



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 3rd, 2016
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SECOND SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Saints Anatolius and Others — July 3rd

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St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 2:10-16

Prokeimenon. Mode 1.

Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The Reading is from Book Title 4:1-11

Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 2:10-16

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α΄.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Ἀδελφοί, δόξα δὲ καὶ τιμὴ καὶ εἰρήνη παντὶ τῷ ἐργαζομένῳ τὸ ἀγαθόν, Ἰουδαίῳ τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλληνι· οὐ γὰρ ἐστὶν προσωποληψία παρὰ τῷ θεῷ. Ὅσοι γὰρ ἀνόμως ἥμαρτον, ἀνόμως καὶ ἀπολοῦνται· καὶ ὅσοι ἐν νόμῳ ἥμαρτον, διὰ νόμον κριθήσονται· οὐ γὰρ οἱ ἀκροαταὶ τοῦ νόμου δίκαιοι παρὰ τῷ θεῷ, ἀλλ' οἱ ποιηταὶ τοῦ νόμου δικαιωθήσονται. Ὅταν γὰρ ἔθνη τὰ μὴ νόμον ἔχοντα φύσει τὰ τοῦ νόμου ποιῇ, οὗτοι, νόμον μὴ ἔχοντες, ἑαυτοῖς εἰσὶν νόμος· οἵτινες ἐνδείκνυνται τὸ ἔργον τοῦ νόμου γραπτὸν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν, συμμαρτυροῦσης αὐτῶν τῆς συνειδήσεως, καὶ μεταξύ ἀλλήλων τῶν λογισμῶν κατηγορούντων ἢ καὶ ἀπολογουμένων, ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρινεῖ ὁ θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου, διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

2nd Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel according to Matthew 4:18-23

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

2nd Sunday of Matthew

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:18-23

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, περιπατῶν δὲ παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶδε δύο ἀδελφούς, Σίμωνα τὸν λεγόμενον Πέτρον καὶ Ἀνδρέαν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, βάλλοντας ἀμφίβληστρον εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν· ἦσαν γὰρ ἀλιεῖς· καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς ἀλιεῖς ἀνθρώπων. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὰ δίκτυα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ προβάς ἐκεῖθεν εἶδεν ἄλλους δύο ἀδελφούς, Ἰάκωβον τὸν τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ μετὰ Ζεβεδαίου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῶν καταρτίζοντας τὰ δίκτυα αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐκάλεσεν αὐτούς. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὸ πλοῖον καὶ τὸν πατέρα αὐτῶν ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ περιῆγεν ὅλην τὴν Γαλιλαίαν ὁ Ἰησοῦς διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ λαῷ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

TODAY: **July 03rd. Liturgy of Saint Hyacinth and Saint Anatole** **10:30 A.M.**
 July 03rd, DOXOLOGY tribute to AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE **12:00 P.M.**
 July 04th, Parish Complex is closed for the National Holiday

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Is only hosted during the summer months JULY and AUGUST, through the courtesy and generosity of individual sponsors. For \$125, (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY – FIVE DOLLARS) you can host the coffee fellowship as a birthday, anniversary tribute or memorial recognition any Sunday=ay with coffee, tea, bagels and smears. Our committee will do the serving upon request. Call: 718-339-0280. Share the recognition of ‘THE DAY’ with others through fellowship.

TODAY: We salute our nation on its’ INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVANCE. The flag is prominently positioned for display. The National Anthem will be sung at the end of Divine Liturgy heralding our fidelity to the United States of America. Martial music will be played at he recessional in tribute to those who through the decades secured our peace and freedoms. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

CLERGY LAITY CONGRESS: Our Pastor Father Eugene will represent the PARISH as a voting delegate to the highest legislative body of the Greek Orthodox Church in the Americas! His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios will convene the legislative body tomorrow (Monday July 04th, through Friday Morning July 08th.) in NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. OVER 600 parishes will be represented by hundreds of delegates clergy and laity alike. Father Eugene will resume parochial duties upon his return Friday.

HOLY and GREAT COUNCIL: of the global ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH has now concluded with God’s GRACE! Father Eugene will bring a full report of the proceedings upon his return from the Clergy/Laity Congress. The archbishop was one of hundreds of bishops invited to attend and deliberate. Next Sunday’s homily will touch upon the sacred subjects reviewed and discussed. Why don’t you encourage your grandson to join the altar servers!

