



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 21st 2017  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



*Icon of Saints Constantine and Helen -- May 21st*

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 18.4,1

Their voice has gone out into all the earth.

Verse: The heavens declare the glory of God.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 26:1, 12-20

IN THOSE DAYS, King Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: "I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles—to whom I send you to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance."

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 18.4,1

Εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν.

Στίχ. Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ.

Πράξεις Αποστόλων 26:1, 12-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, Ἀγρίππας πρὸς τὸν Παῦλον ἔφη, Ἐπιτρέπεται σοι περὶ σεαυτοῦ λέγειν. τότε ὁ Παῦλος ἐκτείνας τὴν χεῖρα ἀπελογεῖτο, Ἐν οἷς καὶ πορευόμενος εἰς τὴν Δαμασκὸν μετ' ἐξουσίας καὶ ἐπιτροπῆς τῆς παρὰ τῶν ἀρχιερέων, ἡμέρας μέσης, κατὰ τὴν ὁδὸν εἶδον, βασιλεῦ, οὐρανόθεν ὑπὲρ τὴν λαμπρότητα τοῦ ἡλίου, περιλάμπαν με φῶς καὶ τοὺς σὺν ἐμοὶ πορευομένους. Πάντων δὲ καταπεσόντων ἡμῶν εἰς τὴν γῆν, ἤκουσα φωνὴν λαλοῦσαν πρὸς με καὶ λέγουσαν τῇ Ἑβραϊδὶ διαλέκτῳ, Σαούλ, Σαούλ, τί με διώκεις; Σκληρόν σοι πρὸς κέντρα λακτίζειν. Ἐγὼ δὲ εἶπον, Τίς εἶ, κύριε; Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν, Ἐγὼ εἰμι Ἰησοῦς ὃν σὺ διώκεις. Ἀλλὰ ἀνάστηθι, καὶ στήθι ἐπὶ τοὺς πόδας σου· εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ ὤφθην σοι, προχειρίσασθαί σε ὑπηρετήν καὶ μάρτυρα ὧν τε εἶδες ὧν τε ὀφθήσομαί σοι, ἐξαιρουμένός σε ἐκ τοῦ λαοῦ καὶ τῶν ἐθνῶν, εἰς οὓς ἐγὼ σε ἀποστέλλω, ἀνοίξαι ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτῶν, τοῦ ὑποστρέφειν ἀπὸ σκοτόντος εἰς φῶς καὶ τῆς ἐξουσίας τοῦ Σατανᾶ ἐπὶ τὸν θεόν, τοῦ λαβεῖν αὐτοὺς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν, καὶ κληρὸν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πίστευι τῇ εἰς ἐμέ. Ὅθεν, βασιλεῦ Ἀγρίππα, οὐκ ἐγενόμην ἀπειθῆς τῇ οὐρανίῳ ὀπτασίᾳ· ἀλλὰ τοῖς ἐν Δαμασκῶ πρώτον καὶ Ἰεροσολύμοις, εἰς πᾶσάν τε τὴν χώραν τῆς Ἰουδαίας, καὶ τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, ἀπαγγέλλων μετανοεῖν, καὶ ἐπιστρέφειν ἐπὶ τὸν θεόν, ἅξια τῆς μετανοίας ἔργα πράσσοντας.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 9:1-38 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγων εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον τυφλὸν ἐκ γενετῆς. Καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ῥαββί, τίς ἡμαρτεν, οὗτος ἢ οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἵνα τυφλὸς γεννηθῆ; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς· οὔτε οὗτος ἡμαρτεν οὔτε οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῇ τὰ ἔργα τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν αὐτῷ. ἐμὲ δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι τὰ ἔργα τοῦ πέμψαντός με ἕως ἡμέρας ἐστίν· ἔρχεται νῦν ὅτε οὐδεὶς δύναται ἐργάζεσθαι. ὅταν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ᾧ, φῶς εἰμι τοῦ κόσμου. ταῦτα εἰπὼν ἔπυσε χαμαὶ καὶ ἐποίησε πηλὸν ἐκ τοῦ πύσματος, καὶ ἐπέχρισε τὸν πηλὸν ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς τοῦ τυφλοῦ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὑπάγε νίψαι εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ, ὃ ἐρμυνεύεται ἀπεσταλμένος. ἀπῆλθεν οὖν καὶ ἐνίψατο, καὶ ἤλθε βλέπων. Οἱ οὖν γείτονες καὶ οἱ θεωροῦντες αὐτὸν τὸ πρότερον ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν, ἔλεγον· οὐχ οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ καθημένος καὶ προσαιτῶν; ἄλλοι ἔλεγον ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν· ἄλλοι δὲ ὅτι ὁμοῖος αὐτῷ ἐστιν. ἐκεῖνος ἔλεγεν ὅτι ἐγὼ εἰμι. ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ· πῶς ἀνεφώχισάν σου οἱ ὀφθαλμοί; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· ἄνθρωπος λεγόμενος Ἰησοῦς πηλὸν ἐποίησε καὶ ἐπέχρισέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς καὶ εἶπέ μοι· ὑπάγε εἰς τὴν κολυμβήθραν τοῦ Σιλωάμ καὶ νίψαι· ἀπελθὼν δὲ καὶ νιψάμενος ἀνέβλεψα. εἶπον οὖν αὐτῷ· ποῦ ἐστιν ἐκεῖνος; λέγει· οὐκ οἶδα. Ἄγουσιν αὐτὸν πρὸς τοὺς Φαρισαίους, τὸν ποτε τυφλόν. ἦν δὲ σάββατον ὅτε τὸν πηλὸν ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἀνέφωξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς. πάλιν οὖν ἠρώτων αὐτὸν καὶ οἱ Φαρισαῖοι πῶς ἀνέβλεψεν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πηλὸν ἐπέθηκέ μου ἐπὶ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς, καὶ ἐνιψάμην, καὶ βλέπω. ἔλεγον οὖν ἐκ τῶν Φαρισαίων τινές· οὗτος ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὐκ ἔστι παρὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὅτι τὸ σάββατον οὐ τηρεῖ. ἄλλοι ἔλεγον· πῶς δύναται ἄνθρωπος ἁμαρτωλὸς τοιαῦτα σημεῖα ποιεῖν; καὶ σχίσμα ἦν ἐν αὐτοῖς. λέγουσι τῷ τυφλῷ πάλιν· σὺ τί λέγεις περὶ αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν ὅτι προφήτης ἐστίν. οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν οὖν οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι περὶ αὐτοῦ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέβλεψεν, ἕως ὅτου ἐφώνησαν τοὺς γονεῖς αὐτοῦ τοῦ ἀναβλέψαντος καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτοὺς λέγοντες· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ὑμῶν, ὃν ὑμεῖς λέγετε ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη; πῶς οὖν ἄρτι βλέπει; ἀπεκρίθησαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ εἶπον· οἶδαμεν ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς ἡμῶν καὶ ὅτι τυφλὸς ἐγεννήθη· πῶς δὲ νῦν βλέπει οὐκ οἶδαμεν, ἢ τίς ἠνοιξεν αὐτοῦ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς ἡμεῖς οὐκ οἶδαμεν· αὐτὸς ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε, αὐτὸς περὶ ἑαυτοῦ λαλήσει. ταῦτα εἶπον οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ, ὅτι ἐφοβοῦντο τοὺς Ἰουδαίους· ἦδη γὰρ συνετέθειντο οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι ἵνα, ἐάν τις αὐτὸν ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν, ἀποσυνάγωγος γένηται. διὰ τοῦτο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ εἶπον ὅτι ἡλικίαν ἔχει, αὐτὸν ἐρωτήσατε. ἐφώνησαν οὖν ἐκ δευτέρου τὸν ἄνθρωπον ὃς ἦν τυφλός, καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ· ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος ἁμαρτωλὸς ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπεν· εἰ ἁμαρτωλός ἐστιν οὐκ οἶδα· ἐν οἶδα, ὅτι τυφλὸς ὦν ἄρτι βλέπω. εἶπον δὲ αὐτῷ πάλιν· τί ἐποίησέ σοι; πῶς ἠνοιξέ σου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς; ἀπεκρίθη αὐτοῖς· εἶπον ὑμῖν ἤδη, καὶ οὐκ ἠκούσατε· τί πάλιν θέλετε ἀκοῦειν; μὴ καὶ ὑμεῖς θέλετε αὐτοῦ μαθηταὶ γενέσθαι; ἐλοιδόρησαν αὐτὸν καὶ εἶπον· σὺ ἔϊ μαθητῆς ἐκείνου· ἡμεῖς δὲ τοῦ Μωϋσεῶς ἐσμὲν μαθηταί. ἡμεῖς οἶδαμεν ὅτι Μωϋσεὶ λελάληκεν ὁ Θεός· τοῦτον δὲ οὐκ οἶδαμεν πόθεν ἐστίν. ἀπεκρίθη ὁ ἄνθρωπος καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἐν γὰρ τούτῳ θαυμαστόν ἐστιν, ὅτι ὑμεῖς οὐκ οἶδατε πόθεν ἐστίν, καὶ ἀνέφωξέ μου τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς. οἶδαμεν δὲ ὅτι ἁμαρτωλῶν ὁ Θεὸς οὐκ ἀκούει, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις θεοσεβῆς ἦ καὶ τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ ποιῇ, τούτου ἀκούει. ἐκ τοῦ αἰῶνος οὐκ ἠκούσθη ὅτι ἠνοιξέ τις ὀφθαλμούς τυφλοῦ γεγεννημένου. εἰ μὴ ἦν οὗτος παρὰ Θεοῦ, οὐκ ἠδύνατο ποιεῖν οὐδέν. ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ· ἐν ἁμαρτίαις σὺ ἐγεννήθης ὄλος, καὶ σὺ διδάσκεις ἡμᾶς; καὶ ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω. Ἦκουσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐξέβαλον αὐτὸν ἔξω, καὶ εὐρῶν αὐτὸν εἶπεν αὐτῷ· σὺ πιστεύεις εἰς τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἀπεκρίθη ἐκεῖνος καὶ εἶπε· καὶ τίς ἐστί, Κύριε, ἵνα πιστεύσω εἰς αὐτόν; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· καὶ ἐώρακας αὐτόν καὶ ὁ λαλῶν μετὰ σοῦ ἐκεῖνός ἐστιν. ὁ δὲ ἔφη· πιστεύω, Κύριε· καὶ προσεκύνησεν αὐτῷ.

