



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 23rd 2017
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Dormition of Saint Ann -- July 25th

St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 15:1-7

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.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 15:1-7

BRETHREN, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of your Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

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

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

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 15:1-7 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, ὀφείλομεν δὲ ἡμεῖς οἱ δυνατοὶ τὰ ἀσθενήματα τῶν ἀδυνάτων βαστάζειν, καὶ μὴ ἑαυτοῖς ἀρέσκειν. Ἐκαστος ἡμῶν τῷ πλησίον ἀρεσκέτω εἰς τὸ ἀγαθὸν πρὸς οἰκοδομήν. Καὶ γὰρ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτῷ ἤρρεσεν, ἀλλὰ, καθὼς γέγραπται, Οἱ ὀνειδισμοὶ τῶν ὀνειδίζόντων σε ἐπέπεσον ἐπ' ἐμέ. Ὅσα γὰρ προεγράφη, εἰς τὴν ἡμετέραν διδασκαλίαν προεγράφη, ἵνα διὰ τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ διὰ τῆς παρακλήσεως τῶν γραφῶν τὴν ἐλπίδα ἔχωμεν. Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ τῆς παρακλήσεως δῶν ὑμῖν τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖν ἐν ἀλλήλοις κατὰ Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν· ἵνα ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐν ἐνὶ στόματι δοξάζητε τὸν θεὸν καὶ πατέρα τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ προσλαμβάνεσθε ἀλλήλους, καθὼς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς προσελάβετο ὑμᾶς, εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ.

7th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel According to Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district.

As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons."

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

7th Sunday of Matthew

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 9:27-35 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγοντι ἐκεῖθεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ δύο τυφλοὶ κρίζοντες καὶ λέγοντες· ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, υἱὲ Δαυὶδ. ἐλθόντι δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ τυφλοὶ, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· πιστεῦτε ὅτι δύναμαι τοῦτο ποιῆσαι; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· ναί, Κύριε. τότε ἤψατο τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν λέγων· κατὰ τὴν πίστιν ὑμῶν γενηθήτω ὑμῖν. καὶ ἀνέωχθησαν αὐτῶν οἱ ὀφθαλμοί· καὶ ἐνεβριμήσατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· ὁρᾶτε μηδεὶς γινωσκέτω. οἱ δὲ ἐξεληθόντες διεφήμισαν αὐτὸν ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ γῇ ἐκείνῃ.

Αὐτῶν δὲ ἐξερχομένων ἰδοὺ προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ ἄνθρωπον κωφὸν δαιμονιζόμενον· καὶ ἐκβληθέντος τοῦ δαιμονίου ἐλάλησεν ὁ κωφός, καὶ ἐθαύμασαν οἱ ὄχλοι λέγοντες ὅτι οὐδέποτε ἐφάνη οὕτως ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ. οἱ δὲ Φαρισαῖοι ἔλεγον· ἐν τῷ ἄρχοντι τῶν δαιμονίων ἐκβάλλει τὰ δαιμόνια.

Καὶ περιῆγεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς πόλεις πάσας καὶ τὰς κώμας διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ λαῷ.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

AGAPE COFFEE HOUR : is being hosted today in Whitehall. Please join us for coffee and sweets.

TODAY:: we are observing the FEAST of Martyr Saint Phokas with the procession of his sacred icon for veneration.

UP – COMING COMMEMORATIONS:

Thursday, July 27th, JOINT OBSERVANCE 9:30 A.M.
Saints Paraskeve and Panteleimon
Healers and Patrons of those suffering eye-illnesses.

SENIOR CITIZENS: AND THE DISABLED: TAKE NOTICE! Citizens aged 65 years old and older are eligible to obtain REDUCED FARE METRO CARDS ! APPOINTMENTS ARE NOT NECESSARY!

TAKE NOTE: FRIDAY , JULY 28th. from 10:00 A.M. - to NOON t ASSEMBLYMAN WILLIAM COLTON’S COMMUNITY OFFICE 155 Kings highway (West 12th – West 13th Street) 718-236-1598

WHAT TO BRING: PROPER proof of age (MEDICARE CARD, DRIVERS LICENSE) Valid Photo I.D Processing may take 8 weeks --- but you will get your CARD !

