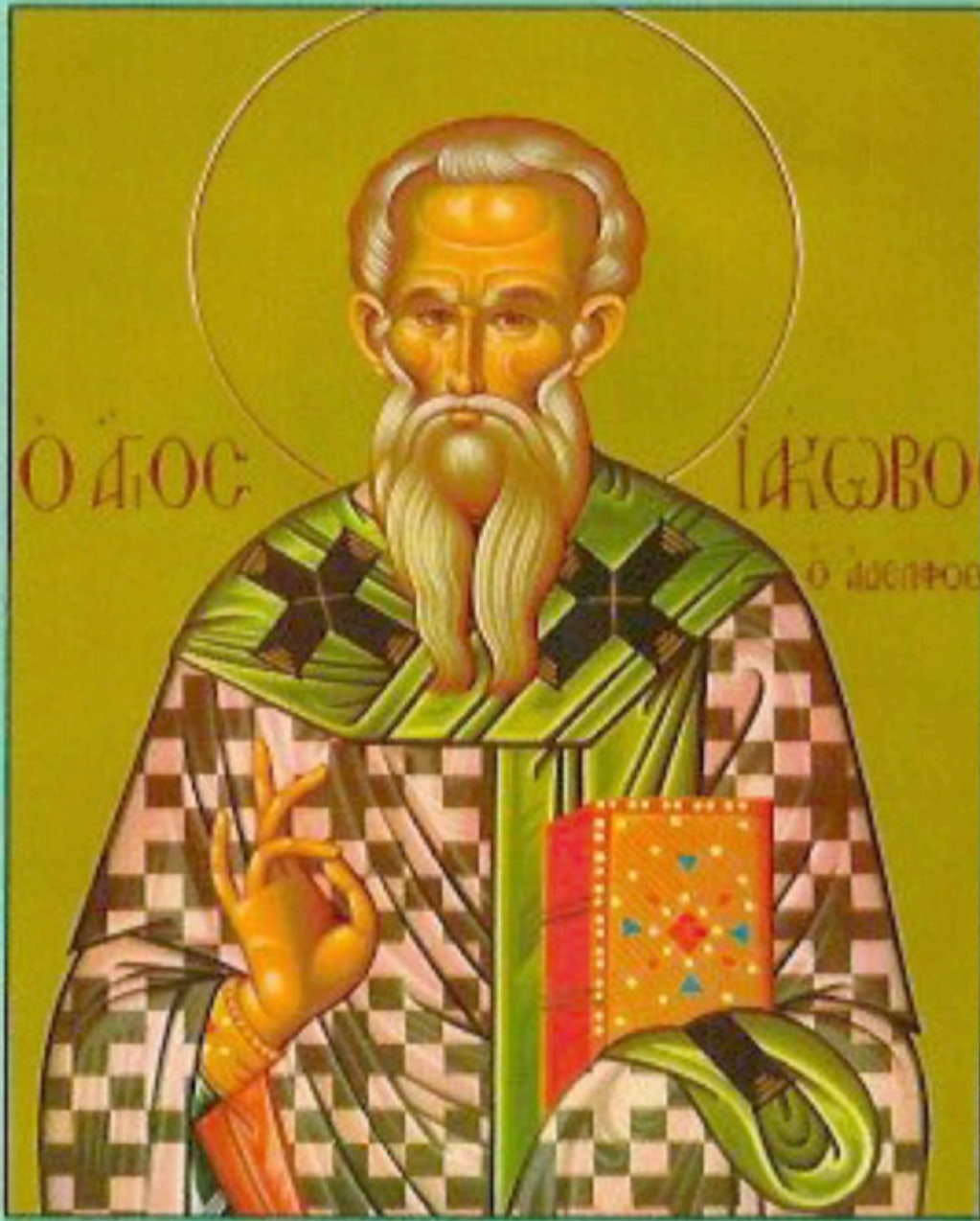


SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 23rd, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Holy Apostle James, Brother of the Lord -- October 23rd*

## St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

BRETHREN, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

## Πρὸς Γαλάτας 1:11-19

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.

Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἰκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφὴν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτὴς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανέθεμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἑτὶ τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἰστορήσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

## 6th Sunday of Luke

### The Gospel according to Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

## 6th Sunday of Luke

### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8:26-39

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντι τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν, ἦτις ἐστὶν ἀντίπερα τῆς Γαλιλαίας, ἐξελθόντι δὲ αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν ὑπήντησεν αὐτῷ ἀνὴρ τις ἐκ τῆς πόλεως, ὃς εἶχε δαιμόνια ἐκ χρόνων ἰκανῶν, καὶ ἰμάτιον οὐκ ἐνεδιδύσκετο καὶ ἐν οἰκίᾳ οὐκ ἔμενεν, ἀλλ' ἐν τοῖς μνήμασιν. ἰδὼν δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἀνακράξας προσέπεσεν αὐτῷ καὶ φωνῆ μεγάλης εἶπε· τί ἐμοὶ καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ, υἱὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου; δέομαί σου, μὴ με βασανίσῃς. παρήγγειλε γὰρ τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ ἐξελεῖν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. πολλοῖς γὰρ χρόνοις συνηπάκει αὐτόν, καὶ ἐδεσμεῖτο ἀλύσει καὶ πέδαις φυλασσόμενος, καὶ διαρρήσων τὰ δεσμὰ ἠλαύνετο ὑπὸ τοῦ δαίμονος εἰς τὰς ἐρήμους. ἐπηρώτησε δὲ αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· τί σοὶ ἐστὶν ὄνομα; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· λεγεῶν· ὅτι δαιμόνια πολλὰ εἰσῆλθον εἰς αὐτόν· καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτόν ἵνα μὴ ἐπιτάξῃ αὐτοῖς εἰς τὴν ἄβυσσον ἀπελθεῖν. ἦν δὲ ἐκεῖ ἀγέλη χοίρων ἰκανῶν βοσκομένων ἐν τῷ ὄρει· καὶ παρεκάλουν αὐτόν ἵνα ἐπιτρέψῃ αὐτοῖς εἰς ἐκείνους εἰσελεῖν· καὶ ἐπέτρεπεν αὐτοῖς. ἐξελθόντα δὲ τὰ δαιμόνια ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἰσῆλθον εἰς τοὺς χοίρους, καὶ ὄρμησεν ἡ ἀγέλη κατὰ τοῦ κρημοῦ εἰς τὴν λίμνην καὶ ἀπεπνίγη. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ βόσκοντες τὸ γεγεννημένον ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπήγγειλαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν καὶ εἰς τοὺς ἀγρούς. ἐξῆλθον δὲ ἰδεῖν τὸ γεγονός, καὶ ἦλθον πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ εὗρον καθήμενον τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἀφ' οὗ τὰ δαιμόνια ἐξεληλύθει, ἱματισμένον καὶ σωφρονοῦντα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ ἰδόντες πῶς ἐσώθη ὁ δαιμονισθεὶς, καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῆς περιχώρου τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν ἀπελθεῖν ἀπ' αὐτῶν, ὅτι φόβος μεγάλῳ συνείχοντο. αὐτοὺς δὲ ἐμβὰς εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ὑπέστρεψεν. ἐδέετο δὲ αὐτοῦ ὁ ἀνὴρ, ἀφ' οὗ ἐξεληλύθει τὰ δαιμόνια, εἶναι σὺν αὐτῷ· ἀπέλυσε δὲ αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· ὑπόστρεφε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου καὶ διηγοῦ ὅσα ἐποίησέ σοι ὁ Θεός, καὶ ἀπῆλθε καθ' ὅλην τὴν πόλιν κηρύσσων ὅσα ἐποίησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς.