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

<b>Sunday May 21st,</b>	<b>Feast of Saints Constantine and Helen Liturgy</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
	<b>Artoklasies</b>	<b>11:30 A.M.</b>
	<b>National A.H.E.P.A. Brunch Open to all</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Wednesday May 24th</b>	<b>Prayer and Healing Service</b>	<b>6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Thursday May 25th,</b>	<b>ASCENSION (ANALYSIS) Liturgy</b>	<b>9:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Sunday May 28th,</b>	<b>MEMORIAL SUNDAY NATIONAL OBSERVANCE</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
	<b>ALL SAINTS OBSERVED!</b>	
<b>Wednesday May 31st,</b>	<b>A G I A S M O S ( Holy Water Blessing)</b>	<b>11:00 A.M.</b>
<b>Saturday June 03rd,</b>	<b>Psychosabbaton Liturgy</b>	<b>9:00 AM to 10:30 A.M.</b>

**PSYCHOSABBATON** is scheduled for SATURDAY – JUNE 03rd. 9:00 – 10:30 A.M. Please see insert sheet for commemoration of faithfully departed relative and friends. May their memory be eternal!

**TODAY:** The Coney Island Chapter of A.H.E.P.A. #200 is honoring a most faithful couple of our faith community, Mr. and MRS. SPYROS and EFFIE GALIATSATOS for their contributions to THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH, THE DEMETRA CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE and A.H.E.P.A. Chapter # 200. This wonderful family which raised three daughters of stellar reputation have been married 53 years. May GOD grant them many more years of life, joy and health!

**PHILOTOCHOS NEWS:** The general monthly meeting will be on TUESDAY , May 30th in ROSEHALL at 7:30 P.M. That same evening the Officers and the Philoptochos Board will be elected. Best wishes to all candidates !

**PHILOTOCHOS SOCIAL** (dinner) will be held for all members at on Monday evening, June 26th, at 7:00 P.M. Venue to be announced. This is an annual event celebrating the successes of the past philanthropic efforts. The LADIES PHILOTOCHOS is essential to every parish. We congratulate the officers and members.

**SENIOR CLUB:** will celebrate the PATRON SAINTS CONSTANTINE and HELEN at their Wednesday session May 24th. Greek sweets, treats, coffee and much more will be served by those observing their name day. bingo and music fill the air..... congratulations to GUS, DENO, DEAN, CONSTANTINOS, KOSTA, HELEN, ELAINE, ELENI .....

**CHOIR NEWS:** We are most pleased that our Three Hierarchs CHOIR under the able baton of Katie Hambas will participate in the PENTECOSTAL CHOIR CONCERT on Thursday, June 01st, at Sacred Heart /Saint Stephen Roman Catholic Church on Carroll Street, Brooklyn at 7:00 P.M. We will be the ONLY Orthodox Christian Church to sing three pieces of traditional hymnology. Let's support our Choir. The CONCERT IS free and OPEN TO ALL.

