

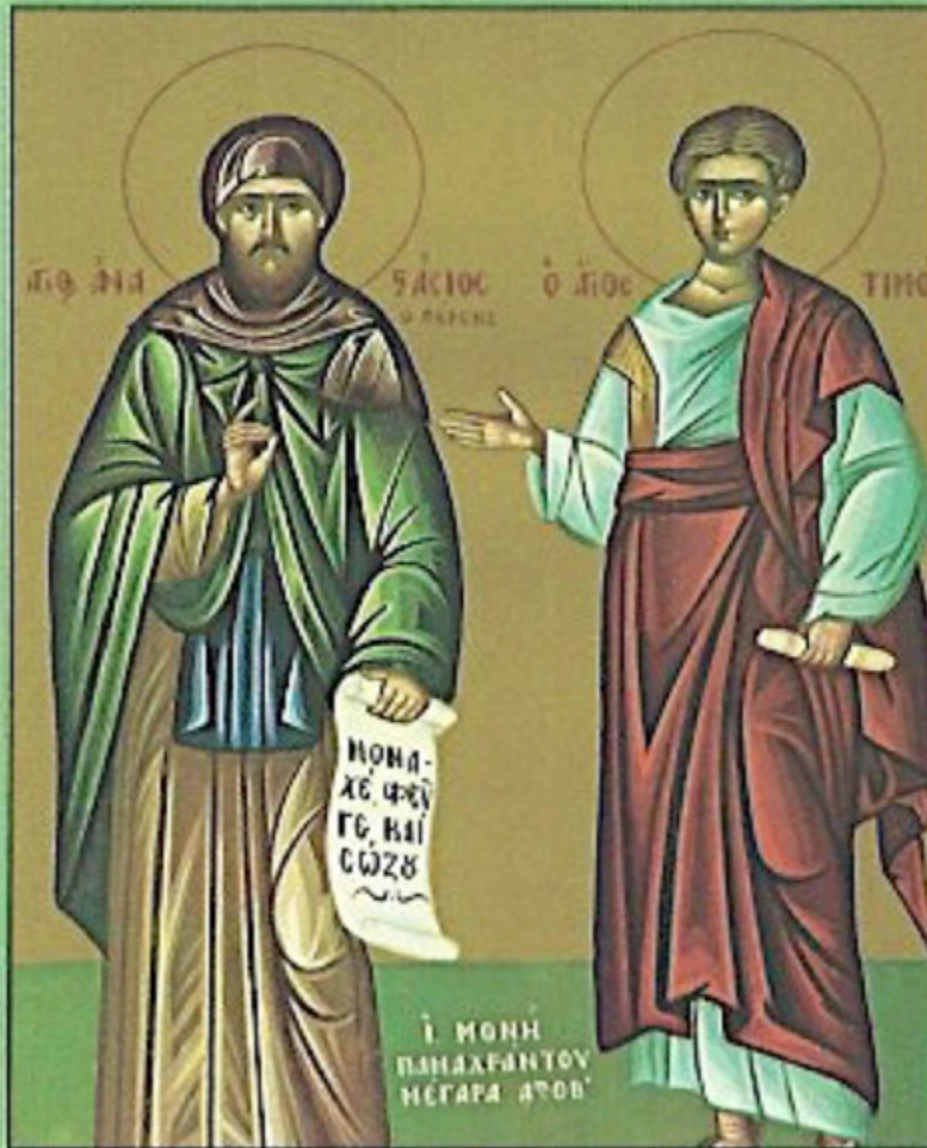


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN January 22nd , 2017
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

THIRTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saints Anastasius and Timothy -- January 22nd

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280
Web site: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org E-mail : info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

TIMOTHY, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 4:9-15

Προκείμενον. ᾠχος πλ β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράζομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος. Εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι, πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοὶ διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερὰ ᾖ ἐν πᾶσιν.

15th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel according to Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

15th Sunday of Luke

Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 19:1-10

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο τὴν Ἱεριχώ· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτηε ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐκείνης ἡμέλλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατέβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μεῖναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῶ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν. ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.

