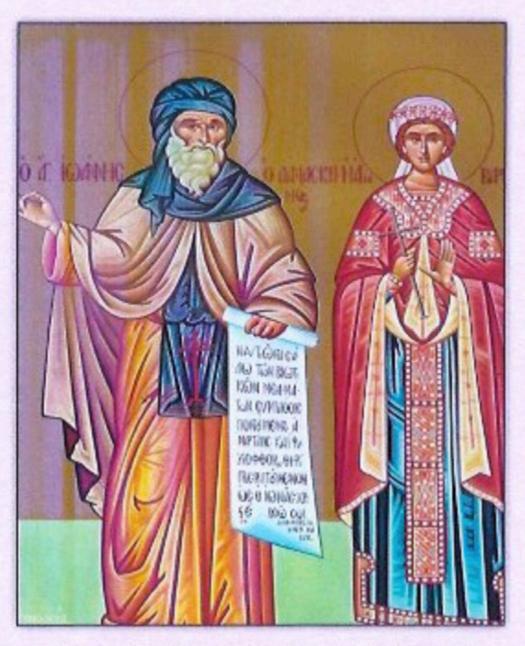


Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 4th, 2016 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint John of Damascus and Saint Barbara -- December 4th

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-5

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 67.35,26 God is wonderful among his saints. Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

BRETHREN, before faith came, we were confined under the law, kept under restraint until faith should be revealed. So that the law was our custodian until Christ came, that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian; for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no better than a slave, though he is the owner of all the estate; but he is under guardians and trustees until the date set by the father. So with us; when we were children, we were slaves to the elemental spirits of the universe. But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Πρός Γαλάτας 3:23-29, 4:1-5

Προκείμενον. Ήχος δ. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 67.35,26 Θαυμαστὸς ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Άγίοις αὐτοῦ. Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεὸν.

Αδελφοί, πρό τοῦ δὲ ἐλθεῖν τὴν πίστιν, ὑπὸ νόμον ἐφρουρούμεθα, συγκεκλεισμένοι εἰς τὴν μέλλουσαν πίστιν ἀποκαλυφθῆναι. Ὅστε ὁ νόμος παιδαγωγὸς ἡμῶν γέγονεν εἰς Χριστόν, ἵνα ἐκ πίστεως δικαιωθῶμεν. Ἐλθούσης δὲ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκέτι ὑπὸ παιδαγωγὸν ἐσμεν. Πάντες γὰρ υἰοὶ θεοῦ ἐστε διὰ τῆς πίστεως ἐν Χριστῷ Ἱησοῦ. Ὅσοι γὰρ εἰς Χριστὸν ἐβαπτίσθητε, Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε. Οὐκ ἕνι Ἰουδαῖος οὐδὲ Ἔλλην, οὐκ ἕνι δοῦλος οὐδὲ ἐλεύθερος, οὐκ ἕνι ἄρσεν καὶ θῆλυ· πάντες γὰρ ὑμεῖς εἶς ἐστε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Ὅσοι γὰρ εἰς Χριστὸν ἐβαπτίσθητε, Χριστὸν ἐνεδύσασθε. Οὐκ ἕνι Ἰουδαῖος οὐδὲ Ἑλλην, οὐκ ἕνι δοῦλος οὐδὲ ἐλεύθερος, οὐκ ἕνι ἄρσεν καὶ θῆλυ· πάντες γὰρ ὑμεῖς εἶς ἐστε ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Εἱ δὲ ὑμεῖς Χριστοῦ, ἄρα τοῦ Ἀβραὰμ σπέρμα ἐστέ, καὶ κατ' ἐπαγγελίαν κληρονόμοι. Λέγω δέ, ἐφ' ὅσον χρόνον ὁ κληρονόμος νήπιός ἐστιν, οὐδὲν διαφέρει δούλου, κύριος πάντων ὤν· ἀλλὰ ὑπὸ ἐπιτρόπους ἐστὶν καὶ οἰκονόμους, ἄχρι τῆς προθεσμίας τοῦ πατρός. Οὕτως καὶ ἡμεῖς, ὅτε ἡμεν νήπιοι, ὑπὸ τὰ στοιχεῖα τοῦ κόσμου ἦμεν δεδουλωμένοι· ὅτε δὲ ἦλθεν τὸ πλήρωμα τοῦ χρόνου, ἐξαπέστειλεν ὁ θεὸς τὸν υἰὸν αὐτοῦ, γενόμενον ἐκ γυναικός, γενόμενον ὑπὸ νόμον, ἵνα τοὺς ὑπὸ νόμον ἑξαγοράση, ἵνα τὴν υἰοθεσίαν ἀπολάβωμεν.

