



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 22nd, 2018

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



*Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women*

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

**Prokeimenon. Mode 2.**

**Psalm 117.14,18**

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

**In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the Sunday of**

Πράξεις Αποστόλων 6:1-7

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος β'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18** Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος. Πράξεις Αποστόλων 6:1-7

τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἀρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἑπτὰ, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσομεν. Καὶ ἤρρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικάνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχεία, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠῤῥαζανεν, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

## **The Gospel According to Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8**

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## **16:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτῆς, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ἠτήσατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. Ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἤδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλαι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυριάνου ἐδώρησατο τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. Καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδὸνα καὶ καθελῶν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. Ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία Ἰωσήφ ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμη ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. Καὶ λίαν πρῶτὴ τῆς μᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. Καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; Καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. Καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιῶις, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. Ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. Ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε εἰπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. Καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

Sunday	April 22nd,	Holy Myrrh Bearing Women Liturgy	9:30 A.M.
Monday	April 23rd	Feast day of Saint George Divine Liturgy	9:30 A.M.
Wednesday	April 25th	Prayer and Healing Service	6:30 P.M.
Sunday	April 29th	Liturgy of the Paralytic	9:30 A.M.
Saturday	May 05th	St. Efraim and St. Irene Divine Liturgy	9:00 A.M.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE FROM NOW:** The Holy Water Blessing (AGIASMOS) for the month of MAY will be celebrated on SATURDAY – MAY 5TH, AT 11:00 AM.

**AGAPE COFFEE HOUR :** Is being hosted today by the Parish Council. Come and join us .

**SAINT GEORGE FEAST :** will be observed on MONDAY – April 23rd, at 9:00 A.M. Artoklasies are always welcomed to honor the Patron Saint.

**SAINT GEORGE DAY** will be celebrated by the Senior Club April 25th :

**SENIOR CLUB MEETS:** every WEDNESDAY at 1:00 P.M in WHITEHALL for fun, fellowship, refreshments and so much more. JOIN US ANYTIME.

**CHOIR CONCERT:** Mark your calendars for a repeat performance of our Choir singing at the ‘ JOURNEY TO PENTECOST ‘CONCERT FRIDAY - MAY 18th . 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. at SACRED HEART ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH in Carroll Gardens , Brooklyn, FREE TO ALL!

**VOLUNTEERS:** are needed for the GRECIAN FESTIVAL 2018 meeting on Wednesday evening 7:00 P.M. April 25th in Whitehall.

**GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE TODAY..... ARE YOU MARCHING ?**

The annual New York observance of Greek Independence Anniversary #197 (1821 - (2018) ) will be highlighted TODAY ON fifth avenue from 62nd, Street up to 79th Street. The parade commences at 1:30 P.M. organized by the FEDERATION of GREEK SOCIETIES of GREATER NEW YORK. The event will be live streamed @ [www.hellenicsocieties.org](http://www.hellenicsocieties.org) and (718 204 6500) . Come and march , wave from the sidelines, or tune in on T.V. The colors for the ‘ day ‘ are BLUE and WHITE .....for young and old alike.

**CUB SCOUTS and TROOP #531 MEET ON FRIDAYS AT 7:00 - 9:00 P.M. SIGN UP.**

**HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE CHOIR? WHY NOT? THERE’S ROOM FOR ONE MORE.**

**GREEK FILM FESTIVAL** in New York City from April 27th, through May 3rd. Please refer to the centerfold for all information. These films are by far the ‘ ultimate in cinematography ‘ in modern Greece. It’s a great idea for a MOTHER’S DAY GIFT ....take your mommy to the movies, and ten a dinner treat. See centerfold.