**LUNCHEON FELLOWSHIP:** is being hosted today by the Daughters of Penelope Chapter 33. Join us !

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

1. Sunday,	October 23rd,	Liturgy of APOSTLE IAKOVOS	10:30 A.M.
2. Tuesday,	October 25th	VESPERS of SAINT DEMETRIOS	7:00 P.M.
3. Wednesday,		Liturgy of Saint DEMETRIOS	9:30 A.M.
4. Wednesday ,	October 26th,	Prayer and Healing Service	6:30 P.M.
5, Friday ,	October 28th,	DOXOLOGY of OXI – DAY 1940	12:00 Noon
6. Sunday,	October 30th,	Liturgy of Martyred Saint ZENOBIOS	10:30 A.M.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! FRIDAY EVENING: DECEMBER 02nd, 8:00 P.M.**

Our Parish's 87th, ANNUAL DINNER DANCE will honor the **50TH PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF V. REV. EUGENE N. PAPPAS** as our PASTOR these past 35 years of ministerial service to the LORD. Please make an effort to join at the EL CARIBE CATERERS in Mill Basin, dining, dancing and tributes. History is being made and recorded.

**DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE:** DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will host their benefit luncheon **TODAY**, after Divine Liturgy at 1:00 P.M. The menu is a GRECIAN DELIGHT! Don't miss it.

**ARTOKLASIA today** is offered in grateful thanksgiving by the Daughters of Penelope Chapter 33, under the able leadership of President Effie Galiatsatos.

**ARTOKLASIA:** In honor of the Feast of Saint Luke the Evangelist is being offered in grateful thanksgiving by the NOTIAS and RAVANOS Families. The special icon of the Saint will be offered for veneration at the iconostasion.

**VESPERS** of Saint Demetrios will be offered Tuesday October 25th in Astoria, Merrick, N.Y.C. and Jamaica at 7:00 P.M. in the respective churches. Chronia Polla to all those celebrating their patron saint day named Demetrios and Demetra! Divine Liturgy at Three Hierarchs will be on the 26th, from 9:30 -11:00 A.M. Artoklasias are most welcomed.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** The GREEK SCHOOL of our Parish will present the 'OXI-DAY' Observance at the conclusion of the Divine liturgy 12:00PM

**COSMOS F.M. PROGRAM** this coming Saturday, October 29th, 1:00 – 2:00 P.M. will feature a full hour presentation of the NEW St. Michael's Home for the Greek Orthodox Aged. Guest Speaker will be the past National PHILOPTOCHOS President , Mrs Aphrodite Skeadas. Tune in on W.N.Y.E. 91.5 FM with Father Eugene.

**NEW FLAGS NEEDED:** As the winter approaches NEW, NYLON heavy duty large flags are needed for the Plaza Flag Poles! Three flags are needed for donation AMERICAN, GREEK, CYPRIOT. The offering is approximately \$150 per flag with hoisting cords and proper grommets. Please see Father Eugene to designate your preference and place the order.

**SENIOR CLUB:** will host its WEDNESDAY October 26th, afternoon of activities with a special St Demetrios Observance. BINGO , coffee and sweets will be served as usual.

**SARANTISIS TODAY:** We welcome into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church 'AVA MARIE' the new born daughter of Anthony and Elizabeth (Gericitano) BRINN. NA SAS ZESE!

**ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT:** Clergy will be summoned to the Church of the Savior (SOTIROS) in Rye, New York by his eminence for the autumn session of the SYNDESMOS on Thursday, October 27th. Father Eugene as an officer of the SYNDESMOS will give will a report on the condition of the National Church.

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY:** will host a luncheon to benefit the HOLY CROSS SEMINARY on November 6th. This annual event supports HELLENIC COLLEGE and the young men studying for the holy priesthood. Unable to attend, your generous donation to the SEMINARY would be most appreciative A SPECIAL TRAY will be passed that day for the institution.

**PRAYER and HEALING:** service (monthly) will be held on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26TH . The theme of the homily is how ORTHODOX SAINTS ARE PROCLAIMED. Coffee and sweets reception is open to all.

