα στὸ κεφάλι τους. –Ἐσύ εἶσαι μαθητῆς ἐκείνου, τοῦ λένε μὲ περιφρόνησι, ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε μαθηταὶ τοῦ Μωυσῆ· ἐμεῖς ξέρουμε ὅτι στὸ Μωυσῆ μίλησε ὁ Θεός, αὐτὸν δὲν ξέρουμε ἀπὸ ποῦ ἦρθε. –Μὰ ἐδῶ ἀκριβῶς εἶνε τὸ θαυμαστό, ὅτι ἐσεῖς δὲν ξέρετε ἀπὸ ποῦ ἦρθε, κι ὅμως ἐμένα μοῦ ὄωσε τὸ φῶς μου· καὶ ξέρουμε ὅτι ὁ Θεός ἀμαρτωλούς δὲν ἀκούει, ἀλλ' ἐὰν κάποιος εἶνε θεοσεβής καὶ τηρῆ τὸ θέλημά του, αὐτὸν ἀκούει. Ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου δὲν ἀκούστηκε ὅτι ἀνοιξε κάποιος μάτια τυφλοῦ ἐκ γενετῆς· ἂν αὐτός (ὁ Ἰησοῦς) δὲν ἦταν ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό, δὲν μπορούσε νὰ κάνῃ τίπο-

τα... Ἐσύ γεννήθηκες ὀλόκληρος μὲς' στὶς ἁμαρτίες, ἀπαντοῦν βέωργισμένοι, καὶ τολμᾷς νὰ διδάσκῃς ἐμεῖς; Καὶ τὸν **ἐβγαλαν ἐξω**.

Βρέθηκε ἔτσι ἀπομονωμένος ἀπ' τοὺς ἀνθρώπους: ἀπ' τὸ συνέδριο καὶ τὴν πνευματικὴ ἡγεσία, γραμματεῖς καὶ φαρισαίους, ὡς καὶ ἀπ' αὐτοὺς τοὺς γονεῖς του: «**ὁ πατήρ μου καὶ ἡ μήτηρ μου ἐγκατέλιπόν με, ὁ δὲ Κύριος προσελάβετό με**» (Ματθ. 23,10). Καὶ πράγματι ὁ Κύριος δὲν τὸν ἐγκατέλειψε: μόλις βγήκε, σὺν ἀθλητῆς ποῦ διέτρεξε τὸ στάδιο, **τὸν περιμένει στὴν ἐξοδο τοῦ δικαστηρίου ὁ Χριστός, νὰ τὸν βραβεύσῃ, καὶ τοῦ λέει: «Σὺ πιστεύεις εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ;»** –Καὶ ποῖός εἶνε, Κύριε, γιὰ νὰ πιστέψω; –Εἶνε αὐτός ποῦ εἶδες κι αὐτός ποῦ μιλάει τώρα μαζί σου. –Ἐσύ λοιπὸν εἶσαι; –**Πιστεύω, Κύριε: καὶ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ**» (Πα. 125-33).

Αὐτὸ, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε τὸ σημερινὸ θαῦμα. Ἀνοιξτε στὸ σπίτι τὸ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην εὐαγγέλιο καὶ διαβάστε το: εἶνε στὸ 9ο κεφάλαιο. Θά σᾶς δώσω ἀπὸ αὐτὸ **τρία ἄνθη**, γιὰ νὰ ὀσφραίνεσθε.

- Τὸ πρῶτο. Λένε μερικοί: –Ἐγὼ γιὰ νὰ πιστέψω θέλω θαύματα. Μὰ νὰ, οἱ φαρισαῖοι βεβαιώθηκαν γιὰ τὸ θαῦμα: γιατί λοιπὸν δὲν πίστεψαν; Ἀδέλφια μου, μὴ ἀπατάσθε: δὲν εἶνε ἡ ἔλλειψις θαύματος ἐκείνη ποῦ προκαλεῖ τὴν ἀπιστία, ὄχι εἶνε ἡ **διαφθορὰ τῆς καρδίας**, ὁ φθόνος, ἡ μοχθηρία, ἡ ἀβυσσὸς τῶν παθῶν.
- Τὸ ἄλλο ἄνθος. Θαυμάζω τὸν τυφλό γιὰ τὴν **ὑπακοή** του. Μόλις ἀκούει «**Ἔπαγε νύψαι**», ἀμέσως πηγαίνει (ὅπως καὶ στὴν παλαιὰ διαθήκη ὁ Νεεμάν ὁ Σύρος). Καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς ὁ Χριστός λέει: Ἔπαγε, παιδί μου, νὰ ἐξομολογηθῆς, νὰ λειτουργηθῆς, νὰ βοηθήσῃς τὸν ἀνήμπορο. Θαυμάζω ἀκόμη τὸν τυφλό γιὰ τὸ **θάρρος τῆς ὁμολογίας** του: ἓνας αὐτός, τοὺς νίκησε ὅλους.
- Καὶ τὸ τρίτο ἄνθος. Τί κατῴρθωσαν οἱ φαρισαῖοι μὲ τὸ νὰ βασανίζουν τὸν τυφλό; Τίποτα; Ἡ ἀλήθεια εἶνε σὺν τὸ καρφί, ποῦ ὅσο τὸ χτυπᾷς μπαίνει καὶ πιὸ βαθειὰ στὸ εὔλο· καὶ ἡ **ἀλήθεια, ὅσο τὴ χτυπᾷς, ριζώνει περισσότερο στὴν καρδιά** τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Δὲν ὑπάρχει λόγος νὰ φοβηθοῦμε. Καὶ ἂν ὀλόκληρη ἡ Γῆ ἀρνηθῆ τὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο, φτάνει κ' ἓνας τυφλός, ποῦ θά ἔχη τὴ δύναμι νὰ μαρτυρήσῃ, γιὰ νὰ καταρρίψῃ τὰ ἐπιχειρήματα τῆς ἀθείας. Ὡς ὅθει, ὅσο μπορεῖ ἓνας τρελλός νὰ σβῆσῃ τὸν ἥλιο μὲ τὸ σάλιο του, ἄλλο τόσο θά μπορέσετε κ' ἐσεῖς μὲ τὰ «**σάλια**» σας νὰ σβῆσετε τὴν Ἀλήθεια: ἡ δὲ Ἀλήθεια εἶνε ἓνας καὶ μόνος, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός· ὄν, παῖδες, ὁμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπεριψοῦτε 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**

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**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**

*Jesus Completes Creation*

He healed others by a word. ... But the Lord bestowed sight on the one who was blind from birth - not by a word, but by an outward action. He did this neither casually nor simply because this was how it happened. He did it this way in order to show it was the same hand of God here that had also formed man at the beginning. And therefore when His disciples asked Him why he had been born blind, whether by his own fault or his parents', Jesus said, "Neither this man sinned, nor his parents, but that the works of God might be manifested in him." The work of God is, after all, the forming of man. He did this by an outward action, as Scripture says, "And the Lord took clay from earth, and formed man." Notice here too how the Lord spit on the earth, and made clay and smeared it on his eyes, showing how the ancient creation was made. He was making clear

to those who can understand, that this was the hand of God through which man was formed from clay. For what the creating Word had neglected to form in the womb, this He supplied openly. He did this so that the works of God might be evident in Him, and so that we would now seek for no other hand than that through which humanity was formed. Nor should we seek another Father, knowing that the hand of God which formed us in the beginning, and forms in the womb, has in the last times sought us lost ones out. He is gaining his own lost sheep and putting it on his shoulders and joyfully restoring it to the fold of life.

*St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

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