



## St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1.

Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

BRETHREN, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away; anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.

## Πρὸς Κολοσσαεῖς 3:4-11

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ α΄.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὄσιος.

Ἀδελφοί, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ἡμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἣτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρεία, δι' ἧς ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας· Ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιεπατήσατέ ποτε, ὅτε ἐζῆτε ἐν αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ πάντα, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, κακίαν, βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογίαν ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον, τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν· ὅπου οὐκ ἔστι Ἕλλην καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος· ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν Χριστός.

## 12th Sunday of Luke

### The Gospel according to Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

## 12th Sunday of Luke

### Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 17:12-19

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσερχομένου αὐτοῦ εἰς τινα κώμην ἀπήντησαν αὐτῷ δέκα λεπροὶ ἄνδρες, οἱ ἕστησαν πόρρωθεν, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἤραν φωνὴν λέγοντες· Ἰησοῦ ἐπιστάτα, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. καὶ ἰδὼν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε ἑαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσι. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς ἐκαθαρίσθησαν. εἷς δὲ ἐξ αὐτῶν, ἰδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη, ὑπέστρεψε μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν, καὶ ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ εὐχαριστῶν αὐτῷ· καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν Σαμαρεῖτης. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· οὐχὶ οἱ δέκα ἐκαθαρίσθησαν; οἱ δὲ ἑννέα ποῦ; οὐχ εὐρέθησαν ὑποστρέψαντες δοῦναι δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ εἰ μὴ ὁ ἄλλογενὴς οὗτος; καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀναστὰς πορεύου· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε.

**AGAPE COFFEE HOUR TODAY:** is being hosted in the blessed memory of +CALLIOPE HOURMOUZIS beloved mother of our office second secretary Angela Sakkas and children.

**LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS LUNCHEON;** The annual stellar affair is scheduled for **MONDAY (MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY) January 16th .**

**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.

**UKRAINIAN, RUSSIAN and GEORGIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN** faithful members of our parish will celebrate the old calendar ( Julian date ) feast of the Holy EPIPHANY with sacred divine services on Wednesday Evening January 18th, from 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M and on the following morning January 19th at 10:00 A.M. Blessings to all!

**PRAYER and HEALING** services will be held on Wednesday evening January 18th, from 6:00 P.M. Fr. Eugene will be the homilist.

**PATRONAL FEAST** of the parish is marked on your calendar starting SUNDAY evening January 29th, with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios presiding at the Great Vesper and Hellenic Heritage Award Ceremony. A Philoptochos reception of Greek sweets and coffee will follow in ROSEHALL – open to all.

**JANUARY 30TH,** Monday is the Panageric Feast of the THREE HIERARCHS with divine liturgy AT 9:30 A.M. Artoklasies at 11:00 a.m. and a reception hosted by the Demetra Chapter of the Daughters of Penelope in WHITEHALL at 12:00 noon – open to all. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

**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.

**NEW YEAR'S EVE REVEILLION:** Dinner Dance was a major success as always. Hosted by the BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 'Golden Greeks; under the able aegis of LOUIS and GUS VELLIOS of Konstantin Florists everyone enjoyed an event long to be remembered Feasting, dancing , dining and revelry highlighted to entrance to 2017! At midnight the church bells rang in the new year with family blessings at the sanctuary altar by the Reverend Clergy. WHAT A WAY TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR!

**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 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](#))

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the SIX NEW BOARD MEMBERS elected for the term 2017! George Annis, John Lambrakis , Harry Lambrakis, Alexandra Diolis , George Giannopoulos, and Haritini Pandis. The EXECUTIVE BOARD of the 2017 COUNCIL will be elected on January 17th. All parish council members are approved for election.

**PARISH COUNCIL:** Elections to the Executive Board will be held on Tuesday Evening, January 17th, at 7:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL. All council members are eligible and approved for election.

