

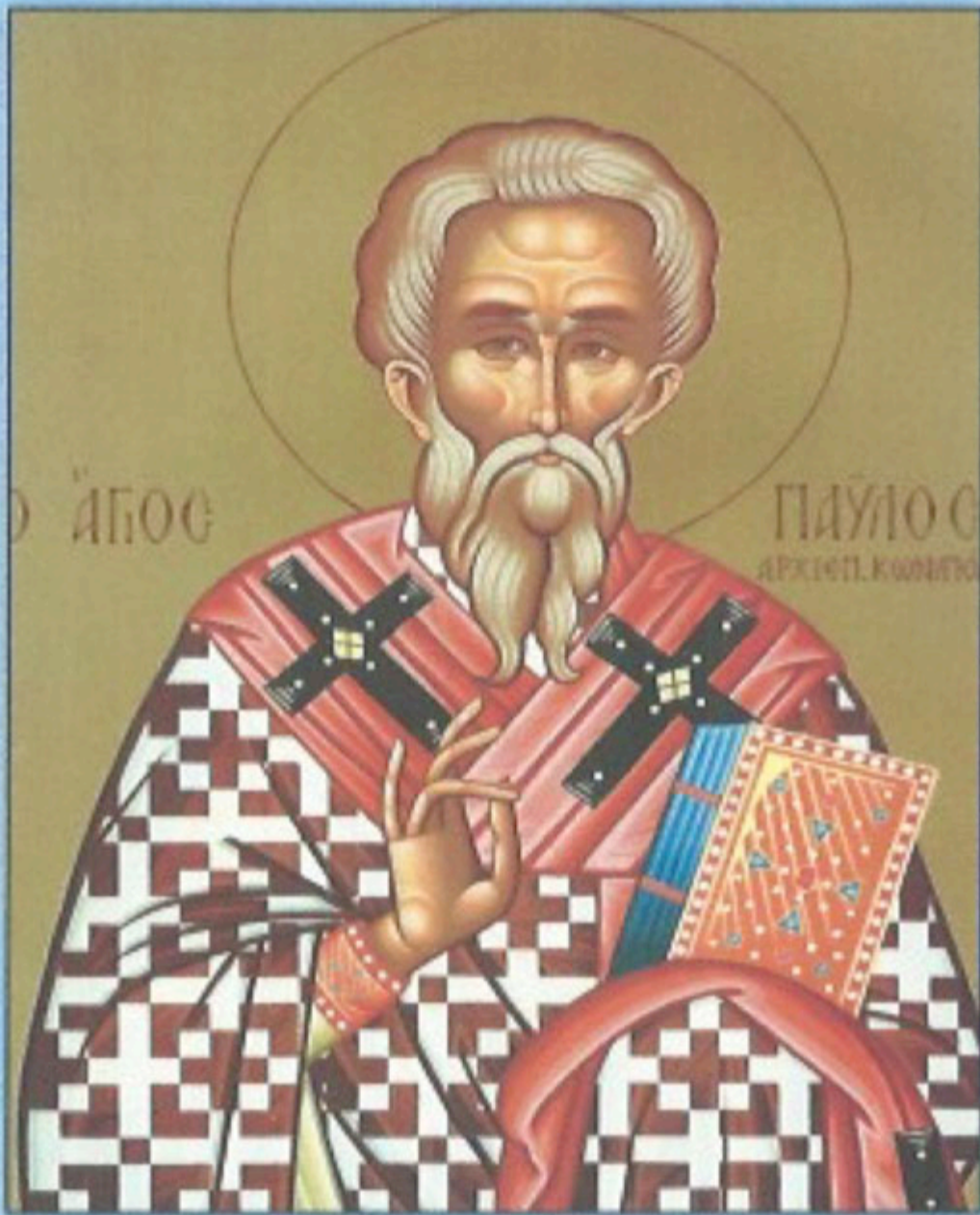


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN November 06, 2016  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of Saint Paul the Confessor -- November 6th*

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

Prokeimenon. Mode 3.

Psalm 46.6,1

Sing praises to our God, sing praises.

Verse: Clap your hands, all you nations.

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. ᾠχος γ.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 46.6,1

Ψάλατε τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν, ψάλατε.

Στίχ. Πάντα τὰ ἔθνη κροτήσατε χεῖρας.

