



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 24th, 2017  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST FIRST SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Mother of God and Saint Thecla -- September 24th*

St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχύϊν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 3:10-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένετο ἐν Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν Λύστροις, οἷους διωγμοὺς ὑπήνεγκα· καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ κύριος. Καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται. Πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερά γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσαι εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

1st Sunday of Luke

The Gospel According to Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

ᾧ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, ἐστῶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, καὶ εἶδε δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἄλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυναν τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν τοῦ Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς ὄχλους. ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγρην. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Σίμων εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγγυτο δὲ τὸ δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἑτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντος συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον καὶ ἐπλησαν ἀμφοτέρα τὰ πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσε τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἄνθρωπος ἁμαρτωλὸς εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρᾳ τῶν ἰχθύων ἢ συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἱ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἄνθρωπους ἔσῃ ζωγρῶν. καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

**SPIRITUAL DEVOTIONS :**

<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>September 24th,</b>	<b>ASIA MINOR HALOCAUST (KATASTROPHE</b>	<b>12:00 P.M.</b>
		<b>Annual Memorial Observance</b>	
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	<b>September 24th,</b>	<b>Liturgy of Saint Thekla the Martyr</b>	<b>10:30 A.M.</b>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>AGIASMOS is being scheduled for</b>	<b>MONDAY – OCTOBER 02ND ,</b>	<b>11:00 A.M.</b>
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Agape Coffee Hour Fellowship: is being served and hosted by the Philoptochos Society. Please join us for refreshments before your Sunday events in WhiteHall.

**RETURN TO DUTY:** Today Church Choir will resume the Liturgical cycle of hymnology. Are you interested in joining the choir? You NEED NOT know how to read GREEK, since the lyrics are also written in ENGLISH PHONETICS. Please see Katie Hambas the MAESTRA and ORGANIST , or simply see Father Eugene at your convenience any Sunday after divine liturgy.

**CONGRATULATIONS** as wedding bells ring loud and clear for the PARISH COUNCIL Vice President Gus Vellios who will be united in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony to the lovely Miss Angela Kiladitis on Saturday, September 30th, at 4:00 P.M. at THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH! KALA STEPHANA! Gus is a favorite son of the parish from is childhood. The koumbaro (best man) is also a favored son of Three Hierarchs – ANTHONY BRINN. It’s a household event. The groom is part of the VELLIOS – AVENUE “ J ” FLORIST Dnasty.

**LECTURE SCHEDULED:** on Wednesday, September 27th, Father Eugene will address the Senior Club on the subject of sacred music through the centuries while honoring the memory of SAINT ROMANOS MELODOS. Join us in WhiteHall at 1:30 P.M.

**GREEK FILM FESTIVAL:** will host the 11th, Annual NEW YORK CITY Review of 2017. Award Winning Films from Europe starting Thursday September 28th, through October 15th, at the prime cinemas of New York Metropolitan area. Details will be cited with an insert for the bulletin.

**GREEK SCHOOL CLASSES:** have commenced since the 14th, of September. The academic year always opens with an agiasmos (holy water blessing) on the faculty and student body. P.T.A. member parents are always invited to attend and receive the gracious blessing also. Register at the Church Office (718) 339-0280.

**SCOUTING PROGRAM:** the Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops of the Parish are in full swing with Friday evening activities for the young lads 8 years to 18 years old each Friday between 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. in the Gymnasium and Whitehall. The GIRL SCOUT TROOP is still in re-organization mode thanks to the efforts of some special mothers in the community. GOOD LUCK GIRLS – YOU ARE AMONG THE FINEST!

**ALTAR BOY SOCIETY** of Saint Tephanos is always recruiting new lads to serve in the sanctuary. We urge parents and grand – parents to encourage your young boys to join the ‘SOCIETY’ . What they learn and experience in their youth they shall retain throughout their life.

**TODAY: ASIA MINOR HOLOCAUST/GENOCIDE MEMORIAL** Inaugurated at Three Hierarchs Church decades ago and authorized by the late +ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, was initiated as a NATIONAL OBSERVANCE through the good efforts of ARCHON DEPOUTATOS, BASILIOS THEODOSAKIS of our parish. Well done good and faithful servant of the Lord and HIS CHURCH!