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION TODAY: The Pastor will host his annual festive event on the exact date of his birthday – SUNDAY , JULY 23rd, with PIZZA, PIZZA, PIZZA, SOFT DRINKS, BIRTHDAY CAKE and COFFEE for everyone. Don’t miss the event IT ONLY HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR.....EVERY YEAR ON AND ON AND ON AND ON! See the invitation attached.

SUMMER HOURS: have been well received this summer, with Orthos commencing at 9:00 A.M. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M. The dismissal at 11:30 A.M. has afforded many to enjoy the Sunday vacation hours. Please try to be on time! The Ukrainian Liturgy NOW starts at 12 noon concluding at 1:30 P.M.

SHUT- IN VISITATIONS for those who are ill and unable to attend Divine Liturgy have commenced. Please call the Church Office for an appointment for your loved one with the clergy. All visitations will be fulfilled before the HOLY ASSUMPTION of the THEOTOKOS on AUGUST 15TH. Please DO NOT WAIT for the last moment to secure an appointment for visitation.

ARTOKLASIES are being registered for the two main feasts of AUGUST, Transfiguration (META-MORPHOSIS) on the 6th and Assumption of the Virgin Mary (REPOSE-KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU) on the 15th. Those celebrating their name-day include SOTIRIOS, SOTIRIA, MARIA, MARY, MARIO, PANAGIOTIS, PANAGIOTA, DESPINA. Chronia Polla to all celebrants!

CULTIVATE your **BASIL PLANTS (VASILIKO)** for the first fifteen days of August as we observe the ‘PARAKLESIS’ supplication devotions to the Blessed Mother each evening. Fresh basiliko and marigold blossoms are offered from your gardens. Marigold blossoms are in full bloom – it is ‘MARY’S GOLD’.

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 19TH 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.

MEMORIALS TODAY: + ANTONIA & + JOSEPH CATARA + ANGELO RAVANOS

MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + RUFUS JACOB DANIELS + GEORGIA MARKOGIANNIS

VELLIOS CLAN CELEBRATION. 4 GENERATIONS TOGETHER!





**Father Eugene's First Wedding Service
Holy Trinity Cathedral, New York
July 1966**



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 Γνωσκεία Ἰερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23050-20610 - imazflo@yahoo.gr

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| Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2028 | Κυριακὴ Ζ' (Ζ' Ματθ.) (Ῥωμ. 15,1-7) 23 Ἰουλίου 2017 | Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης |
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Τὸ ὄπλο τῆς ὑπομονῆς

«... Ἵνα διὰ τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ τῆς παρακλήσεως τῶν γραφῶν τὴν ἐλπίδα ἔχωμεν» (Ῥωμ. 15,4)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, θὰ σᾶς παρακαλέσω πολὺ νὰ προσέξουμε τὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀποστόλου. Γιατὶ τώρα ἐμεῖς μοιάζουμε μὲ κάτι παιδιὰ πού παίρνουν στὰ χέρια τους ἓνα βιβλίον, ἀλλὰ ἐπειδὴ δὲν ξέρουν τὸ ἀλφάβητο, τὸ ξεφυλλίζουν χωρὶς νὰ καταλαβαίνουν τί λέει.

Ἀκούσατε τὸν ἀπόστολο; Τί μᾶς συνιστᾷ; Μᾶς λέει, νὰ ἐφοδιαστοῦμε μ' ἓνα **ὄπλο πνευματικό**. Χαρὰ σ' ἐκεῖνον πού τὸ ἔχει, καὶ δυστυχία σ' ἐκεῖνον πού δὲν τὸ ἔχει.

Ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ ὄπλο αὐτό; Εἶνε ἡ **«ὑπομονή»** (Ῥωμ. 15,4). Γιὰ τὴν ὑπομονὴ λοιπὸν θὰ μιλήσουμε.

Ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη ὄλοι, ὅπως εἶπα, τὸ ὄπλο αὐτό· πλούσιοι καὶ φτωχοί, μορφωμένοι καὶ ἀγράμματοι, λευκοὶ καὶ μαῦροι, κίτρινοι καὶ ἐρυθρόδερμοι, κάθε ἄνθρωπος γενικά.

Μὰ γιατί, θὰ πῆτε, ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ ὑπομονή; Εἶνε ἀνάγκη ν' ἀπαντήσουμε;

Ἡ ζωὴ αὐτὴ ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ **εἶνε ζυμωμένη μὲ πόνον καὶ δάκρυ**. Δὲν εἶνε ὅπως τὴ θέλουμε, δὲν εἶνε ἡ ἰδεώδης ζωὴ πού λαχταρᾷ ἡ καρδιά μας.

