



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 11th, 2017  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



*Icon of All Saints*

Prokeimenon. Mode 4.

Psalm 103.24,1

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 11:19-30

IN THOSE DAYS, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Προκείμενον. Ύχος δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 11:19-30 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, διασπαρέντες οἱ Ἀπόστολοι ἀπὸ τῆς θλίψεως τῆς γενομένης ἐπὶ Στεφάνῳ διήλθον ἕως Φοινίκης καὶ Κύπρου καὶ Ἀντιοχείας, μηδενὶ λαλοῦντες τὸν λόγον εἰ μὴ μόνον Ἰουδαίοις. Ἦσαν δὲ τινες ἐξ αὐτῶν ἄνδρες Κύπριοι καὶ Κυρηναῖοι, οἵτινες εἰσελθόντες εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν, ἐλάλουν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑλληνιστάς, εὐαγγελιζόμενοι τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν. Καὶ ἦν χεὶρ κυρίου μετ' αὐτῶν· πολὺς τε ἀριθμὸς πιστεύσας ἐπέστρεψεν ἐπὶ τὸν κύριον. Ἰκούσθη δὲ ὁ λόγος εἰς τὰ ὅσα τῆς ἐκκλησίας τῆς ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις περὶ αὐτῶν· καὶ ἐξαπέστειλαν Βαρνάβαν διελθεῖν ἕως Ἀντιοχείας· ὃς παραγενόμενος καὶ ἰδὼν τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐχάρη, καὶ παρεκάλει πάντας τῇ προθέσει τῆς καρδίας προσμένειν τῷ κυρίῳ· ὅτι ἦν ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς καὶ πλήρης πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ πίστεως· καὶ προσετέθη ὄχλος ἰκανὸς τῷ κυρίῳ. Ἐξῆλθεν δὲ εἰς Ταρσὸν ὁ Βαρνάβας ἀναζητησάμενος Σαῦλον, καὶ εὗρών ἤγαγεν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν. Ἐγένετο δὲ αὐτοὺς ἐνιαυτὸν ὅλον συναθῆναι τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ καὶ διδάξαι ὄχλον ἰκανόν, χρηματίζοντες τε πρῶτον ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ τοὺς μαθητὰς Χριστιανούς. Ἐν ταύταις δὲ ταῖς ἡμέραις κατήλθον ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων προφῆται εἰς Ἀντιόχειαν. Ἀναστὰς δὲ εἷς ἐξ αὐτῶν ὀνόματι Ἄγαβος, ἐσήμανεν διὰ τοῦ πνεύματος λιμὸν μέγαν μέλλειν ἔσσεσθαι ἐφ' ὅλην τὴν οἰκουμένην· ὅστις καὶ ἐγένετο ἐπὶ Κλαυδίου Καίσαρος. Τῶν δὲ μαθητῶν καθὼς εὐπορεῖτο τις, ὥρισαν ἕκαστος αὐτῶν εἰς διακονίαν πέμψαι τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ἀδελφοῖς· ὃ καὶ ἐποίησαν, ἀποστειλάντες πρὸς τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους διὰ χειρὸς Βαρνάβα καὶ Σαύλου.

The Sunday of All Saints

The Gospel According to Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

The Sunday of All Saints

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἐαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Πᾶς οὖν ὅστις ὁμολογήσει ἐν ἐμοὶ ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὁμολογήσω καὶ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. ὅστις δ' ἂν ἀρνήσῃται με ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἀρνήσομαι αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. Ὁ φιλῶν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁ φιλῶν υἱὸν ἢ θυγατέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὃς οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου, οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος. Τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἰδοὺ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμεν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὑμεῖς οἱ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι, ἐν τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ, ὅταν καθίσῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους κρίνοντες τὰς δώδεκα φυλὰς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ πᾶς ὃς ἀφήκεν οἰκίαν ἢ ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφάς ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ γυναῖκα ἢ τέκνα ἢ ἀγροὺς ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός μου, ἑκατονταπλασίονα λήψεται καὶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσει. Πολλοὶ δὲ ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι.