**ANNUAL ‘ RAMADAN ‘ DINNER** will be hosted free to all in Whitehall on Tuesday evening, May 30th. This is our FIFTH Ramadan Dinner hosted and served for OUR FAITHFUL and guests by the Turkish Cultural Council in Brooklyn. During these trying times internationally it is good to break bread with our neighbors and share understanding and fellowship. PLEASE JOIN US AS WE CALL UPON GOD'S BLESSINGS. Music, dinner and film begin at 7:30 P.M. and usually ends by 9:30P.M.

**GRECIAN FESTIVAL:** Is scheduled for our parish FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 3, 4TH on the plaza of our community center. PLEASE REFER TO THE INSERT FLYER.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** for the annual festival highlighting our culture, food, delicacies , music and folk dancing. You may wish to help in food servicing , beverage bars, merchandise sales, sweets and pastries area. Please call GEORGE PLEVITIS at 917-541-7034

**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)

**EARLY REGISTRATIONS; PRE- K FOR ALL :** 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 /GRANDCHILDREN! 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.



**MOTHERS' DAY OBSERVANCE CELEBRATION DECLARES ANNUALLY**

'The Woman of the year' Award. The 2017 Honoree selected by the Womens Committee of 20 ladies representing the 20 organizations, fraternities, and philanthropic service groups is : **MRS. EFTHYMIA GALIATSATOS**



The 2017 Honoree WOMAN OF THE YEAR MRS. EFTHYMIA GALIATSATOS with immediate family members, spouse Spyros, children and grand-children, gathered in tribute to a worthy woman. AXIA! AXIA! AXIA!



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [info@yahoo.gr](mailto:info@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2015

Κυριακὴ τοῦ Τυφλοῦ (Ἰω. 9,1-38)  
21 Μαΐου 2017

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Τυφλοὶ στὴν ψυχὴ

Ἐδῶ, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὸν ἱερὸ ναὸ παρουσιάζομαι ἐνώπιον τῆς ἀγάπης σας καὶ θὰ σὰς παρακαλέσω νὰ κάνετε ὑπομονή, γιὰ ν' ἀκούσετε λίγες ταπεινὲς σκέψεις ἐπάνω στὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιο εὐαγγέλιο, ποὺ διηγεῖται ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ μεγαλύτερα θαύματα τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, **τὸ θαῦμα τοῦ ἐκ γενετῆς τυφλοῦ.**

Ἀκούγοντας κανεὶς τὸ εὐαγγέλιο αὐτὸ ἴσως πῆ· Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός, ἐγὼ ἔχω μάτια καὶ βλέπω τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο δὲν εἶνε γιὰ 'κείνους ποὺ βλέπουν, εἶνε γιὰ 'κείνους ποὺ δὲν βλέπουν, γιὰ τοὺς τυφλοὺς... Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ὅμως εἶνε γιὰ ὅλους. Ἀκούγοντας οἱ τυφλοὶ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο αὐτὸ πράγματι παρηγοροῦνται· αἰσθάνονται ὅτι, καὶ ἂν ἀκόμη ὄλοι τοὺς ἐγκαταλείψουν, ὑπάρχει ἓνας ποὺ τοὺς ἀγαπᾷ, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο αὐτὸ δείχνει τὴν ἀγάπη, ποὺ ἔχει ὁ Κύριος στὰ δυστυχισμένα πλάσματα καὶ μάλιστα σ' αὐτοὺς ποὺ στερήθηκαν τὸ φῶς τους. Τί στοργὴ εἶχε ὁ Χριστὸς **στοὺς τυφλοὺς!** Μακάρι νὰ εἶχαμε κ' ἐμεῖς λίγη ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπη αὐτή...

—Μά, θὰ μοῦ πῆτε, ἐμεῖς δὲν ἔχουμε τὴ δύναμι νὰ δώσουμε τὸ φῶς στοὺς τυφλοὺς... Ναι, νὰ τοὺς δώσουμε μάτια δὲν μποροῦμε βέβαια· μποροῦμε ὅμως νὰ κάνουμε **κάτι ἄλλο γι' αὐτούς**, νὰ τοὺς προσφέρουμε κάποια ἄλλη βοήθεια.