ALTAR BOYS EXCURSION: took place last Friday evening with hot dogs, fries, ice cream, soda and rides, rides, rides, ending the evening excursion with fireworks on the CONEY ISLAND boardwalk. Some 28 youngsters enjoyed a fun filled night under, the stars. Many thanks to the VOUDERIS BROTHERS at Deno’s Wonder Wheel Park and To ‘PAUL’S DAUGHTER ‘ on the boardwalk for the refreshments.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB: will host their final meeting before the summer recess this Wednesday, June 29th. wine, cheeses, fruits and WATERMELON GALORE will celebrate the occasion. B I N G O and fun for all. You haven’t joined us yet? EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AT 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. IN WHITEHALL. Give the elders in your home a ‘ DAY OUT ‘ with their friends. The Club will be in recess after the 29th until WEDNESDAY – SEPTEMBER 14TH. Mark your calendar **now** for the return.

SUMMER HOURS: Please take note that through the months of July and August until after LABOR DAY, the parish complex closes at 4:00 P.M. without exceptions. All organizational leaders are apprised that NO MEETINGS will take place after hours unless previously sanctioned by the administrative office. Please cooperate and observe the rule. THANKS. A secure complex is our goal.

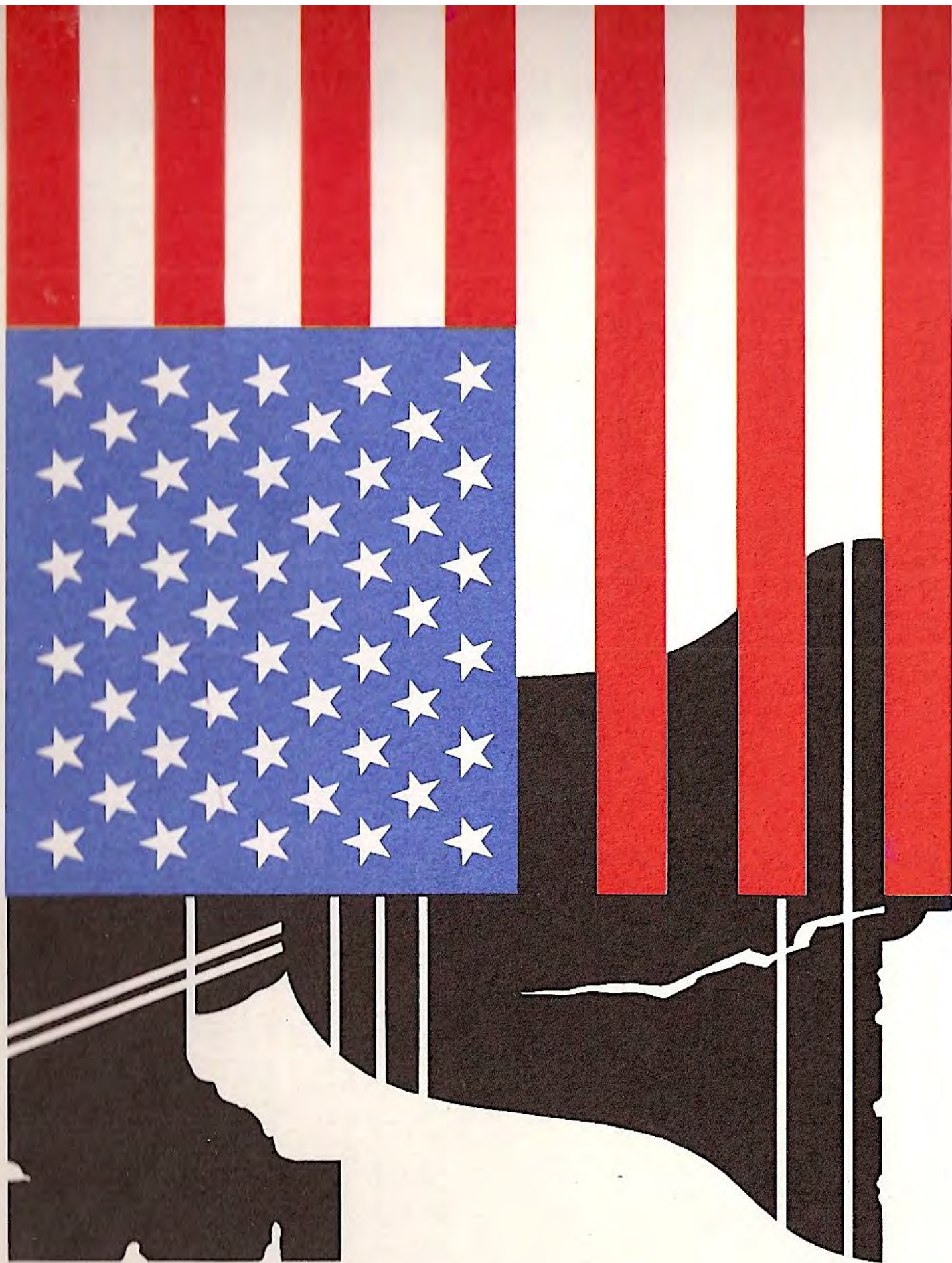
THREE HIERARCHS U.P.K. OBSERVATION REPORT from the City of New York earned ABOVE AVERAGE RATING in overall score to program structure. Hence we have ONE of the BEST U.P.K. PROGRAMS IN THE city. DO YOU HAVE CHILDREN OR GRAND-CHILDREN 4 YEARS OF AGE IN SEPTEMBER THAT CAN BE ENROLLED? This program 8:00 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!