**MEMORIALS RESUME:**

**NEXT WEEK: APRIL 29TH**

+ GUS VELLIOS + MARY LOUKAS + GEORGE CROMAS +MARIA HARTOPHILIS  
DIPLATANOS SOCIETY MEMBERS

**Please give ample advance notice if you wish to have a memorial announced in the church weekly bulletin and /or if you intend to order ‘KOLLYVA’ boiled wheat for the tribute commemoration. MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL !**

**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](#))

**C H R I S T O S     A N E S T I !  
A L I T H O S     A N E S T I !**



# GREEK FILM expo

## APRIL 27 - MAY 3 2018

### Schedule

#### DIRECTORS GUILD THEATER

110 West 57 St., NYC

FRI. APR 27	7:00 pm	JAMAICA Spiros Papadopoulos & Mikielito Katsiflikis in person
FRI. APR 27	9:15 pm	BLUE QUEEN
SAT. APR 28	7:00 pm	POLYXENI*
SAT. APR 28	9:15 pm	TOO MUCH INFO CLOUDING...*

#### MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE

35 Avenue at 37 Street, Astoria, NY / Tel: (718) 777-6800

SUN. APR 29	1:30 pm	POLYXENI*
SUN. APR 29	4:00 pm	JAMAICA Spiros Papadopoulos & Mikielito Katsiflikis in person
SUN. APR 29	7:00 pm	BLUE QUEEN

#### BOW TIE MANHASSET CINEMA

430 Plandome Rd., Manhasset, NY

TUE. MAY 1	7:00 pm	TOO MUCH INFO CLOUDING...*
TUE. MAY 1	9:15 pm	JAMAICA Spiros Papadopoulos & Mikielito Katsiflikis in person
WED. MAY 2	7:00 pm	SWING AWAY
WED. MAY 2	9:15 pm	WORLDS APART
THU. MAY 3	7:00 pm	BLUE QUEEN
THU. MAY 3	9:15 pm	POLYXENI

\* Directors Dora Meskieranos, Vasilis Christofilakis in person

FOR TICKETS VISIT: [www.hellenicfilmusa.org](http://www.hellenicfilmusa.org)

### Greek Film Expo: April 27 - May 3

#### BLUE QUEEN Dir. Alex Sipsidis

The aftermath of the theft of the fabulous Blue Queen diamond is examined from four different points of view, each change of perspective shedding new light on the story and adding more twists and turns to the level of intrigue.



#### JAMAICA Dir. Andreas Morfonios

In this bittersweet comedy, the power of brotherly love helps two estranged brothers overcome their differences and learn a valuable life lesson.



#### POLYXENI Dir. Dora Meskieranos

A young Greek woman living in Istanbul rejects her adoptive parents' choice of husband in a brave attempt to gain self reliance and independence.



#### TOO MUCH INFO CLOUDING OVER MY HEAD Dir. Vasilis Christofilakis

A young, overanxious movie director, with one failed cult film on his resume, is forced to raise money to film a screenplay he delects.



#### SWING AWAY Dir. Michael Achilles Nickles

A burned out professional golfer flees to Rhodes to escape the public's scrutiny. Once there, she finds romance and a whole new purpose to life.



#### WORLDS APART Dir. Christopher Papakalitis

Three different stories of Greeks falling in love with non-Greeks form the core of this stunning drama. The narratives connect at the end, revealing how deeply social crisis can affect private lives.



All films not in English are shown with English subtitles

For tickets visit: [www.hellenicfilmusa.org](http://www.hellenicfilmusa.org)  
For information call 718-531-5074 or 917-710-3027

GREEK FILM EXPO 2018 is made possible with generous support from  
The Onassis Foundation USA and  
Nikos and Carol Mouyiaris in memory of their son Alexis Mouyiaris

The Senior Club Officers and Father Eugene celebrate Christos Anesti with a lavish luncheon, Greek traditional trimmings, and the cracking of the RED PASCHAL EGGS!





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυνακκία Ἰερὸ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-23610 - [imsa1lo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imsa1lo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2087

Κυριακὴ τῶν Μυροφόρων  
22 Ἀπριλίου 2018

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Οἱ Μυροφόρες γυναῖκες

**Ο**ἱ Μυροφόρες, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὴ μνήμη τῶν ὁποίων ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας ἔχει ἀφιερῶσει τὴν Κυριακὴ αὐτὴ - τρίτη ἀπὸ τὸ Πάσχα, ἀποτελοῦν τὴν πρώτη ὁμάδα γυναικῶν, τὸν **πρῶτο ἀστερισμὸ τοῦ γυναικείου κόσμου**, ὁ ὁποῖος φωτίζεται ἀπὸ τὸν πνευματικὸ Ἥλιο, τὸ Χριστό, καὶ στρέφεται γύρω ἀπὸ αὐτόν.