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 ζηλωτῆς 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 προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἰστορησαί Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

### 7th Sunday of Luke

#### The Gospel according to Luke 8:41-56

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

### 7th Sunday of Luke

#### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8:41-56

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀνθρώπος τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ ᾧ ὄνομα Ἰάειρος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἄρχων τῆς συναγωγῆς ὑπῆρχε· καὶ πεσὼν παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ, ὅτι θυγάτηρ μονογενῆς ἦν αὐτῷ ὡς ἐτῶν δώδεκα, καὶ αὕτη ἀπέθνησκεν. Ἐν δὲ τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτὸν οἱ ὄχλοι συνέπνιγον αὐτόν. καὶ γυνὴ οὖσα ἐν ῥύσει αἵματος ἀπὸ ἐτῶν δώδεκα, ἥτις ἰατροῖς προσαναλώσασα ὅλον τὸν βίον οὐκ ἴσχυεν ὑπ' οὐδενὸς θεραπευθῆναι, προσελθοῦσα ὀπισθεν ἤψατο τοῦ κρασπέδου τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ, καὶ παραχρῆμα ἔστη ἡ ῥύσις τοῦ αἵματος αὐτῆς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου; ἀρνούμενων δὲ πάντων εἶπεν ὁ Πέτρος καὶ οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, οἱ ὄχλοι συνέχουσίν σε καὶ ἀποθλίβουσιν, καὶ λέγεις τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· ἤψατό μου τις· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἔγνωνα δύναμιν ἐξελθοῦσαν ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. ἰδοῦσα δὲ ἡ γυνὴ ὅτι οὐκ ἔλαθε, τρέμουσα ἦλθε καὶ προσπεσοῦσα αὐτῷ δι' ἡν αἰτίαν ἤψατο αὐτοῦ ἀπήγγειλεν αὐτῷ ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ λαοῦ, καὶ ὡς ἴαθη παραχρῆμα. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· θάρσει, θύγατερ, ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε· πορεύου εἰς εἰρήνην. Ἔτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἔρχεται τις παρὰ τοῦ ἀρχισυναγώγου λέγων αὐτῷ ὅτι τέθνηκεν ἡ θυγάτηρ σου· μὴ σκύλλε τὸν διδάσκαλον. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀκούσας ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ λέγων· μὴ φοβοῦ· μόνον πίστευε, καὶ σωθήσεται. ἔλθων δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν οὐκ ἀφῆκεν εἰσελθεῖν οὐδένα εἰ μὴ Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ τὸν πατέρα τῆς παιδὸς καὶ τὴν μητέρα. ἔκλειον δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐκόπτοντο αὐτήν. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· μὴ κλαίετε· οὐκ ἀπέθανεν, ἀλλὰ καθεύδει. καὶ κατεγέλων αὐτοῦ, εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. αὐτὸς δὲ ἐκβαλὼν ἔξω πάντας καὶ κρατήσας τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῆς ἐφώνησε λέγων· ἡ παῖς, ἐγείρου. καὶ ἐπέστρεψε τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῆς, καὶ ἀνέστη παραχρῆμα, καὶ διέταξεν αὐτῇ δοθῆναι φαγεῖν. καὶ ἐξέστησαν οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῖς. ὁ δὲ παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς μηδενὶ εἰπεῖν τὸ γεγονός.

## DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

|           |                |   |            |
|-----------|----------------|---|------------|
| Monday    | November 07th, | VESPER Holy Archangels<br>(Parish of Port Washington , L.I.)        | 7:00 P.M.  |
| Tuesday   | November 08th, | ARCHANGELS MICHAEL and GABRIEL LITURGY<br>( Three Hierarchs Church) | 9:30 A.M.  |
| Wednesday | November 09th, | Divine Liturgy of Saint NEKTARIOS                                   | 9:30 A.M.  |
| Sunday,   | November 13th, | VETERAN'S DAY OBSERVANCE  | 12:00 P.M. |

**Honoring the deceased and living members of G.A.V.A.  
GREEK AMERICAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION**

### **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.

**TODAY:** Agape Coffee Fellowship is being hosted in WHITEHALL with the Hellenic College and Holy Cross Seminary Benefit Luncheon.

**TODAY:** NOVEMBER 06TH, The ladies Philoptochos society will host a luncheon for the benefit of HELLENIC COLLEGE and HOLY CROSS SEMINARY, In Whitehall at 12:00 noon. This supports the education of future clergy of the Holy Archdiocese. FUTURE PRIESTS ARE TRAINED HERE! Please join us in supporting the SEMINARY, and write a check for HOLY CROSS SEMINARY APPEAL. Every dollar helps our cause.