SEND US YOUR E MAIL ADDRESS : and we will send the weekly bulletin to your home. Going to Greece? Show the bulletin to your family in your old home town. What a treat.....and it’s FREE! Call the office 718 339-0280 and speak to Effie.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 17TH 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](#))

CHOIR RECESS: We wish all our devoted choir members and the “MAESTRA” Katie Hambras a well deserved summer vacation. the choir resumes September 11th after Labor Day observance.

MEMORIAL TODAY: Is offered in blessed memory of one of luminaries of
ORTHODOX EVANGELISM in the TWENTIETH CENTURY,
+ **VERY REVEREND EUSEBIUS PAPASTEPHANOU,**
of Saint Simeon the New Theologian Retreat center in Florida.
May his memory be Eternal!





POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

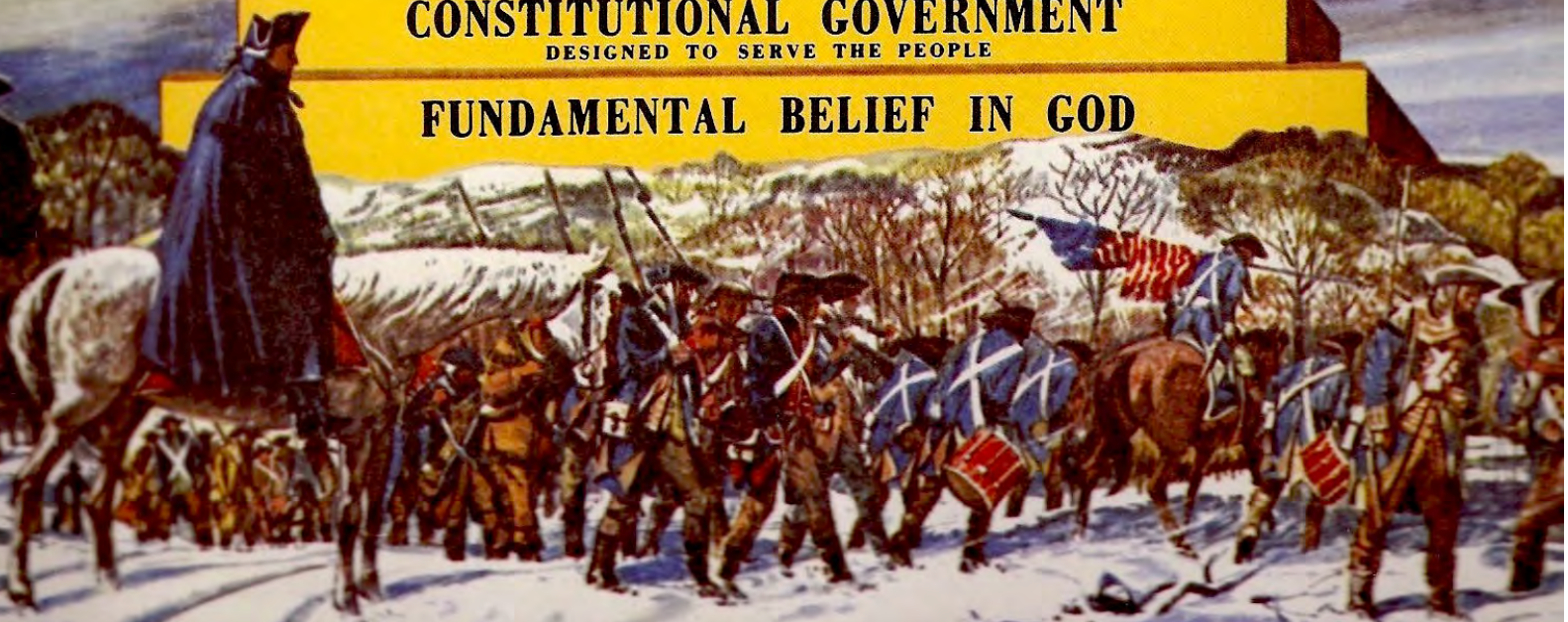
WHICH PROTECT THE DIGNITY AND FREEDOM OF THE INDIVIDUAL

- ★ RIGHT TO WORSHIP GOD IN ONE'S OWN WAY.
- ★ RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH AND PRESS.
- ★ RIGHT TO PEACEABLY ASSEMBLE
- ★ RIGHT TO PETITION FOR REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.
- ★ RIGHT TO PRIVACY IN OUR HOMES.
- ★ RIGHT OF HABEAS CORPUS—NO EXCESSIVE BAIL.
- ★ RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY—INNOCENT UNTIL PROVED GUILTY.
- ★ RIGHT TO MOVE ABOUT FREELY AT HOME AND ABROAD.
- ★ RIGHT TO OWN PRIVATE PROPERTY.
- ★ RIGHT TO FREE ELECTIONS AND PERSONAL SECRET BALLOT.
- ★ RIGHT TO WORK IN CALLINGS AND LOCALITIES OF OUR CHOICE.
- ★ RIGHT TO BARGAIN WITH OUR EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES.