Ποιὸς θέλει νὰ κἀνὴ στὴ ζωὴ του σφάλματα, νὰ πέφτῃ σὲ ἁμαρτίες; Ποιὸς, ὅταν ἁμαρτάνῃ, δὲν αἰσθάνεται μέσα του ἓνα κάρβουνο, ἓνα σκορπιὸ νὰ τὸν κεντᾷ; Ποιὸς θέλει τὴν ἀρρώστια, νὰ πέσῃ στὸ κρεβάτι, νὰ τὸν πᾶνε στὸ νοσοκομεῖο, νὰ τὸν σέρνουν μὲ τὸ καρότσι μέσα στὸ χειρουργεῖο, νὰ τὸν κόβουν; Τὰ θέλει αὐτὰ κανεῖς; Καὶ δὲν εἶνε μόνο ὁ σωματικὸς πόνος. Ποιὸς θέλει, ὁ γείτονάς του νὰ τὸν φαρμακῶνῃ μὲ τὴ γλῶσσα του; Ποιὸς, ἂν εἶνε ἐγγαμος, θέλει, ὁ σύζυγος ἢ ἡ σύζυγός του νὰ μὴ ζῆ μὲ τιμιότητα; Ποιὰ γυναίκα θέλει, ὁ ἄντρας τῆς νὰ ἔνῃ ἄσωτος καὶ νὰ τὴν ἀφήνῃ στοὺς δρόμους μὲ τὰ παιδιὰ τῆς ἀπροστάτευτα; Ποιὸς πατέρας θέλει τὸ παιδί του νὰ ἔνῃ ἀνυπότακτο; Ποιὰ μάνα θέλει ἢ κόρη τῆς νὰ τρέχῃ δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά; Ποιὸς πολίτης θέλει στὴ χώρα του

νὰ ὑπάρχῃ ταραχὴ; Ποιὸς κάτοικος τῆς γῆς θέλει νὰ γίνεταί πόλεμος κ' οἱ ἄνθρωποι νὰ σκοτώνωνται, νὰ ἀλληλοσπαράσσωνται; Ποιὸς τοῦ ἀρέσει νὰ βλέπῃ φέρετρα καὶ νεκροταφεῖα;...

Καὶ ὅμως, ἀδελφοί μου, **τὰ ἀντίθετα συμβαίνουν** στὸν κόσμον αὐτόν. Καὶ ἀσθένειες ὑπάρχουν, καὶ συκοφαντίες, καὶ διαβολές, καὶ δράματα οἰκογενειακά, καὶ διαζύγια, καὶ ἀσωτίες ἀνδρῶν, καὶ ἀπιστίες γυναικῶν, καὶ παιδιὰ ἀνυπότακτα, καὶ θυγατέρες ἐπαναστατημένες, καὶ ἐμφύλιοι σπαραγμοί, καὶ παγκόσμιοι πόλεμοι. Νὰ λοιπὸν ὅτι δὲν ζοῦμε σ' ἓνα παράδεισο ὅπως οἱ ἄγγελοι, ἀλλὰ σὲ μιὰ γῆ πού εἶνε, ὅπως εἶπα, ζυμωμένη μὲ τὸν πόνον καὶ τὸ δάκρυ.

—Καὶ λοιπὸν τί πρέπει νὰ κάνουμε; τί μᾶς κηρύττεις; Ἀπαισιοδοξία; **ν' ἀπελπιστοῦμε;**

Ὅχι ἀσφαλῶς. Ὅσο κι ἂν ἡ ζωὴ αὐτὴ ἔχῃ γίνετι κόλασι, ὅσο κι ἂν τὰ δάκρυα πέφτουν ἀπὸ τὰ μάτια τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὅσο κι ἂν γίνωνται ἀτιμίες καὶ ἐγκλήματα, ὅσο κι ἂν ταραζεταί ἡ γῆ, ὅσο κι ἂν ὁ διάβολος βάζῃ φωτιὰς ἐδῶ κ' ἐκεῖ, δὲν πρέπει ν' ἀπελπιστοῦμε, ἀλλὰ τί: **νὰ ἀγωνιστοῦμε**. Ν' ἀγωνιστοῦμε ὄλοι· οἱ γιατροὶ γιὰ νὰ βροῦν φάρμακα γιὰ τὶς ἀσθένειες, οἱ ἐκπαιδευτικοὶ γιὰ νὰ πετύχουν καλύτερους τρόπους μορφώσεως τῶν παιδιῶν, οἱ γεωπόνοι γιὰ νὰ κάνουν πιὸ ἀποδοτικὴ τὴν καλλιέργεια τῆς γῆς, οἱ κυβερνήτες τῶν λαῶν γιὰ νὰ βασιλεύῃ στὰ ἔθνη ἡ ἀγάπη καὶ ἡ εἰρήνη· ὄλοι ν' ἀγωνιστοῦν γιὰ καλύτερες συνθήκες ζωῆς.