**TODAY: Father Eugene** will be an honored guest of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese at the 'EL CARIBE COUNTRY CLUB' for the 150th ANNIVERSARY of St. Stephen/Sacred Hearts of Carroll Gardens. Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio and Monsignor Guy Massie are hosts. Father Eugene heads the Roman Catholic/Greek Orthodox Dialogue in New York City.

**NEXT SUNDAY :** we will enjoy the presence and participation of the BOY SCOUT and CUB SCOUT Troops #531 'GOLDEN GREEKS' as they serve as acolytes, color guard and wreath laying honor guard. Special recognition to SCOUT LEADER Mr. GUS CHRISTAKOS and fellow associates.

**WOW! BRAVO! CONGRATULATIONS:** to our Greek School Students, P.T.A. faculty and parents who observed a monumental Greek ethnic commemoration of **OXI-DAY October 28th 1940**, at the conclusion of Liturgy last week.

**PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY:** will host their monthly meeting on MONDAY – NOVEMBER 14th The early date of the meeting is due to the Thanksgiving Week holiday. See you in Whitehall -7:00 P.M.

**MR. MRS. AND MS. CLUB:** will host a 'POT LUCK THANKSGIVING DINNER' ON TUESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 15TH. Whitehall 7:00 P.M. Support SYLVIA VELLIOS for all her efforts: COME, EAT, DRINK and CELEBRATE FRIENDS!

**SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB:** Will host a Pre-Thanksgiving Observance with a WINE and CHEESE FEST on Wednesday, November 16th. 1:00 P.M. BINGO is always a part of the afternoon. TWO TURKEYS will be raffled FREE to all in attendance by ASSEMBLYMAN CYMBROWITZ. Be there and secure your TICKET for the RAFFLE--- FREE!

**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.

**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](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) ([Click live audio](#))

**MEMORIALS TODAY:** + GEORGIA TSATSIS + PYOTR AYDINYAN  
+DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE GREEK AMERICAN VETERANS' ASSOCIATION





# DEFENDERS OF DEMOCRACY

The U.S. Response to Greece's Role in World War II





GREEK SCHOOL CHILDREN of the parish observe the occasion of 'OXI' DAY with an ethnic cultural presentation in Church last Sunday. Blessed be the parents who nurture the HELLENIC education of their children! ZHTO H ELLADA! ZHTO TO KRATOS! ZHTO H AMERIKI!



# 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'<br>Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1976 | Κυριακὴ Κ' [Γ' Λουκ.] (Γαλ. 1,11-19)<br>6 Νοεμβρίου 2016 | Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος<br>Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης |
|--|--|---|

### Θαυμαστὲς μεταβολές

«Ἀδελφοί, ἠκούσατε τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν» (Γαλ. 1,13)

Δὲν ζῆ, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ψάρι ἔξω ἀπ' τῆ θάλασσα, τὸ πουλί ἔξω ἀπ' τὸν ἀέρα, κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔξω ἀπὸ τὴ θρησκεία· πεινᾷ καὶ διψᾷ τὸ Θεό. **Ἡ θρησκεία εἶνε ἡ πιὸ ὑψηλὴ ἀνάγκη τῆς ψυχῆς.** Καὶ ὅποιος δὲν πιστεύει στὸ Θεό, θ' ἀναγκαστῆ νὰ πιστέψῃ κάτι ἄλλο· θὰ καταντήσῃ νὰ πιστέψῃ στὸ διάβολο, θὰ κἀνῆ θεὸ τὰ πάθη του (τὸ τοιγάρο, τὸ χαρτί, τὴ μπάλλα, τὸ κρασοπότηρο, τὴν αἰσχρὴ γυναῖκα, τὰ τριάκοντα ἀργύρια τοῦ Ἰούδα - τὸν «μαμωνᾶ» *luk 16,11,13*).