- ★ RIGHT TO GO INTO BUSINESS, COMPETE, MAKE A PROFIT.
- ★ RIGHT TO BARGAIN FOR GOODS AND SERVICES IN A FREE MARKET.
- ★ RIGHT TO CONTRACT ABOUT OUR AFFAIRS.
- ★ RIGHT TO THE SERVICE OF GOVERNMENT AS A PROTECTOR AND REFEREE.
- ★ RIGHT TO FREEDOM FROM ARBITRARY GOVERNMENT REGULATION AND CONTROL.

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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόρην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγαλὴν ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἄπ. 1.10)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΒ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1185'

Κυριακὴ Β' (Β' Ματθ.) (Ρωμ. 2,10-16)
3 Ἰουλίου 2016 (2005)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Τὰ κρυφὰ ἁμαρτήματα

«Ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρινεῖ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων
κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ» (Ρωμ. 2.16)

Ἀκούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸν ἀπόστολο: Μεταξὺ τῶν ἀληθειῶν ποὺ κηρύττει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, λέει καὶ τοῦτο στὸ τέλος τῆς περικοπῆς: ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς «*κρινεῖ τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων*» (Ρωμ 2|6), δηλαδή θὰ δικάσῃ τὰ κρυφὰ μας ἁμαρτήματα. Γιὰ τὰ κρυφὰ ἁμαρτήματα ἂς μιλήσουμε λοιπὸν κ' ἔμεις.

Ποιά εἶνε αὐτὰ «τὰ κρυπτὰ» ποὺ θὰ κρίνῃ ὁ Θεός; Δὲν θὰ κρίνῃ ἀσφαλῶς μόνο «τὰ κρυπτὰ», θὰ κρίνῃ καὶ τὰ φανερά ἁμαρτήματα: ἀλλ' ἐδῶ ὁ λόγος εἶνε εἰδικῶς γιὰ τὰ κρυφὰ, «τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων».