**JUNE 11th : TODAY:** We celebrate ALL SAINTS DAY. This particular observance gives us an opportunity to reach out in reverent prayers even to those unknown and un-named 'saints' through the ages that were crowned with glory for their perseverance in faith and relentless dedication to Jesus the Christ and His mission on earth. Even today, this very day, countless souls are being slaughtered on the blasphemous altar of religious intolerance and terrorism against Christians throughout the world. Pray for them as they have sacrificed for us.

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP :** today is being hosted in Whitehall directly after Divine liturgy. All are cordially invited to share in refreshments.

**KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU HELLENIC CLASSICAL CHARTER SCHOOL** invites all interested parties to visit the facility on Fifth Avenue and 18th Street. ( SCHOOL LOCATION) on SATURDAY morning, June 17th from 10:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Guided tour will be hosted.

**TODAY:** The HOLY ORDER will observe their Annual Memorial tribute for their deceased members. The inscribed names of the faithfully departed in the Gold Bible will be on display for viewing.



**1-877 go forth (463-6784)  
220 Mason Manatee Way  
St Augustine Florida 32086**

“My heart is in the seminary, and the seminary remains closed. We should have opened in September . It’s almost March. The issue is a lack of funding. The sources of income that powered the seminary from its beginnings in the 1980’s dried up with the financial crisis that struck Greece and Cyprus four years ago. Those countries have yet to recover, and the same is true with the seminary’s finances.” This is the most recent report we received about the Makarios III Seminary in Nairobi, Kenya, from OCMC Missionary Dr. Bill Black. Dr. Black has devoted his life to missionary service and to teach at the seminary. For years, this institution has been training Orthodox clergy from throughout Africa at no cost. ***Its doors have now been closed for several months.***

Where will future generations of Orthodox priests in Africa learn the Faith that must continue to be shared throughout the continent? ***Your support is needed now more than ever so that the seminary can re-open, and so that other seminaries can remain open.***

Providing theological training to future church leaders is a vital pillar of Orthodox Missions. without it, the work of sharing Christ will suffer. ***Will you please prayerfully consider a gift of \$200, \$150. or more in support of the institutions that make this training possible?***

The Makarios III Seminary is but one of the schools around the world your gifts support!

Over the years, because of your offerings, dozens of priests and ministry leaders have passed through their halls. ***Just imagine the thousands of lives these priests and church leaders have transformed with the training you have made possible.***

Some of these men, like His Grace Bishop Athanasios of Kisumu and Western Kenya and His Grace Bishop Neofitos of Nyeri and Mount Kenya, are now shepherding whole new dioceses.

We cannot thank you enough for the prayers and support you have offered to make the theological training of Orthodox priests possible in the past.

***Now your prayers and support are needed more than ever. How much longer shall the doors of the seminary in Kenya remain closed? Will other seminaries have to close their doors too? The fate of schools is in your hands. Please make a gift toward theological training today!***

**VACATION PLANS:** Fr. Eugene will be absent from Parochial duties for the next two Sundays June 11th and June 18th. He will be back the week of June 20th. In his absence we are pleased to welcome Rev. Fr. Nicholas Sotoropoulos who will cover the parochial liturgical needs these two Sundays. Please receive Fr. Nicholas with our loving hospitality and gratitude.

**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](http://LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER) . The website address. [W.W.W.gaepis.org](http://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.

**MEMORIAL TODAY:**

**+ HOLY ORDER DECEASED MEMBERS**



## The Relics of the St. Photios Shrine

There are 21 relics at the Shrine of St. Photios. Archbishop Iakovos of blessed memory embedded the relics of Sts. Euphemia, Theodora and Solomoni into the Holy Table at the consecration of the St. Photios Chapel in February of 1985.