**CENTERFOLD TODAY:** we salute our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts of GOLDEN GREEKS troop #531 on the occasion of their SUMMER CAMP ' Court Of Awards' last Friday evening. Parents, family , siblings and friends joined in the honors to the young lads. Congratulations to the SCOUTING LEADERSHIP in the able hands of MR. DEAN VEROUTIS. The boys will participate in the Sunday Liturgy of VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCE, November 13th, honoring the G.A.V.A. (Greek American Veterans Association) of our faith community.

**JOURNAL ADS:** are needed for this year's 87th, JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY of our PARISH. The journal traditionally is presented at the end of the year. PLEASE SECURE YOUR MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, CONGRATULATORY NOTE , ANNIVERSARY – BIRTHDAY GREETING or BUSINESS ADVERTISEMENT ..... now. We do so much appreciate it.

**PLEASE PLACE A JOURNAL AD NOW! THESE HISTORICAL VOLUMES ARE ARCHIVED WITH YOUR FAMILY NAME, HISTORY AND RECORD MEMORIAL TRIBUTES ARE WELCOMED.**

**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 (Click live audio)

**MEMORIALS TODAY:** + PANTELEINON EUGENIS + TULA SIGELAKIS +DEMETRIOS ADIARIS  
+ IRENE and KOSTAS TSAPELAS

Three Hierarchs is a proud "Scouting" parish for 60 years!



*Congratulations to our Cub and Boy Scout Troops # 531  
The "Golden Greeks" upward and onward!*





# 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 1974

ἀποστ. Ἰακώβου ἀδελφοθέου (Γαλ. 1,11-19)  
23 Ὀκτωβρίου 2016

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο

«Γνωρίζω ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ὅτι οὐκ ἔστι κατὰ ἄνθρωπον» (Γαλ. 1,11)

**Δ**ὲν ἔχω νὰ σᾶς πῶ πολλὰ λόγια σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου. Θὰ σᾶς βάλω **ἓνα κανόνα**. Ὅπως ὁ πνευματικός βάζει ἐπιτίμιο, ἔτσι ἐπιτρέψτε σ' ἐμένα τὸν ἐλάχιστο νὰ σᾶς βάλω ἓνα γενικό ἐπιτίμιο. Δὲν θὰ σᾶς πῶ νὰ σηκώσετε κάτι βαρὺ· θὰ σᾶς δώσω ἓνα χαλικάκι καὶ θὰ παρακαλέσω νὰ τὸ δεχτήτε. Ποιό εἶν' αὐτό;

Τὸ ἐπιτίμιο εἶνε **νὰ διαβάσετε!** Τί νὰ διαβάσετε; Ὅπως δὲν περνᾷ μέρα χωρὶς νερὸ καὶ χωρὶς ψωμί, ἔτσι –ἂν εἴστε ὀρθόδοξοι Χριστιανοὶ καὶ πιστεύετε στὸν Ἑσταυρωμένο–, νὰ μὴν περάση ποτέ ἡμέρα πού νὰ μὴ διαβάσετε **ἓνα βιβλίο**, πού φτάνει αὐτὸ νὰ μᾶς σώση.

Βιβλία ὑπάρχουν πολλὰ. Γέμισε ὁ κόσμος τυπογραφεῖα. Οἱ φουῖρνοι βγάζουν καρβέλια καὶ τὰ τυπογραφεῖα βιβλία, βιβλία ἀμέτρητα. Ἄν τὰ μάζευε κάποιος κι ὅπως κάνει ὁ χτίστης μὲ τὰ τοῦβλα τὰ ἔβαζε τὸ ἓνα πάνω στ' ἄλλο, θὰ ἔκανε ἓνα βουνὸ σὰν τὸν Ὀλυμπο ἀπὸ βιβλία τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης σοφίας. Καὶ ἂν τώρα υποθέσουμε ὅτι κάποιος σᾶς ἔλεγε «Ἄπ' ὄλο αὐτὸ τὸ σωρὸ τῶν βιβλίων μπορεῖτε νὰ διαλέξετε καὶ νὰ σώσετε ἓνα, γιατί τὰ ἄλλα θὰ βάλω φωτιά νὰ τὰ κάψω», **ποιό βιβλίο θὰ διαλέγατε;**

