

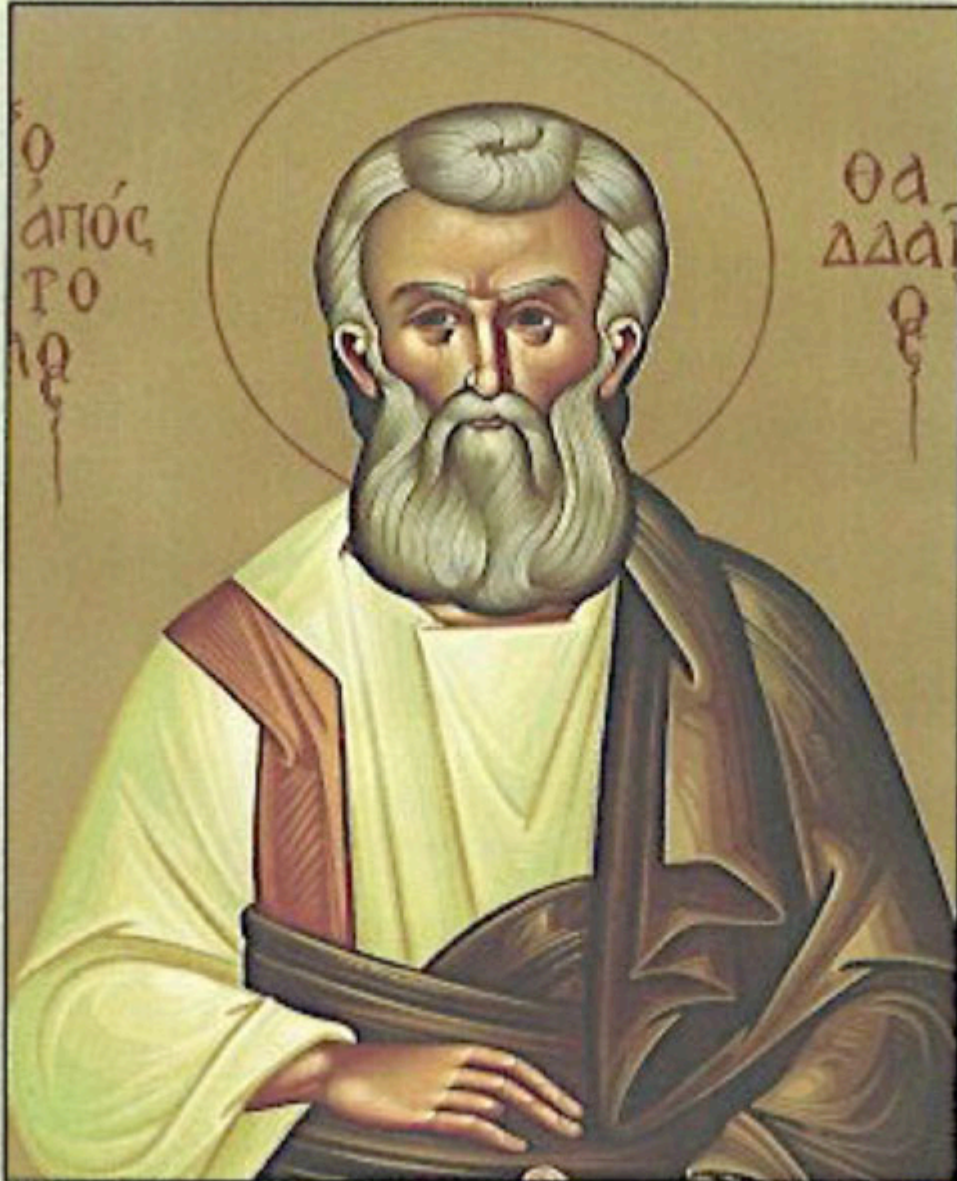


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 21st, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## NINTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



*Icon of Saint Thaddeus -- August 21st*

## St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 3:9-17

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.