Ἀλλὰ, ἀδελφοί μου, μὴ ζοῦμε στὰ σύννεφα. Ὅσο κι ἂν προοδεύσῃ ἡ ἐπιστήμη, ὅσο κι ἂν βελτιωθῇ ἡ ἐκπαίδευσις, ὅσο κι ἂν οἱ ἀρχεὶ καὶ ἐξουσίαι ἐπιβάλουν τάξι καὶ εἰρήνην στὰ ἔθνη, ὅσο κι ἂν οἱ ἱεροκήρυκες κηρύξουμε, **τὸ κακὸ** —σημειώστε το— **μπορεῖ μὲν νὰ περιορισθῇ, ἀλλὰ τελείως δὲν θὰ ἐξαλειφθῇ**. Γιατὶ ἔχει ρίζα βαθειά, πολὺ βαθειά, μέσα στὴν ἀνθρώπινη καρδιά. Τὸ κακὸ δὲν εἶνε ἐξωτερικόν,

εἶνε ἐσωτερικό. Γι' αὐτὸ θὰ ὑπάρχουν πάντοτε ἀσθενεῖς ποὺ θὰ ὑποφέρουν, ἀθῶοι ποὺ θὰ συκοφαντοῦνται, ἀδύναμοι ποὺ θὰ ἀδικοῦνται, θύματα ποικίλης ἐκμεταλλεύσεως· πάντοτε θὰ ὑπάρχει τὸ δάκρυ καὶ ὁ πόνος πάνω στὴ γῆ.

Τὸ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος· «*Ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ θλίψιν ἔξετε*», στὸν κόσμο θὰ δοκιμάσετε θλίψι (βλ. 16,33). Ναί· κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ ποτίζεις τὴ γῆ με τὸν ἰδρωτὰ σου, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ κάθεται στὸν οὐρανοξύστη· κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ περπατᾷς με τὰ πόδια, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ τρέχεις με τὴς λιμουζίνες· κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ δὲν ἔχεις εἰσιτήριο γιὰ τὸ λεωφορεῖο, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ ἔχεις κότερα καὶ ἀεροπλάνο· κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ κατοικεῖς στὴν καλύβα, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ ποὺ ζῆς στὰ παλάτια· κ' ἐσὺ ὁ μικρός, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ ὁ μέγας· κ' ἐσὺ ὁ ἀγράμματος, ἀλλὰ κ' ἐσὺ ὁ ἐπιστήμονας· ὁποῖος καὶ νά 'σαι, τὸ σκουλήκι τῆς θλίψεως τὸ 'χεις μέσα σου, εἶνε μέσα στὴ φύσι τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. **Ἄμα ἀνθρώπος, ἄμα θλίψις.**

Καὶ τί ἄλλο λέει ὁ Χριστὸς στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο· Ἐ' ἀκούσατε, λέει, πολέμους καὶ κόντρα πολέμους· «*ἐγερεθῆσεται ἔθνος ἐπὶ ἔθνος*». Κ' ἐν συνεχείᾳ λέει, ὅτι **θὰ γίνῃ «θλίψις μεγάλη, οἷα οὐ γέγονεν ἀπ' ἀρχῆς κόσμου»** (Ματθ. 24,21). Θλίψις ποὺ ποτέ ἄλλοτε δὲν συνέβη. Ἡ θλίψις αὐτὴ θὰ ξεπεράσῃ κάθε ἄλλη. Ἄς διασκεδάξῃ ὁ κόσμος καὶ ἂς μολύνῃ τὰ νησιά μας, ποὺ ἄλλοτε μοσχοβολοῦσαν ἀπὸ θυμάρη καὶ λιβάρι καὶ τώρα τὰ κάναμε διεθνή πορνεία· ἔρχεται θλίψις μεγάλη. Πιστεύω στὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Δὲν πιστεύω στὰ λόγια τῶν πολιτικάντηδων, τῶν φιλοσόφων, τῶν ἐπιστημόνων· πιστεύω στὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας, ποὺ 'νε γραμμένα ὄχι με μολύβι ἀλλὰ με τὸ αἷμα τοῦ θὰ γίνῃ θλίψις «*οἷα οὐ γέγονεν*» ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