10th Sunday of Luke The Gospel according to Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

10th Sunday of Luke Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 13:10-17

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ^{*}Ην δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιῷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτῃ δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένῃ ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ 'Ιŋσοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῆ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῆ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθῃ καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῷ ἑθεράπευσεν ὁ 'Ιŋσοῦς, ἕλεγε τῷ ὅχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἶς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῆ ἡμέρα τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθῃ οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῷ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνῃς καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα 'Αβραὰμ οὖσαν, ῆν ἕδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτῃ, οὐκ ἕδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρα τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ πῶς ό ὄχλος ἕχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:		
Sunday,	December	04th,

FEAST of SAINT BARBARA Liturgy Three Hierarchs Church10:30 A.M.Parish Council NOMINATIONS close this day12:00 P.M.

MAJOR FEAST DAYS COMING UP:		December December	05th, 06th,	VESPER of SAINT NICHOLAS(Flushing) SAINT NICHOLAS	7:00P.M. 9:30A.M.
	Friday,	December	09th,	SAINT ANNA (VENERATION)	7.30A. NI.
	Monday,	December	12th,	SAINT SPYRIDON	9:30 A.M.
	Tuesday,	December	13th,	SAINT EUGENE	9:30 A.M.
	Thursday,	December	15th,	SAINT ELEUTHERIOS	9:30 A.M.

TODAY: The AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP is being hosted by the Holy Order. Please join us for sweets and coffee. **ARTOKLASIA :** is hosted honoring all Holy Order Living members.

NEXT SUNDAY: The catechetical School children will present a short Christmas pageant in Church after the Divine liturgy.

GREEK SCHOOL STUDENTS : will present their ANNUAL pageant on Sunday, December 18th, after the Divine liturgy.

SENIOR CLUB PARTY: in honor of Saint Nicholas on Wednesday, December 07th, in Whitehall at 1:00 P.M. New guests are invited! Father Eugene will commemorate to 75th Pearl Harbor Memorial.

CHOIR MEMBERS: will host their Christmas Party and Dinner at PERRY'S on Nostrand Avenue on Thursday, December 08th, at 7:00 P.M. This is a THANK YOU to our choristers who grace the services each week and holy days.

MR. MRS. and MS. CLUB Christmas Party is scheduled for TUESDAY, December 13th. (by coincidence-Saint Eugene Day) in Whitehall at 7:00 P.M.

A.H.E.P.A. Men's fraternal organization will host their Christmas Dinner for <u>BROTHER MEMBERS ONLY</u> on Thursday ., December 15th at PERRY'S at 7:00 P.M.

FAITH and HEALING Services are held mid –month –and- every month. Why not visit us on these WEDNESDAY evening (6:30 – 8:00 P.M.) special spiritual journeys. You will be in a religious renaissance. TRY IT! Next session is Wednesday December 21st. "I AM THE WAY"

ARTOKLASIES are always welcomed for name-day celebrations, birthdays, anniversaries, new born babies, or other celebratory occasions. Please register with the church office if you wish to host an 'artoklasia' (blessing of the five loaves). Major saint days are upcoming. Honor a loved one in YOUR family with a surprise blessing at the artoklasia.