UP-COMING DEVOTIONS:

Sunday: January 29th	Saint Ignatios Liturgy	10:30 A.M
Sunday: January 29th,	GREAT VESPER of THREE HIERARCHS	7:00 P.M.
	His Eminence the Archbishop presiding	
	HELLENIC HERITAGE AWARD Presentation to	
U.S. CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE GUS BILIRAKIS (FLORIDA) and		
U.S. CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVE CAROLYN MALONEY (N.Y.)		
	Open reception by the Philoptochos at ROSEHALL	9:00 P.M
Monday: January 30th	Three Hierarchs Day Liturgy	9:30 A.M.
	Artoklasies	11:00 A.M.
	Open reception by the Daughters of Penelope	
	DEMETRA Chapter #33 in ROSEHALL	11:30 A.M.

TODAY EPIPHANY HOLY WATER DISTRIBUTION will take place after the Divine Liturgy. The suggested offering is a minimum of two dollars for each plastic bottle of sacred water. You may have as many bottles as you wish by simply indicating the same to the clergy at distribution time. A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL! It is suggested that a bottle of holy water may be kept in the home shrine where the icons are displayed and another bottle on the 'glove compartment' of YOUR CAR! Carry the blessing wherever you go.

GREEK SCHOOL PRESENTATION: in honor of GREEK LETTERS WEEK across the nation, special children from various classes of the SCHOOL will present a short program for the congregation. The P.T.A. of the school will be assisting in the AGAPE COFFEE HOUR open to everyone in WHITEHALL. Please join us and share in fellowship.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP: is being offered in blessed memory of + Anthony Christodoulakis in loving tribute by his GOD-DAUGHTER Ms. KATHY TSIVOURAKIS. May his memory be eternal.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY had a marvelous success at their 84th ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY Luncheon at Russo's on the Bay. The Grande Ballroom was filled to capacity with men and women who shared the day's festivities. Overwhelming culinary delights for lunch, mixed with great music for Greek dancing, a ballroom review of Latin American Salsa Dancing by an invited TROUPE, and PRIZES, PRIZES, PRIZES! A special event was the presentation of a crystal tear drop prism award to Mrs. Marie Paizis for her decades of devotion to the SOCIETY and all their philanthropic work. She is most deserving! AXIA! AXIA! AXIA!

PRAYER AND HEALING SERVICE: is scheduled for THIS Wednesday evening from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. The preaching homilist Fr. Eugene will offer spiritual meditation on 'DIVINE INSPIRATION'. Please join us for the healings, the anointing, and for the fellowship of coffee and sweets in the vestry. All are most welcome. COME! SEE! HEAR!

MR. MRS. AND MS. CLUB members are reminded that due to inclement weather the meetings for January and February are being cancelled for the season. Regular sessions will commence again in MARCH during LENT. On a trial basis we will make up the meetings with a SPECIAL SUMMER OCCASION in JULY! Get your 'beach togs' ready.

ECCLESIASTICAL GREEK/ENGLISH Christian Orthodox **calendars** were sent to all registered 'stewards' (MEMBERS) of our parish. DID YOU GET YOURS? Please inscribe your name, address and telephone number with church office, submitting your membership for THE NEW YEAR 2017. Ask for your calendar.....and you will get it and much more!

EARLY REGISTRATIONS for the Universal Pre-Kindergarten at Three Hierarchs will commence **Jan. 17 to Feb. 24, 2017.** Any child 4 years of age is eligible for FREE enrollment at our school operated by the New York City Department of Education. Classes are held each day from 8:00 A.M. through 3:00 P.M. with free lunch served by the City. IT'S ALL YOURS FREE FOR THE ASKING AND TAKING. DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILDREN /GREANDCHILDREN! Call now: (347) 729-0446 . TWO "OPEN-HOUSE" RECEPTION DAYS ARE WEDNESDAY FEB 8TH, 4P.M-7P.M AND MARCH 08TH 4P.M. – 7 P.M.

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](#))

MEMORIALS TODAY: + ANTHONY CHRISTODOULAKIS + PENELOPE CHRISOMALIS MENDELSON
MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + VASILIKI PALOYMPIS +HELEN GARDIANOS + JOHN ELEFTERAKIS



LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY 84TH , ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY LUNCHEON

Hosted at RUSSO'S ON THE BAY WAS A MAJOR SUCCESS!

Photographed are President Susan Jannace , Raffle Chair Effie Galiatsatos, Chairs of the event, Maria Plessias and Effie Parapaniaris.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT MARIA LOGUS with Fr. Eugene, Honoree Marie Paizis and Husband Chris, Katie Hambas, Council President George Annis, Evanthia Karounis and committee members one and all! BRAVO! AXIES!