Ἀπὸ τότε ποὺ ἁμάρτησαν ὁ Ἄδὰμ καὶ ἡ Εὐά, μέσα στὸν ἄνθρωπο ὑπάρχει μία τάσις νὰ σκεπάζῃ τὰ ἁμαρτήματά του. Σὲν τὸ γιατί –μέσυχωρετε γιὰ τὴν εἰκόνα– ποὺ κάνει τὴν ἀκαθαροσία του καὶ μετὰ τῆ σκεπάζει, ἔτσι καὶ χειρότερα ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Κάνει τὸ κακό, κοιτάζει δεξιὰ - ἀριστερά, καὶ τὸ σκεπάζει νὰ μὴν τὸν δῆ κανεὶς – ἔτσι νομίζει.

Παρατηρήστε **στὸ σπίτι** τὸ μικρὸ παιδί. Κάνει μιὰ ἀταξία ἢ ζημιὰ. Δὲν πάει στὴ μόνᾳ νὰ πῆ, ἔκανε αὐτὸ τὸ κακό. Κάθεται στὸ τραπέζι σὰν ἀγγελούδι. Καὶ πρέπει νὰ εἶνε πολὺ ξεμυτινῆ ἢ μόνᾳ γιὰ νὰ καταλάβῃ ὅτι ὁ μικρὸς ἔκανε κάποια ζαβολιά. Αὐτὸς δὲν λέει τίποτα. Πρέπει νὰ ῥθῆ ἡ γειτόνισσα ἢ ὁ ἀστυνόμος νὰ τὸ ἀποκαλύψῃ. Καὶ πάλι ὁ μικρὸς θὰ προσπαθήσῃ νὰ σκεπάζῃ τὴν ἁμαρτία του. Οἱ γονεῖς εἶνε οἱ τελευταῖοι ποὺ λαμβάνουν γνῶσι τῶν διαφόρων ἀταξιῶν τῶν παιδιῶν τους. Καὶ ἂν ἀπὸ τὸ σπίτι πάτε **στὸ σχολεῖο** καὶ ρωτήσετε τὸ δάσκαλο ἢ τὸν καθηγητὴ, θὰ πᾶς ποὺν εἰ μαρτύριο τραβᾶνε. Ἐνῶ γίνεται μιὰ ἀταξία στὴν τάξη, στὸ σχολεῖο μέσα, τὰ παιδιά δὲν μαρτυρᾶνε, δὲν λέει κανεὶς ποιὸς τὸ ἔκανε: σκεπάζουσι τὸν ἐνοχο καὶ δυσκολεύουσι τὴν

στης. Σκεπάζει ὁ μικρὸς τὴ ζημιὰ στὸ σπίτι, σκεπάζει ὁ μαθητὴς τὴν ἀταξία του πρὸ σχολεῖο. Ἄν πάτε καὶ **στὸ στρατό**, ὅσοι κάνουν στρατιῶτες θὰ παρατηρήσατε τὰ ἔξῃς. Ὅταν γίνεται κάποια παράβασι στὸ λόχο, ὁ ἐνοχος προσποιεῖται ὅτι εἶνε «θ' ὅλα ἐν τάξει, ὥστε νὰ μείνῃ ἀτιμώρητος. Καὶ ἂν βγῆτε τέλος **στὴν κοινωνία**, ἐκεῖ νὰ δῆτε τί κόπο καταβάλλει ἡ ἀστυνομία γιὰ ν' ἀνακαλύψῃ ποιὸς ἔκανε τὰ διάφορα ἐγκλήματα. Ὅλοι σκεπάζουσι τὸ ἁμάρτημά τους. Νὰ «τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων»!