Ἐὰν παραμερίσουμε τὴ διαστροφή αὐτῆ τῆς ψυχικῆς ἀνάγκης ποὺ λέγεται θρησκευτικὸ συναίσθημα, εἶνε γεγονός ὅτι τὰ δισεκατομμύρια τῶν λαῶν θρησκευοῦν. Καὶ εἶνε **πολλὲς οἱ θρησκείες.** Ἄλλ' ἐὰν ὑπάρχῃ μία θρησκεία ποὺ εἶνε ἡ **μόνη ἀληθινὴ** πίστις, ποὺ ἀνεβάξῃ τὸν ἄνθρωπο μέχρι τὸν τρίτο οὐρανό, ποὺ σταλάξῃ μέσα μας στίς πιὸ βασανισμένους στιγμὲς τὸ βάλασμα τῆς θεϊκῆς παρηγοριᾶς, ποὺ μᾶς κάνει νὰ νιώθουμε ὅτι πλαστήκαμε γιὰ τὰ οὐράνια, αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ **θρησκεία ποὺ δίδαξε καὶ ἱδρυσε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.** Ἄς εἶνε εὐλογημένο τὸ ὄνομά του εἰς αἰῶνας αἰῶνων, ποὺ ἦρθε καὶ μᾶς ὠδήγησε στὸ φῶς τῆς ἀληθινῆς θεογνωσίας.

Μὰ ἀκούω ἀντιρρήσεις. Αὐτὰ ποὺ λές, θὰ ποῦν μερικοί, εἶνε θεωρητικά, κάπως λυρικά - ποιητικά, φαντασιώδη. Ἐμεῖς **θέλουμε** πράγματα χειροπιαστά, ντοκουμέντα καὶ **ἀποδείξεις** γιὰ νὰ πιστέψουμε... Ἀποδείξεις λοιπὸν ζητᾶτε; Ἄν μπορῆτε νὰ μετρήσετε τὶς ἀκτίνες τοῦ ἡλίου, τότε θὰ μπορέσετε νὰ μετρήσετε καὶ τὶς ἀποδείξεις ποὺ ἔχει ἡ ὀρθόδοξη πίστις μας.

Μία ἀπόδειξις τρανὴ, ποὺ φτάνει καὶ μόνο αὐτὴ νὰ πείσῃ τὸν κάθε ἀπροκατάληπτο, εἶνε ἓνα ὄνομα· τὸ ὄνομα **ἀπόστολος Παῦλος.** Εἶνε κορυφαῖος τῶν ἀποστόλων.

Τὸν ἀκούσατε σήμερα; «Ἠκούσατε», λέει, «τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ

Θεοῦ καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν» *[Gal 1,13]*. Τί θέλει νὰ πῆ μὲ τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ ὁ ἀπόστολος;

\*\*\*

Ὅμιλεῖ γιὰ τὸ παρελθόν τῆς ζωῆς του καὶ τί κάνει **κατηγορεῖ τὸν ἑαυτό του.**

Ποιὸς ἀπὸ μᾶς τὸ κάνει αὐτό; Ὅχι ὁ κόσμος ποὺ εἶνε ἔξω, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσεῖς ποὺ εἶστε μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία, ἔχετε ἴσως μέσα σας κάποιο κάρβουνο, ἔχετε διαπράξει κάποιο ἁμάρτημα, καὶ μέχρι τώρα δὲν πῆγατε ποτέ νὰ ἐξομολογηθῆτε, νὰ τὸ πῆτε μυστικά, σὲ ἓνα μόνο πνευματικό. Ἐλάτε λοιπὸν νὰ δῆτε τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο, ποὺ ὄχι σὲ ἓνα πνευματικὸ πατέρα, ἀλλὰ μπροστὰ σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμο ἐξομολογεῖται, **κάνει δημοσίᾳ ἐξομολόγησι·** ἐλάτε νὰ θαυμάσετε τὴν εἰλικρίνειά του. Τὸν ἀκούσατε;