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imazflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1990	Κυριακὴ ΙΕ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 19,1-10) 22 Ἰανουαρίου 2017	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ποθοῦμε νὰ γνωρίσουμε τὸν Ἰησοῦ;

«Καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι...» (Λουκ. 19,3)

Ζοῦσε, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὴν Ἱεριχώ, τὴν ἱστορικὴ πόλι τῆς Παλαιστίνης, ἓνας ποὺ τὸ ὄνομά του ἦταν στὰ χεῖλη ὄλων τῶν κατοίκων τῆς πόλεως ὡς σύμβολο ἀδικίας καὶ ἀρπαγῆς· ἦταν ὁ ἀρχιτελώνης **Ζακχαῖος**, ὁ πιστὸς αὐτὸς ὑπηρέτης τοῦ «μαμωνᾶ» (βλ. Ματθ. 6,24. Λουκ. 16,9,11,13), τὸ ἰσχυρὸ καὶ σκληρὸ αὐτὸ ὄργανο τοῦ διαβόλου.

Θησαύριζε γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό του, θησαύριζε γιὰ τὴν οἰκογένειά του, καὶ ἀδιαφοροῦσε τελείως γιὰ τὸ ποιά μέσα μεταχειρίζεται ὥστε ν' ἀποκτήσῃ ὅσο τὸ δυνατόν μεγαλύτερο πλοῦτο. Νὰ θησαυρίσῃ ἤθελε, νὰ γίνῃ μέγας καὶ τρανὸς μὲ τὰ πλοῦτή του· νὰ ὀσκοπός, ὁ μοναδικὸς σκοπός, ποὺ ὁ Ζακχαῖος ἔταξε στὸν ἑαυτό του ὡς στόχο τῆς ζωῆς του.

Γιὰ τὴν ἐπιτυχία δὲ τοῦ σκοποῦ αὐτοῦ ἐργαζόταν συνεχῶς· ἔθεσε σὲ κίνησι ὅλη τὴν εὐφυΐα του, ὅλη τὴν ἐξυπνάδα του, καὶ ὅλη τὴ δραστηριότητά του. **Ὁ ταλαίπωρος!** Ζοῦσε καὶ ἐκινεῖτο μόνο γιὰ τὸ χρήμα, μόνο γιὰ τὴν ὕλη. Σὰν ἀξιοθρήνητος δοῦλος τοῦ χειροτέρου τυράννου— καὶ ὑπάρχει χειρότερος τύραννος ἀπὸ τὸ χρήμα, ἀπὸ τὸν «μαμωνᾶ»— ἐργαζόταν κινώντας ἀκατάπαυστα τὰ ἐπικίνδυνα μηχανήματα τοῦ διαβόλου· ἐννοῶ τὰ διαφόρων εἰδῶν πολυπλοκά μηχανήματα τῆς κλοπῆς, τῆς ἀρπαγῆς, τῆς ἀδικίας, τῆς αἰσχροκέρδειας.

Μέσα σὲ μία τέτοια ἀτμόσφαιρα περνοῦσε τίς ἡμέρες τῆς ζωῆς του ὁ ἀρχιτελώνης Ζακχαῖος, ὅταν κάποια στιγμή τοῦ ἔρχονται μερικὲς παράδοξες εἰδήσεις ποὺ συνταράσσουν βαθειὰ τὴν ψυχὴ του. **Ἀκούει**—καὶ δὲν εἶνε λίγοι αὐτοὶ ποὺ τὰ λένε, εἶνε πολλοί—, ὅτι στὴν Ἰουδαία ἐμφανίστηκε κάποιος, τ' ὄνομά του εἶνε **Ἰησοῦς**, ὁ ὁποῖος λέει καὶ κάνει πράγματα ἀξιοθαύμαστα.