Οἱ Μυροφόρες ἦταν πολλές, ἀλλὰ οἱ εὐαγγελιστὰι διασώζουν τὰ ὀνόματα τῶν κυριωτέρων. Ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς Λουκᾶς λέει, ὅτι καθὼς ὁ Κύριος περνοῦσε ἀπὸ πόλεις καὶ χωριά, τὸν ἀκολουθοῦσαν οἱ δώδεκα μαθηταὶ του καὶ *«γυναῖκές τινες αἱ ἦσαν τεθεραπευμέναι ἀπὸ νόσων καὶ μαστίγων καὶ πνευμάτων πονηρῶν καὶ ἀσθενειῶν, Μαρία ἡ καλουμένη Μαγδαληνὴ, ἀφ' ἧς δαιμόνια ἐπτὰ ἐξεληλύθει, καὶ Ἰωάννα γυνὴ Χουζᾶ ἐπιτρόπου Ἡρώδου, καὶ Σουσάννα καὶ ἕτεραι πολλαί, αἵτινες διηκόνουν αὐτῷ ἐκ τῶν ὑπαρχόντων αὐταῖς»* (Λουκ. 8,1-3). Οἱ πρὸ δικακεκριμένες ἦταν ἡ **Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ**, ἡ **Σαλώμη** γυναῖκα τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ μητέρα τοῦ εὐαγγελιστοῦ Ἰωάννου, ἡ **Ἰωάννα** γυναῖκα τοῦ Χουζᾶ, οἱ δύο ἀδελφές τοῦ Λαζάρου **Μαρία καὶ Μάρθα**, ἡ **Μαρία τοῦ Κλωπᾶ**, καὶ ἡ **Σωσάννα**. Αὐτὲς ἀκολουθοῦσαν τὸν Κύριο καὶ ὑπηρετοῦσαν αὐτὸν καὶ τοὺς μαθητὰς του δαπανώντας ἀπὸ τὰ ὑπάρχοντά τους.

Οἱ Μυροφόρες γυναῖκες ἦταν παροῦσες παντοῦ, σὲ διάφορες στιγμὲς τῆς ἐπὶ γῆς παρουσίας τοῦ Κυρίου, καὶ ἐπομένως εἶνε κι αὐτὲς ἀξίοπιστοι μάρτυρες τῆς ζωῆς, τῆς διδασκαλίας, καὶ ἰδιαίτερως τῆς ἀναστάσεώς του. Ὡταν παροῦσες **σὲ ὥρες εἰρηνικὲς καὶ γαλήνιες**: ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς θαυματουργοῦσε, θεράπευε, ἔτρεφε τὰ πλήθη καὶ ὄλοι τὸν θαύμαζαν, ἢ ὅταν δίδασκε δημοσίως στὸ ὑπαιθρο, ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους, στὴν ὄχθη τῆς λίμνης, στὴ συνάγωγη, στὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομώντος, σὲ κάποιο σπῆτι, σὲ κάποιο τραπέζι, ἀκόμη καὶ ὁδοιπορώντας μὲ τὴ συνοδεία του, ἀλλὰ καὶ ὅταν

κατ' ἴδιαν ἀπαντοῦσε σὲ ἐρωτήματα τῶν μαθητῶν, τοὺς προέλεγε *«τὰ μέλλοντα αὐτῷ συμβαίνειν»* (Μαρκ. 11,32), τοὺς νουθετοῦσε, τοὺς διώρθωνε, τοὺς προετοίμαζε, τοὺς στηρίζε.

Ὡταν ὅμως παροῦσες οἱ Μυροφόρες ὄχι μόνο ὅταν ὁ Κύριος δίδασκε καὶ ἡ διδασκαλία του ἐγλύκαινε καὶ ἔτρεφε τὶς ψυχὰς σὰν οὐράνιο μάννα, ἀλλὰ **καὶ σὲ ὥρες δύσκολες**: ὅταν ὁ Κύριος ἀντιμετώπιζε τὰ βλοσυρὰ βλέμματα τῶν φαρισαίων, τὶς πονηρὲς ἐρωτήσεις - παγίδες τῶν ἐγκαθέτων σαδδουκαίων καὶ τῶν ἡρῳδιανῶν.