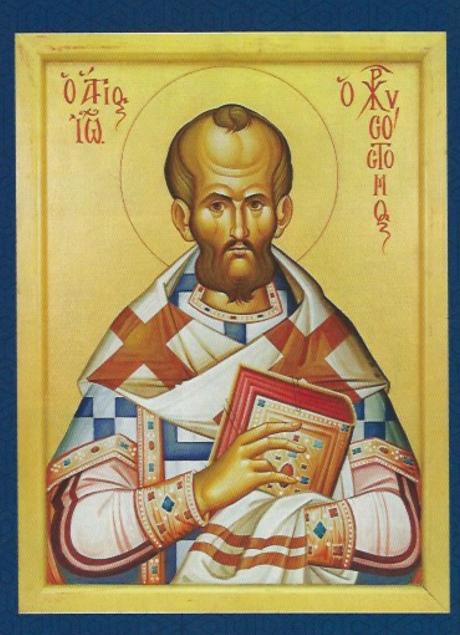
GRATITUDE is extended to the faithful members of the community who attended last week's GENERAL ASSEMBLY for the end of 2016. The budget for our PARISH was accepted for 2017 and all indicators are on the plus side of economics. We have NO MORTGAGE, we have NO OUTSTANDING DEBTS, but we do have major campaigns for the ELEVATOR FUND, for the SACRED ALTAR WOODWORKS that were refinished and for the PLAZA STEPS AND RAMP that are being finished for easy access. Your help is much needed to defray the costs of these ongoing projects. Many thanks to the Parish Council that hosted the INFORMATIVE, POSITIVE, AND SUCCINCT (one hour) meeting.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT: Extolling the good news of our Savior Jesus Christ's Nativity to 1000 homes in the parish family and friends is your personal greeting for 2016. Please do so by having your name and loved ones printed in the exquisite Byzantine Triptych of icons depicting the ANNUNCIATION, the PRESENTATION and the NATIVITY iconography in detail. It's a treasure to have, to keep and TO SEND. All the work including postage is done for you with a donation of only \$20.00. (twenty dollars). Spread the word and keep the CHRIST in CHRISTMAS! Fill in the form at the church office after services.

TOYS FOR TOTS : Christmas appeal for those children outside the parish in need will commence SUNDAY. November 27th. Think of your childhood and what you as little boy or girl desired MOST! Anonymously, unwrapped gifts may be left at the foot of the Blessed Virgins ICON for proper handling distribution.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 18TH 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)

MEMORIAL TODAY:	+ ELENI PAPADATOS	
MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:	+ NICHOLAS ANASTASAKOS	+GEORGE ANASTASIADIS
	+ IOANNIS ZAHARIAS	+EVANGELOS DAOUDAKIS



St. John Chrysostom was born in the ancient city of Antioch in 347 AD to a noble and pious family. He studied to be a lawyer and was an exceptional student. He was led to a religious life where he devoted himself to discipline and spiritual growth. As a priest, St. John Chrysostom had the innate quality of winning the hearts of his audience, even though many times he would chastise them. He loved his people and would hold nothing back in order to inspire, challenge and paternally lead them into upright living. He was also a great advocate of social justice and proclaimed the equality of all people before God. At the age of fortynine he became Patriarch of Constantinople. He was an outspoken critic of the imperial court, and after a series of exiles and returns, he was banished in 403 and died two years later. He earned the title Chrysostomos ("Golden Mouth") because of his dynamic and forthright preaching. St. John Chrysostom is one of the most honored among our Church Fathers, patriarchs and saints.





«Έγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῆ Κυριακῆ ἡμέρα καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὁπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Περίοδος Δ΄ - Έτος ΚΒ΄	Κυριακή Ι' (Λουκ. 13,10-17)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλλου 12142	4 Δεκεμβρίου 2016 (2005)	Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Έκκλησιάζεσθε!

ά σᾶς μιλήσω ἀπλᾶ, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ πα-Эρακαλώ νὰ προσέξετε αὐτὰ ποὺ θὰ σᾶς πῶ. Ό καλὸς πατέρας, ὅταν βλέπῃ τὸ παιδί του νὰ παρεκτρέπεται, ἀναγκάζεται νὰ τὸ τιμωρήση. Δέν είνε καλός πατέρας έκεϊνος πού βλέπει τὸ παιδί του ἔτσι κι αὐτὸς τὸ χαιδεύει. ή Γραφή λέει: «Ός φείδεται τῆς βακτηρίας μισεί τὸν υίὸν αὐτοῦ» 原φ.1824, ὅποιος λυπάται τὸ ῥαβδί του, δὲν ἀγαπάει τὸ παιδί του. Κ' έγὼ πατέρας είμαι, καὶ θεωρῶ ὑποχρέωσι νὰ παιδεύω τὰ παιδιά μου. Θὰ διδάξουμε, θὰ παρηγορήσουμε, θὰ σφουγγίσουμε τὰ δάκρυα τῶν πονεμένων. Άλλ' ὄταν δοῦμε μέσα στὴν ίερὰ οἰκογένεια τῶν Χριστιανῶν κάποιους νὰ ξεφεύγουν ἀπὸ τὰ ὅρια τῶν ἱερῶν κανόνων καί τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, εἴμαστε ὑποχρεωμένοι νὰ ἐλέγξουμε, ἀπὸ ἀγάπη.