Psalm 75.11,1

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

BRETHREN, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder. I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

## Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 3:9-17

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος πλ δ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Ἀδελφοί, Θεοῦ γάρ ἐσμεν συνεργοί· θεοῦ γεώργιον, θεοῦ οἰκοδομὴ ἐστε. Κατὰ τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ τὴν δοθεῖσάν μοι, ὡς σοφὸς ἀρχιτέκτων θεμέλιον τέθεικα, ἄλλος δὲ ἐποικοδομεῖ. Ἐκαστος δὲ βλέπω πῶς ἐποικοδομεῖ. Θεμέλιον γὰρ ἄλλον οὐδεὶς δύναται θεῖναι παρὰ τὸν κείμενον, ὅς ἐστιν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Εἰ δέ τις ἐποικοδομεῖ ἐπὶ τὸν θεμέλιον τοῦτον χρυσόν, ἄργυρον, λίθους τιμίους, ξύλα, χόρτον, καλάμην, ἐκάστου τὸ ἔργον φανερόν γενήσεται· ἢ γὰρ ἡμέρα δηλώσει, ὅτι ἐν πυρὶ ἀποκαλύπτεται· καὶ ἐκάστου τὸ ἔργον ὅποιόν ἐστιν τὸ πῦρ δοκιμάσει. Εἴ τις τὸ ἔργον μένει ὁ ἐποικοδόμησεν, μισθὸν λήψεται. Εἴ τις τὸ ἔργον κατακαήσεται, ζημιωθήσεται· αὐτὸς δὲ σωθήσεται, οὕτως δὲ ὡς διὰ πυρός. Οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε, καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν; Εἴ τις τὸν ναὸν τοῦ θεοῦ φθείρει, φθερεῖ τοῦτον ὁ θεός· ὁ γὰρ ναὸς τοῦ θεοῦ ἅγιός ἐστιν, οἵτινές ἐστε ὑμεῖς.

## 9th Sunday of Matthew

### The Gospel according to Matthew 14:22-34

At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they entered the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret.

## 9th Sunday of Matthew

### Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 14:22-34

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ἠνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἕως οὗ ἀπολύσει τοὺς ὄχλους. Καὶ ἀπολύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἀνέβη εἰς τὸ ὄρος κατ' ἰδίαν προσεύξασθαι. ὀψίας δὲ γενομένης μόνος ἦν ἐκεῖ. Τὸ δὲ πλοῖον ἤδη σταδίου πολλοὺς ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἀπεῖχεν, βασανιζόμενον ὑπὸ τῶν κυμάτων, ἦν γὰρ ἐναντίος ὁ ἄνεμος. Τετάρτη δὲ φυλακῆ τῆς νυκτὸς ἦλθεν πρὸς αὐτοὺς περιπατῶν ἐπὶ τὴν θάλασσαν. Οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης περιπατοῦντα ἐταράχθησαν λέγοντες ὅτι Φάντασμα ἐστίν, καὶ ἀπὸ τοῦ φόβου ἔκραζαν. Εὐθὺς δὲ ἐλάλησεν [ὁ Ἰησοῦς] αὐτοῖς λέγων, Θαρσεῖτε, ἐγὼ εἰμι· μὴ φοβεῖσθε. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν, Κύριε, εἰ σὺ εἶ, κέλευσόν με ἐλθεῖν πρὸς σὲ ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα· ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐλθέ. καὶ καταβάς ἀπὸ τοῦ πλοίου ὁ Πέτρος περιεπάτησεν ἐπὶ τὰ ὕδατα καὶ ἦλθεν πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν. Βλέπων δὲ τὸν ἄνεμον ἐφοβήθη, καὶ ἀρξάμενος καταποντίζεσθαι ἔκραξεν λέγων, Κύριε, σῶσόν με. Εὐθέως δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα ἐπέλαβετο αὐτοῦ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ, Ὀλιγόπιστε, εἰς τί ἐδίστασας; καὶ ἀναβάντων αὐτῶν εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ἐκόπασεν ὁ ἄνεμος. Οἱ δὲ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ προσεκύνησαν αὐτῷ λέγοντες, Ἀληθῶς Θεοῦ υἱὸς εἶ. Καὶ διαπεράσαντες ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν εἰς Γεννησαρέτ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Saturday	August 27th,	SPECIAL COMMEMORATION of SAINT PHANOURIOS	9:30 A.M.
Saturday	August 27th,	ARTOKLASIA	10:30 A.M.
		Blessing of PHANOUIROPITAS	11:00 A.M.