Καὶ **ὑπάρχουν πολλοὶ τυφλοὶ**, χιλιάδες, στὴν πατρίδα μας· τυφλοὶ ἐκ γενετῆς, τυφλοὶ ἀπὸ ἀσθένειες, τυφλοὶ ἀπὸ δυστηχήματα. Ὑπάρχουν ὅμως καὶ τυφλοὶ ἥρωες, ποὺ ἔχασαν τὸ φῶς τους γιὰ ἓνα μεγάλο καὶ ὑψηλὸ σκοπὸ. Ἦταν παλληκάρια, στὸ ἄνθος τῆς ἡλικίας τους —γνώρισα τέτοια παιδιὰ, 22 - 23 ἐτῶν— ποὺ εἶχαν μάτια ἀετοῦ, ἐβλεπαν ἀπ' τὴ μιὰ ῥάχη ὡς τὴν ἄλλη. Ἀλλὰ μιὰ μέρα ἀκούστηκε ὅτι ἡ πατρίδα κινδυνεύει, ἐγίνε ἐπιστράτευσι· καθένας ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς ἄφησε τὸ ἀλέτρι ἢ τὴ φλογέρα ἢ τὸ ἐργοστάσιο, κι ἀνέβηκαν στὰ ψηλὰ χιονισμένα βουνά, κ' ἐκεῖ εἶπαν τὸ «Ὅχι!» στοὺς ἐπιδρομεῖς. Πολέμησαν σὰν λιοντάρια· καὶ πάνω σὲ μιὰ ἔκ-

ρηξι ἔχασαν τὸ φῶς τους, ἔμειναν τυφλοὶ. Ἦρωες, ποὺ τυφλώθηκαν γιὰ νὰ δῆ φῶς τὸ ἔθνος. Καὶ τί ἔκανε τὸ ἔθνος γι' αὐτούς, τί τοὺς δίνει; Ψίχουλα. Ἄχ, κράτος ἀμαρτωλό, ποὺ μὲ τὸ φτυὰρι δίνει τὰ χρήματα σὲ σκοποὺς ἀμφιβόλου ἀξίας καὶ στὰ παιδιὰ αὐτὰ δίνει ψίχουλα!...

Ἀλλὰ ἐγὼ δὲν εἶχα σκοπὸ νὰ μιλήσω γιὰ τοὺς ἥρωες τυφλοὺς, οὔτε γιὰ τοὺς ἄλλους ποὺ ἔχασαν τὸ φῶς τους. Θέλω νὰ τονίσω κάτι ἄλλο· ὅτι ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τοὺς τυφλοὺς αὐτοὺς ὑπάρχουν καὶ κάποιοι ἄλλοι. Τί τὸ ὄφελος νὰ ἔχουμε τὰ μάτια; Τέτοια μάτια ἔχουν καὶ τὰ ζῶα, βλέπουν μάλιστα καλύτερα ἀπὸ μᾶς. Τί νὰ τὰ κάνης τὰ μάτια αὐτά, ἅμα δὲν ἔχης τὰ ἄλλα μάτια, μὲ τὰ ὁποῖα μπορεῖς νὰ δῆς ὄχι τὸν ὑλικὸ κόσμον ἀλλὰ τὸν ἀόρατο πνευματικὸ κόσμον; Δὲν ὑπάρχουν **δηλαδὴ τυφλοὶ μόνον κατὰ τὸ σῶμα**· ὑπάρχουν **τυφλοὶ καὶ κατὰ τὸ πνεῦμα**, καὶ γι' αὐτοὺς θὰ μοῦ ἐπιτρέψετε νὰ πῶ λίγες λέξεις.

\*\*\*

Ὁ Θεός, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἔδωσε στὸν ἄνθρωπο τὸ φυσικὸ φῶς, τὸν ἥλιο, ἔδωσε ἀκόμη καὶ τὸ νοητὸ φῶς· **τὸ δὲ νοητὸ φῶς εἶνε ἡ διάνοια, ὁ νοῦς**, τὸ ἐξαιρετικὸ αὐτὸ προνόμιο ποὺ ἔχει ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Μὲ τὴ δύναμι τοῦ νοῦ, τὴ δύναμι τῆς σκέψεως, ὁ ἄνθρωπος ξεχωρίζει ἀπ' ὅλα τὰ ἄλλα ὄντα. Γίνεται ἀστρονόμος, μαθηματικὸς, γιατρός, ἐφευρέτης μεγάλων ἀνακαλύψεων. Μὲ τὴ δύναμι τοῦ νοῦ εἶνε εἰς θέσιν νὰ διακρίνη τὴν ἀλήθεια ἀπὸ τὸ ψέμα, τὴν ἀρετὴ ἀπὸ τὴν κακία, τὴν εὐσέβεια ἀπὸ τὴν ἀσέβεια.