**MARK YOUR CALENDER:** for the 2017 – 88th Annual Three Hierarchs GALA Dinner – Dance scheduled for FRIDAY evening December 01st, at the fabulous EL CARIBE with dancing and music by the YIANNI PAPASTEPHANOU ORCHESTRA and SINGERS. The Parish is honoring the 5 generations of devoted service to our parish by the VELLIOS CLAN one and all ! Make every effort to join us on this festive night of fellowship, dining and dancing.

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

**MEMORIALS TODAY: + STRATONIKI GEROULANOS  
+ ASIA MINOR HALOCAUST MEMORIAL + ARISTIDIS PANDIS**



95<sup>th</sup>

**COMMEMORATION  
of the  
ASIA MINOR  
HOLOCAUST**

**HONORING THE SACRIFICED CHRISTIAN  
ORTHODOX VICTIMS OF  
THRACE, ASIA MINOR, PONTOS  
BY THE YOUNG TURKS AND THE KEMALISTS**

*A Memorial Service and Observance of the  
“Megali Katastrophe”*

*Sunday, September 24th, 2017*

**WHEREAS:** On Sunday, September 24, 2017 the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church will tender a Memorial Service for the 95th Anniversary of the Holocaust and Genocide in Asia Minor; and

**WHEREAS:** The word holocaust is seldom associated with the Greeks. The Greek words "holos" meaning whole and "kautos" meaning burnt. The dictionary defines holocaust as "the great destruction of life, especially by fire", and

**WHEREAS:** The Greeks too, experienced a holocaust, Greek history is often associated with Ancient times ninety three years ago the holocaust of Asia Minor occurred; and

**WHEREAS:** Millions of Christian Orthodox Greeks, Armenians, and Syrians were systematically destroyed by the genocide of the Ottoman Empire; and

**WHEREAS:** With ethnic cleansing continuing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by the Ottoman Turks, millions of Orthodox Christians perished; and

**WHEREAS:** When the smoke cleared, and the burning of cities subsided, the holocaust of Asia Minor had extinguished the lives of innocent men, women and children; and

**WHEREAS:** Today, Greek, Armenian, Syrian and other Christian Orthodox, people are gathering to properly commemorate the sacrifice of life their families endured, now therefore;

**BE IT KNOWN,** that we do hereby commemorate and memorialize this day of remembrance to honor all holocaust victims of Asia Minor as well as those Christians today who suffer throughout the world at the hands of Islamist terrorists.



# 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 Γεννακία Τετρὴ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-23610 - [imazflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imazflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΔ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2041	Κυριακὴ Α' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 5,1-11) 24 Σεπτεμβρίου 2017	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Συνωστισμός

«*Ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ τὸν ὄχλον ἐπικεῖσθαι αὐτῷ τοῦ ἀκούειν τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ...*» (Λουκ. 5,1)

**Κ**όσμος πολὺς, ἀγαπητοί μου, συνωστισμός. Ποῦ; **στήν ἐκκλησία;** Ἔτσι θά ἔπρεπε, ἀλλὰ δυστυχῶς στοὺς 100 Χριστιανοὺς 2 μόνο ἐκκλησιάζονται· οἱ ἄλλοι 98 ποῦ βρίσκονται;

✓ Καὶ ἐνῶ στὸ ναὸ τὸ ἐκκλησιαστικὸ εἶνε τόσο ἀραιό, κάπου ἄλλου ὑπάρχει κόσμος πολὺς. Πήγαινε **στὰ γήπεδα**· δὲν ξέρω τί δαιμόνιο κατέλαβε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους καὶ κάθονται ἐκεῖ ὥρες ὀλόκληρες, εἴτε εἶνε καλοκαίρι κι ὁ ἥλιος λειώνει τὴν ἀσφαλτο εἴτε εἶνε χειμώνας καὶ βρέχει ἢ χιονίζει· συνωστισμός, ποιὸς νὰ μπῆ μέσα, καὶ τὰ εἰσιτήρια μαύρη ἀγορά.