Μαθαίνει, ὅτι αὐτὸς ὁ Ἰησοῦς δὲν ζῆ ὅπως

ζῆ ἡ ἀφεντιά του, ὅπως ζοῦν οἱ περισσότεροὶ ἄνθρωποι, ποὺ συνήθως δουλεύουν στὸ χρήμα, στὴ σάρκα, στὶς ἡδονές. Αὐτὸς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ὅπως τὸν περιγράφουν οἱ ἴδιες πληροφορίες τοῦ λαοῦ, μένει ἀνώτερος ἀπ' ὅλα αὐτά, ζῆ μιὰ ζωὴ πολὺ διαφορετικὴ, ἀποτελεῖ ἓνα ἀπίστευτο φαινόμενο ἀγίας ζωῆς. Αὐτὸς ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύττει μιὰ διδασκαλία νέα καὶ κάνει θαύματα πρωτοφανῆ... Τέτοια καὶ ἄλλα πολλὰ γιὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦ θὰ ἄκουγε, μὲ μεγάλη του ἀπορία, ὁ Ζακχαῖος ὁ ἀρχιτελώνης τῆς Ἱεριχώ, καὶ ὅλες αὐτὲς οἱ εἰδήσεις θὰ κέντριζαν τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον του καὶ θὰ ἀναβαν τὴν περιέργειά του νὰ δῆ καὶ ὁ ἴδιος αὐτὸ τὸν Ἰησοῦ. Πολὺ θὰ ἤθελε νὰ εὑρίσκε κάπου μιὰ εὐκαιρία νὰ τὸν ἀντικρύσῃ ἔστω...

Ἄλλὰ νὰ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐπισκέπτεται τώρα τὴν Ἱεριχώ! Ἦταν τυχαῖο; Τίποτα δὲν εἶνε τυχαῖο. Κι αὐτὴ ἡ ἐπίσκεψι εἶχε τὸ σκοπὸ τῆς Γνωρίζει ὁ Χριστὸς ὡς καρδιογνώστης, ὅτι μέσα ἐκεῖ στὴν πόλι αὐτὴ βρίσκεται **μία ψυχὴ**, ἡ ψυχὴ τοῦ Ζακχαῖου, ἡ ὁποία ἄρχισε νὰ ἐλκύεται πρὸς αὐτὸν μὲ πόθο σφοδρό. Γι' αὐτὴν λοιπὸν καὶ μόνο τὴν ψυχὴ ἀξίζει νὰ ἐπισκεφθῇ τὴν Ἱεριχώ ὁ γλυκύτατος Διδάσκαλος.

Πρὶν ἀπὸ λίγο, κάπου στὰ πρόθυρα τῆς πόλεως αὐτῆς, θαυματουργεῖ· στὸ πρόσταγμα του **«Ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σέσωκέ σε»** ἓνας τυφλὸς ζητιᾶνος βρίσκει τὸ φῶς τῶν ματιῶν του καὶ ἀναβλέπει, κι ἀμέσως προστίθεται κι αὐτὸς στὸ πλῆθος ποὺ περιστοιχίζει τὸν Διδάσκαλο· **«καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸ Θεόν»** (βλ. Λουκ. 18,42-43). Ἀμέσως λοιπὸν μετὰ τὸ θαῦμα αὐτό, αὐτὸν τὸν θρίαμβο τῆς πίστεως στὸ ὄνομά του, ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰσέρχεται στὴν Ἱεριχώ.

Ὅλη ἡ Ἱεριχώ στὸ πόδι, ὑποδέχεται τώρα τὸ μεγάλο Διδάσκαλο καὶ Προφήτη. Σκιρτοῦν ἀπὸ χαρὰ οἱ καρδιὲς ὄλων· ἀλλὰ πρὸ παντὸς—ποιὸς θὰ τὸ περίμενε;— σκιρτᾷ ἀπ' τὴν

χαρά της ή καρδιά του αρχιτελώνη. Και δὲν τὸ κρύβει. Στὸ ἄκουσμα τῆς εἰδήσεως ὅτι «ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐρχεται» ἀφήνει τὸ τελωνεῖο, κλείνει τὸ μαγαζί του, καὶ τρέχει. Ποῦ πάει; Θέλει νὰ δῆ αὐτὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο, τὸν Ἰησοῦ, γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖο τόσα ἔχει ἀκούσει· πῶς νὰ εἶνε ἄραγε; «Ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι» (ἐλ 13).