Ὁ Παῦλος, προτοῦ νὰ πιστέψῃ, εἶχε ἄγριες διαθέσεις ἐναντίον τοῦ Χριστιανισμοῦ· **ἦταν ἓνας λύκος.** Ὅπως ὁ λύκος μπαίνει στὸ μαντρί καὶ κατασπαράξῃ τὰ πρόβατα, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ τότε Σαῦλος. Φανατικὸς αὐτὸς Ἰουδαῖος, θεωροῦσε τὴ θρησκεία τοῦ Χριστοῦ ὡς τὸν χειρότερο ἐχθρὸ καὶ κατεδίωκε μὲ μανία τοὺς πιστοὺς. Ὅπου ἄκουγε ὅτι ὑπῆρχαν Χριστιανοί, ἐμπαινε μέσα μὲ ἐξουσία, ἄρπαζε ἄντρες γυναῖκες παιδιά, τοὺς ἔδενε, τοὺς τραβοῦσε βιαίως, τοὺς περνοῦσε ἀπὸ δρόμους καὶ πλατεῖες, τοὺς ἐξευτέλιζε, τοὺς ὠδηγοῦσε σὲ δικαστήρια σὰν ἐκεῖνα ποὺ δίκασαν τὸν Κύριό μας Ἰησοῦν Χριστό, δικαστήρια Ἄννα καὶ Καϊάφα, ποὺ τοὺς καταδίκασαν σὲ φυλακίσεις καὶ σὲ θάνατο. Διαβάστε τὰ ἅγια βιβλία, τοὺς βίους τῶν ἁγίων, διαβάστε τὶς Πράξεις τῶν ἀποστόλων *[βλ. κεφ. 16-17]*, νὰ δῆτε· στὸ μαρτύριο τοῦ πρωτομάρτυρος Στεφάνου, ὅταν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι τὸν λιθοβολοῦσαν νὰ τὸν σκοτώσουν, ἦταν ἐκεῖ καὶ ὁ νεαρὸς τότε Σαῦλος· φύλαγε τὰ ροῦχα τους καὶ φώναζε «θάνατος στὸ Στέφανο!». Αὐτὸς ἦταν ὁ Παῦλος προτοῦ νὰ πιστέψῃ στὸ Χριστό, λύκος καὶ θηρίο ἀνήμερο.



Ἐάν τώρα σᾶς πῆ κάποιος ὅτι ἕνας λύκος ἀπ' αὐτοὺς ποὺ γυρίζουν λ.χ. πάνω στὴν Πίνδο ἔγινε ἄρνι, θὰ τὸ πιστέψετε; Καὶ ὁμως! αὐτὸ ποὺ δὲν γίνεται στὸν κόσμον τῆς φύσεως, γίνεται στὸν κόσμον τῆς χάριτος, στὴν Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Βλέπουμε ἐδῶ αὐτὴ τὴ θαυμαστὴ μεταβολή· τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο σὲ μιὰ στιγμή ν' ἀφήγη τὴ μανία, τὰ σχοινιά, τὰ μαχαίρια καὶ τὶς ἀλυσίδες, καὶ ἀπὸ διώκτης νὰ γίνεται κήρυκας τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἐλάτε τώρα, σεῖς οἱ ἄπιστοι, νὰ ἐξηγήσετε πῶς ὁ Παῦλος μεταστράφηκε;

**Νὰ πῶς μεταστράφηκε.** Ἄστραψε μπροστά του σὰν ἀστραπή ὁ Ἐσταυρωμένος, καὶ ἄκουσε σὰν κεραυνὸ τὴ φωνὴ «*Σαοὺλ Σαοὺλ, τί μέ διώκεις; σκληρόν σοι πρός κέντρα λακτίζειν*» (Πρῶξ 9:22, 23, 14). Τί κάνεις, δηλαδή; προσπαθεῖς νὰ μέ πολεμήσης; Εἶνε σὰν νὰ δίνης κλωτσιὰς σὲ καρφιά μέ πόδια γυμνά. Δὲν πρόκειται νὰ κάνης τίποτε· μόνο τὰ πόδια σου θὰ ματώσης. (Καρφί εἶνε πράγματι ἡ πίστις ἢ ὁρθόδοξος. Ἄς κλωτσοῦνε ὅλοι οἱ ἄπιστοι, δὲν θὰ τὴ νικήσουν· αὐτοὶ θὰ ματώσουν τὰ πόδια τους). Ἀπὸ τὴν μακαρία ἐκείνη στιγμή τοῦ ὁράματος παρὰ τὴν Δαμασκὸ ὁ Σαῦλος μεταβλήθηκε ριζικά· ὁ λύκος αὐτὸς ἔγινε ἄρνι τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Καὶ ὄχι μόνο αὐτό· ἀλλὰ καὶ πῆγε, αὐτὸ τὸ ἄρνι τοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ μπῆκε μέσα σὲ κοπάδι λύκων· γιατί λύκοι ἦταν οἱ Γαλάτες, ποὺ κατοικοῦσαν πέρα ἀπὸ τὸ Σαγγάριο ποταμὸ (ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἔφθασαν οἱ Ἕλληνες κατὰ τὴ Μικρασιατικὴ ἐκστρατεία). Οἱ Γαλάτες ἦταν ἄγρια φυλὴ ποὺ λάτρευε αἰσχροὺς θεοὺς· κατοικοῦσαν σὲ σπηλιές, ἔτρωγαν ὦμό τὸ κρέας, θυσίαζαν τὰ παιδιὰ τους καὶ σκότωναν τὶς γυναῖκες τους. Ἀνάμεσα σ' αὐτοὺς πῆγε καὶ κήρυξε ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος· καὶ κατῴρθωσε, αὐτοὺς τοὺς λύκους, νὰ τοὺς κἀν ἄρνια καὶ νὰ ἰδρῦση μία σπουδαία ἐκκλησία μέ ἔδρα ἐπισκόπου στὴν Ἄγκυρα. (Τὰ μέρη αὐτὰ ἦταν χριστιανικὰ μέχρι τότε ποὺ τὰ χάσαμε γιὰ τὶς ἁμαρτίες μας). Στοὺς Γαλάτες λοιπὸν πῆγε τὸ ἄρνι τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ τοὺς ἔκανε κι αὐτοὺς ἄρνια. Καὶ ἐπειδὴ αὐτοὶ συνδέονταν μαζί του, τοὺς γράφει αὐτὴ τὴν ἐπιστολή, ποὺ κάθε γραμμὴ τῆς στάζει ἀπὸ δάκρυ κι ἀπὸ αἷμα τῆς καρδιάς του.