Ποιά θὰ 'νε ἡ θλίψις αὐτή, ποὺ ἔρχεται σὰν ἠλεκτρικὴ σκούπα νὰ σαρώσῃ τὰ σκουπίδια ποὺ μάζεψε ὁ διάβολος; Δὲν εἶμαι προφήτης. Ρωτήσατε τοὺς προφήτας, ἀνοίξτε τὰ Εὐαγγέλια καὶ τὴν Ἀποκάλυψι, διαβάσατε καὶ θὰ δῆτε. Μήπως καμμιά νύχτα, καθὼς ἀδειάσαμε τὰ χωριά μας καὶ μαζευτήκαμε στὴς πολιτείες, σὰν σκουλήκια μέσ' στὸ βόρβορο, στὴν ἀτιμία τὴν πορνεία τὴ μοιχεία καὶ τὴ βλασφημία, γίνῃ κανένας σεισμός καὶ δὲν μείνῃ τίποτα ὄρθιο; Μήπως ἀνοίξῃ ἡφαιστεῖο ἢ μᾶλλον ἡφαιστεια κι ἀπὸ τὴς κορυφές τους ξεράσουν μύδρους φωτιάς καὶ λάβας ἐπάνω στὰ κεφάλια τῶν ἀτίμων καὶ διεφθαρμένων καὶ κλεπτῶν καὶ ἐκμεταλλευτῶν; Μήπως καμμιά μέρα ἡ θάλασσα φουσκώσῃ καὶ τὰ νερά της ὑψωθοῦν καὶ σκεπάσουν τὰ βουνά; Μήπως γίνῃ καμμιά ἐπιδημία κ' οἱ ἀνθρώποι πέφτουν σὰν τὴς μύγες στὰ πεζοδρόμια; Δὲν εἶπα τίποτα, ὑπάρχει κάτι χειρότερο.

Μήπως γίνῃ κανένας ἐμφύλιος πόλεμος καὶ πεσοκόβει ἀδελφὸς τὸν ἀδελφὸ καὶ παιδὶ τὸν πατέρα, καὶ γεμίσουν τὰ πεζοδρόμια ἀπὸ κεφάλια ἀδελφῶν κατὰ ἀδελφῶν; Μήπως –τὸ χειρότερο ἀπ' ὅλα– γίνῃ κανένας παγκόσμιος πόλεμος, ὁ Ἀρμαγεδὼν (βλ. 16,16), ποὺ θὰ 'νε τὸ τέλος τῆς ἀπιστῆς γενεᾶς μας;

Δὲν τὰ ξέρω. Ἐνα ξέρω· ὅ,τι εἶπε ὁ Κύριος θὰ πραγματοποιηθῇ. Τὰ ἄστρα θὰ πέσουν, τὰ ποτάμια θὰ ξεραθοῦνε, τὰ βουνά θὰ λειώσουν, ἀλλὰ τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε αἰώνια· «*Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται*», εἶπε, «*οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι*» (Ματθ. 24,35). **Θὰ γίνουν αὐτά.** Καὶ τότε ποὺ πᾶνε τὰ γράμματα, τὰ πανεπιστήμια, οἱ γραμματισμένοι, οἱ ἄθεοι, ποὺ πᾶνε ὅλοι αὐτοί;