Ἐνα τέτοιο ἐρώτημα ἔθεσε πρὸ ἐτῶν μιὰ ἐφημερίδα στὸ Παρίσι στοὺς σοφοὺς τῆς Γαλλίας. Κ' ἐκεῖνοι τί ἀπάντησαν; Εἶπαν ὅτι θὰ ἔσφζαν ἄλλοι τὸν Ὅμηρο, ἄλλοι τὸν Θουκυδίδη, ἄλλοι τὸν Σαίξπηρ, ἄλλοι τὸν Δάντη, ἄλλοι τὸν Τολστόι... Οἱ περισσότεροὶ ὅμως καὶ μεγαλύτεροὶ σοφοὶ τῆς Γαλλίας ἀπάντησαν, ὅτι θὰ ἔσφζαν τὴν **ἁγία Γραφή**.

Μὰ **ἔχει λοιπὸν τόση ἀξία** ἡ ἁγία Γραφή; Ἐχει, ἀγαπητοί μου· γιατί ἀκούσατε τί λέει σήμερα ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος:

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«Γνωρίζω ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ὅτι οὐκ ἔστι κατὰ ἄνθρωπον» (Γαλ. 1,11). Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο **ἔχει δύναμι**.

**Ἄν πιστεύης κ' ἔχης αὐτιά**, ἀνοίξε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ θ' ἀκούσης μιὰ ἄρμονία πού ἐρχεται ἀπὸ τὰ οὐράνια, ἄρμονία ὄχι Μπετόβεν ἀλλὰ ἀγγέλων καὶ ἀρχαγγέλων, πού ψάλλουν καὶ λένε «*Δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ καὶ ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη, ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία*» (Λουκ. 2,14).

**Ἄν ἀμφιβάλλης** κι ὅταν κηδεύης τοὺς γονεῖς σου σκέπτεσαι «Υπάρχει ἄραγε ἄλλη ζωή;», ἂν εἶσαι σὰν τοὺς σκεπτικιστὰς καὶ πυρρωνιστὰς πού νομίζουν ὅτι τὸ φτυάρι τοῦ νεκροθάφτη θέτει τελεία καὶ παῦλα στὴν ἀνθρώπινη ζωή, ἀνοίξε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ διάβασε τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ πλουσίου καὶ τοῦ πτωχοῦ Λαζάρου (Ματθ. 19,16-31), πού ἂν μπορούσα θὰ τὴν ἀναρτοῦσα ἔξω ἀπ' τὴς πολυκατοικίης καὶ τὰ παλάτια, νὰ τὴ διαβάσουν ὄλοι. Τί λέει ἡ παραβολὴ αὐτή; Λέει –ἂς γαυγίζουν τὰ σκυλιὰ τῆς ἀπιστίας–, ὅτι ὑπάρχει ζωὴ πέρα τοῦ τάφου, κρίσις καὶ ἀνταπόδοσις, κόλασις αἰώνια· ὑπάρχει ἄδης, καὶ «*ἐν τῷ ἄδῃ οὐκ ἔστι μετάνοια*». Κι ἂν μπορούσες νὰ ρωτήσης τοὺς κολασμένους στὴν κόλασι, τί νὰ κάνουμε γιὰ νὰ σωθοῦμε, θὰ σοῦ ἔλεγαν· Διαβάσετε! διαβάσετε πρῶι - μεσημέρι - βράδυ τὴν ἁγία Γραφή, αὐτὴ θὰ σᾶς δείξῃ τὸ δρόμο πού πάει στοὺς οὐρανοὺς.

**Ἄν εἶσαι ἐγωιστὴς καὶ ὑπερήφανος**, ἂν νομίζης πὼς εἶσαι κάτι, ἀνοίξε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ διάβασε τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ Τελώνου καὶ τοῦ Φαρισαίου (Ματθ. 23,1-14), καὶ τότε θὰ γονατίσης καὶ θὰ πῆς· Εἶμαι ἓνα σκουληκί.