**MEMORIALS TODAY:** + CALLIOPE HOURMOUZIS + JOAN PAVLONIS

**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + ANTHONY CHRISTODOULAKIS





# 2017

## APRIL

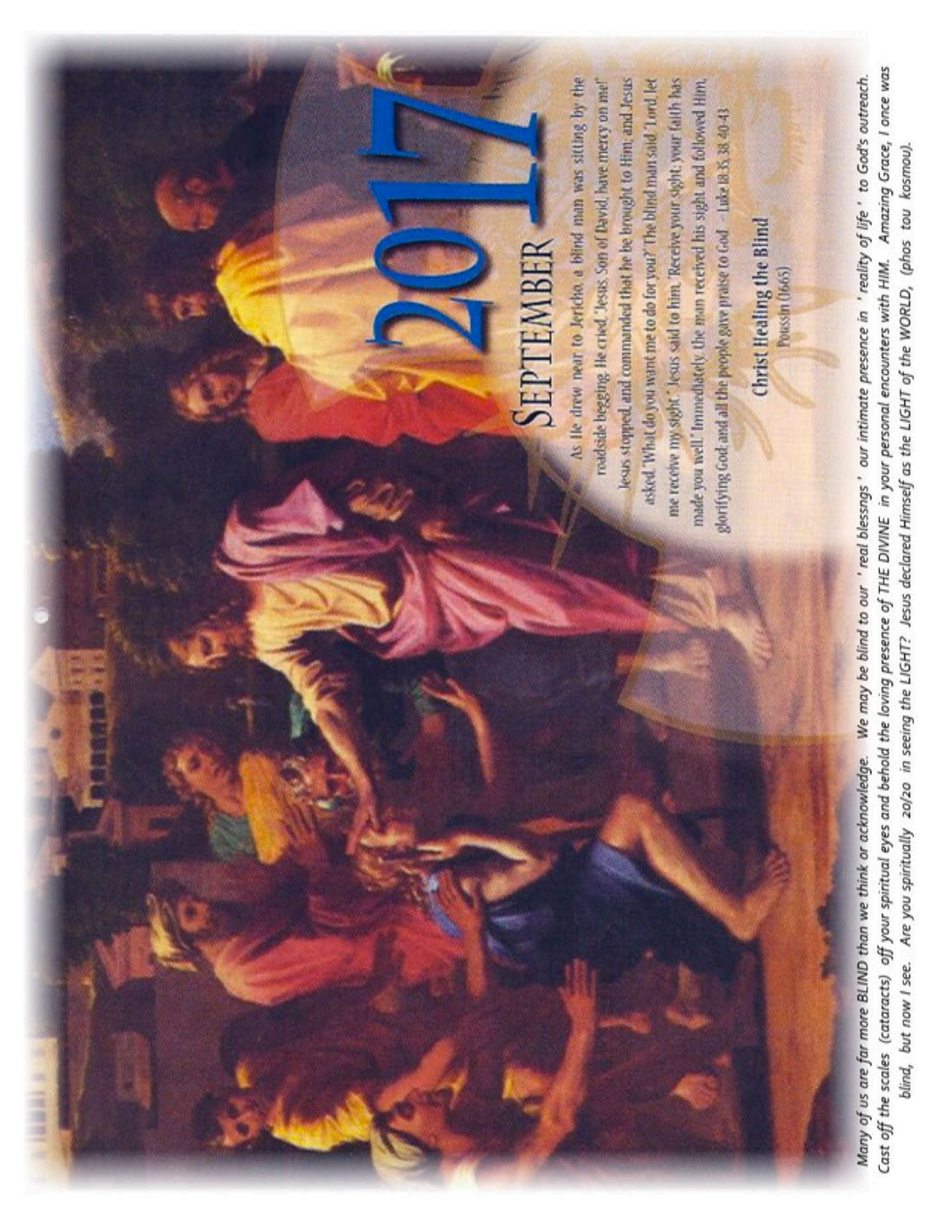
They went to a place which was called Gethsemane. ... He took Peter, James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. He said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch." Going a little farther, He fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible to thee; remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what thou wilt." - Mark 14:32-36