Ὡταν παροῦσες ἀκόμη καὶ ὅταν ἦρθε τὸ τέλος, ὅταν ἔφθασαν οἱ ἡμέρες τοῦ φρικτοῦ μαρτυρίου του: ὅταν ὁ Διδάσκαλος, ὁ Ἥλιος τῶν ψυχῶν, εἰσερχόταν πλέον στὴ σκιά τοῦ θανάτου καὶ φαινόταν στὰ μάτια τῶν ἀνθρώπων ὅτι πάει νὰ δύσῃ καὶ νὰ ἐξαφανιστῇ γιὰ πάντα: ὅταν ὑψώθηκε ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ ἐκεῖ στὸ Γολγοθᾶ ἀνάμεσα σὲ δύο ληστὰς. Οἱ μαθηταὶ τὸν εἶχαν ἐγκαταλείψει, ἀλλ' αὐτὲς ἔμειναν ἐκεῖ *«ἀπὸ μακρόθεν θεωροῦσαι»* (Μαρκ. 16,7). Ὡς ὅσο δηλαδὴ τοὺς ἐπέτρεπαν - κοντὰ στὸ σταυρὸ, καὶ μὲ σπαραγμὸ καρδιᾶς παρακολουθοῦσαν τὴν ἀγωνία τοῦ ἐσταυρωμένου Υἱοῦ τῆς Παρθένου.

Ὡς ἀφοῦ ἦταν παροῦσες κατὰ τὴ σταύρωσι, παροῦσες βρέθηκαν καὶ **κατὰ τὴν ἀποκαθῆλωσι καὶ τὴν ταφὴ** τοῦ Κυρίου. Ὡπως σημειώνει γι' αὐτὲς ὁ εὐαγγελιστὴς Λουκᾶς, *«ἐθεάσαντο τὸ μνημεῖον καὶ ὡς ἐτέθη τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ»* παρακολούθησαν δηλαδὴ τὴν ταφὴ μέχρι τὶς τελευταῖες λεπτομέρειες (Λουκ. 23,55).

Ὡς ἀλλὰ καὶ **μετὰ τὴν ταφὴ** πῶς μπορούσαν νὰ λησμονήσουν Ἐκεῖνον ποὺ εἶχε γίνει τὸ κέντρο ὁλόκληρης τῆς πνευματικῆς τους ζωῆς; *«ὑποστρέψασαι ἠτοίμασαν ἀρώματα καὶ μύρα»* καὶ *«τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων (=τὴν Κυριακὴ) ὄρθρου βαθέος ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὸ μνημα φέρουσαι ἃ ἠτοίμασαν ἀρώματα»* (Μαρκ. 16,1).

✓ Και εκεί ακριβώς είχαν τη μοναδική εύλογια ν' ακούσουν από το στόμα του αγγέλου, πρώτες αυτές, **τὸ χαρμόσυνο ἄγγελμα**: «*Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὡδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἐθηκαν αὐτόν*» (Μαρκ. 16,8).

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Ὁ ἅγιος αὐτὸς ὄμιλος τῶν Μυροφόρων γυναικῶν, ἀγαπητοί μου, παραμένει ἔκτοτε γιὰ τις Χριστιανὲς γυναῖκες ὄλων τῶν αἰώνων καὶ ὄλων τῶν ἐποχῶν ὡς **ὑπόδειγμα θερμῆς πίστεως καὶ ἀγάπης** πρὸς τὸν ἀναστάντα Κύριο.

Καὶ εἶνε πολὺ παρήγορο τὸ γεγονός, ὅτι σὲ κάθε ἐποχῇ, καὶ σπὴ δική μας, συναντᾶ κανεὶς **γυναῖκες** ποὺ ἡ καρδιά τους πλημμυρίζει ἀπὸ τὰ ἅγια αἰσθήματα ἀφοσιώσεως καὶ λατρείας στὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ Χριστοῦ· στὰ πρόσωπα τῶν γυναικῶν αὐτῶν **διακονῶν στὸν κόσμον ἢ ἀφοσιῶν** καὶ ἡ λατρεία τῶν Μυροφόρων.