**This is truly a very happy feast day of sharing, tasting and good Christian fellowship. Special booklets of the life of Saint Phanourios and details about the miraculous finding of his icon as well as direction how to prepare a Saint Phanourios Cake (PITA) are available FREE upon request of the clergy. SEE FATHER AFTER LITURGY FOR YOUR COPY ..... if you intend to present a cake in honor of the Sainly miracle finder.**

Sunday	August 28th,	Feast Day of Saint Laurentios (Saint Lawrence) and Moses the <b>ETHIOPIAN</b>	10.30 A.M.
Monday	August 29th,	Beheading of St. John the Baptist Divine Liturgy <b>THIS IS A DAY OF STRICT FASTING</b>	9:30 A.M.
Thursday	September,01st	This is the beginning of the <b>NEW ECCLESIASTICAL YEAR</b> called the 'Indictus' , we will observe the annual observance with a <b>DOXOLOGY</b> and <b>AGIASMOS</b> at Thursday September,1st 11:00 A.M.	

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** For \$125, (ONE HUNDRED TWENTY – FIVE DOLLARS) you can host the coffee fellowship as a birthday, anniversary tribute or memorial recognition any Sunday 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.

**ST. PHANOURIOS FEAST:** The Patron Saint of "lost" or mislaid items will be celebrated on Saturday with solemnity and DOZENS of PHANOURO-PITES (sweet cakes) in honor of the saint. Liturgy and blessing of the many cakes will be SATURDAY – AUGUST 27th at 9:00 A.M. Don't miss the joy of the holiday and taste of dozens of cakes. Are you bringing a cake? Are you baking your own cake? All blessed cakes honor the saint for a **LOST ITEM FOUND !**

**ALTAR BOYS** get a double header Today when we celebrate altar server **DAMIAN VAGANOV's** (NINTH BIRTHDAY) observance, with many thanks to two loving grand- parents Larisa and Philip. Then on Tuesday, August 23rd , the boys (20) will go to a **CYCLONES BASEBALL GAME** in Coney Island at 7:00 P.M. Baseball caps and other treats will be distributed as souvenirs. **PLAY BALL!!!!**

**CHRISMATION:** is the appropriate sacramental service for the reception of non-Orthodox Christians (Roman Catholic, Anglican, Protestant) who are validly baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity entering the **ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**. We are receptive to any interested parties who may wish to enter the sacramental life of Orthodoxy by confession of faith and anointing. Please communicate with the clergy if you or another is interested. The ancient rite of **CHRISMATION** (confirmation) is administered during the Divine Liturgy any Sunday, prior to the Eucharistic distribution. **COME ! SEE ! LEARN ! REJOICE !**  
**MANY THANKS:** to the wine donors that submitted **EUCCHARISTIC WINES** for Holy Communion; MR. and MRS STEVE KRITSAS, MRS. ANTONIA TSISMENAKIS, MRS FOTINI DANIL..... the Lord blesses the gracious donor in the vineyard of the harvest.

**ELEVATOR PROJECT:** is on the rise..... donations are always welcomed as we inch by inch look forward to the finalization of this much needed accessibility for our 'senior citizen' members. You may **NOT** be one today, but surely will be one tomorrow. **MAKE A DONATION. THANK YOU!** Special thanks to **MARIA COURTOS** who donated \$2500 last Sunday!

**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 18<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](#))

**MEMORIAL TODAY: + THERESA PRESVELOIS**









The Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Koimisis Theotokou) was celebrated with solemnity, dignity and home coming fellowship with a dozen "artoklasies" in honor of OUR LADY and countless faithful receiving the Holy Eucharist.

Another feature of the event was the presence of FOUR PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENTS of esteem, who were presented with an ARTOKLASIA BREAD from the pastor.

Photo images include Steve (Stravos) Arniotes Esq., Captain Gus (Constantine) Savaros, Jack (Kyriakos) Chrysomalis Esq. and George Annis.

Chronia Polla was extended to all celebrating their name-day. MARIO, MARIA, DESPINA, PANAGIOTI AND PANAGIOTA. "YPSOMATA" of the Liturgy were distributed to the celebrants.





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΓ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1963	Κυριακὴ Θ' Ματθαίου (Μαθ. 14,22-34) 21 Αὐγούστου 2016	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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### «Κλυδωνίζεται, ἀλλὰ δὲν καταποντίζεται»

«...Τὸ δὲ πλοῖον ἦν βασανιζόμενον ὑπὸ τῶν κυμάτων» (Μαθ. 14,24)

**Μ**ετά, ἀγαπητοί μου, μετὰ τὸ θαῦμα τοῦ χορτασμοῦ τῶν πεντακισχιλίων, ποὺ ἐγίνετο στὴν ἔρημο βλ. Μπθ. 14,13-21), ὁ Κύριος διατάζει τοὺς μαθητὰς του νὰ μποῦν **στὸ πλοιάριο**, στὸ καΐκι, γιὰ νὰ τοὺς μεταφέρει «εἰς τὸ πέραν» (εἰ 14,22), στὴν πόλι τῆς Καπερναοῦμ.