### Christ Praying in the Garden of Gethsemane

Sebastiano Ricci (c. 1730)

*In Jesus' complete nature of Divine and human essence, we see the Lord praying to His FATHER, that this cup (chalice of sacrificial suffering) pass from Him! This is His appeal to the Father that He be spared the Bloody passion of Golgotha. Jesus' prayer ends in submission to His FATHER ... ' NOT MY WILL BE DONE, BUT YOURS! ' We may not always get what we ask for, but we DO get what God determines we can handle. Accept IT, and get over IT!*





# 2017

## SEPTEMBER

As He drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. He cried, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stopped, and commanded that he be brought to Him; and Jesus asked, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said, 'Lord, let me receive my sight.' Jesus said to him, 'Receive your sight; your faith has made you well.' Immediately, the man received his sight and followed Him, glorifying God, and all the people gave praise to God - Luke 18: 35, 38, 40-43

### Christ Healing the Blind

Poussin (1665)

*Many of us are far more BLIND than we think or acknowledge. We may be blind to our 'real blessings' our intimate presence in 'reality of life' to God's outreach. Cast off the scales (cataracts) off your spiritual eyes and behold the loving presence of THE DIVINE in your personal encounters with HIM. Amazing Grace, I once was blind, but now I see. Are you spiritually 20/20 in seeing the LIGHT? Jesus declared Himself as the LIGHT of the WORLD, (phos tou kosmou).*





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γραμματεία τῆς Μονῆς Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [imazflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imazflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1989

Κυριακὴ ΚΘ' [Λουκ. ΙΒ'] (Κολ. 3,4-11)  
15 Ἰανουαρίου 2017

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Νεκρωμένοι γιὰ τὴν ἁμαρτία

«Νεκρώσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς...» (Κολ. 3,5)

**Τ**ίνος, ἀγαπητοί μου, τίνος εἶνε ἡ φωνὴ καὶ τὸ παράγγελμα αὐτό; Εἶνε λόγια τοῦ Παύλου, τοῦ ἀποστόλου τῶν ἐθνῶν. **Παράδοξο παράγγελμα!** πολὺ διαφορετικὸ ἀπὸ τὰ συνηθισμένα δικά μας κηρύγματα, τὰ κηρύγματα τῶν σημερινῶν ἱεροκηρύκων.

**Οἱ σημερινοὶ κήρυκες** κατὰ τὸ πλεῖστον ἀποβλέπουν στὸ νὰ κάνουν τὸν ἀκροατὴ τους ἐναν καλὸ χριστιανό, μὲ τὴν ἔννοια τοῦ «καλοῦ κάγαθοῦ» ποῦ θὰ ἴεγαν καὶ οἱ ἀρχαῖοι πρόγονοί μας· ἕναν φιλήσυχο καὶ νομοταγὴ πολίτη τῆς ἐπιγείου πολιτείας.

**Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος** ὁμως δὲν ἀποβλέπει σ' αὐτό, δὲν περιορίζεται στὰ ἐγκόσμια· ἔχει ἄλλο στόχο, πολὺ ὑψηλότερο, ζητάει νὰ ἐξυψώσῃ τὸν ἄνθρωπο μέχρι τὸν οὐρανό. Τὸ κήρυγμά του γιὰ τὰ δεδομένα τοῦ κόσμου τούτου φαίνεται αὐστηρό. «Νεκρώσατε», λέει, θανατώσατε δηλαδή, «τὰ μέλη» σας (Κολ. 3,5)!