**Θέλετε ἀποδείξετε;**

✓ Ἄν οἱ Μυροφόρες μὲ τὴν καρδιά νὰ πάλλη ἦλθαν «*τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων ὄρθρου βαθέος ἐπὶ τὸ μνήμα*» (Μαρκ. 16,1), μήπως καὶ σήμερα δὲν βλέπουμε γυναῖκες ποὺ, μόλις ἀκούσουν τὴν Κυριακὴ καὶ τις ἄλλες ἑορτὲς τὴν καμπάνα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, **τρέχουν στοὺς ναοὺς** γιὰ νὰ παρακολουθήσουν μὲ εὐλάβεια καὶ κατάνυξι τὸν ὄρθρο, τὴ θεία λειτουργία, ἀκολουθίες μὲ τις ὁποῖες ἡ Ἐκκλησία ἀναπαριστάνει τὴ σταύρωσι, τὴν ταφή καὶ τὴν ἀνάστασι τοῦ Σωτήρος Χριστοῦ;

✓ Ἄν οἱ Μυροφόρες ἐτοίμασαν τὰ πολύτιμα μύρα καὶ ἀρώματα γιὰ νὰ ἀλείψουν τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Κυρίου, μήπως καὶ σήμερα δὲν ὑπάρχουν γυναῖκες ποὺ **εἶνε ἐτοιμὲς νὰ προσφέρουν κάθε ὑπηρεσία** γιὰ τὴ δόξα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, ἢ ὁποῖα κατὰ τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο εἶνε «*τὸ σῶμα αὐτοῦ*» (Ἐφ. 1,23);

✓ Ἄν οἱ Μυροφόρες βιάδιζαν μὲ θάρρος πρὸς τὸν τάφο, ὅπου ὑπῆρχε ἡ φρουρὰ τῶν Ῥωμαίων στρατιωτῶν, καὶ μὲ φρόνημα ἡρωικὸ περιφροροῦσαν κάθε κίνδυνο, μήπως καὶ σήμερον δὲν ὑπάρχουν γυναῖκες ποὺ γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ **ἀψηφοῦν κινδύνους** καὶ μὲ ὄλη τους τὴν προθυμία τρέχουν ἐκεῖ ποὺ τις καλεῖ τὸ χριστιανικὸ καθῆκον; μήπως δὲν βλέπουμε σὲ νοσοκομεῖα καὶ διάφορα ἔστυλα γυναῖκες νοσοκόμες, οἱ ὁποῖες μὲ αὐταπάρησι ἐξυμνητοῦν ἐκείνους ποὺ πάσχουν, αὐτοὺς τοὺς ἀδελφούς τοῦ Χριστοῦ; μήπως γυναῖκες, σὰν ἄλλες Μυροφόρες, δὲν πρωτοστατοῦν στὴν ἰδρυσι καὶ λειτουργία φιλανθρωπικῶν συλλόγων, διὰ τῶν ὁποίων διαχέεται στὴν κοινωνία τὸ πολύτιμο ἄρωμα τῆς

Χριστιανικῆς ἀγάπης; Καὶ τί νὰ ποῦμε γιὰ τις γυναῖκες ἐκεῖνες, ποὺ σὰν μητέρες, σὰν σύζυγοι, σὰν ἀδελφές, σὰν θυγατέρες μὲ ἰώβειο ὑπομονὴ ὑποφέρουν τὰ δεινὰ τοῦ οἰκογενειακοῦ βίου, κατευνάζουν τὰ πάθη τῶν ἀνδρῶν, εἰρηνεύουν τὰ διεστῶτα καί, σὰν ἄλλες εὐαγγελίστριες, εὐαγγελίζονται στοὺς ἐν σκότει ζῶντας πατέρες, συζύγους καὶ ἀδελφούς των τὴ χαρὰ τοῦ ἀναστάντος Χριστοῦ;