Θὰ ἤθελε ἂν εἶνε δυνατόν νὰ τὸν συναντήσῃ, νὰ τὸν γνωρίσῃ ἀπὸ κοντὰ. Μὰ τὰ ἐμπόδια ποῦ βρίσκει μπροστά του εἶνε πολλὰ· ὁ κόσμος ποῦ μαζεύτηκε εἶνε πλήθος, «ὄχλος» πολὺς· κι αὐτὸς κοντός, τὸ ἀνάστημά του μικρό, δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ δῆ. Ὁ πόθος του ὅμως νὰ δῆ τὸ Χριστὸ εἶνε μέγας καὶ δὲν ἀπογοητεύεται, δὲν ὑποχωρεῖ μπροστά στὰ ἐμπόδια· ἔως ὅτου ἀξιῶνεται νὰ βρῆ αὐτὸ ποῦ ποθεῖ ἡ ψυχὴ του, νὰ πάρῃ αὐτὸ ζητάει, **νὰ δῆ τὸ Χριστό**. Πῶς τὸ κατέρωθε; Γνωρίζοντας ἀπὸ ποῖο μέρος θὰ περνοῦσε ἡ πομπή, τρέχει μπροστά ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμο, βρίσκει ἕνα δέντρο, μιὰ συκομουριά, καὶ ἀφήνοντας κατὰ μέρος τὴν καθὼς πρέπει συμπεριφορά, κάθε ἀξιοπρέπεια, λὲς καὶ ἦταν μικρὸ παιδί, σκαρφαλώνει σὰν γατὶ πάνω στὰ κλαδιά. Ἀπὸ ἑκεῖ μποροῦσε νὰ βλέπῃ.

Ὅταν ἡ πομπὴ ἔφτασε στὸ σημεῖο ἐκεῖνο, ὁ Χριστὸς σηκώνει τὰ μάτια, βλέπει τὸν ἀρχιτελώνη πάνω στὸ δέντρο καὶ τὸν φωνάζει μὲ τὸ ὄνομά του· «*Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατάβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μείναι*» κατέβα γρήγορα, **Ζακχαῖε, σήμερον θὰ μείνω στὸ σπίτι σου** (ἐλ 13).

Αὐτὸ ἦταν. Ἔτσι ὁ Ζακχαῖος ἀξιῶθηκε ὄχι μόνο ν' ἀντικρύσῃ ἀπὸ μακριὰ τὸ Χριστὸ ἀλλὰ καὶ νὰ τὸν γνωρίσῃ ἀπὸ κοντὰ καὶ νὰ τὸν φιλοξενήσῃ στὸ σπίτι του. Αὐτὸ ὅμως ἔκανε τὸν κόσμο νὰ γογγύζῃ, πῶς ὁ Χριστὸς δέχεται νὰ φιλοξενηθῇ ἀπὸ ἄνθρωπο ἁμαρτωλό; Καὶ τότε ὁ Ζακχαῖος, στάθηκε ἐκεῖ, μπροστά σὲ ὄλους, καὶ **δήλωσε μετάνοια** γιὰ ὅλο τὸ ἁμαρτωλό παρελθόν του, μετάνοια **ἐμπρακτὴ** καὶ ὄχι μὲ λόγια μόνο. Ἔτσι **ἀξιῶθηκε νὰ πάρῃ τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Χριστοῦ**· τὴν πήρε ἀξίως, ὄχι χαριστικά, ἀφοῦ ἄλλαξε ριζικὰ ὅλο τὸ πρόγραμμα τῆς ζωῆς του.

Ἄς μακαρίσουμε, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸ Ζακχαῖο γιὰ τὴν προθυμία καὶ τὸν πόθο ποῦ εἶχε νὰ δῆ καὶ νὰ γνωρίσῃ τὸ Χριστό, καὶ ἄς κλάψουμε γιὰ τὴν **ἀπροθυμία** τῆ δικῆ μας πρῶτα καὶ μετὰ τὸσων ἄλλων, καθὼς καὶ γιὰ τὴν **ἀδιαφορία**, ποῦ ἔχουμε γιὰ νὰ δοῦμε καὶ νὰ γνωρίσουμε τὸν Ἰησοῦ. Ἀλλοίμονό μας! Ἀκούμε κ' ἐμεῖς, ὅπως ὁ Ζακχαῖος, πολλὰ γιὰ τὸν Κύριο, γιὰ τὴν ἀγία του Ἐκκλησία, γιὰ τὰ θαύματά

του, γιὰ τὴ διδασκαλία του, γιὰ τὸν ἅγιο βίω τῶν μαθητῶν του. Ἀλλὰ τ' ἀκούμε ὅλα αὐτὰ χωρὶς μέσα μας ν' ἀναπτυχθῇ τὸ ζῶηρό καὶ ἰδιαίτερο ἐκεῖνο ἐνδιαφέρον νὰ δοῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς καὶ νὰ γνωρίσουμε ἀπὸ κοντὰ «τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι». Μένουμε διαρκῶς στὸ περιθώριο, στὴν κερκίδα, τῶν περιέργων θεατῶν καὶ ἀκροατῶν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, χωρὶς νὰ προχωροῦμε νὰ συνάψουμε σχέσεις ἰδιαίτερης γνωριμίας καὶ ἀγάπης μαζί του, χωρὶς νὰ φθάνουμε στὴν ἀπόφασι νὰ κάνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὸ μεγάλο καὶ ἥρωικό βῆμα τῆς ἐμπρακτοῦς μετανοίας, χωρὶς νὰ δρασκελίζουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὸ κατώφλι γιὰ νὰ εἰσεέλθουμε στὸν χῶρο ποῦ γίνεται ἡ συνάντησι καὶ ἡ **προσωπικὴ γνωριμία μαζί του**.