**Ποιά μέλη ἔννοεῖ;** Ὑπάρχουν δύο ἐρμηνεῖες, ὅπως γράφει ὁ ἅγιος Νικόδημος ὁ Ἁγιορείτης. Ἡ πρώτη ἐρμηνεία ὡς «μέλη» ἔννοεῖ τὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματος (τὴ γλῶσσα, τὰ αὐτιά, τὰ μάτια, τὰ χέρια, τὰ πόδια...) ποῦ εἶνε προσηλωμένα στὰ γεῶδη καὶ ἁμαρτωλὰ καὶ δουλεύουν σὰν ὑποζύγια στὴν ἁμαρτία. Ἡ ἄλλη ἐρμηνεία ὡς «μέλη» ἔννοεῖ τὰ ἁμαρτήματα ποῦ γίνονται ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ καὶ πραγματοποιοῦνται διὰ μέσου τῶν μελῶν τοῦ σώματος. Καὶ οἱ δύο δηλαδή ἐρμηνεῖες ἀναφέρονται στὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματος. Εἴτε λοιπὸν ἔννοήσουμε τὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματος εἴτε ἔννοήσουμε τὰ ἁμαρτήματα ποῦ γίνονται δι' αὐτῶν, ἡ ἔννοια κατ' οὐσίαν δὲν διαφέρει.

Αὐτὰ τὰ μέλη ποῦ ἀναφέραμε (γλῶσσα, αὐτιά, μάτια, χέρια, πόδια) καὶ κάθε ἄλλο μέλος ποῦ ὑπάρχει στὸ σῶμά σας, λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, μὴν τὰ λυπηθῆτε, **νὰ τὰ θανατώσατε!** Ἐὰν τ' ἀφήσετε, κίνδυνος - θάνα-

τος! θὰ χάσετε τὸν οὐρανό, θὰ μείνετε μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸν Ἰησοῦ καὶ τὴ σωτηρία.

Ἄλλὰ τί μᾶς λές, διδάσκαλε τῶν ἐθνῶν; Μᾶς δίνεις ἐντολὴ νὰ θανατώσουμε - νὰ καταστρέψουμε τὰ μέλη μας; Ἄλλὰ πῶς; **Δὲν τὰ ἐπλασε κι αὐτὰ ὁ Θεός;** δὲν ἐξυπηρετοῦν, τὸ καθένα ἀπὸ αὐτὰ ἰδιαίτερος καὶ ὄλα μαζί, τὸν σκοπὸ τῆς δημιουργίας; Πῶς λοιπὸν νὰ τὰ καταστρέψουμε; Καὶ δὲν θὰ γίνουμε ἔτσι θεομάχοι, πολεμώντας τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Ὑψίστου;

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Ἀδελφοί μου, μὴν ταραξέστε γιὰ τὴν αὐστηρὴ αὐτὴ διδασκαλία τοῦ ἀποστόλου, καὶ προσοχὴ μὴ γίνῃ παρεξήγησις. Γιατί, ὅταν ὁ Παῦλος ἀπευθύνει πρὸς ὄλους ἐμᾶς τὴ θεόπνευστη συμβουλή του «Νεκρώσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν...», δὲν ἔννοεῖ καθόλου νὰ ξερριζώσουμε τὴ γλῶσσα μας, νὰ βγάλουμε τὰ μάτια μας, νὰ βουλώσουμε τὰ αὐτιά μας, νὰ κόψουμε τὰ χέρια ἢ τὰ πόδια μας καὶ κάθε ἄλλο μέλος τοῦ σώματός μας· ἔννοεῖ **νὰ πολεμήσουμε μέχρι νεκρώσεως τὴ ροπή, τὴν κλίσι πρὸς τὴν ἁμαρτία**, ἡ ὁποία, ἐφ' ὅσον ζῆ μέσα στὴν καρδιά μας, χρησιμοποιεῖ ὡς ὄργανά της -πρὸς ψυχικὴ μας καταστροφή- ὄλα τὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματός μας.