Μερικοὶ βέβαια, ὅταν τοὺς ἐλέγχουν, εἶνε σὰν τὸν ἄρἰρωστο πού, ἐνῷ ὁ γιατρὸς προσπαθεῖ νὰ τὸν ἀπαλλάξῃ ἀπὸ τὸν καρκίνο, αὐτὸς τοῦ ὅαγκώνει τὸ χέρι. Γιατρὸς εἶμαι κ' ἐγώ, μαχαίρι κρατῶ, πνευματικὸ μαχαίρι, ἐγχείρησι κάνω, καὶ ὁ ἀσθενὴς πάνω στὸν πόνο του μποpεĩ νὰ μὲ ὅαγκώσῃ. Ἀλλὰ προτιμότερο αὐτό, παρὰ ν' ἀφήσω τὸν ἅρἰρωστο νὰ πεθάνῃ.

Τώρα, λοιπόν, θὰ γίνω δυσάρεστος. Γιὰ ποιό πρᾶγμα; Βλέπω, ἄτι ἐλάχιστοι Χριστιαvoì ἐκκλησιάζονται. Γι' αὐτὸ διαμαρτύρομαι. Kaì θέλω μὲ ὅλη μου τὴ δύναμι νὰ κηρύξω καὶ νὰ παρακαλέσω ὅλους τοὺς Χριστιανοὺς καὶ νὰ τοὺς πῶ μόνο μία λέξι' ἐκκλησιάζεσθε!

 Έκκλησιάζεσθε! Δὲν τὸ λέω ἐγώ. Τὸ λέει τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Ἀκούσατε πῶς ἀρχίζει· «Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῷ ἦν διδάσκων ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιῷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι» (lau. ١३.١)· ἦταν, λέει, στὴ συναγωγὴ τῶν Ἰουδαίων.

Τί είνε ή «συναγωγή»; Είνε κτήριο τῶν Έβραίων γιὰ τὶς θρησκευτικές τους ἀνάγκες. Οἱ Ἐβραῖοι είχαν ἕνα μόνο ναό, τὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομῶντος στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα. Στὶς διάφορες παροικίες τους άνὰ τὸν κόσμο δὲν ἔχουν ναούς, ἀλλὰ συναγωγές, ποὺ κοινῶς λέγονται χάβρες κάτι μεταξύ ναοῦ, σχολείου καὶ θρησκευτικῆς αἰθούσης. Οἰ Ἑβραῖοι ἔχουν τὴ χάβρα, οἱ Τοῦρκοι τὸ τζαμί, ἐμεῖς τὴν ἐκκλησία. Ἡμέρα ἀργίας καὶ συγκεντρώσεως οἱ Ἐβραῖοι ἔχουν τὸ Σάββατο, οἱ μουσουλμᾶνοι τὴν Παρασκευή, κ' ἐμεῖς οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τὴν Κυριακή. Τὸ Σάββατο οἱ Ἐβραῖοι εἶνε ὅλοι στὴ χάβρα, στὴ συναγωγή τους. Καὶ μέχρι σήμερα, τρεῖς χιλιάδες τώρα χρόνια, τὸ ἴδιο κάνουν. Αὐτὸ τὸ μικρὸ ἔθνος, ποὺ συνταράσσει τὴν οἰκουμένη, ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ κρατάῃ τἰς παραδόσεις του κάθε Σάββατο πηγαίνουν στὴ συναγωγή.

Δέν εἶνε πολὺς καιρὸς ποὺ ἔνας ὑπουργὸς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ ταξιδεύοντας βρέθηκε στὴ Λάρισσα, καὶ ἦταν Σάββατο. Διέκοψε τὸ ταξίδι του. Κατέβηκε ἀπὸ τὸ ἀεροπλάνο, πῆγε στὸ ξενοδοχεῖο, καὶ πρὸς κατάπληξιν ὅλων προσευχόταν καὶ διάβαζε Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη. Τὴν ἑπομένη ἡμέρα συνέχισε τὸ ταξίδι του. Στὸ Ἰσραὴλ τὸ Σάββατο δὲν κουνιέται φύλλο.