The other 18 relics were presented to the Shrine by the V. Rev. Eugene Pappas of Brooklyn, New York. He had obtained them through the Vatican. Each sacred bone fragment is contained with the Papal seal. Bishop John of Amorion (then Atlanta) made the relics available for veneration on June 23, 1984.

Today, the reliquary is encased in the chapel narthex. The public can venerate the remains of the following Saints: Peter, Paul, Titus of Crete, Helena, Constantine, Savvas, Anthony, John Chrysostom, Basil, Gregory of Nazianzas, Gregory of Nyssa, Cyril of Alexandria, Cyril of Jerusalem, Nicholas of Myra, Ambrosios, Haralambos and John of Damascus.



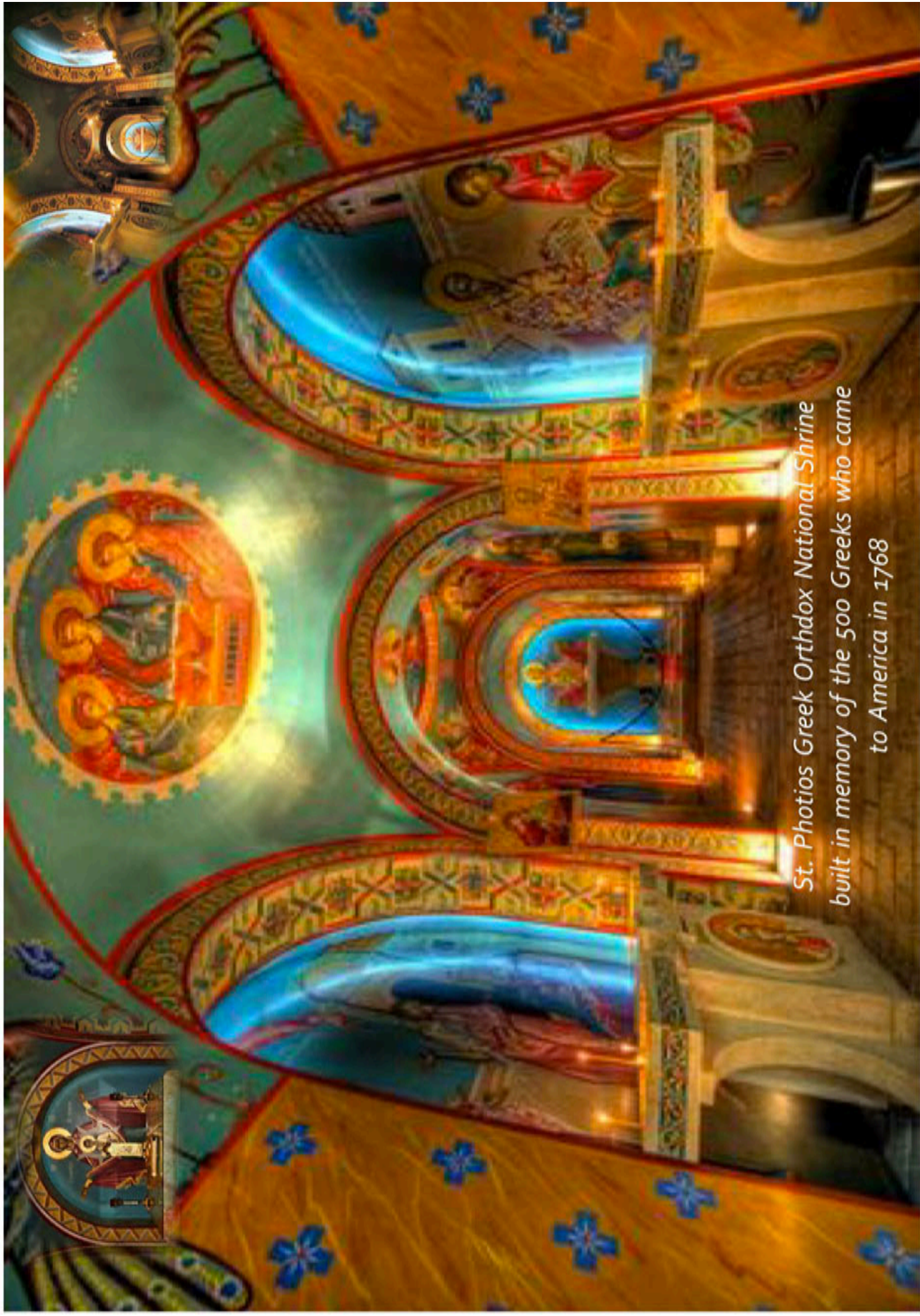
The Relics are located in the narthex of the St. Photios Chapel