Ὁ Ἰδιος δὲν φεύγει μαζί τους. Μένει ἐκεῖ, κι ἀφοῦ ἀπέλυσε τοὺς δχλους, ἀνέβηκε στὸ ὄρος γιὰ νὰ ἐπικοινωνήσῃ, μέσα στὴν ἡσυχία τῆς ἐρήμου, μὲ τὸν οὐράνιο Πατέρα του. Ἐκεῖ **προσεύχεται μόνος** ὅλη τὴ νύχτα. Ἐνῶ ὁμοῦς ἐκεῖνος προσεύχεται, οἱ μαθηταὶ τί κάνουν ἄραγε;

Οἱ δώδεκα ἀπόστολοι, καθὼς ταξιδεύουν μέσα στὴ λίμνη Γεννησαρέτ, πέφτουν ξαφνικὰ σὲ **τρικυμία**. Ξεκίνησαν μὲ καλὸ καιρὸ, ἀλλὰ κατόπιν ὁ καιρὸς ἄλλαξε καὶ ἡ θάλασσα φουρτούνιασε. Παλεύουν τώρα μὲ τὰ ἄγρια κύματα. Παλεύουν μόνι τους, χωρὶς νὰ ἔχουν τὸν Χριστὸ κοντὰ τους. Παλεύουν ἔχοντας στὴ διάθεσί του αὐτὸ τὸ μικρὸ σκάφος, τὸ ἄδύναμο ν' ἀντιμετωπίσῃ τέτοια τρικυμία καὶ ἔτοιμο νὰ βουλιάξῃ καὶ νὰ τοὺς παρασύρῃ στὸ βυθό. Παλεύουν συνεχῶς, ὦρες ὀλόκληρες, ὅλη τὴ νύχτα, μέσα στὸ σκοτάδι, καὶ μόλις πρὸς τὰ ξημερώματα ἔρχεται κοντὰ τους ὁ Κύριος περπατώντας πάνω στὰ νερά!

Ἄλλος φόβος πάλι αὐτός. Νομίζουν πῶς εἶνε κάποιο φάντασμα, ταραζόνται καὶ τοὺς φεύγουν φωνές τρόμου. Μὰ ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν θέλει νὰ τοὺς τρομάξῃ· ἀντιθέτως, **ἔρχεται γιὰ νὰ ἐνθαρρύνῃ τὰ παιδιὰ του**. Θὰ ἐλέγξῃ τὴν ὀλιγοπιστία τοῦ Πέτρου, θὰ πῇ στὸν ἄνεμο νὰ κοπάσῃ, θὰ σταματήσῃ τὰ κύματα, καὶ τέλος θὰ δεχθῇ τὴν προσκύνησι ὄσων βρίσκονται μέσα στὸ καραβάκι. Ὅλοι αὐτοί, ἀφοῦ παρακολούθησαν ἔντρομοι καὶ ἔζησαν «μὲ τὴν ψυχὴ στὰ δόντια» τὴ φοβερὴ ἐκείνη τρικυμία, ἀλλὰ κι ἀφοῦ εἶδαν ὀλοφάνερα τὸ θαῦ-

μα, πῶς ὁ ἄνεμος κόπασε ἀπότομα καὶ πῶς ἡ μανιασμένη θάλασσα γαλήνεψε στὴ στιγμή, ἔρχονται καὶ τὸν προσκυνοῦν γονατιστοὶ καὶ τοῦ ὁμολογοῦν· «**Ἀληθῶς Θεοῦ υἱὸς εἶ**», ἀληθινὰ εἶσαι ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ (εἰ 14,33).

Ἡ περιπέτεια αὐτῆ τῶν μαθητῶν μέσα στὸ πλοῖο καθὼς καὶ ἡ θαυμαστὴ σωτηρία τους ἀπὸ τὸ ναυάγιο ἀποτελοῦν μία **εἰκόνα, ποὺ παριστάνει ζωηρὰ τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν** τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τίς περιπέτειές της, ἀλλὰ καὶ τοὺς θριάμβους της. Ἄλλ' ἂς δοῦμε κάπως λεπτομερέστερα τὴν εἰκόνα αὐτῆ.