Ἄλλὰ τέλος πάντων νὰ κρύβεται ὁ μικρὸς ὑπὸ τὴ μόνᾳ του, νὰ κρύβεται ὁ μαθητὴς ἀπὸ τὸ δάσκαλο, νὰ κρύβεται ὁ στρατιώτης ἀπὸ τὸ λοχία, νὰ κρύβεται ὁ πολίτης ἀπὸ τὸν ἀστυνόμο, νὰ κρύβονται ὅλοι αὐτοί, καλά, τὸ καταλαβαίνω: νὰ συνεχίζεται ὁμοῦ τὸ **κρυφτούλι καὶ ἀνάμεσα στὸ ἀντρόγυνο**; Ὅ «τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων»! Ρωτᾶει ὁ ἄντρας, ποὺ ἔρχεται ἰδρωμένος τὸ μεσημέρι –Ποῦ ἦσουν; –Στὴ θείᾳ μου. Τὴν ἄλλη φορὰ –Ποῦ ἦσουν; –Στὸν ἄδερφό μου. –Ποῦ ἦσουν; –Στὸ γιατρό. –Ποῦ ἦσουν. –Στὸ Ι.Κ.Α.. –Ποῦ ἦσουν; –Στὴ μοδίστρα... Κι αὐτὴ ποῦ ἦταν; Πευθενά, σὲ κανένα ἀπ' αὐτοίς. Ἐδῶ εἶνε ἕνα χάος. Κρύβεται, καὶ μπροστὰ στὸν ἄντρα τῆς παρουσιάζεται ὡς ἀθῶα. Ἐνῶ ἔχει διαπράξει τὴν ἀτιμία καὶ ὁ κόσμος τὸ ξέρει καὶ βοᾷ ὅλη ἡ γειτονία, ὁ ταλαίπωρος ὁ ἄντρας μένει μέσα στὸ σκότος. Μὰ μόνᾳ ἡ **γυναίκα** κρύβεται. Μήπως καὶ ὁ **ἄντρας** δὲν κρύβεται ἀπὸ τὴ γυναίκα, ποὺ ἀγνοεῖ ἢ ταλαίπωρη τί κάνει αὐτός, ποῦ γυρίζει δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά;

Αὐτὰ εἶνε «τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων». Ὅλοι κρύβουσι τὰ ἁμαρτήματά τους. Παίζουμε μὲ ἄλλα λόγια ἕνα **θέατρο**. Σοῦ λένε: Θὰ ἦρεσ τὸ θέατρο; Ποιὸ θέατρο; Ἐδῶ εἶνε τὸ θέα-

της ψευτιδος. Πρώτα οἱ ἄνθρωποι εἶχαν εἰλικρίνεια· γράμματα δὲν ἔφεραν, διπλώματα δὲν εἶχαν, γλωσσες δὲν μιλοῦσαν, ἀλλὰ μύριζαν θυμῶρι. ἦτανε ντόμπροι! Τώρα **ὅλοι περπατοῦν μὲ μάσκες**. Φαίνονται ἀπ' ἔξω ἀγγελούδια, μιλοῦν μὲ εὐγένεια, ἀλλὰ μέσα ἡ καρδιά τους εἶνε ἕνα ἐργαστήριον τοῦ διαβόλου.

Ἀπὸ ὅσα διαπράττουν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, **ἐλάχιστα συλλαμβάνει ὁ νόμος**. Νομίζετε ὅτι αὐτοὶ ποῦ βρίσκονται στή φυλακὴ εἶνε οἱ μόνοι ἐγκληματίες; Λίγοι εἶνε μέσα. Ἀπὸ τὰ χίλια ἐγκλήματα ἕνα πιάνει ἡ τοιμιπὶδα, καὶ ἀπὸ αὐτὰ πιάνει τὸ μικρότερο. Τὰ μεγαλύτερα εἶνε σκεπασμένα. Τὰ ἔχει ὁ διάβολος κλεισμένα στὸ ψυγεῖο. Ὑπάρχουν ἐγκλήματα!... Βλέπεις τὸ φτωχὸ, κλέβει πέντε κουλούρια στὸ δρόμο καὶ ὁ ταλαίπωρος μπαίνει στή φυλακὴ· καὶ βλέπεις τὸν ἄλλο μὲ τὰ μεγάλα ὀξιώματα νὰ κἀνη βουτιές στὰ δημόσια τομεῖα, νὰ κλέβη συνεχῶς, νὰ χτιζῆ πολυκατοικίες νὰ πιχτώνη τὴ θάλασσα ἀπὸ καράβια, κ' εἶνε ἐλεύθερος καὶ περπατᾷ ἐξω σὰν κύριος. Ὑπάρχουν κλοπὲς ποῦ δὲν τίς ἔχει ἀνακαλύψει κανένας ἔφορος. Ὑπάρχουν συζυγικὲς καὶ οἰκογενειακὲς ἀπάτες καλυμμένες· ὁ ἀντρας ἀπατᾷ τὴ γυναῖκα, κι αὐτὴ ἢ δυστυχῆ τὸν θεωρεῖ σὰν ἀγγελό· τὸ ἀγόρι ἢ τὸ κορίτσι ἔχουν παραστρατήσῃ, κ' οἱ γονεῖς τὸ ἀγνοοῦν... Ὑπάρχουν ψευδομάστιρες ποῦ ἀπλώσαν τὰ βρωμερὰ τους χέρια στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ ἔστειλαν τὸν ἄθῶο στή φυλακὴ. Ὑπάρχουν ἐγκλήματα δούλληπτα· κλέφτες, πόρνοι, μοιχοὶ, περπατοῦν ἐλεύθεροι καὶ τοὺς δέχονται πανταῦ μὲ ἀνοικτὲς τίς πόρτες. Αὐτὰ εἶνε *«τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων»*.