## St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine

St. Augustine, FL – St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine is located in the Colonial Quarter of St. Augustine, FL. It is a sacred and historical site built in memory of the 500 Greeks who came to America with the Turnbull expedition in 1768. The chapel has a reliquary with the bone fragments of 18 saints of the early Church in the narthex and the relics of 3 female saints in the altar. The chapel and museum occupy the historic Averro House – a 2-story structure that was built in the 1740's, razed and then reconstructed. In 1982, the Shrine opened with a clear mission to actively witness Orthodox Christianity, share the Hellenic culture and honor the memory of all immigrants who came to America in quest of a new life.



Bishop Demetrios escorted by Shrine First VP, Archon Dr. Manuel N. Constantinou



*St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine  
built in memory of the 500 Greeks who came  
to America in 1768*



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυνακκία τερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2019	Κυρ. Ἁγ. Πάντων (Α' ΜΘ) (10,32-33, 37-38· 19,27-30) 11 Ἰουνίου 2017	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Οἱ ἀμοιβές τῶν πιστῶν

«Ἴδου ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμέν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν;» (Ματθ. 19,27)

**Σ**ὲ κόπους καὶ θυσίες καὶ μαρτύρια, ἀγαπητοί μου, καλοῦσε τοὺς μαθητὰς καὶ ἀποστόλους ἢ φωνὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὅπως ἀκοῦμε στὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Ματθ. 10,32-33,37-38). Σταυροὶ καὶ αἵματα καὶ διωγμοί, νὰ ποιῆς ὀδυνηρὲς δοκιμασίες περιμέναν τοὺς πιστοὺς δούλους του, καὶ μάλιστα **τοὺς ἀποστόλους**. Γιατὶ οἱ ἀπόστολοι ἦταν ἐκεῖνοι ποὺ ὑπὸ τις ὁδηγίες τοῦ Χριστοῦ, σὰν ἄλλοι στρατηγοί, θὰ ἐξωρμούσαν γιὰ τὴν πνευματικὴ κατάκτησι τοῦ κόσμου. Γιὰ νὰ κηρυχθῆ καὶ νὰ διαδοθῆ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, θὰ χρειαζόταν οἱ μαθηταὶ καὶ ἀπόστολοι καὶ ὄλοι γενικὰ οἱ ἀκόλουθοι τοῦ Κυρίου νὰ συνεισφέρουν σ' αὐτὸ τὸ σκοπὸ καὶ σ' αὐτὸ τὸν ἀγῶνα, τὸν εὐγενέστερο ἀπὸ κάθε ἄλλον, ὅ,τι πολῦτιμο εἶχαν.

Ἄλλ' ἀπέναντι στὶς θυσίες ποὺ ὑποβλήθηκαν τότε οἱ ἀπόστολοι -κ' ἐξακολουθοῦν, λέμε τώρα ἐμεῖς, διὰ μέσου τῶν αἰῶνων νὰ υποβάλλωνται οἱ γνήσιοι καὶ πιστοὶ μαθηταὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ-, ἐπιφυλάσσει ἄραγε ὁ Κύριος κάποιες ἀμοιβές; καὶ ποιῆς λοιπὸν θὰ ἔναι αὐτές;... Αὐτὸ θέλησε νὰ μάθῃ ὁ ἀπόστολος **Πέτρος καὶ τόλμησε νὰ υποβάλλῃ ἐρώτημα**.