**Ἄν εἶσαι ἀνθρώπος σκληρός**, ἂν ἔχης καρδιά πέτρινη, ἀνοίξε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ διάβασε τὰ πάθη τοῦ Κυρίου μας καὶ τότε σὰν τὸ ληστή θὰ γονατίσης καὶ θὰ πῆς κ' ἐσὺ «*Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου*» (Ματθ. 27,42).

**Καὶ ἂν εἶσαι ἁμαρτωλός**, ἀνοίξε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ διάβασε τὴν παραβολὴ τοῦ Ἀσώτου, καὶ θὰ πῆς κ' ἐσὺ τὸ «*Ἥμαρτον*» (Ματθ. 15,21).

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο δὲν ζυγίζεται, ἀδέρφια μου. Ὅσο ἀξίζει τὸ μικρὸ αὐτὸ βιβλίον, δὲν ἀξίζουν ὅλα τὰ βιβλία τοῦ κόσμου. Ὅπως ὁ ἥλιος εἶνε φτειαγμένος γιὰ νὰ λούζη ὅλη τὴ γῆ καὶ νὰ σκορπίζη τὸ φῶς του στοὺς μαύρους, στοὺς λευκοὺς, στοὺς ἐρυθροὺς, στοὺς κίτρινους, στὸ Βόρειο καὶ στὸ Νότιο Πόλο, ἔτσι καὶ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε ἕνας πνευματικὸς ἥλιος ἄδυτος πού φωτίζει ὅλη τὴν οἰκουμένη. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε γιὰ ὄλους· εἶνε γάλα γιὰ τὰ μικρὰ παιδιὰ, μέλι γιὰ τοὺς νέους, βούτυρο γιὰ τοὺς ἐπιστήμονες, κρέας καὶ στερεὰ τροφή γιὰ τοὺς τελείους. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε φαρμακεῖο, ὀπλοστάσιο, κῆπος χαρίτων...

Δὲν εἶνε λόγια αὐτὰ· δοκιμάστε, μελετήστε το. Μελέτησαν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο σοφοὶ καὶ εἶπαν· Μηδὲν ἢ σοφία μας μπροστὰ στὰ λόγια πού εἶπε ὁ Ναζωραῖος· «οὐδέποτε οὕτως ἐλάλησεν ἄνθρωπος, ὡς οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος» [κ. 7, 4]. Τὸ μελέτησαν ἀπελπισμένοι, ἔτοιμοι ν' αὐτοκτονήσουν, καὶ εἶπαν· Ὑπάρχει καὶ γιὰ μᾶς Θεὸς καὶ ἐλπίδα. Τὸ μελέτησαν φυλακισμένοι, ὅπως ὁ Ντοστογιέφσκυ στὴ Σιβηρία πού τοῦ φάνηκε πῶς ἀνοίξε παράθυρο καὶ μπῆκε ἥλιος στὰ βάθη τῆς φυλακῆς του. Τὸ μελέτησαν ἁμαρτωλοὶ μεγάλοι, καὶ εἶδαν ὅτι εἶνε τὸ σωσίβιο μέσα στὸν ὠκεανὸ τῆς ἁμαρτίας. Τὸ μελέτησαν καὶ τὸ μελετοῦν μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι. Εἶνε γιὰ ὄλους τοὺς λαοὺς καὶ ὄλους τοὺς αἰῶνες.