Ναί. Ἐέρετε **πῶς μοιάζει ἡ ἁμαρτία;** Ἡ ἁμαρτία μοιάζει σὰν κάποια πονηρὴ βασίλισσα, ποῦ ἔχει ὡς ἐκτελεστὰς τῶν ἀνόμων ἐπιθυμιῶν της τὰ διάφορα μέλη τοῦ σώματός μας. Μὲ τὴ **σαρκολατρία** μᾶς ὠθεῖ νὰ στρέψουμε τὰ μάτια παντοῦ ὅπου ὑπάρχει ἐρεθιστικὴ εἰκόνα ἢ ἀνήθικη σκηνή, ὥστε διὰ μέσου τῶν θεαμάτων αὐτῶν νὰ τροφοδοτῆται τὸ θηρίο τῆς κακῆς ἐπιθυμίας καὶ τῆς ἀκολασίας. Μὲ τὴν **κατάκρισι** μᾶς κάνει νὰ παρατηροῦμε τὴν κάθε ἀδυναμία ἢ τὸ σφάλμα τῶν ἄλλων, νὰ τὰ σχολιάζουμε μέσα μας, καὶ μετὰ ν' ἀνοίγουμε τὸ στόμα καὶ νὰ κινούμε τὴ γλῶσσα,

για να καταλογίσουμε εύθυνες και να δικάσουμε τὸν πλησίον μας, ὥστε να ἰκανοποιηθῆ ἡ κακία καὶ ἡ ἐμπάθειά μας. Μὲ τὸ **φθόνο** ὠθεῖ τὴν παλάμη μας ν' ἀπλωθῆ χωρὶς φόβο ἐπὶ τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου στὸ δικαστήριό καὶ τὰ χεῖρά μας νὰ ψευδορκήσουν εἰς βάρος τοῦ ἀθώου, γιὰ νὰ θεριεύῃ τὸ πάθος τῆς ἐκδικήσεως. Μὲ τὸ **μῖσος** ὀπλίζει τὸ χέρι μας μὲ αἰχμηρὰ ὄργανα καὶ φονικά ὄπλα, γιὰ νὰ τραυματίσῃ, ἢ καὶ νὰ σκοτώσῃ ἀκόμη, τὸν ἀντίπαλο, ὥστε νὰ φουντώνῃ ἡ ἐχθρική μανία. Μὲ τὴν **πλεονεξία** κάνει τὸν ἐγκέφαλό μας νὰ ἠλεκτρίζεται καὶ τὴν καρδιά μας νὰ χτυπᾷ ἄτακτα, καθὼς προσπαθεῖ νὰ ἐπινοήσῃ τρόπους ἀθέμιτου πλουτισμοῦ. Μὲ τὴν **κλοπὴ** κινητοποιεῖ τὰ πόδια μας νὰ τρέχουν ὅπου ἐντοπίσουμε ξένους θησαυρούς, γιὰ νὰ τοὺς κάνομε δικούς μας...

Αὐτὰ δυστυχῶς πράττομε οἱ πολλοί· γιὰτὶ ἡ ἁμαρτία, «ὁ **παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος**» (ἔλ. 3ῃ), δὲν ἔχει πεθάνει. Ζῆ μέσα μας· κινεῖται καὶ κινεῖ τὰ πάντα, γιὰ νὰ ἰκανοποιήσῃ τίς μύριες ὀρέξεις του. Καὶ ὅσο αὐτὸς θὰ ζῆ, ἐμεῖς θὰ εἴμαστε πνευματικὰ νεκροί. Ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος σήμερα μᾶς λέει νὰ κάνουμε τὸ ἀντίθετο· νὰ «**ἀπεκδυθοῦμε**», δηλαδὴ νὰ ξεντυθοῦμε σὰν ἀκάθαρτο ρούχο, –νὰ «ἀποθέσουμε» λέει ἄλλοῦ (ἔλ. 4,2ῃ)– τὸν παλαιὸ ἄνθρωπο μαζί μὲ τὰ ἔργα του, καὶ νὰ ντυθοῦμε τὸν **νέο ἄνθρωπο**, ποὺ ἀνακαινίζεται μιμούμενος τὸν Δημιουργό του (ἔλ. 1ῃ,10). Ὁ παλαιὸς μας ἄνθρωπος πρέπει νὰ συσταυρωθῆ μαζί μὲ τὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο Κύριό μας (ῤημ. 6ῃ), νὰ νεκρωθῆ.