Συγκρίνατε τώρα αὐτὴ τὴν εἰκόνα μὲ τὴ δική μας. Οἱ ὑπουργοί μας διαλέγουν τὴν Κυριακὴ νὰ κάνουν τὶς περιοδεῖες τους. Καὶ μόνο οἱ ἄρχοντες; Καὶ ὁ λαὸς τὰ ἴδια κάνει. Κυριακὴ γίνονται τὰ πιὸ πολλὰ δυστυχήματα, τὰ μεγαλύτερα ἀμαρτήματα καὶ πολλὰ ἐγκλήματα κατὰ τὴ στατιστικὴ τῆς ἀστυνομίας. Ἡ ἡμέρα τοῦ Κυρίου καταντᾶ ἡμέρα τοῦ διαβόλου.

Άπόδειξις' ἐνῷ ἡ καμπάνα καλεῖ, ἐλάχιστοι ἐκκλησιάζονται, καὶ αὐτοὶ γέροντες. Οἱ ἄλλοι; • Ἐκκλησιάζεσθε! μᾶς φωνάζουν οἱ Ἐβραῖοι. Ἐκτὸς τῶν Ἐβραίων μᾶς τὸ φωνάζει καὶ μιὰ γυναίκα. Αὐτὴ ἦταν ἀπολύτως δικαιολογημένη νὰ μὴν ἔρθῃ στὴ συναγωγή, ὅπως λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Πνεῦμα πονηρὸ τῆς εἶχε κάμψει τὴ ῥάχη. Ὅπως παίρνεις μιὰ βέργα τὴ λυγίζεις καὶ τὴν κάνεις στεφάνι, ἔτσι ὁ σατανᾶς ἔκανε τὴ σπονδυλική της στήλη. Τὸ κεφάλι της δὲν ἦταν πλέον ψηλά' ἅγγιζε κάτω τὴ γῆ. Ὅ- ποιος τὴν ἕβλεπε ἀπὸ μακριά, νόμιζε ὅτι εἶνε ἕνα κουβάρι, ἕνα τετράποδο. Ήταν λοιπὸν δικαιολογημένη νὰ μὴν πάῃ στὴ συναγωγή. Καὶ ὅμως πήγαινε! Δεκαοχτὼ χρόνια, κάθε Σάββατο, χειμῶνα - καλοκαίρι θὰ τὴν ἕβλεπες περνώντας τὰ σοκάκια νὰ δίνῃ ἐκεῖ τὸ παρὼν ἀγόγγυστα.

Καὶ μέσα στὶς πολλὲς φορές, νά τώρα ἔγινε τὸ θαῦμα! Έπέμενε ὅπως ὁ ψαρᾶς. Εἴδα κάποτε ἕνα ψαρά. Ήταν πάνω σ' ἕνα βράγο κ' έρριχνε τὸ ἀγκίστρι του ἀπ' τὸ πρωὶ μέχρι τὸ βράδυ χωρίς να πιάνη τίποτα. Όταν πια βασίλευε ό ήλιος, τότε, ὕστερα ἀπὸ ἀμέτρητες προσπάθειες, τὸν βλέπω ξαφνικὰ γεμᾶτο χαρά. "Επιασα, μοῦ λέει' τραβάει, τσίμπησε! Ἐπὶ τέλους είχε πιάσει ψάρι. "Έτσι είνε κι ό Θεός. "Ελα στὴν ἐκκλησιά! Δὲν θὰ σ' ἀκούσῃ μιά, δυό. τρεῖς φορές κάποτε -έχεις τὸ λόγο του- θὰ σ' άκούση! "Έτσι ἕγινε καὶ σ' αὐτήν. Μέσ' στὶς πολλές φορές, μία, τὸ ψάρι τσίμπησε. Ποιό ψάρι; Ο νοητός Ίχθύς, ὁ ἶδιος ὁ Χριστός! Πῶς ήταν δυνατόν ό Χριστός, ποὺ εἶνε γεμάτος ἀγάπη, νὰ τὴν παραβλέψῃ; Ένας μᾶς ἀγαπάει πραγματικά μέ μιὰ ἀγάπη τελεία, περισσότερο άπὸ ὁποιονδήποτε ἄλλον· ὁ Χριστός!