Ποὺ πᾶνε; τὸ λέει ἡ Ἀποκάλυψις (βλ. 16,9-11,21). Θὰ πονέσουν τόσο πολὺ οἱ ἀνθρώποι ὥστε, ὅπως τὸ λυσσασμένο σκυλὶ δὲν γνωρίζει τὸ ἀφεντικό του, ἀλλὰ δαγκώνει τὸ χέρι τοῦ κυρίου του, ἔτσι **οἱ ἀνθρώποι θὰ λυσσαξοῦν** ἀπὸ τὸ χρῆμα καὶ τὴν ἀτιμία καὶ τὴν πορνεία καὶ τὴν ἀχαριστία, καὶ θὰ βλαστημᾶνε τὸ Θεό, θὰ λένε, Ὁ Θεὸς τὰ φταίει. Θὰ δαγκώνουν τὴς γλώσσες τους καὶ δαγκώνοντας τὴς γλώσσες τους θὰ βλαστημοῦν τὸ Θεό. Ἄλλοι θὰ πηγαίνουν στὰ μνήματα καὶ θὰ λένε· Πατέρα καὶ μάνα, σηκωθῆτε ἀπ' τὸν τάφο νὰ μποῦμε μέσα ἐμεῖς. Ἄλλοι θὰ πηγαίνουν στὰ βουνά καὶ θὰ λένε· Ἀνοίξτε, βουνά, νὰ κρυφτοῦμε ἀπὸ τὴν ὄργη τοῦ Θεοῦ (βλ. Ἐὰ 6,16. Ιακ. 2,25). Κι ἄλλοι θὰ τινάζουν τὰ μυαλά τους στὸν ἀέρα, γιὰ τὸ πόνος θὰ 'νε φοβερός καὶ ἀβάσταχτος. Θὰ γίνῃ «*θλίψις μεγάλη, οἷα οὐ γέγονεν*» ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς.

* * *

Μέσα στὸ χάος αὐτό, ἀγαπητοί μου, μέσα στὸν ὠκεανὸ ποὺ φουσκώνει τὰ κύματά του καὶ πνίγει καράβια, **ποιός θὰ μᾶς σώσῃ;**

Μέσα στὴ θύελλα τῆς μεγάλης ποὺ ἔρχεται, ἀδελφοί μου, –δὲν εἶνε λόγια αὐτά, δὲν τὰ λέμε γιὰ νὰ περάσῃ ἡ ὥρα–, μέσα στὸν φοβερὸ αὐτὸ ὠκεανό, στὴ φουρτούνα αὐτὴ τῆς μεγάλης, –**ἔχετε θάρρος, ἔχετε πίστι Χριστιανοί**– ὑπάρχει ἓνα σωσίβιο, πᾶν στὸν ὠκεανὸ ἐπιπλέει ἓνα σωσίβιο· **τὸ σωσίβιο εἶνε ὁ τίμιος σταυρός.** Ὅποιος πιστῆ ἀπ' τὸ σωσίβιο, ὁποῖος πιστῆ ἀπὸ τὸν τίμιο σταυρό, αὐτὸς θὰ σωθῇ.

Μέσα στὴν κατάρρα αὐτὴ, μέσα στὴν κόλασι αὐτὴ ποὺ ζοῦμε, ἀδέρφια μου, μία εἶνε ἡ ἐλπίδα, ἓνα εἶνε τὸ ὄπλο μας, ὁ τίμιος σταυρός, ὃν προσκυνοῦντες λέγομεν· **Τίμιε σταυρέ, σῶσον ἡμᾶς** διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ἁγίας Θεοτόκου· 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

St. Anna (Ann)

St. Anna, the mother of the Theotokos, was the wife of St. Joachim and the daughter of Martham, a Levi priest. Anna and Joachim were married and childless for about 50 years. This saddened them, and they vowed that should the Lord bless them with a child they would dedicate it to Him. Joachim went to the wilderness to pray, where the Archangel Gabriel told him that his prayers have been heard, and that Anna will give birth to a daughter who shall be called Mary.

The Archangel also reminded Joachim that, "according to your vow, she (Mary) shall be devoted to the Lord from her infancy, and she shall be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from her mother's womb. Mary shall not eat or drink anything unclean, nor shall her conversation or life be among the crowds of the people, but in the temple of the Lord, that it may not be possible to say, or so much as to suspect, any evil concerning her." St. Romanos chanted, "Joachim on the mountain prayed to receive fruit

from the womb of Anna; and the prayer of the holy man was received."

The same Archangel appeared to Anna and told her, "I am the angel who has presented your prayers and alms before God; and now I have been sent to you to announce that you shall bring forth a daughter, who shall be called Mary, and who shall be blessed above all women. She shall be full of the favor of the Lord, even from her birth. ... Gabriel then said, 'arise, therefore, and go up to Jerusalem; and when you arrive at the gate that, because it is plated with gold, is called 'Golden,' there, for a sign, you shall meet your husband, for whose safety you have been anxious. When, therefore, you find these things accomplished, believe that all the rest which I have told you shall also undoubtedly be accomplished."

Based on the *Protocriangelium of James*

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