Ἐὰν ὁ Χριστιανὸς μὲ συνεχῆ καὶ ἐντατικὴ **προσπάθεια**, μὲ τὴ βοήθεια πρὸ παντὸς τῆς **Θείας Χάριτος**, κατορθώσῃ νὰ καταβάλλῃ, νὰ νικήσῃ τὸν παλαιὸ ἄνθρωπο, τὴν ἁμαρτία, τότε θὰ ζῆ μὲν τὴν ἐν Χριστῷ ζωὴν, θὰ εἶνε δὲ νεκρὸς ὡς πρὸς τὴν ἁμαρτία. Ἡ ἁμαρτία δὲν θὰ ἔχῃ πλέον ἐξουσία ἐπάνω του. Τὰ μέλη τοῦ σώματός του θὰ εἶνε νεκρά ὡς πρὸς τὴν ἐνέργεια τῆς ἁμαρτίας. Ἡ γλώσσα δὲν θὰ συκοφαντῆ, δὲν θὰ κατακρίνῃ, δὲν θὰ λέῃ ψέματα, δὲν θὰ βλασφημῆ. Ἡ ἀκοὴ δὲν θὰ θέλῃ ν' ἀκούσῃ καταλαλιὰς καὶ ἀνηθικότητες. Ἡ ὄρασις δὲν θὰ βόσκη στὰ ἁμαρτωλὰ θεάματα. Τὰ χέρια δὲν θὰ ὑψώνονται ἐναντίον τοῦ πλησίον. Τὰ πόδια δὲν θὰ ξέρουν τοὺς τόπους τῆς διαφθορᾶς. Ὅλα θὰ εἶνε νεκρά ὡς πρὸς τὴν ἁμαρτία. Καὶ ὅπως ἕνας νεκρὸς δὲν θὰ ἐγκληματήσῃ ποτὲ ὀσεοδήποτε ὕβρεις καὶ ἂν τοῦ ποῦμε καὶ ὀσαδήποτε ὄπλα καὶ ἂν τοῦ βάλουμε στὸ χέρι του, κατὰ παρόμοιο τρόπο κ' ἐκεῖνος ποὺ θανάτωσε μέσα του τὸ θηρίο

τῆς ἁμαρτίας θὰ εἶνε ἀπρόσβλητος ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία, καὶ ὄλη ἡ ζωτικότητα τοῦ πνεύματός του θὰ στρέφεται τώρα στὴν ἐργασία ὄχι τοῦ κακοῦ ἀλλὰ τοῦ ἀγαθοῦ.

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**Εὐτυχισμένοι**, ἀγαπητοί μου, εὐτυχισμένοι εἶνε ὅσοι ἐφάρμοσαν τὴ θεόπνευστη παραγγελία τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου «**Νεκρώσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς**». Αὐτοὶ καὶ ἐδῶ ἀκόμη στὴ γῆ ζοῦν **ζωὴ ἀγγελική**. «**Φρονοῦν τὰ ἄνω**» καὶ ὄχι «**τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς**» (ἔλ. 3,2).