✓ Συνωστισμός ποῦ ἄλλου; Θυμᾶμαι ἓνα χωρικό ἀπὸ τὰ μέρη τοῦ Ὀλύμπου ποῦ κατέβηκε γιὰ πρώτη φορά στὴ Λάρισα, εἶδε κόσμον ἔξω ἀπὸ ἓνα **κινηματογράφο** καὶ ἀσυνήθιστος ὁ τσοπάνος σὲ τέτοια θεάματα ρώτησε: Τί γίνεται ἐδῶ, καρβέλια μοιράζουσε;... (Στὰ χρόνια τῆς Κατοχῆς ἔξω ἀπ' τὰ ἀρτοποιεῖα οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἔκαναν οὐρὰ γιὰ νὰ πάρουν 20 μὲ 30 δράμια ψωμάκι κ' οἱ ἐκκλησιαστικὸς δὲν εἶχαν οὔτε γιὰ νὰ μοιράσουν ἀντίδωρο. Τότε καὶ οἱ φανατικοὶ καπνιστὰ ἔκαναν οὐρὰ γιὰ νὰ πάρουν δυὸ τσιγάρα). Οὐρὰ λοιπὸν ἔξω ἀπ' τὸν κινηματογράφο κι ὁ τσοπάνος ἀποροῦσε, γιατί τόσοσ κόσμος «μαντρίζεται» ἐκεῖ. Ποῦ νὰ ἔξερε τί ἀτιμίες καὶ τί ἐγκλήματα βλέπουν στὴν ὀθόνη. (Ὅταν ὁ Ῥώσος Κρούτσεφ ἐπισκέφθηκε τὴν Ἀμερική -δὲν ἀνίκησεν σὲ κόμματα καὶ δὲν ἀσπάζομαι τὴν ἰδεολογία τοῦ κομμουνισμοῦ, ἀλλὰ πρέπει νὰ τὸ ἐκτιμήσουμε- τὸν πῆγαν καὶ στὸ Χόλυγουντ νὰ τοῦ δεῖξουν ταινία· καὶ τότε, αὐτὸς ὁ ἄθεος, τὸ θεώρησε ντροπὴ νὰ κοιτάξῃ τὰ γυμνά καὶ σκέπασε τὰ μάτια του· ἔτσι τὸν πῆρε ὁ φακός. Ἔρχονται δηλαδὴ οἱ ἀπιστοὶ νὰ μᾶς διδάξουν ἠθική, κ' ἐσὺ ὁ Ἕλληνας καὶ Χριστιανὸς μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τί κάνεις! Γι' αὐτὸ ἐγὼ ὁ παπᾶς δὲν πρέπει νὰ σ' ἀφήσω νὰ κοινωνήσης· δὲν μπορεῖ στὴν ἐκκλησία νὰ βλέπῃς τὰ ἅγια τῶν ἁγίων καὶ μετὰ ἐκεῖ νὰ βλέπῃς τὰ αἰσχρὰ).

✓ Οὐρὰ λοιπὸν στὸν κινηματογράφο. Θέλετε νὰ δῆτε κι ἄλλη οὐρὰ; Δὲν βγαίνετε βραδινὲς ὥρες νὰ δῆτε τί κόσμος πλημμυρίζει **τὰ νυχτερινὰ κέντρα διασκεδάσεως** σὲ σημεῖο ποῦ νὰ μὴ βρίσκουν καρέκλα νὰ καθήσουν; Ἐκεῖ ξένοι διεφθαρμένοι τύποι, μαζὶ μὲ δικούς μας ἐκμεταλλευτὰς, ἐμπορεῦνται τὰ κατώτερα ἀνθρώπινα ἐνστικτὰ μὲ δέλεαρ ἀτίμου κέρδους τὶς ἐπαίσχυντες ἡδονές.

Ἦραϊα λοιπὸν, Χριστιανέ! Οὐρὰ ἔξω ἀπὸ τὰ γήπεδα, τοὺς κινηματογράφους, τὰ κέντρα διασκεδάσεως, καὶ μόνο στὴν ἐκκλησία οἱ θαμῶνες ἔμειναν λίγοι· κι αὐτοί, ἐνῶ περνᾶνε τὰ ἄγια καὶ σείεται γῆ καὶ οὐρανός, **δὲν ἔχουν συναίσθησι**. Στὸν κινηματογράφο εἶνε προσηλωμένοι μὲ ἄκρα σιγή, μὲ τὰ μάτια τεντωμένα ἔτοιμα νὰ βγοῦν ἀπὸ τὶς κόγχες καὶ τ' αὐτιά τους χωνί γιὰ ν' ἀκούσουν τὰ αἶσχη, καὶ στὴν ἐκκλησία ὁ ἓνας χασμουριέται, ὁ ἄλλος κοιτάει τὸ ρολοῖ, κι ὁ ἄλλος κουβεντιάζει. Τί τὴν περᾶσαμε τὴν ἐκκλησία; «Ὡς φοβερὸς ὁ τόπος οὗτος» (βλ. 217). Ἄν πιστεύουμε ὅτι ὄντως αὐτὸ τὸ τετράγωνο δὲν εἶνε τετράγωνο γῆς ἀλλὰ εἶνε κράτι οὐράνιο καὶ θεῖο, τότε νὰ μπαίνουμε στὴν ἐκκλησία· εἰ δὲ μὴ, ἂν δὲν αἰσθάνεσαι ῥίγος ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιο, ἀνατριχίλα στὸ κορμί σου, προτιμότερο νὰ κάθεσαι στὸ σπιτάκι σου.