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Οἱ γυναῖκες αὐτές, ἀγαπητοί μου, ποὺ μιμοῦνται τὸ παράδειγμα τῶν Μυροφόρων, εἶνε οἱ ἡρωίδες τῆς Χριστιανικῆς πίστεως. Διὰ μέσου αὐτῶν πνέει ἀθόρυβα μέσα στὴν κοινωνία ἡ αὔρα τῆς χριστιανικῆς ζωῆς. Διὰ τῶν γυναικῶν αὐτῶν ὁ Χριστὸς κατακτᾷ ψυχὰς καὶ ἐξημερώνει τὰ ἦθη τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Διότι γυναῖκα, ποὺ πιστεύει εὐλικρινῶς στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ ζῆ κατὰ τις ἅγιες ἐντολές του, εἶνε μεγάλο σχολεῖο ἀρετῆς γιὰ τὸν ἄντρα τῆς ἂν εἶνε ἑγγαμη, γιὰ τὰ παιδιά τῆς ἂν ἔχη παιδιά, γιὰ ὀλόκληρη τὴν κοινωνία ἂν παραμείνη παρθένος ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ. Τὴ γυναῖκα αὐτῇ, ὅπου κι ἂν βρίσκεται, ὁ Κύριός μας τὴν χρησιμοποιεῖ ὡς **εὐαγγελίστριά** του μέσα στὸν κόσμον.

Ἐὰν στὸ δράμα τῆς ἠθικῆς καταστροφῆς τοῦ κόσμου ἡ γυναῖκα ἔπαιξε καὶ ἐξακολουθῆ νὰ παίξει ρόλο σημαντικώτατο, ἀλλὰ καὶ στὸ σχέδιο τῆς σωτηρίας ἔπαιξε διὰ τῆς Θεοτόκου ρόλο μοναδικό, ἀλλὰ καὶ στὸ ἔργο τῆς ἠθικῆς ἀναπλάσεως τοῦ κόσμου κάθε γυναῖκα μπορεῖ νὰ διεκδικήσῃ **θέσι περίλαμπρη**, ὑπὸ ἕναν ὄμω ὄρο· ν' ἀγαπήσῃ ὅπως ἡ Παναγία καὶ οἱ Μυροφόρες τὸ Χριστό, νὰ ἀφοσιωθῆ σ' αὐτόν καὶ νὰ τὸν ἀκολουθήσῃ παντοῦ.

Τότε ἡ γυναῖκα αὐτῇ δὲν θὰ εἶνε πλέον ἕνα σκεῦος ὀργῆς καὶ κατάρας καὶ ἕνα ὄργανο σατανικό, ἀλλὰ θὰ εἶνε **πολύτιμο σκεῦος Χριστοῦ**· τότε ἡ καρδιά τῆς γυναίκας θὰ γίνῃ μία θαυμάσια λύρα, στὶς χορδές τῆς ὁποίας οἱ ἄγγελοι θὰ παίζουν τὸ ὠραιότερο ἔσμα τῆς ἀγάπης καὶ ἀφοσιώσεως στὸ Χριστό.

Ἄς εὐχηθοῦμε, ὁ κύκλος τῶν Χριστιανῶν γυναικῶν –Χριστιανῶν ὄχι μόνο στὸ ὄνομα ἀλλὰ καὶ στὴν πραγματικότητα– νὰ διευρύνεται συνεχῶς καὶ ἡ γυναικεῖα καρδιά ν' ἀγαπήσῃ πιὸ θερμὰ τὸ Χριστό, γιὰ νὰ ὑποστῆ τὴν **ψυχικὴ** ἐκείνη **ἀλλοίωσι**, ποὺ τόσο θαυμάζουμε στὸ πρόσωπο τῶν ἁγίων Μυροφόρων. Εἶθε οἱ Μυροφόρες γυναῖκες **ποτέ νὰ μὴ λείψουν** ἀπὸ τὸ πρόσωπο τῆς Γῆς, ἀλλὰ τὸ ἄρωμα τῆς ἀρετῆς τους νὰ μεταδίδεται πλουσιώτερο ἀπὸ γενεὰ σὲ γενεὰ.

(†) **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 2018 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

## **YOU ARE PART OF THE GREAT FRESCO OF FAITH**

### *The Myrrh-Bearing Women*

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still

flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

*Father Alexander Schmemmann*

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