Εἶχε θυσιάσει αὐτός, ὅπως καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι ἀδελφοί του ἀπόστολοι, τὰ πάντα χάριν τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἄφησαν γέροντες γονεῖς, συγγενεῖς, φίλους, πλοῖα καὶ δίχτυα, καὶ ἀκολούθησαν τὸν Κύριο. Ἐτέθησαν ὑπὸ τις διαταγές του σὰν ἀπλοὶ στρατιῶτες, ἔτοιμοι καὶ τῇ ζωῇ τους νὰ δώσουν γιὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Αὐτὴ ἦταν ἡ μεγάλη τους ἀπόφασι. Ποιὰ λοιπὸν θὰ ἦταν ἡ ἀμοιβή τους, ποιὰ θὰ ἦταν τὰ βραβεῖα τῶν ἀγώνων τους; «Ἴδού», ρωτᾷ τὸν Διδάσκαλό του ὁ Πέτρος, «**ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμέν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν;**» νὰ, ἐμεῖς τ' ἀφήσαμε ὄλα καὶ σὲ ἀκολουθήσαμε, **τί μισθὸ θὰ λάβουμε ἄραγε;** (βλ. 19,27).

**Μήπως αὐτὸ ἦταν λάθος τοῦ Πέτρου;** μήπως δὲν ἔπρεπε νὰ θέσῃ τέτοιο ἐρώτημα; Δὲν

θὰ ἦταν καλύτερα νὰ σιωπήσῃ, ὅπως ἔκαναν οἱ συμμαθηταὶ του, καὶ νὰ ἐτοιμάζεται γιὰ νὰ προσφέρῃ τὸν ἑαυτό του χωρὶς νὰ περιμένῃ ἀμοιβή, χωρὶς νὰ ζητᾷ ἀναπαύδοσι;... Μὴν ἀφήσουμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ περάσῃ ἀπ' τὸ νοῦ μας τέτοια σκέψι. Ἡ ἀνιδιοτελής προσφορὰ προϋπέθετε ἕνα ἀνώτερο πνευματικὸ ἐπίπεδο, στὸ ὁποῖο οἱ ἀπόστολοι καὶ ὁ Πέτρος δὲν εἶχαν ἀκόμη φθάσει· θὰ ἔφθαναν πάντως, καὶ ἔφθασαν, ἐκεῖ - πότε; μετὰ τὴν Πεντηκοστή. Ὁ Πέτρος ἄλλωστε μίλησε, ὅπως καὶ ἄλλοτε, ἐκ μέρους καὶ τῶν συμμαθητῶν του καὶ, αὐθόρμητος ὅπως ἦταν, εἶπε αὐτὸ ποὺ κ' ἐκεῖνοι θὰ ἠθελαν νὰ ποῦν. Γι' αὐτὸ ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ γνῶριζε τίς καρδιές τους καὶ τίς δυνάμεις τους, δὲν ἀπορρίπτει τὸ αἶτημα τοῦ Πέτρου· τὸ λαμβάνει ὡς ἀφορμὴ γιὰ νὰ μιλήσῃ, νὰ διδάξῃ σπουδαῖες ἀλήθειες, ν' ἀποκαλύψῃ τί ἐπιφυλάσσεται γιὰ τοὺς πιστοὺς ἐργάτες του.