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Σήμερα ὅμως βλέπω συνωστισμό εὐλογημένο. Τὸν βλέπω ὄχι μὲ τὴν δρᾶσι ἀλλὰ μὲ τὴν πνευματικὴ θεωρία. Θέλετε νὰ τὸν δῆτε κ' ἐσεῖς; Στὰ σπίτια σας βάλτε φωτιά καὶ κάψτε βρώμικα περιοδικὰ καὶ ἐφημερίδες, πάρτε στὰ χέρια σας τὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιο Εὐαγγέλιο -ν' ἀγιάσετε κ' ἐσεῖς καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ σας κι ὄλο τὸ σπίτι σας- κι ἀνοίξτε νὰ διαβάσετε ἀπὸ τὸ κατὰ Λουκᾶν Εὐαγγέλιο τὴν περικοπὴ κεφάλαιο 5ο, στίχους 1 - 11 (Λουκ. 5:1-11)· εἶνε τὸ **σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο**. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δῆτε ἓναν ἅγιο συνωστισμό. Ποιόν; Ἄκουσαν, λέει, ὅτι κάπου θὰ μιλοῦσε ἓνας

δάσκαλος, ένας Ιεροκήρυκας. Μά τί ήταν αυτός! Όσοι αιώνες κι αν περάσουν, δεν θα παρουσιαστή στον κόσμο άλλος σαν αυτόν ήταν – ποιός, **ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός**. Ἐδίδασκε, κι ὅπως τὸ μελίσι τρέχει στὸν ἀνθὸ ν' ἀπομυζήσει τὸ νέκταρ, ὅπως τὸ βρέφος ζητάει τὸ μαστὸ τῆς μάνας γιὰ νὰ θηλάσῃ τὸ γάλα, ὅπως ἡ διψασμένη γῆ ρουφάει τὸ νερό, ἔτσι κ' ἐκεῖ οἱ ἀπλοϊκὲς ψυχές, ποὺ δὲν εἶχαν τὸν ἐγωισμό καὶ τὴν ὑπερηφάνεια τῶν φαρισαίων καὶ τῶν σαδδουκαίων, ἔτρεξαν ὄλοι κοντὰ του. Ὁ Θεὸς διδάσκαλος δὲν δίδασκε σὲ καμμιά ἐκκλησία μὲ μάρμαρα καὶ πολυελέους, οὔτε σὲ καμμιά ἐπίσημη αἵθουσα· τόπος διδασκαλίας γιὰ τὸ Χριστὸ ἐγίνε τὸ **ἀκρογιάλι** ἐκεῖ στὴν ἀμμουδιά – ἐκεῖ ποὺ συχνὰ σήμερα οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἀμαρτάνουν, ἐκεῖ βρισκόταν ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ γύρω του μαζεύτηκε κόσμος «πατεῖς με - πατῶ σε». Κ' ἐκεῖνος ἔκανε ἀμβωνα τὸ **πλοιάριο**· ἀνέβηκε σ' αὐτό, ζήτησε νὰ τ' ἀπομακρύνουν λίγο ἀπ' τὴ ἄκτῆ, κι ἀπὸ 'κεῖ ἔκανε τὴ διδασκαλία. Κ' ἦταν τέτοια ἡ χάρι τοῦ λόγου του, ὥστε μικροὶ - μεγάλοι ἀκούγαν ὄλοι ἀφωσιωμένοι τὰ λόγια του.

Συνωστισμὸς λοιπὸν ἐκεῖ, **εὐλογημένος συνωστισμὸς**. Καὶ τώρα νὰ ἔλθουμε σ' ἐμᾶς.