Ὁ Θεὸς εἶπε· Ἄνθρωπε, μπροστά σου ἔβαλα τὴ φωτιὰ καὶ τὸ νερό, ἀπλώσε τὸ χέρι σου ὅπου θέλεις· ἂν τ' ἀπλώσης στὴ φωτιὰ θὰ καῆς, ἂν τ' ἀπλώσης στὸ νερό θὰ δροσιστηῆς· διάλεξε καὶ πάρε (βλ. Δαλ. 30,9. 1. Παρ. 15,14). Ἐν τούτοις ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἐνῶ προικίστηκε μὲ νοῦ καὶ διάκρισι, σκοτίστηκε καὶ δὲν διακρίνει· πέφτει μέσ' στὴ φωτιὰ καὶ καίγεται. Περίεργα πράγματα, μόνον τρελλὸς ἢ δαιμονισμένος θὰ τό 'κανε αὐτό. Μὰ εἶνε, θὰ πῆτε, τόσο **τυφλὸς στὴν ψυχὴ**, ὥσ-

τε να μη διακρίνη τὸ γκρεμό, τὴν ἄβυσσο, τὴ φωτιά, τὴν κόλασι; Καὶ ὁμως!... Θέλετε **παρ-  
δείγματα**; Θὰ σᾶς πῶ μερικά καὶ θὰ τελειώσω.

● **Νούμερο ἓνα, αὐτὸς ποὺ τὸν τυφλώνει ἢ φι-  
ληδονία.** Μπορεῖ νὰ ἔβγαλε σχολεῖα καὶ παν-  
επιστήμια, νὰ πῆρε διπλώματα καὶ νὰ ἔμαθε  
γλώσσες, μπορεῖ νὰ ἔχη τηλεσκόπια καὶ νὰ βλέ-  
πη τὰ ἄστρα σὲ ἰλιγγιώδεις ἀποστάσεις, καὶ ὁ-  
μως, αὐτὸς ὁ σοφός, μπλέκει ξαφνικά στὰ δί-  
χτυα μιᾶς πονηρῆς γυναίκα, ἐνὸς αἰσχροῦ ἔ-  
ρωτος, καὶ τὸν βλέπεις νὰ πέφτη σὰν τυφλὸς  
στὸ χάος παρανόμων σχέσεων. – Ὅχι, παιδί μου,  
λέει ἢ ἀγράμματη μάνα, θὰ καταστραφῆς αὐ-  
τοῦ ποῦ πᾶς. Ὅχι! τοῦ λένε φίλοι, ὄχι! φωνά-  
ζει τὸ χωριό, ὄχι! φωνάζει ἢ κοινωνία, ὄχι! φω-  
νάζουν οἱ νόμοι, ὄχι! φωνάζει ὁ πνευματικός.  
Τίποτα· πέφτει στὸ χάος. Δὲν εἶνε λοιπὸν αὐ-  
τὸς τυφλός; δὲν τὸν τύφλωσε ἢ ἁμαρτία;

● **Νούμερο δύο, αὐτὸς ποὺ τὸν τυφλώνει ἢ φι-  
λαργυρία.** Βλέπεις τὸν ἄλλον; Ἦταν κάποτε ἐ-  
ποχή ποῦ δὲν εἶχε δραχμὴ στὴν τσέπη. Μὰ ἐπει-  
τα οἱ τσέπες του γέμισαν ἀπὸ χρήματα, καὶ ἔ-  
χει καταθέσεις, πλεούμενα, σπιτία, μέγαλα καὶ  
ἐπαύλειες. Τί νὰ τὸν κάνης ὁμως; Ἄνθρωπος  
δὲν εἶνε· ἢ φιλαργυρία ξερρίζωσε ἀπὸ μέσα του  
τὸ εὐγενέστερο αἶσθημα, τὴ συμπάθεια καὶ εὐ-  
σπλαχνία. Καὶ τὸν βλέπεις νὰ ἔνε τόσο τυφλός,  
ὥστε ὅπως λέει ὁ λαὸς «δὲν δίνει νερό οὔτε  
στὸν ἀγγελό του». Εἶνε σὰν τὸν Ἰούδα ποῦ, ὅ-  
πως ψάλλει ἢ Ἐκκλησία τῆ Μεγάλῃ Παρασκευῇ,  
«*τυφλοῦται τῷ πάθει τῆς φιλαργυρίας, ἐκπί-  
πτει τοῦ φωτός ὁ ἐσκοτισμένος*» (ἰβρ. ἀπὸ θ').