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**Πλοῖο οὐράνιο**, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ἡ Ἐκκλησία, ποὺ ἔχει προορισμὸ νὰ μεταφέρει τοὺς πιστοὺς «εἰς τὸ πέραν», εἰς τὴν ἄνω πόλιν, στὴν βασιλεία τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἄλλὰ **τὸ ταξίδι** τῆς Ἐκκλησίας διὰ μέσου τῶν αἰώνων **δὲν εἶνε γαλήνιο**. Λίγα καὶ μικρὰ εἶνε τὰ διαλείμματα τῆς γαλήνης· κατὰ κανὸνα ἐπικρατεῖ τρικυμία. Ὁ σατανᾶς μὲ μύριους τρόπους ἐπιχειρεῖ νὰ καταποντίσῃ τὸ σκάφος, γιὰ νὰ μὴν κατορθώσῃ ν' ἀποβιβάσῃ τοὺς ἐπιβάτες του στὶς ἀκτὲς τῆς αἰωνίου ζωῆς, στὸ λιμάνι τῆς σωτηρίας, ἀλλὰ νὰ τοὺς κἀνῃ νὰ ναυαγήσουν στὸ πέλαγος τῆς πλάνης καὶ τῆς διαφθορᾶς.

Ὁ σατανᾶς **ξεσηκώνει κύματα τεράστια**. Κάτω ἀπὸ τὴ βία τῶν κυμάτων αὐτῶν νομίζει κανεὶς ὅτι τὸ σκάφος θὰ παρασυρθῇ, θὰ ἐξοκεῖλη, θὰ χάσῃ τὴν πορεία του, θὰ πέσῃ ἔξω, θὰ χτυπήσῃ πάνω στοὺς βράχους καὶ θὰ ναυαγήσῃ. Καὶ **ποιὰ εἶνε τὰ κύματα**; Εἶνε οἱ διάφορες ἑτεροδιδασκαλίαι, οἱ πλάνες, οἱ αἰρέσεις, τὰ σχίσματα, οἱ κενοφανεῖς θεωρίαι τῶν ὀρθολογιστῶν καὶ τῶν ἀπίστων, ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ ἔμμεσοι ἢ ἄμεσοι διωγμοὶ τῶν κρατούντων. Ὅλα μαζί αὐτὰ ἢ καὶ τὸ καθένα ἀπὸ αὐτὰ χωριστὰ, σὰν κύματα λυσσασμένα πέφτουν πά-



νω στην Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ καί ζητοῦν νά τήν καταποντίσουν.

Ἐκεῖνοι πού κυβερνοῦν τὸ σκάφος, οἱ ποιμένες καὶ διδάσκαλοι τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἀγωνίζονται ὅσο μποροῦν. Ἀλλὰ σὰν ἄνθρωποι κι αὐτοί, βλέποντας γύρω τους τὴ θάλασσα νὰ μαίνεται, βλέποντας τὴ σκοτεινὴ καὶ ἀσέληνη νύχτα, ἀρχίζουν νὰ κάμπτονται, νὰ λυγίζουν, νὰ χάνουν τὸ θάρρος τους, νὰ κλονίζονται, νὰ νομίζουν ὅτι πάει πιά χάθηκε κάθε ἐλπίδα σωτηρίας.

**Οἱ πιστοὶ** ζαλίζονται ἀπὸ τὴν τρικυμία, παθαίνουν σύγχυσι, ἀποπροσανατολίζονται, καὶ ἀποκαμωμένοι ἀπὸ τὴν ταλαιπωρία διαρρέουν δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά, καὶ δὲν εἶνε λίγοι ἐκεῖνοι πού γλιστροῦν ἀπρόσεκτα, πέφτουν στὴ θάλασσα καὶ πνίγονται.