Τὴν κοίταξε ἐκεῖ, σὲ κάποια γωνιὰ τῆς συναγωγῆς, μὲ βλέμμα ἀγάπης. Τὴν κάλεσε κοντά. "Απλωσε τὸ χέρι καὶ –ἂς μὴν πιστεύουν οἰ ἄπιστοι, δικαίωμά τους, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐμᾶς δικαίωμά μας νὰ πιστεύουμε– μόλις ἄγγιξε πάνω της ὁ Χριστός, σὰν νὰ τὴν πέρασε ἀλεκτρικὸ ῥεῦμα, ῥεῦμα θείας χάριτος, ἀμέσως ἔτριξε ἡ ῥαχοκοκκαλιά της, ὕψωσε τὸ κεφάλι. Τὸ κορμί της ἕγινε ὀλόρθο κυπαρίσσι, καὶ δόξαζε τὸ Θεό.

Τὸ θαῦμα ἔγινε ἐκεῖ, στὴν ἱερὰ σύναξι.

 Έκκλησιάζεσθε! μᾶς φωνάζουν οἱ Ἐβραῖοι μὲ τὴ χάβρα τους καὶ ἡ συγκύπτουσα γυναίκα μὲ τὸ παράδειγμά της. Δὲν θέλετε ν' ἀκούσετε αύτούς; τότε ἀκοῦστε μιὰ ἄλλη φωνή. Εἶνε ή φωνή τῶν προγόνων μας. Πρὶν ἑκατὸ χρόνια, στὸν Πόντο, στὴ Μικρὰ Άσία, στὴ Μακεδονία, στή Θράκη, παντοῦ στήν πατρίδα μας, οί Χριστιανοί δέν είχαν δμορφες έκκλησιές. Ό Άβδούλ Χαμίτ δέν έπέτρεπε να χτυπούν καμπάνες. Καὶ ὅμως χωρὶς καμπάνες τὴν Κυριακή, δπου χώρα Έλληνική, δλοι μὰ δλοι τους ήταν στήν ἐκκλησιά! Μόνο καμμιὰ λεχώνα πού ήταν στὸ κρεβάτι ἢ κανένας γέρος ἑτοιμοθάνατος, αύτοι δέν πήγαιναν στην έκκλησιά. "Ολοι μέσ* στὶς ἐκκλησιὲς προσεύχονταν καὶ τὰ δάκρυά τους ἔπεφταν κορόμηλο στὸ δάπεδο. Τέτοιοι ήταν οἱ πρόγονοί σας. "Αν ὑποθέσουμε τώρα, ὅτι μέσ' ἀπ' τὸν τάφο ξυπνάει - ἀνασταίνεται ἕνας παπποῦς - ἕνας πρόπαππος, ἕνας πρόγονός σας καὶ ἕρχεται ἑδῶ, τί θὰ περίμενε; Δευτέρα, Τρίτη, Τετάρτη, Πέμπτη, Παρασκευή, Σάββατο δουλειά. Τὴν Κυριακὴ θὰ ἐρχόταν στὴν ἐκκλησία, θὰ Ἐβλεπε μέσα ἐλάχιστους, καὶ τί θὰ ἕλεγε; Αἴσθημα βαθυτάτης λύπης θὰ κατεῖχε ἀσφαλῶς τὴν ψυχή του.

Γι' αὐτό, ἀγαπητοί μου, λέω καὶ φωνάζω· Ἐκκλησιάζεσθε! Μιμηθῆτε τὸ παράδειγμα τοῦ Ἰσραήλ, τὸ παράδειγμα τῆς συγκυπτούσης, τὸ παράδειγμα τῶν προγόνων μας.

--Μά, θὰ μοῦ πῆτε, τί ἔχω νὰ κερδίσω ἂν πάω στὴν ἐκκλησιά; τί θὰ καταλάβω;...

Καὶ μόνο νὰ τὸ λὲς εἶνε ἀμαρτία. Τί θὰ καταλάβῃς; Εἶδες' μπῆκε μὲ τὰ τέσσερα, βγῆκε μὲ τὰ δυό' μπῆκε κτῆνος, βγῆκε ἄνθρωπος! "Ε, κάτι τέτοιο συμβαίνει, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ στὸν ἐκκλησιασμό. Σημειῶστε το καλά' ἄνθρωπος ποὺ δὲν μπαίνει στὴν ἐκκλησία νὰ νιώσῃ ἀνατριχίλα ὅταν περνάῃ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ τὰ ἅγια, ἄνθρωπος ποὺ δὲν προσεύχεται καὶ δὲν ἀνοίγει τὴν ἁγία Γραφή, ἄνθρωπος ποὺ δὲν αἰσθάνεται τὸ μεγαλεῖο τοῦ Θεοῦ, αὐτὸς σιγὰ - σιγὰ ὑποβιβάζεται, ἀποκτηνώνεται.