Τέτοιοι ἦταν οἱ **ἀσκηταὶ τῆς ἐρήμου**, οἱ νηπτικοὶ πατέρες. Τέτοιος ἦταν ὁ **ἱερός Χρυσόστομος**, ὁ μέγας πατὴρ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ὁ ὁποῖος στοὺς συκοφάντες τοῦ κληρικοῦς, ποὺ διέδιδαν ὅτι εἶνε ἀνήθικος, διότι «**δέχεται γυναῖκας, μόνος πρὸς μόνας, πάντας ἐκβάλλων**», ὅτι συναντᾶται κατ' ἴδιαν μὲ γυναῖκες, εἶχε τὸ θάρρος ν' ἀπαντήσῃ· «**Ἀποδύσατέ μου τὸ σῶμα καὶ εὐρήσετε τὴν νέκρωσιν τῶν μελῶν μου**»· γυμνώσατε τὸ σῶμα μου καὶ θὰ διαπιστώσατε ὅτι τὰ μέλη μου εἶνε νεκρά. Τέτοιος ἦταν πρὸ παντὸς ὁ **ἀπόστολος Παῦλος**. Αὐτὸς, ποὺ ὡς στρατηγὸς τῆς πνευματικῆς στρατιᾶς τοῦ Κυρίου ἔδωκε στοὺς Χριστιανοὺς ὄλων τῶν αἰώνων τὸ παράγγελμα αὐτό, «**Νεκρώσατε τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς**», αὐτὸς ὁ ἴδιος πρῶτος τὸ εἶχε ἐφαρμόσει στὸν ἑαυτό του καὶ ἔλεγε· «**Ζῶ οὐκέτι ἐγώ (=ὁ παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἁμαρτίας), ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός**» (ἔλ. 2,20).

Τέτοιοι –νεκροὶ μὲν γιὰ τὰ ἔργα τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ζωντανοὶ δὲ γιὰ τὰ ἔργα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἀρετῆς– **μποροῦμε νὰ γίνουμε κ' ἐμεῖς**, ἀδελφοί μου. Ἐὰν σήμερα μᾶς φαίνεται δύσκολο τὸ παράγγελμα αὐτὸ τοῦ ἀποστόλου, εἶνε γιὰτὶ ἀφήσαμε ἐπὶ πολλὰ χρόνια τὸ θηρίο τῆς ἁμαρτίας νὰ παχυνθῆ, ν' ἀποκτήσῃ δύναμι καὶ νὰ γίνῃ κυρίαρχο τῆς ζωῆς μας. Ἄλλ' ὅσο φοβερὸ καὶ ἂν φαίνεται, ἄς μὴ δειλιάσομε. Πρέπει νὰ τὸ πολεμήσομε. Θὰ χρειαστοῦν κόποι, μάχες, ἀγῶνες συνεχεῖς γιὰ νὰ φθάσομε στὸ εὐχάριστο ἀποτέλεσμα· στὴ νίκη, στὴ νέκρωσι τοῦ παλαιοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Ἄλλὰ στὸ πλευρὸ τῶν ἀγωνιζομένων εἶνε ἡ **Θεῖα Χάρις**. Κάτω ἀπὸ τὰ ἀδιάκοπα, τὰ ἀλύπητα χτυπήματα τῆς θελήσεώς μας, ποὺ θὰ ἐνισχύεται ἀπὸ τὴν Θεῖα Χάρι, τὸ θηρίο θὰ ἐξοντωθῆ, ἡ ἁμαρτία θὰ χάσῃ καὶ τίς μικρότερες ρίζες τῆς, ὁ παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος θὰ νεκρωθῆ, γιὰ νὰ δώσῃ τὴ θέσι του στὸν «**νέον (ἄνθρωπον) τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν**» (ἔλ. 3,10).

(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**

*Wisdom from St. Anthony the Great*

"A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him, saying, 'You are mad; you are not like us.'"

"Our life and our death are with our neighbor. If we gain our brother we have gained God; but if we scandalize our brother, we have sinned against Christ."

"I no longer fear God, I love Him."

"Do not be afraid to hear about virtue and do not be a stranger to the term. For it is not distant from us nor is it external to us; its realization lies within us and the work is easy if only we want it. The Greeks leave home and cross the seas in order to gain an education, but there is no need for

us to go away on account of the Kingdom of God nor need we cross the sea in search of virtue. For the Lord has told us, 'The Kingdom of God is within you.' All that is needed for goodness is that which is within, the human heart."

"I saw all the snares that the enemy spreads over the whole world and I said, groaning, 'What can get through such snares?' Then I heard a voice saying to me, 'Humility.'"

*St. Anthony the Great*

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