**Οἱ ἄπιστοι** ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο μέρος, μὲ χαρὰ ἀπερίγραπτη, μὲ χαιρέκακη προσμονή, παρακολουθοῦν τὴ δραματικὴ πάλη, τὸ ρίσκοκίνδυνο ταξίδι, τὸν ἀγῶνα τοῦ σκάφους τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μὲ τοὺς ἀνέμους καὶ τὰ κύματα, κι ἀπὸ στιγμή σὲ στιγμή περιμένουν τὸ ναυάγιο, γιὰ νὰ γιορτάσουν τὴ νίκη τους. Ἔχουν καταστρώσει τόσο καλά, τόσο ἐπιδέξια, τόσο σατανικὰ τὰ διάφορα σχέδιά τους γιὰ τὴν καταστροφὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ὥστε τὸ ναυαγίό της τὸ ἔχουν ὡς βέβαιο, καὶ συγκεντρωμένοι στὶς ἀκτὲς τοῦ κόσμου περιμένουν σὰν ἄλλοι πειραταί, σὰν Ἀλγερίνοι καὶ Βάνδαλοι, νὰ περισυλλέξουν ὅ,τι ἀπομεινάρια ἐκβράση ἢ θάλασσα ἀπὸ τὸ ναυάγιο.

**Ἀλλὰ εὐλογητὸς ὁ Θεός!** Κυβερνήτες τοῦ σκάφους, ποιμένες καὶ ἐργάτες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, λάβετε θάρρος. Πιστοί, μείνετε στὶς θέσεις σας. Ἄπιστοι, πενθήστε, ἐξαφανιστήτε! **Ὁ Χριστὸς ἔρχεται!** Θὰ κάνη φανερὴ τὴ δύναμὶ του καὶ τὴ δόξα του.

Μπορεῖ ὁ Κύριος νὰ ἄφηνε τὴν ἐντύπωσι ἐπὶ χρόνια, ἐπὶ αἰῶνες, ὅτι τάχα δὲν ἐνδιαφέρεται γιὰ τὴν τύχη τῆς Ἐκκλησίας του, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ ἦταν ἐντελῶς φαινομενικὸ· τὸ ἔκανε σκοπίμως, γιὰτὶ ἤθελε νὰ δοκιμαστοῦν ὅλοι, καὶ οἱ δικοὶ του καὶ οἱ ἐχθροὶ του· γιὰ νὰ φανῆ καὶ τῶν ἀπίστων ἢ μανία καὶ τῶν πιστῶν ἢ ἀφοσίωσι, καὶ τῶν μαρτύρων ἢ ὑπομονὴ καὶ τῶν ποιμένων ἢ σύνεσι. Ἀλλ' ὅταν φθάσῃ ἡ κρίσιμη στιγμή, ἐκεῖ πού τὰ πάντα φαίνονται σκοτεινά, δυσμενῆ, ἐνάντια, πολέμια γιὰ τὴν Ἐκκλησία, τότε ὁ Κύριος, πού ἀοράτως πάντοτε τὴν κυβερνᾷ, ἐκδηλώνει τὴν στοργὴ πού τρέφει πρὸς τὴν ἀγαπημένη Νύμφη του, τὴν Ἐκκλησία. Μὲ τὴν προσταγὴ του οἱ ἄνεμοι κο-

πάζουν, τὰ κύματα σταματοῦν καὶ γίνεται γαλήνη μεγάλη.

Ἔτσι ἡ Ἐκκλησία, πού γνώρισε ἡμέρες τρικυμιῶν, βλέπει καὶ ἡμέρες γαλήνης. Πόσο θὰ διαρκέσουν οἱ ἡμέρες αὐτὲς τῆς γαλήνης καὶ τῆς εἰρήνης τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, δὲν γνωρίζουμε· τὸ γνωρίζει Ἐκεῖνος. Ἐμεῖς ἔνα πρέπει νὰ γνωρίζουμε καὶ νὰ τὸ πιστεύουμε· ὅτι ἡ **Ἐκκλησία εἶνε** τὸ μοναδικὸ **σκάφος**, τὸ ὁποῖο πρὶν ἀπὸ εἴκοσι αἰῶνες μὲ τὴ διαταγὴ τοῦ Κυρίου ξεκίνησε ἀπὸ τὶς ἀκτὲς τῆς λίμνης Γεννησαρέτ, μπήκε σὲ μεγάλους ὠκεανούς, συνάντησε τρικυμίες, δέχθηκε στὰ πλευρά του τὰ πιὸ δυνατὰ χτυπήματα τῆς κακίας τοῦ κόσμου, φάνηκε πολλὲς φορές ὅτι πρὸς στιγμὴν πάει νὰ βουλιάξῃ, ἀλλὰ μέχρι τώρα δὲν ἔχει καταποντισθῆ, οὔτε ὅμως καὶ θὰ καταποντισθῆ ποτέ. Κατὰ τὴν ὠραία ἔκφρασι ἀρχαίου διδασκάλου τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, τοῦ ἱεροῦ Χρυσοστόμου, ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ *«κλυδωνίζεται, ἀλλ' οὐ καταποντίζεται»*, ταραζεται δηλαδὴ καὶ ταλαιπωρεῖται ἀπὸ τὸν σάλο τῶν κυμάτων, ἀλλὰ δὲν βυθίζεται.