**Ὁ Κύριος ἀπαντᾷ στοὺς μαθητὰς του:** «**Ἄμην λέγω ὑμῖν** (σὲς διαβεβαιῶνῶ κατηγορηματικά) **ὅτι ὑμεῖς οἱ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι** (ἐσεῖς ποὺ με ἀκολουθήσατε), **ἐν τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ** (ὅταν θὰ ξαναγεννηθοῦν ὄλοι μετὰ τὴν κοινὴ ἀνάστασι), **ὅταν καθίσῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ** (ὅταν ὁ Θεάνθρωπος θὰ καθίσῃ στὸν ἐνδοξο θρόνο του γιὰ νὰ κρίνῃ τὸν κόσμον), **καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους** (θὰ καθίσετε κ' ἐσεῖς ἐπάνω σὲ δώδεκα θρόνους) **κρίνοντες τὰς δώδεκα φυλάς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ** (δικάζοντας τίς δώδεκα φυλές τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ), **καὶ πᾶς ὃς ἀφήκεν** (καὶ καθέννας ποὺ ἐγκατέλειψε) **οἰκίας ἢ ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφὰς ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ γυναῖκα ἢ τέκνα ἢ ἀγροὺς ἔνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός μου** (σπίτια ἢ ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφές ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ σύζυγο ἢ παιδιὰ ἢ χωράφια γιὰ μένα), **ἐκατονταπλασίονα λήψεται καὶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσει** (θὰ λάβῃ ἐκατονταπλάσια καὶ θὰ κληρονομήσῃ τὴν αἰώνιο ζωή)»

(βλ. 19,28-29). Τό ὅτι οἱ ἀπόστολοι θά γίνουσι δικασταί τῶν συμπατριωτῶν τους τό εἶπε καί ἄλλοτε ὁ Χριστός (βλ. Λουκ. 22,30) καί τό ὅτι γενικά «οἱ δίκαιοι τόν κόσμον κρινούσι» τό θεωρεῖ βέβαιο ἡ Καινή Διαθήκη (βλ. Α' Κορ. 6,2). Ἐδῶ ὁμως δεῖς πούμε μόνο γιά τις ἀμοιβές πού θά ἔχουν.

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Σύμφωνα μέ τὰ λόγια αὐτά, καί μέ τόσα ἄλλα σχετικά πού εἶπε ὁ Κύριος σέ ἄλλες περιστάσεις (βλ. π.χ. Ματθ. 5,12 10,41-42 20,8 Λουκ. 10,7 10,4,26 κ.ά.), οἱ ἀμοιβές τῶν πιστῶν δούλων του εἶνε πολύ μεγάλες. Naί, ἀγαπητοί μου· οἱ μεγάλες ὑπηρεσίες τῶν ἀποστόλων, τῶν μαρτύρων, τῶν ποιμένων καί διδασκάλων τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, γενικά τῶν ἁγίων, θά ἀμειφθοῦν μέ μεγάλες ἀμοιβές, **πολλές καί ἀνεκτίμητες**, ἐφ' ὅσον αὐτός πού ἀμειβεῖ τους πιστούς δούλους του δέν εἶνε ἕνας ἄνθρωπος, ἀλλά εἶνε ὁ Κύριος, ὁ δίκαιος, ὁ πανάγαθος καί ὁ παντοδύναμος. Ποιές θά εἶνε οἱ ἀμοιβές αὐτές; Ἀπό ὅλες τις ἀμοιβές θ' ἀναφέρω ἐδῶ τις ἀκόλουθες **τρεῖς**: τῆ γαλήνη τῆς συνειδήσεως, τήν ἀγάπη καί ἐκτίμησι τῶν Χριστιανῶν, καί τήν οὐράνια δόξα.