\* \* \*

Ἡ θρησκεία μας, ἀδελφοί μου, εἶνε ζωντανή, κάνει θαύματα, ὅπως αὐτὴ ἡ μεταστροφή τοῦ διώκτη σὲ κήρυκα τῆς πίστεώς μας. Καὶ αὐτὸ δὲν εἶνε ἕνα φαινόμενο μεμονωμένο· ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο **ὑπάρχουν καὶ ἄλλες περιπτώσεις** θαυμασῶν μεταβολῶν.

Ἄν ἀνοίξετε τὰ βιβλία τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, θὰ δῆτε ὅτι π.χ. στὰ τέλη Ὀκτωβρίου γιορτάζου-

με κάποια **ὁσία Μαρία**. Ἦταν ἕνα κορίτσι σὰν τὰ κρῦα νερά, σὰν τὰ κρίνα τοῦ ἀγροῦ. Σὲ ἡλικία εἴκοσι χρονῶν ἔφυγε ἀπὸ τὸ σπίτι καὶ τὴν ἀγκαλιὰ τῆς μάνας τῆς, πῆγε σὲ μιὰ μεγαλοπόλι, ἐκεῖ ἔπεσε σὲ χέρια διεφθαρμένων ἀνθρώπων καὶ ἔγινε μιὰ κοινὴ γυναίκα. Ζοῦσε σὰν πριγκίπισσα, ἀλλὰ τί νὰ τὰ κάνης αὐτά; Προτιμότερο, κορίτσι μου, νὰ ἴσαι ντυμένη μ' ἕναν ἀλατζᾶ καὶ νὰ περπατᾶς ξυπόλητη, μὰ νὰ ἴχης ψηλὰ τὸ μέτωπο σὰν ἄξια Ἑλληνίδα καὶ Χριστιανή, παρὰ νὰ πουλήσης τὴν τιμὴ σου γιὰ νὰ σοῦ δώση ἡ φαύλη κοινωνία παλάτια καὶ μέγαρα. Καὶ αὐτὴ λοιπὸν διεφθάρη καὶ κατήνησε μιὰ γυναίκα κοινὴ ποὺ πουλοῦσε τὸ κορμὶ τῆς. Ἐμεινε ἔτσι ὡς τὸ τέλος; (Ἄχ, θὰ δώσουμε λόγο ἐμεῖς οἱ κληρικοὶ γιὰ τὰ πλάσματα αὐτά, ἀπ' τὰ ὁποῖα γέμισε ὁ τόπος μας!). Δὲν ἔμεινε ἔτσι. Μέσα ἐκεῖ, στὸ σπίτι τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ἔρριξε τὰ δίχτυα τοῦ ὁ μεγάλου ψαράς, ὁ Χριστός· πῆγε ἐκεῖ ὁ θεῖος τῆς, ὁ **ἀσκητὴς Ἀβράμιος**, ποὺ ἔμαθε γι' αὐτὴν· κατέβηκε μέσ' στὴ σπηλιὰ τοῦ διαβόλου, καὶ κατῴρθωσε νὰ τὴν ἐλευθερώση. Καὶ ἡ Μαρία ὄχι μόνο λούστηκε καὶ καθαρίστηκε ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔγινε ἁγία καὶ θαυματουργός· γιορτάζει στὶς 29 Ὀκτωβρίου μαζί μέ τὸν θεῖο τῆς.