—Καὶ ποῦ εἶνε ὁ Θεός, θὰ πῆτε, ποῦ εἶνε ἡ δικαιοσύνη... Περιμένε· *«μηδένα πρὸ τοῦ τέλους μακάριζε»*. Τὸ λέει καθαρὰ ὁ σημερινὸς ἀπόστολος· *«κρινεὶ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ»*. **Θὰ ξεσκεπάζῃ καὶ θὸ τιμωρήσῃ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ κρυμμένα ἁμαρτήματα**. Ὅσο κι ἂν παίζη τὸ κρυφτούλι ὁ ἄνθρωπος, θὰ ξερθῆ ὡρα τῆς ἀλήθειας. Ἔχουμε παραδείγματα πολλὰ. Κι ἀφήνω τὴν ἁγία Γραφή· πᾶνω τὴν κοινωνία. Τὸ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος· *«Δὲν ὑπάρχει κρυπτὸν ὃ οὐ φανερόν γενήσεται»* (Μακ β' 17). Δὲν θὰ μείνη τίποτε κρυφὸ, ὅλα θὰ φανερωθοῦν. Θέλετε παραδειγμα;

Πρὸ ἑτῶν συνέβη τὸ ἑξῆς. Ἐνας κακὸς αὐτοζυγὸς εἶπε στὴ γυναῖκα του· Πᾶμε στὸ βουνὸ ν' ἀναπνεύσουμε ἀέρα; Δὲν ὑποπεύθηκε τίποτε ἢ ταλαίπωρη καὶ τὸν ἀκολούθησε. Ἐκεῖ ἄρχισε μιὰ λογομαχία, κι αὐτὸς τί κάνει· παίρνει ἕνα καταβίδι καὶ τῆς κόβει τὸ λαρύγγι! Παιάμι τὸ αἷμα· νεκρὴ ἢ γυναῖκα. Μετὰ, τὴν

πῆρε, τὴν κατέβασε στὴν παραλία, τὴν ἔβαλε στὴ βάρκα του (ἦταν ψαρῆς), καὶ τί τὸν ἔβαλε ὁ διάβολος νὰ κἀνη, (εἶνε νὰ μὴν ὑποχωρήσῃ· ἄμα ἀρχίσῃ τὸν κατήφορο, θὰ κατακυλλῆς συνεχῶς μέχρι τὴν ἀβυσσο). Ἐδεσε λοιπὸν στὰ πόδια τῆς δυὸ ἀγκυρες καὶ τὴν φούνταρε μέσα στὸ πέλαγος σὲ χίλια μέτρα βάθος. Πῆγε στὸ σπίτι. Τὰ παιδιὰ ρωτοῦσαν· —Ποῦ εἶνε ἡ μάνα; —εἶνε στὴ θεία στὴν Ἀθῆνα, εἶνε καλὰ ἐκεῖ... Ἡ θάλασσα ὁμως δὲν ἀντεῖξε τὸ ἐγκλημα. Μὲ ἀφρωμένα κύματα μέσα ἀπὸ τόσο βάθος σήκωσε τὸ σῶμα καὶ μαζὶ μὲ τίς ἀγκυρες τὸ πέταξε ἔξω. Τρόμαξε ὁ κόσμος, ἤρθε ἀστυνομία, ἀντεισαγγελεύς, καὶ **τὸ ἐγκλημα ἀποκαλύφθηκε**. Ἰδοὺ *«τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων»*! Τίποτα δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ κρυφτῆ.