Ἀλλὰ ποιὸς εἶνε ἴσως ρωτήσῃ κάποιος—, ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ χῶρος αὐτός, ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ τόπος, στὸν ὁποῖο μποροῦμε νὰ συναντήσουμε τὸν Ἰησοῦ, νὰ τὸν βροῦμε καὶ νὰ τὸν γνωρίσουμε; Ποιὰ εἶνε γιὰ μᾶς σήμερα ἡ «*συκομορέα*», ἀπὸ τὴν ὁποία, σὰν τὸ Ζακχαῖο, θὰ μπορέσουμε, χωρὶς νὰ παρεμβάλλωνται ἐμπόδια, νὰ ἀτενίσουμε τὴ μορφὴ του; Ποιὸς τέλος πάντων εἶνε ὁ **ιερός χῶρος**, στὸν ὁποῖο ψυχὴ καὶ Χριστὸς θὰ συναντῶνται καὶ θὰ ἀνταλλάσσουν τὰ φιλήματα τῆς θείας ἀγάπης;

Ὁ χῶρος αὐτός ὁ ἱερὸς δὲν εἶνε κανένας ἄλλος παρὰ μόνο ἡ **ἀγία του Ἐκκλησία**. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δοῦμε τὸ Χριστό, ἐκεῖ θ' ἀκούσουμε τὸ Χριστό, ἐκεῖ θὰ λάβουμε τὴν εὐλογία του! Ἐκεῖ θ' ἀκούσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τὴν μακαρία ἐκείνη διαβεβαίωσι ἀπὸ τὸ στόμα του, τὴν εὐλογημένη φωνὴ τῆς ἀφέσεως τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν μας· «*Σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν*» (ἐλ 13).

Ἀγαπητοί μου! Μὴν ἄρκεσοῦμε καὶ μὴ δώσουμε πίστι σὲ ὅσα γιὰ τὸν Ἰησοῦ ἀκούμε νὰ λέγωνται ἀπὸ τὰ στόματα ἐκείνων ποῦ **δὲν γνώρισαν ἐπαρκῶς «τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι»**. Ὅλες αὐτὲς οἱ πληροφορίες εἶνε ἀσφαλῶς κατώτερες τῆς πραγματικότητος ποῦ κρύβεται μέσα στὸν Ἰησοῦ· αὐτὲς ἄς μᾶς χρησιμεύουν μόνο σὰν ἀφορμὲς γιὰ τὸν ἀναζητήσουμε ἐμεῖς οἱ ἴδιοι, μιμούμενοι τὴν ἀγία προθυμία τοῦ Ζακχαῖου. Νὰ ξέρομε ὅτι σὲ ὅλο Του τὸ μεγαλεῖο τὸν γνωρίζει ὁ θνητός— ὅσο βέβαια εἶνε δυνατόν ἀνθρωπίνως— μόνο διὰ τῆς ἀγίας του Ἐκκλησίας· μόνο ἀπὸ αὐτὴν, σὰν ἀπὸ ἄλλη «*συκομορέα*», εἶνε δυνατόν νὰ δοῦμε «τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι»· γιὰτὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία, ὅπως εἶπε ὁ ἱερὸς Αὐγουστῖνος, εἶνε αὐτὸς «ὁ Χριστὸς παρατεινόμενος εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας».

(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 2017 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

St. Paul to St. Timothy

"Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God for the promise of life in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my dear child: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God, whom I worship with a clear conscience as my ancestors did, as I remember you constantly in my prayers, night and day. I yearn to see you again, recalling your tears, so that I may be filled with joy, as I recall your sincere faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and that I am confident lives also in you.

For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the gospel with the

strength that comes from God. He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and apostle and teacher. On this account I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day. Take as your norm the sound words that you heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard this rich trust with the help of the holy Spirit that dwells within us."

2 Timothy 1:1-14

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