\* \* \*

Μιὰ θρησκεία, ἀδελφοί μου, ποὺ παίρνει ἕναν τελώνη καὶ τὸν κάνει εὐαγγελιστὴ Ματθαῖο, ἕνα ληστὴ καὶ τὸν κάνει νὰ λήη τὸ «*Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου*» (Ματ. 23:42), πλάσματα ἁμαρτωλὰ καὶ τὰ κάνει ἀγγέλους, μιὰ τέτοια θρησκεία **δὲν κινδυνεύει**. Ἄς φωνάζουν οἱ ἐχθροὶ τῆς ὅ,τι θέλουν. Θὰ μείνῃ αἰώνια. Κανεῖς δὲ θὰ μπορέση νὰ τὴν κλονίση.

**Τὸ δικό μας χρέος** ποῖο εἶνε; Πρῶτα - πρῶτα νὰ πιστέψουμε στὴν ἁγία μας θρησκεία. Ἐπειτα, νὰ κλείσουμε τ' αὐτιά μας σὲ καθένα ποὺ ἔρχεται ἀπ' ἔξω νὰ μᾶς ἀφαιρέση τὴν πίστι μας, τὸ μεγαλύτερο κειμήλιό μας. Ἀκόμη, μέρα - νύχτα νὰ εὐχαριστοῦμε τὸ Θεό, ποὺ μᾶς ἄνοιξε τὰ μάτια νὰ γνωρίσουμε τὴν ἁγία αὐτὴ θρησκεία. Καὶ τέλος, νὰ ρίξουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὰ δίχτυα μας μέσα στὴν κοινωνία καὶ νὰ προσπαθήσουμε **νὰ φέρουμε κι ἄλλους κοντὰ στὸ Χριστό**, ὥστε νὰ αὐξάνῃ ἡ ποίμνη του. Νὰ γίνουμε ὅλοι ἕνα σῶμα, μιὰ ψυχὴ, μιὰ καρδιά· ὅλες οἱ καρδιές κι ὅλα τὰ στόματα νὰ γίνουμε μιὰ κιθάρα καὶ νὰ ψάλλουμε αἰώνιως κ' ἐδῶ κάτω στὴ γῆ κ' ἐπάνω στοὺς οὐρανοὺς, νὰ ψάλλουμε· «*Εἷς ἅγιος, εἷς Κύριος, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, εἷς δόξαν Θεοῦ Πατρὸς· ἀμήν*» (Φλ. 2, 11 καὶ 6 / στ.).

(†) **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**

### *Healed with the Afflicted Woman*

Just as the woman afflicted with an issue of blood believed truly and touched the hem of the garment of the Lord and immediately received a healing and the flow of the unclean fountain of blood dried up, so everyone afflicted by the incurable wound of sin, the fountain of unclean and evil thoughts, if he only approaches Christ and begs prayerfully and truly believes in Him, receives a salvific healing from the incurable fountain of passions. That fountain, which has been sending up unclean thoughts, now falls and dries up through the power of Jesus alone. For nothing else can cure this wound. For the enemy, when Adam fell, used such cunning and diligence that he wounded and darkened the interior man, the mind that directs man, since it looks upon the face of God. Thereafter, man's eyes looked with favor on vices and passions, but away from the good things of heaven.

Man was, therefore, so wounded that no one

else could cure him except only the Lord. To Him alone it is possible. He came and "took away the sin of the world" (John 1: 29), that is, He dried up the unclean fountain of the evil thoughts of the soul. That woman with the blood hemorrhage spent all her money on those who were supposed to be able to cure her, but she was not healed by any of them until she approached the Lord with genuine faith and touched the hem of His garment. And at once she experienced a healing and the issue of blood was stopped. So also no one, whether he was of the just ones or of the fathers or of the prophets or of the patriarchs, could cure mankind wounded from the beginning with an incurable wound of evil passions.

*Pseudo-Macarius*

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit **YOUR E-MAIL** address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)