● **Θέλετε καὶ ἄλλον τυφλὸ ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία; νὰ  
αὐτὸς ποὺ τὸν τυφλώνει τὸ μῖσος,** ὁ ἄνθρωπος  
τῆς ἐκδικήσεως. Αὐτὸς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ λησμο-  
νήσῃ τὸ κακό, ἀλλὰ τὸ θυμᾶται σὰν τὴν καμῆ-  
λα. Μισεῖ τὸ γείτονα, τὸ συνάδελφο, τὸν ξένο,  
τὸν δικό του, τὸ παιδί του, τὴ γυναῖκα ποῦ ἀγά-  
πησε· πάνω στὸ θυμὸ του παίρνει μαχαίρι καὶ τὴ  
σκοτώνει, κι ὅταν ἢ ἀστυνομία τὸν ρωτᾷ, –τὴ  
γυναῖκα σου σκότωσες; ἀπαντᾷ· –Μὲ σκότισε  
τὸ πάθος, ἦμουν τυφλός δὲν ἔβλεπα τί κάνω.

● **Νὰ λοιπὸν· τὸν ἓνα τὸν τύφλωσε ἢ φιληδο-  
νία, τὸν ἄλλον ἢ φιλαργυρία, τὸν ἄλλο τὸ μῖσος.**  
Τὰ πάθη ὁμως, τὰ ἐωσφορικά πάθη, τυφλώνουν  
ὄχι μόνο ἄτομα ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔθνη ὁλόκληρα. Ἐθνη  
μεγάλα καὶ θεωρούμενα πολιτισμένα, μὲ παν-  
επιστήμια καὶ ἀκαδημίες, ἔσπρωξαν τὴν ἀνθρω-  
πότητα μέσ' στὴ φωτιά τοῦ Πρώτου παγκο-  
σμίου πολέμου καὶ μετὰ στὴ μεγαλύτερη φω-  
τιά τοῦ Δευτέρου παγκοσμίου πολέμου, καὶ  
μέσα ἀπὸ τίς μποῦκες τῶν κανονιῶν, τῶν ἀε-  
ροπλάνων καὶ τῶν ὑποβρυχίων σκόρπισαν τὸν  
δλεθρο στὸν κόσμον. Καὶ ἐτοιμάζονται –μὴν ἀ-

κοῦτε λόγια ἀπατηλά– νὰ ρίξουν τὴν ἀνθρω-  
πότητα στὴ φωτιά ἐνὸς ἄλλου πολέμου, τὸν ὁ-  
ποῖον ἢ μὲν ἐπιστήμη ὀνομάζει πυρηνικό, ἢ δὲ  
Ἀποκάλυψις ὀνομάζει «*Ἀρμαγεδῶνα*» (ἠλ 16,16).  
Εἶνε λοιπὸν ἢ δὲν εἶνε τυφλοὶ οἱ διπλωμάτες  
καὶ στρατηγοὶ καὶ οἱ μεγάλοι ποῦ σπρώχνουν  
συνεχῶς τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα στὸ γκρεμὸ τῆς  
καταστροφῆς; «*Τυφλὸς τυφλὸν ἐάν ὀδηγῆ,  
ἀμφότεροι εἰς βόθυνον πεσοῦνται*» (Ματθ 15,14).

● **Ἄλλὰ προτοῦ νὰ τελειώσω θὰ σᾶς παρου-  
σιάσω τὴν πιὸ μεγάλη τύφλωσι. Ποιά εἶν' αὐτή;**  
Εἶνε ἢ τύφλωσις ποῦ ὀνομάζεται **ἀπιστία**. Τὴν  
εἰκόνα τοῦ ἀπίστου ζωγραφίζει τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγ-  
γέλιο. Τί λέει μπροστὰ στοὺς ἄρχοντες ἔκανε  
ὁ Χριστὸς ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ μεγαλύτερα θαύματα,  
δημιούργησε ἀπὸ πηλὸ βολβούς, ὀφθαλμούς.  
Καὶ πίστεψε ὁ ὄχλος, πίστεψαν οἱ γονεῖς τοῦ  
τυφλοῦ, πίστεψαν καὶ οἱ πέτρες. Ποιοὶ δὲν πί-  
στεψαν· οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ φαρισαῖοι. Τοὺς τύ-  
φλωσε ὁ διάβολος, ὥστε νὰ μὴ μπορούν νὰ πι-  
στέψουν καὶ νὰ προσκυνήσουν τὸ Χριστό, ἀλ-  
λὰ προσπαθοῦσαν μὲ δικολαβίες καὶ σοφιστεῖ-  
ες νὰ σκιάσουν τὸν Ἥλιο, ἀνίκανοι νὰ δοῦν  
τὸ Φῶς ποῦ λάμπει στὸν κόσμον.