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Δὲν θὰ ἔπρεπε, ἀγαπητοὶ μου, **μὲ τέτοια προθυμία** ὅπως τότε στὴν παραλία τῆς Γεννησαρέτ, **νὰ τρέχουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τώρα στὴν ἐκκλησία**; Μὰ ἀκούω ἀντιρρήσεις·

■ Ἄν ζούσαμε **στὶς μέρες τοῦ Χριστοῦ** – ἔτσι λένε πολλοί–, ἀσφαλῶς θὰ τρέχαμε κ' ἐμεῖς κοντὰ του νὰ τὸν ἀκούσουμε...

Λάθος κάνετε. Ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ **ἀκούγεται καὶ σήμερα**. Πέρασαν ἀπὸ τότε καὶ θὰ περάσουν ἀκόμα πολλὰ χρόνια· ἀλλὰ ἔως ὅτου θὰ ὑπάρχουν ἄστρα καὶ ἥλιος καὶ κύμα καὶ ὀξυγόνο, ἔως ὅτου ὑπάρχει ἡ γῆ ποὺ πατοῦμε, ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ θὰ ἀκούγεται. Ποῦ θὰ ἀκούγεται; Μέσα στὴν ἐκκλησία τὴν ὥρα τῆς λατρείας. Ἄν πιστεύῃς, τὰ τροπάρια, ὁ ἀπόστολος, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, οἱ εὐχές, ὅλα αὐτὰ εἶνε ἡ φωνὴ τοῦ Κυρίου.

■ Εἶνε ἀλήθεια ὅτι κ' ἐγὼ ὁ ἴδιος πῆγα σὲ μιὰ ἐκκλησία στὴν Ἀθήνα καὶ εἶδα μόνο δέκα ἀνθρώπους. Ἀφοῦ ἐκήρυξα, βγήκα ἔξω λυπημένος. Φωνάζω ἕνα γέρο καὶ τοῦ λέω· Τί ἄνθρωποι κατοικοῦν ἐδῶ; – Πῶς, πάτερ, νὰ ἐρχώμαστε στὴν ἐκκλησία; ὁ νεωκόρος βλαστημάει, οἱ ψαλτάδες τραγουδοῦν καὶ σὲ νυχτερινὰ κέντρα, ἀπ' τὸ λαρύγγι τους βγαίνει κι ὁ Θεὸς βγαίνει κι ὁ διάβολος, οἱ ἐπίτροποι κλέβουν, οἱ παπᾶδες δὲν πιστεύουν· διῶξε τους αὐτοὺς ἂν μπορῆς, **φέρε ἄλλους, καὶ τότε θὰ δῆς...**

Τί νομίζετε, τὸν δικαιολόγησα; Τὸν ἄφησα νὰ μιλήσῃ καὶ μετὰ εἶπα· – Δὲ μοῦ λές, γέροντα· ἂν οἱ ἐνοριῖτες ἀκούσουν, ὅτι ἐδῶ τὴν ἄλλη Κυριακὴ θὰ ἔρθῃ **κάποιος πλούσιος καὶ θὰ μοιράσῃ σ' ὄλους ἀπὸ μιὰ λίρα**, τί θὰ κάνουν; – Ὡ, λέει, θὰ σηκωθοῦν καὶ θὰ ῥθοῦν ὄλοι, καὶ οἱ γριές καὶ οἱ λεχῶνες. – Κι ἂν αὐτὸς ποὺ θὰ μοιράζῃ τὶς λίρες, λέω, εἶνε ἀσχημὸς ἢ κοντὸς ἢ ψηλὸς ἢ μαῦρος ἢ κίτρινος ἢ πληγιασμένος ἢ λεπρὸς, ἐσὺ θὰ τὴν πάρῃς; – Τί μ' ἐνδιαφέρει, λέει· ἐγὼ τὴ λίρα θέλω, ἀστειεύεσαι;...

«Ὁ μῦθος δηλοῖ». Δὲν ξέρω τί εἶν' ὁ παπᾶς ἔξω· μπῆκε στὴν ἐκκλησιά, φόρεσε τὰ ἄμφια, τελεῖ τὴ θεία λειτουργία; Ἄς εἶνε καὶ λεπρὸς, κρατάει καὶ μοιράζει λίρες πνευματικὲς, **λόγια χρυσᾶ**. Ὁ Δαυὶδ λέει· Ἀγάπησα τὸ λόγο σου, Κύριε, **«ὕπερ χρυσίων»**, παραπάνω κι ἀπ' τὸ χρυσάφι (Ψαλμ. 116:17). Τὰ λόγια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας εἶνε λόγια Χριστοῦ σωτήρια, μὴν κοιτᾶς τί εἶνε ἀπὸ ἀπόψεως ἠθικῆς αὐτὸς ποὺ τὰ προφέρει.