Ποῦ καταντήσαμε! θὰ πῆτε. Καὶ ποῦ θὰ φτάσουμε ἀκόμα! Στὴν ἀρχὴ ε μεθα. Πρώτα ὄχι ἄνθρωπο νὰ σκοτώσουν, μιμνήγκι φοβοῦνταν νὰ πατήσουν· ὄχι ἑξένη περιουσία νὰ περράξουν, ἀλλὰ καὶ χρυσάφι νὰ εὑρισκαν στὸ δρόμο δὲν τὸ ἀγγίζαν· ὄχι ν' ἀτιμάσουν γυναῖκα ἢ κορίτσι, ἀλλὰ καὶ γιὰ ἕνα λόγο ἢ ἕνα βλέμμα θεωροῦσαν προτιμότερο νὰ πεθάνουν. Τώρα; Ὅπως πίνουν τὸ νερό, εἶτσι κάνουν τὴν ἁμαρτία, καθὼς ἔλεγε μιὰ προφητεία (βλ. 1η Πέφτουν στὴν ἀτιμία, καὶ μετὰ κοιμοῦνται ἡσυχῇ! Δὲν πιστεύουν πλέον στὸ Θεό. Ἡ λένα μερικοί· Ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε πολὺ ψηλά, δὲν τὸν νοιάζει τί γίνεται ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ... Τί εἶπες, ἄνθρωπε; **Ὁ κόσμος ἔχει ἀφέντη!** Λοιπὸν σοῦ λέω καὶ τελειῶνω! Ὅπου νὰ πᾶς κι ὅπου νὰ κρυφτῆς, μὴ ξεχνᾷς, ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἕνα μάτι ποῦ τὰ βλέπει ὅλα, ὑπάρχει ἕνα αὐτί ποῦ τ' ἀκούει ὅλα, **ὑπάρχει ἕνα χέρι ποῦ τὰ γράφει ὅλα** *«τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων»*. Σὲ ρωτῶ· Ποιὸς ἀπὸ μᾶς, ἂν κατεβῆ ἕνας ἀγγελος μὲ τὸ βιβλίον ποῦ ἔνε γραμμένα τὰ κρυφὰ μας ἁμαρτήματα, ποιὸς θέλει νὰ διαβαστῆ ἐνάπιον ὄλων τὸ «μητρώφου», τὰ ἁμαρτήματά του, μὲ τὸ νῦ καὶ μὲ τὸ σίγμα; Ὁ Χριστέ μου, αὐτὸ ἕνας· προτιμότερο ν' ἀνοίξῃ ἢ γῆ νὰ μᾶς καταπιῆ.

Γι' αὐτὸ, ἕως ὅτου ζοῦμε στὸ μάταιο τοῦτο κόσμο, ἐμπρὸς ἀδέρφια μου **νὰ μετανοήσουμε**. Τὸ ἁμαρτάνειν εἶνε ἀνθρώπινο, τὸ ἐμμένειν στὴν ἁμαρτία εἶνε σατανικό! Ἄν μετανοήσουμε, ὁ ἀγγελος θὰ πάρη τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας καὶ θὰ σβῆσῃ τ' ἁμαρτήματά μας. Ἔτσι, ὅταν φύγουμε ἀπὸ τὸ μάταιο τοῦτο κόσμο, νὰ σφραγίσουμε τὰ χεῖλιά μας μ' ἐκεῖνο ποῦ εἶπε ὁ ληστής· *«Μνησθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου»* (Μακ β' 27) 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

Death Holds No Power Over Us

The Word of God, incorporeal, incorruptible and immaterial, entered our world. Yet it was not as if He had been remote from it up to that time. For there is no part of the world that was ever without His presence; together with His Father, He continually filled all things and places; ...

Within the Virgin He built himself a temple, that is, a body; He made it His own instrument in which to dwell and to reveal Himself. In this way He received from mankind a body like our own, and, since all were subject to the corruption of death, He delivered this body over to death for all, and with supreme love offered it to the Father. He did so to destroy the law of corruption passed against all men, since all died in Him. The law, which had spent its force on the body of the Lord, could no longer have any power over His fellowmen. Moreover, this

was the way in which the Word was to restore mankind to immortality, after it had fallen into corruption, and summon it back from death to life. He utterly destroyed the power death had against mankind - as fire consumes chaff - by means of the body He had taken and the grace of the resurrection.

This is the reason why the Word assumed a body that could die, so that this body, sharing in the Word who is above all, might satisfy death's requirement in place of all. ... The corruption of death no longer holds any power over mankind, thanks to the Word, who has come to dwell among them through His one body.

St. Athanasius the Great

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