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Γεννᾶται τὸ ἐρώτημα· **Ἐμεῖς τὸ διαβάζουμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο**, τὸ μελετοῦμε;

Ἐχετε ταξιδέψει; μπήκατε σὲ λεωφορεῖα, σὲ τραῖνα, σὲ ἀεροπλάνα; Κυρίες καὶ δεσποινίδες βγάζουν ἀπὸ τὶς τσάντες τους καὶ διαβάζουν βιβλία, περιοδικὰ καὶ ἐφημερίδες πού ἔπρεπε νὰ ντρέπωνται γι' αὐτὰ, γιατί σκορπίζουν κοπριά στὰ νιάτα καὶ σαπίζει ἡ νεολαία. Μέσα στοὺς χίλιους ἐπιβάτες εἶνε ζήτημα ἂν θὰ βρῆτε ἕναν Ἕλληνα νὰ διαβάξη τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ἄλλοῦ, σὲ ἄλλες χώρες, τὸ διαβάζουν ἔμεῖς ἐδῶ, ἂν τολμήση νέος νὰ βγάλη καὶ νὰ διαβάσῃ Εὐαγγέλιο, θὰ ἀρχίσουν τὰ εἰρωνικὰ μειδιάματα καὶ ὁ ἐμπαιγμός.

Ποῦ καταντήσαμε, ἀδέρφια μου! Νὰ ντρέπώμαστε ν' ἀνοίξουμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Δὲν ντρέπεσαι, ἐσὺ δεσποινάριο κ' ἐσὺ κυρία τοῦ Κολωνακίου, νὰ ἀνοίγῃς τὴν τσάντα σου καὶ νὰ διαβάξῃς αἰσχρὰ περιοδικὰ, καὶ ντρέπεσαι νὰ ἀνοίξῃς καὶ νὰ διαβάσῃς τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Τί κρίμα!

Εἶνε κρίμα ἰδιαίτερως γιὰ ἐμᾶς τοὺς Ἕλληνες· γιατί τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο γράφτηκε στὴ γλῶσσα μας. Χίλιες γλῶσσες καὶ διάλεκτοι ὑπάρ-

χουν στὸν κόσμο, μὰ σὲ καμμιά ἀπὸ αὐτὲς δὲν γράφτηκε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο· οὔτε στὰ Ῥωσικά, οὔτε στὰ Γερμανικά, οὔτε στὰ Ἑγγλεζικά, οὔτε σὲ κάποια ἄλλη γλῶσσα· γράφτηκε στὴν Ἑλληνικὴ γλῶσσα. Ὅπως ἀπὸ ὄλες τὶς γυναῖκες ὁ Θεὸς διάλεξε μιὰ γυναῖκα νὰ γίνῃ ἡ Μητέρα του, ἔτσι ἀπὸ ὄλες τὶς γλῶσσες τοῦ κόσμου ὁ Θεὸς διάλεξε τὴν Ἑλληνικὴ γλῶσσα γιὰ νὰ γραφῇ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιό του· τὸ πρωτότυπο εἶνε γραμμένο στὰ Ἑλληνικά. Διαβάζουν λοιπὸν οἱ ἄγριοι στὴν Οὐγκάντα, διαβάζουν οἱ Εὐρωπαῖοι καὶ οἱ Ῥῶσοι, ναὶ οἱ Ῥῶσοι, καὶ οἱ μόνοι πού δὲν τὸ διαβάζουν εἶνε οἱ Ἕλληνες!

Γι' αὐτὸ σᾶς ἔβαλα στὴν ἀρχὴ αὐτὸ τὸ ἐπιτίμιο, νὰ διαβάζετε μέρα-νύχτα τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Γονεῖς, βάλτε φωτιά καὶ κάψτε τὰ ἄθλια περιοδικὰ καὶ βιβλία· καὶ πάρτε στὰ χέρια σας τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Πουλήστε τὸ πουκάμισό σας καὶ ἀγοράστε τὴν Ἀποκάλυψι τοῦ Ἰωάννου καὶ διαβάζετε τὶς προφητείες.