■ Μπᾶ, ωραῖες θεωρίες λέτε ἐσεῖς οἱ παπᾶδες **γιὰ νὰ σκεπάσετε τὰ σκάνδαλά σας**. Καὶ τὰ λές ἐσὺ ὁ παπ'–Αὐγουστίνος, ὁ γνωστὸς γιὰ τοὺς ἀγῶνες σου ὑπὲρ καθάρσεως τῆς Ἐκκλησίας;

Μάλιστα, ἀγαπητοὶ μου, ἐγὼ τὰ λέω. Γιατί πρέπει νὰ ἀγωνιζώμεθα ν' ἀνεβῆ ψηλὰ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας, νὰ εἶνε ἀστερισμὸς Ὡρίωνος ποὺ θὰ φωτίζῃ Ἀνατολὴ καὶ Δύσι, ἀλλὰ δὲν εἶνε τὰ **σκάνδαλα ὁ βαθύτερος λόγος, γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖο οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν ἔρχονται στὴν ἐκκλησία**. Κι ἂν ἀκόμη κάνουμε παπᾶδες σὰν τὸν ἅγιο Χαράλαμπο καὶ δεσποτάδες σὰν τὸ μέγα Βασίλειο, κι ἂν ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας γεμίση ἀπὸ ἀγγέλους καὶ ἀρχαγγέλους, αὐτὸς ποὺ ἔχει μέσα του τὸν διάβολο καὶ τότε δὲν θὰ πατήσῃ.

Γιατί; Γιατί **βρισκόμαστε σὲ χρόνους χαλεπούς**, ποὺ προφήτεψε ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, χρόνια ἀπιστίας καὶ διαφθορᾶς, χρόνια ποὺ προφήτεψε καὶ ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς λέγοντας· «Θὰ ῥθουν μέρες ποὺ θ' ἀδειάσουν οἱ ἐκκλησιές, κι ὅταν ἀδειάσουν οἱ ἐκκλησιές θὰ γεμίσουν οἱ φυλακές». Σ' αὐτὲς τὶς ἡμέρες φτάσαμε.

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Ὅλοι, ἀγαπητοὶ μου, νὰ προσπαθήσουμε **μὲ σύνθημα**· ἂν ὁ διάβολος ζητᾷ νὰ διώξῃ τοὺς Χριστιανούς ἀπὸ τὴν ἐκκλησία, ἐμεῖς μὲ φιλότιμο, μὲ ὄρεξι, μὲ ἐνθουσιασμὸ ν' ἀγωνιστοῦμε νὰ γεμίσουν πάλι οἱ ἐκκλησιές, νὰ ἀδειάσουν τὰ κέντρα τῆς διαφθορᾶς καὶ οἱ κινηματογράφοι, νὰ γίνῃ πάλι ἡ Ἑλλάς ὀρθόδοξο βασίλειο πρὸς δόξαν τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος**

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

### *The Holy Martyr Thecla*

According to a popular second century tale, the Acts of Paul and Thecla, St. Thecla was a native of Iconium. She was so impressed by the preaching of St. Paul on virginity that she broke off her engagement to marry Thamyris to live a life of virginity. When Paul was ordered to be scourged and banished from the city for his teaching, Thecla was ordered burned to death. When a storm providentially extinguished the flames, she escaped with Paul and went with him to Antioch. There she was condemned to wild beasts in the arena when she violently resisted the attempt of Syriarch Alexander to kidnap her, but again escaped when the beasts did no harm to her.

She rejoined Paul at Myra in Lycia, dressed as a boy, and was commissioned by him to preach the Gospel. She did for a time in Iconium and then became a recluse in a cave at Meriamlik near Seleucia. She lived as a hermit there for the next seventy-two years and died there (or in Rome, where she was miraculously transported when she found that Paul had died, and was later buried near his tomb). The tale had tremendous popularity in the early Church but is undoubtedly a pious fiction and was labeled apocryphal by St. Jerome. It is possible that St. Paul had a disciple named Thecla who was martyred. Some scholars are of the opinion that this is in fact the case.

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