\*\*\*

Ἄλλὰ, ἀδελφοί μου, καιρὸς νὰ στρέψουμε  
τὸν λόγο πρὸς τὸν ἑαυτὸ μας. Διότι κ' ἐμεῖς κα-  
τὰ κάποιο τρόπο εἴμαστε τυφλοὶ. Μέσα στὴν  
ἐκκλησία **σὲ κάθε θεῖα λειτουργία γίνεται** τὸ  
μεγαλύτερο θαῦμα· πάνω στὴν ἀγία τράπεζα  
τὸ ψωμὶ καὶ τὸ κρασί γίνεται σῶμα καὶ αἷμα τοῦ  
Χριστοῦ μας! ἀπὸ τὸ ὅποιο καλούμεθα ὄλοι νὰ  
κοινωνήσουμε. Νὰ τὸ θαῦμα. Τὰ παλιὰ τὰ εὐ-  
λογημένα χρόνια οἱ ἄνθρωποι πίστευαν, ἔρ-  
χονταν στὴν ἐκκλησία καὶ μὲ τὰ μάτια τῆς πί-  
στεως ἔβλεπαν ἀγγέλους νὰ λειτουργοῦν μαζί  
μὲ τοὺς ἱερεῖς. Τί λέει τὸ ἀπολυτικίον τοῦ ἀγί-  
ου Σπυριδῶνος· «*καὶ ἐν τῷ μέλειν τὰς ἀγίας  
σου εὐχὰς ἀγγέλους ἔσχες συλλειτουργοῦν-  
τάς σοι, ἱερώτατε*». Ἐμεῖς, ἀλλοίμονο, γίναμε  
τυφλοὶ καὶ δὲν βλέπουμε.

Ἀδέρφια μου· **ἢ ἁμαρτία τυφλώνει.** Τί εἶνε ἢ  
ἁμαρτία; Δὲν εἶνε παντεσπᾶνι, δὲν εἶνε γλύκυ-  
σμα, δὲν εἶνε ἄρωμα· εἶνε καυστικὸ βιτριόλι.

Ἄς παρακαλέσουμε τὸ Θεὸ ν' ἀνοίξῃ τὰ μά-  
τια μας νὰ δοῦμε τὸ φῶς τὸ πνευματικόν, νὰ  
πέσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς μπροστὰ στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ νὰ  
ποῦμε μαζί μὲ τὸν Τυφλὸ «*Πιστεύω, Κύριε*» (ἠλ  
138)! πιστεύω σὰν τὴ μάνα μου, σὰν τοὺς προγό-  
νους μου, σὰν τὸν Τυφλὸ· γονατίζω μπροστὰ  
σου καὶ λέω «*Πιστεύω, Κύριε*». Καὶ νὰ προσ-  
κυνήσωμεν αὐτῷ, ὡς ἢ δόξα καὶ ἢ τιμὴ εἰς αἰ-  
ῶνας αἰῶνων· ἀμήν.

(†) **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**

### *Faith Now Touches Christ*

The Lord's resurrection brought us joy; so should His Ascension, as we recall the event that exalted our lowly nature beyond the angels and highest created powers to the Father's side. These divine actions provide a sure foundation; through them God's grace works marvelously to keep our faith firm, our hope confident, and love ardent, even though the visible events as such are now part of history.

Even the blessed Apostles, despite the signs they saw and the sermons they heard, were fearful when the Lord suffered, and did not accept His Resurrection unhesitatingly. So much did His Ascension influence them, however, that all fear was turned to joy. Their minds contemplated the divine Christ at the

Father's side; no earthly trial could distract them from the fact that Christ had not left the Father when He descended nor left the disciples when He returned.

Therefore, beloved, the Son of Man who is Son of God has in an ineffable way become more present to us in his Godhead now that He has departed from us in His humanity. Faith now reaches to the Son, who is equal to the Father, and no longer needs the bodily presence of Jesus, in which He is less than the Father. For though His incarnate nature continues to exist, faith is summoned to touch the only-begotten Son, not with bodily sense but with spiritual understanding.

*St. Leo the Great*

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