● **Ἡ γαλήνη τῆς συνειδήσεως** ἤ, ὅπως ὀνομάζεται στήν ἁγία Γραφή, ἡ «**εἰρήνη**» (βλ. Ματθ. 10,13 Λουκ. 10,5-6 10,14 14,27 16,33 Φιλιπ. 5,1 κ.ά.)· νά ἡ πρώτη ἀμοιβή πού θά ἔχη ὁ ὑπηρετής τοῦ καλοῦ. Καί πράγματι ἡ συναίσθησι, πού εἶχαν οἱ ἅγιοι ἀπόστολοι, οἱ πατέρες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καί οἱ μάρτυρες τῆς πίστεως, ὅτι ἐργάζονταν ὄχι γιά τή δική τους δόξα οὔτε γιά τὰ ἀτομικά τους συμφέροντα ἀλλά γιά τή δόξα τοῦ Θεοῦ, τήν οἰκοδομή τῆς Ἐκκλησίας καί τήν ὠφέλεια τοῦ πλησίον· ἡ συναίσθησι ὅτι σπέρνουν στόν ἀγρό τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος ὄχι ζιζάνια ἀλλά σπόρο καθαρό καί ἐκλεκτό πρός σωτηρίαν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, αὐτή ἡ συναίσθησι γέμιζε τις καρδιές τους ἀπό ἀνέκφραστα αἰσθήματα χαρᾶς καί εἰρήνης. Ἐνῶ διώκονταν, αὐτοὶ χαίρονταν· ἐνῶ φυλακίζονταν, αὐτοὶ δοξολογοῦσαν τόν Θεόν· οἱ διώκτες τους ταρασσόνταν, κι αὐτοὶ γαλήνιοι ἀντιμετώπιζαν τή θύελλα τῆς ἀνθρώπινης κακίας. Γιατί ἡ φωνή τῆς συνειδήσεως, ἡ φωνή τοῦ Θεοῦ, τους πληροφοροῦσε, ὅτι βαδίζουν τήν ὁδόν τοῦ χρέους· κι ὅταν κανεῖς βαδίζῃ στήν ὁδόν τοῦ χρέους καί τῆς πίστεως, ἐκεῖ ὑπάρχει εἰρήνη πολλή καί βαθειά.

● **Μετά, ἡ ἀγάπη καί ἡ τιμή ἐκ μέρους τῶν ἀδελφῶν Χριστιανῶν**· νά ἡ δευτέρη ἀμοιβή, τήν ὁποία ἀπολαμβάναν καί ἀπολαμβάνουν οἱ πιστοὶ δούλοι καί ὑπηρετές τοῦ Κυρίου – χωρίς ἐννοεῖται νά τήν ἐπιζητοῦν οἱ ἴδιοι. Ἐάν ὁ κόσμος τῆς ἀμαρτίας καί τῆς πλάνης καταδίωκε καί καταδιώκη μέ λύσσα ἐκείνους πού

μέ λόγο καί μέ ἔργα ὑψώνουν μέσα στίς κοινωνίες τῆ σημαία τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τό εὐλογημένο ὅμως ποιμνιο, οἱ πιστοὶ πού ἀποτελοῦν τήν Ἐκκλησία, αὐτοὶ πάντοτε περιέβαλλαν καί περιβάλλουν μέ ἀγάπη καί ἐκτίμησι τους γενναίους αὐτούς στρατιῶτες τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Γύρω ἀπ' αὐτούς συσπειρώνονται οἱ Χριστιανοί, εἴτε σέ καιρό διωγμοῦ γιά νά πάρουν θάρρος καί ὁδηγίες, εἴτε σέ καιρό εἰρήνης γιά νά τους τιμήσουν, εἴτε καί μετὰ τό θάνατό τους γιά νά τους ὑμνήσουν ὡς μάρτυρες καί ὁμολογητάς τῆς πίστεώς τους. Τό ὄνομά τους εἶνε στά χεῖλη τῶν Χριστιανῶν μέ σεβασμό. Διότι δι' αὐτῶν βρῆκαν τήν ὁδόν τῆς σωτηρίας πλήθος ἀμαρτωλοῖ, πού νιώθουν τέτοια εὐγνωμοσύνη, σάν ἐκείνη πού λέει κάπου ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος γιά τους Γαλάτες, ὅτι ἦταν πρόθυμοι εἰ δυνατόν νά βγάλουν καί νά δώσουν ἀκόμη καί τὰ μάτια τους στό δάσκαλο καί εὐεργέτη τους· «**εἰ δυνατόν τους ὀφθαλμούς ὑμῶν ἐξορούσαντες ἀν ἐδώκατέ μοι**» (βλ. 4,15).