Οἱ πρόγονοἱ μας αὐτὸν ποὺ δὲν πήγαινε στὴν ἐκκλησία ξέρετε πῶς τὸν ἑλεγαν; Άλειτούργητο. Καὶ αὐτὸ τἱ ἐσήμαινε; ἄνθρωπο ποὐ δὲν ἐπιτρέπεται νὰ τὸν πλησιάσῃ κανείς. "Όταν ἕλεγαν «Αὐτὸς εἶνε ἀλειτούργητος», δὲν τὸν ἕβαζαν μέσα σὲ σπίτι, δὲν τοῦ ἕδιναν τὸ κορίτσι τους νὰ τὸν κάνουν γαμπρό, δὲν τοῦ ἕδιναν παιδὶ νὰ βαπτίσῃ, δὲν εἶχαν συναλλαγὲς μαζί του. Καὶ εἶχαν δίκιο. Γιατὶ ὁ ἅπιστος στὸ Θεὸ θά 'νε ἅπιστος καὶ στὴ γυναῖκα του, καὶ στὰ παιδιά του, καὶ στὴν πατρίδα, καὶ παντοῦ. Αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ ἀλήθεια. Καὶ παλαιότερα οἱ ἀλειτούργητοι ἦταν ἐλάχιστοι: τώρα εἶνε πολλοί.

Ό Χριστός, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἔρχεται σὲ λίγο νὰ γεννηθῆ. Γεννᾶται σὲ μία φάτνη σταύλου, γιὰ νὰ δείξῃ πῶς βρῆκε τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα, σὲ κατάστασι ἀποκτηνώσεως. Ἔρχεται νὰ γεννηθῆ, γιὰ νὰ πάρῃ τὸ κτῆνος καὶ νὰ τὸ κάνῃ πάλι ἄνθρωπο, κι ὅχι μόνο ἄνθρωπο ἀλλὰ καὶ ἄγγελο. Ἔρχεται νὰ γεννηθῇ ἀνάμεσά μας, γιὰ νὰ κάνῃ τὴν θηριώδῃ κοινωνία μας κοινωνία ἀγγέλων καὶ βασιλεία οὐρανῶν. Γι' αὐτὸ ἴδρυσε τὴν Ἐκκλησία του, γιὰ νὰ μπαίνῃ σ' αὐτὴν κάθε ἄνθρωπος, νὰ καθαρίζεται, νὰ φωτίζεται, νὰ ἁγιάζεται, νὰ σῷζεται. Γι' αὐτὸ νὰ ἐκκλησιαζώμαστε. Νὰ ἐκκλησιαζώμαστε ἀνελλιπῶς. Ἔτσι θὰ ὑψωθοῦμε καὶ θὰ γίνῃ ἡ ζωή μας ζωὴ ἀνώτερῃ, ζωὴ μακαρία· ἀμήν.

(†) ἑπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

Anapoyvęzadowepdze śpitku, & donala Zyna orde i, wob Rajon Beerkelou dildero - Apurralau róje 5-12-1968. Karwypanje sel nówspęnej 4-12-2005, čmoviadowej 2-11-2016.

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

When Christ Comes, God Will Be Seen by Men

There is one God, who by His word and wisdom created all things and set them in order. His Word is our Lord Jesus Christ, who in this last age became man among men to unite end and beginning, that is, man and God.

The prophets, receiving the gift of prophecy from this same Word, foretold His coming in the flesh, which brought about the union and communion between God and man ordained by the Father. From the beginning the word of God prophesied that God would be seen by men and would live among them on earth; He would speak with His own creation and be present to it, bringing it salvation and being visible to it. He would free us from the hands of all who hate us, that is, from the universal spirit of sin, and enable us to serve Him in holiness and justice all our days. Man was to receive the Spirit of God and so attain to the glory of the Father.

By his own powers man cannot see God, yet God will be seen by men because He wills it. He will be seen by those He chooses, at the time He chooses, and in the way He chooses, for God can do all things. He was seen of old through the Spirit in prophecy; He is seen through the Son by our adoption as His children, and He will be seen in the kingdom of heaven in His own being as the Father.

The Spirit prepares man to receive the Son of God, the Son leads him to the Father, and the Father, freeing him from change and decay, bestows the eternal life that comes to everyone from seeing God.

St. Irenaeus of Lyons

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