Δὲν τὸ λέω μόνο ἐγὼ ὁ παπᾶς αὐτό. Ἐξω ἀπὸ τὸ Πανεπιστήμιο τῶν Ἀθηνῶν εἶνε τὸ ἄγαλμα τοῦ Κοραῆ. Ἄν ζωντανεῦε τὸ ἄγαλμα καὶ ρωτοῦσατε τὸν Κοραῆ, «Στὶς δύσκολες αὐτὲς ἡμέρες πού περνᾶμε, ποιὸς μπορεῖ νὰ σώσῃ τὴν Ἑλλάδα;», τί θ' ἀπαντοῦσε; Ὅταν ἐλευθερώθηκε ἡ πατρίδα μας πῆγαν πράγματι κάποιοι στὸ Παρίσι, τὸν βρῆκαν καὶ τοῦ λένε· «Διδάσκαλε, τώρα ἔχουμε ἐλευθερία· πῶς θὰ φτειάξουμε κράτος, πού νὰ θεμελιώσουμε τὸ πολίτευμά μας; Καὶ σηκώθηκε ὁ γέρον Κοραῆς, πῆρε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἀπὸ τὴ βιβλιοθήκη του καὶ τοὺς εἶπε· «Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο θὰ σώσῃ τὴν Ἑλλάδα· αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ σύνταγμα καὶ τῆς ἐπιγείου καὶ τῆς οὐρανοῦ πολιτείας μας. Ὅταν ὁ ἴδιος πάλι πῆγε κάποτε σ' ἕνα σχολεῖο καὶ ἔψαξε τὴ βιβλιοθήκη, βρῆκε μέσα Βολταῖρο καὶ Ῥουσώ καὶ συγγράμματα ἄλλων, δὲν βρῆκε ὅμως τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο· καὶ τότε ἐρράπισε - χαστούκισε τὸ δάσκαλο. Ἐκεῖνος διαμαρτυρήθηκε· «Γιατί μέ χτυπᾶς; -Σὲ χτυπῶ, ἀπαντᾷ ὁ Κοραῆς, γιατί ἀπὸ τὸ σχολεῖο σου λείπει τὸ σπουδαιότερο βιβλίον, τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο.

**Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο** στὰ παλάτια, τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο στὰ σχολεῖα, τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο στὰ δικαστήρια (ὄχι γιὰ νὰ τὸ παλαμίζουν, ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ τὸ ἐφαρμόζουν δικασταί, ἐφέτες, ἀρεοπαγῖτες καὶ δικηγόροι), τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο στὸ στρατό, στὰ ἰδρύματα, στὰ σπίτια μας, παντοῦ. Καὶ τότε, ἅμα διαβάζουμε καὶ μάθουμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, τότε κ' ἐμεῖς θὰ ποῦμε μὲ τὸν Παῦλον· «Γνωρίζω ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ὅτι οὐκ ἔστι κατὰ ἄνθρωπον».

(†) 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

### *Compassion for Lazarus*

I should like to know, O rich man, if you in your suffering excuse even your own self. You would not have come to these evils if on earth you had given a crumb from your huge barns and a drop from your great wine presses. What the flesh needs, and nature demands, and suffices for life, is little. Avarice is the reason why a man stores up many great possessions, not for himself but for others, and that clearly to his present or future suffering.

But, you object, O rich man: "Even if I did refuse to give wine, what I ask for is water, which the Creator himself of all beings and nature gave as something common to all human beings." I think, O rich man, that you refused even water to the poor man. You exposed him to as many dogs as you could to keep him from entering your door and coming to your well.

"Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water." What is the meaning of this which you

say if he is not to bring the water? Evidently, that water is nearby to you. And if it is near, why do you not take it from nearby? Why? Because your hands are rightly bound, O rich man. Because you spurned to give help to Lazarus' hands when they had lost their strength through weakness. Man should certainly share his members with the weak. When Job was not so much giving them as giving them back, he spoke as follows: "I was an eye of the blind, and a foot of the lame. I was the father of the weak." O man, if you do not have a coin, give a poor man your hand, because he shows greater mercy who by his own hand leads a poor man who is weak to his table. He gives his very self to the poor man who devotes himself to his service, makes himself the poor man's servant.

*St. Peter Chrysologus*

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