● Καί τρίτον, **ἡ δόξα τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, ἡ αἰώνιος ζωή**· νά ἡ τελευταία καί ἀνώτερη ἀπ' ὅλες τις ἀμοιβές. Γιά τήν ἀμοιβή αὐτή ἀδυνατοῦμε νά δώσουμε λεπτομερεῖς πληροφορίες. Δέν περιγράφεται. Τόσο μόνο λέμε, ὅτι στήν «**αἰώνιον ζωήν**» ὅλοι ὅσοι κοπίασαν γιά τή δόξα τοῦ Χριστοῦ θά δοκιμάσουν ἐκεῖ μία βαθειά ἱκανοποίησι γιά ὅσα ὑπέφεραν ἐπάνω στή γῆ· θά βροῦν ἐκεῖ τήν μακαρία ἀνάπαυσι τῆς ψυχῆς τους· θά συναντήσουν ἐκεῖ τή μεγάλη ἐκείνη οἰκογένεια, στήν ὁποία πατέρας μέν εἶνε ὁ Θεός, ἀδελφοὶ δέ εἶνε οἱ ἅγιοι μάρτυρες «**οἱ καλῶς ἀθλήσαντες καί στεφανωθέντες**» (Παρακλιτ. ἢ βαρὺς μαρτυρ. ἀπ. ἀπ.). Μ' αὐτούς θά ἐνωθοῦν κι αὐτοὶ καί θά χαίρουν αἰώνιος.

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Ἀδελφέ μου! Προσπάθησε νά γίνης ἕνας πραγματικός ἀκόλουθος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, καί τότε θά δῆς **πόσο γλυκὸ εἶνε νά ὑπακούης στόν Κύριο**. Δέν σου λέω, ὅτι ὁ δρόμος ὁ χριστιανικός θά ἔνε στρωμένος μέ ρόδα· θά συναντήσης ἐμπόδια, θά διωχθῆς, ἴσως καί νά μαρτυρήσης μένοντας πιστός στό ἅγιο θέλημά του. Ἀλλά σέ ρωτῶ· τί εἶνε ὅλες οἱ θλίψεις τοῦ κόσμου καί τὰ μαρτύρια συγκρινόμενα μέ μόνο μία ἡμέρα – γιά νά μὴν πούμε μέ **μία μόνο στιγμή** – τῆς ἄλλης ἐκείνης ζωῆς, τῆς μακαρίας καί αἰώνιας, τήν ὁποία σήμερα στό εὐαγγέλιο ἀκούσαμε νά τήν ὀνομάζῃ ὁ Χριστός «**παλιγγενεσίαν**», **νέα δημιουργία**, καί τήν ὁποία ὑπόσχεται, ὡς ὑψίστη ἀμοιβή, σ' αὐτούς πού τόν ἀκολούθησαν μέχρι θανάτου;

(†) **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

### *Dwarfs on the Shoulders of Giants*

There is a crowd of wings fluttering in our hearts: the holiness of the Holy One, of God, and the holiness of Christians sanctified by mortification in their faith and their love.

We have the twenty centuries of the Church's life in our blood. We are its heirs. Not only in the sense that we possess an inheritance to administer, but in the sense that we are like we are, because our ancestors were like they were. Our faith has the stamp of their faith. Our hope has the strength of their hope. Our love has the intensity of their love. Our freedom is tinged with the color of their freedom, whatever it was like: more or less bright, more or less

somber, more or less filled with laughter. We ought to know them in order to know ourselves better. We ought, as they used to say in the Middle Ages, to climb on their shoulders so as to see further.

We are dwarfs; they are giants. For this very reason we need their shoulders

By living the Word, they have scanned the horizon of God's plan for salvation. They can help us to see what they have seen.

*Tomáš Cardinal Špidlík, S.J.*

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