Καὶ πῶς νὰ καταποντισθῆ, ἀφοῦ κυβερνήτης της εἶνε ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστός; Βέβαια, ὅπως ὁ Χριστὸς δοκιμάστηκε, ἔτσι θὰ δοκιμασθῆ καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία του. Θὰ περάσῃ μέσα ἀπὸ τὸ μαρτύριο, θ' ἀνεβῆ στὸ Γολγοθᾶ, θὰ ὑποστῆ ταπεινώσεις καὶ ἐξευτελισμούς, ἀλλὰ στὸ τέλος **θὰ καταλήξῃ στὸ θρίαμβο**. Ὁ δὲ θρίαμβός της θὰ εἶνε τόσο μεγάλος, ὥστε ὄχι μόνο *«οἱ ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ»*, ὅσοι εἶνε πιστοὶ στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ ζοῦν μέσα στοὺς κόλπους τῆς Ἐκκλησίας του, ἀλλὰ κι αὐτοὶ οἱ ἐχθροὶ της, ὅσοι τὴ μισοῦν καὶ τὴν πολεμοῦν, θ' ἀναγνωρίσουν τὴν ἀλήθεια της, τὴ δύναμὶ της, τὴν ὑπεροχὴ της.

Καὶ ἐμεῖς τὰ παιδιὰ της, κατέχοντας αὐτὴ τὴν ἀλήθεια, ἄς μείνουμε πιστοὶ στὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Μὴ μᾶς τρομάζουν τὰ κύματα, μὴ μᾶς πτοοῦν οἱ ἄπιστοι. Αὐτοὶ θὰ χαθοῦν καὶ θὰ ἐξαφανιστοῦν ὅπως οἱ ἄφροὶ τῶν κυμάτων, ἡ Ἐκκλησία ὅμως, ἀφοῦ ἐκτελέσῃ τὸν προορισμό της στὸν κόσμον, θὰ φτάσῃ καὶ θὰ ἀγκυροβολήσῃ **στὸ λιμάνι τῆς αἰωνίου ζωῆς**. *«εἰς τὸ πέραν»*. Τότε οἱ τρισευτυχισμένοι ἐπιβάτες της, καθὼς θ' ἀποβιβάζωνται, θ' ἀντικρύσουν ἐκεῖ μὲ χαρὰ ἀπερίγραπτη τὶς ἀκτὲς τῆς αἰωνίου ζωῆς.

\* \* \*

Εἶθε, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ ἐσεῖς καὶ ἐγὼ καὶ ὅλοι οἱ Χριστιανοὶ νὰ βρεθοῦμε μεταξὺ τῶν **εὐτυχισμένων ἐπιβάτων τοῦ πλοίου**. Τί χαρὰ τότε, τί δόξα τότε, τί εὐτυχία!

*(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**

### *You Are the Light of the World*

The Lord called His disciples the salt of the earth because they seasoned with heavenly wisdom the hearts of men, rendered insipid by the devil. Now He calls them the light of the world as well, because they have been enlightened by Him, the true and everlasting light, and have themselves become a light in the darkness.

Since He is the Sun of Justice, He fittingly calls His disciples the light of the world. The reason for this is that through them, as through shining rays, He has poured out the light of the knowledge of Himself upon the entire world. For by manifesting the light of truth, they have dispelled the darkness of error from the hearts of men.

Moreover, we too have been enlightened by them. We have been made light out of darkness as the Apostle says: For once you were darkness,

but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light. He says another time: For you are not sons of the night and of darkness, but you are all sons of light and of the day.

Saint John also rightly asserts in his letter: God is light. ... This is why the Apostle says: Among them you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life.

If we fail to live in the light, we shall, to our condemnation and that of others, be veiling over and obscuring by our infidelity the light men so desperately need. As we know from Scripture, the man who received the talent should have made it produce a heavenly profit, but instead he preferred to hide it away rather than put it to work and was punished as he deserved.

*St. Chromatius*

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