

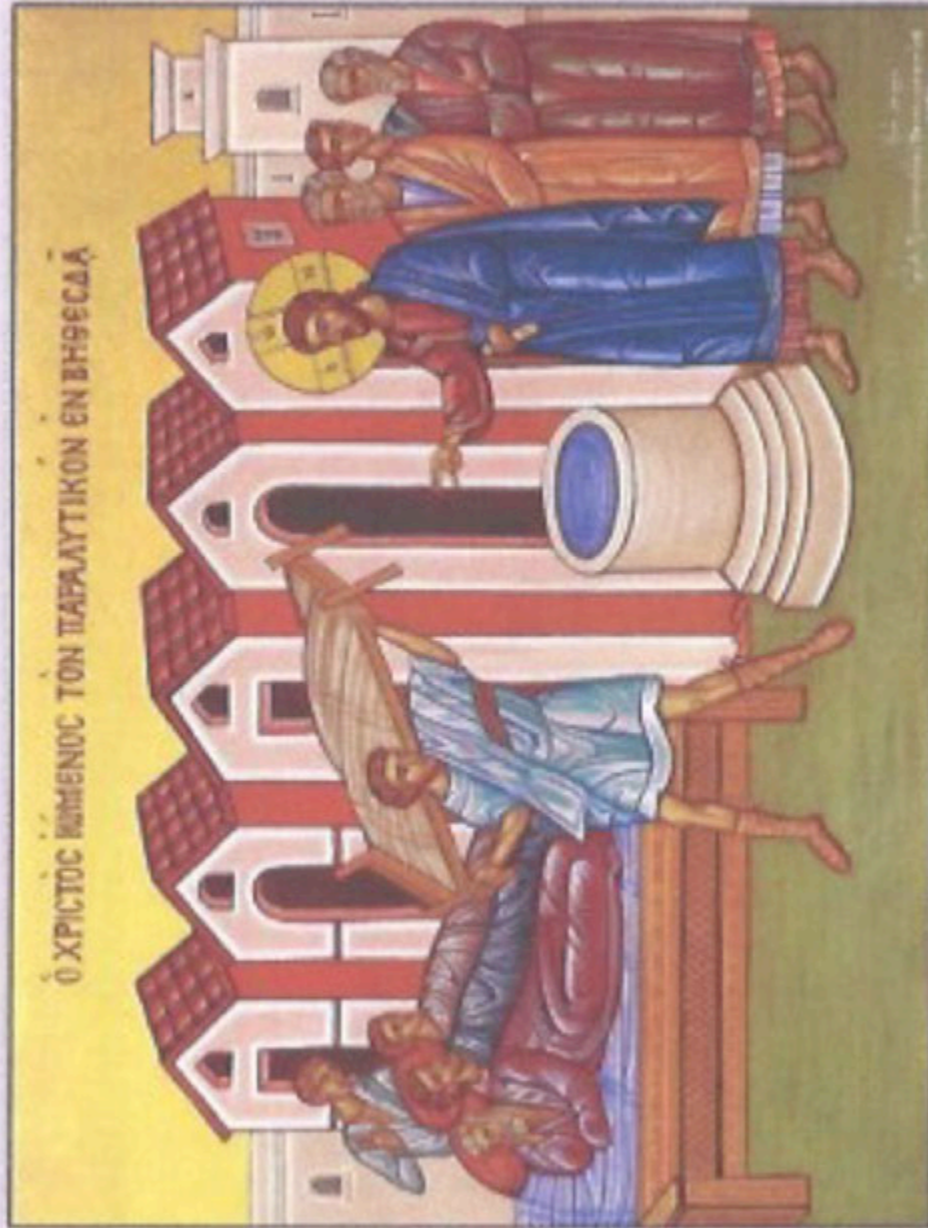


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 8th 2018
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SIXTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Healing the Paralytic

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 1.

Psalm 11.7,1

You, O Lord, shall keep us and preserve us.

Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the godly man has failed.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 12:6-14

Brethren, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

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6th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel According to Matthew 9:1-8

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say 'Rise and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" he then said to the paralytic -- "Rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 9:1-8

Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ προσέφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικὸν ἐπὶ κλίνης βεβλημένον· καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν εἶπε τῷ παραλυτικῷ· θάρσει, τέκνον· ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου. καὶ ἰδοὺ τινες τῶν γραμματέων εἶπον ἐν ἑαυτοῖς· οὗτος βλασφημεῖ. καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν εἶπεν· ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; τί γάρ ἐστιν εὐκοπώτερον, εἰπεῖν, ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι, ἢ εἰπεῖν, ἔγειρε καὶ περιπάτει; ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας - τότε λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· ἐγερθεὶς ἄρον σου τὴν κλίνην καὶ ὕπαγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. καὶ ἐγερθεὶς ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ ὄχλοι ἐθαύμασαν καὶ ἐδόξασαν τὸν Θεὸν τὸν δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς ἀνθρώποις.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Sunday,	July 8th,	Liturgy of the martyr Saint Procopios ARTOKLASIA in honor of the Holy Apostles is offered by Sophia Drouvalakis at	10:30 A.M. 11:30 A.M.
Sunday,	July 15th	Liturgy of Saint Vladimir Anticipatory celebration of Saint Marina Patroness of Diplatanos, Greece SACRED ICON TO BE VENERATED	10: 00 A.M.

DONORS REQUESTED AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP :usually offered each Sunday throughout the year will be suspended for the summer months of June, July, and August unless there is a donor who wishes to celebrate an event, offer a memorial tribute, or just reach out in love to the people of God. The offering for coffee, bagels, cream cheese and all paper goods for the reception each Sunday (100 plus people) is \$125. (one hundred and twenty five dollars) paid to the Church directly. **ARE YOU CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY? AN ANNIVERSARY? , A GOOD BILL OF HEALTH?** --- why not thank the Lord through the coffee agape fellowship. Call the Church office to reserve the date: 718-330-0280.

ARTOKLASIA TODAY and Coffee Fellowship: is being offered in loving tribute to the TWELVE HOLY APOSTLES by the family of Sophia Drouvalakis. May the Holy Apostles one and all bestow their 'GRACE' on her and her kin.

FATHERS' DAY RECOGNITION was extended to the Pastor Father Eugene directly after Divine Liturgy with a Presentation from the UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY, the PARISH COUNCIL of THREE HIERARCHS, the GREEK SCHOOL P.T.A. and the following , Photini Daniil, Glouchko Family , Blyznyuk Family, Jolia Family, and their RUSSIAN COMMUNITY members – IRINA, SOPHIA, LIYUDMILA TEODOZIAFLORYNA, DINA, NADEZHDA and ALEXANDER VASILIIY, TETAYANA and VASILITY, OLGA and PETER MELAS, IVAN, GIORGI, DONANNA, TEIMURAZ, LEVAN, VASILITY AND LARISA, BORIS, NEOILA, MANANA, ELENA, LARISA and IRINA, ELENA and MARIA, NINA, ZURAB and MARIAM, SOPHIA (R) MARIANA AUDREY TATYANA and MELINA. Thank you all for your kindness.

AUGUST is the MONTH of MARY in the Orthodox Christian Tradition:

PLEASE NOTE: That during these feasts you may offer (a) wine, (b) artoklasia, (c) prosforon, (d) basiliko, (e) marigold flowers, (f) grapes of any color and (g) phanouropita (cake). Check the bulletin for further details or see the clergy directly. Your participation is always welcomed and helps make the festal observance personal, with outreach to others. Are you celebrating your name day: What more appropriate gesture than to include others in your celebration. GRAND CHILDREN should and must be encouraged to participate by bringing their special " offering for the holiday.

TEACH A CHILD THE WAY TO GO AND THEY WILL BE YOURS FOREVER:

PLEASE NOTE: Artoklasies for any of the festal saint days are always welcome. Please however, call the church office to register your artoklasia for the specific day. YPSOMATA are prepared for the faithful offerer by name. See the clergy for proper dispensation and direction.

MARK THE CALENDAR NOW!

By way of special courier, you are cordially invited to share the Pastor's BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION on Sunday, July 22nd, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. PIZZA, CAKE, SWEETS, COFFEE and SODA will be served to all in attendance. What number birthday # ? only the saints will know. However, there are echoes in the vestry.....FOUR SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO....?

CHURCH and SCHOOL COMPLEX: will close down each day (Monday-Friday) from June 18th , through September 04, after 4:00 P.M. Evening meetings, events or services will be exempted by registering with the OFFICE first. Staff is off-duty at 4:00 P.M.

NEW MEMORIAL CARDS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED. The bereavement cards are superbly designed and are on view in the church office upon request. Has someone passed away recently and you wish to lovingly acknowledge their presence in your life and offer consolation to the family, spouse and kin? This card will certainly be a benefit spiritually and emotionally. **TO BE REMEMBERED AT THE ALTAR OF GOD IS INDEED A SOURCE OF GRACE.**

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20TH 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](#))

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 !**

MEMORIALS TODAY + **STELIOS MITRAKAS**
+ **STAMOS and + EFTERPI SERGIS**
NEXT WEEK JULY 15th: + **FLORENCE GOLD**



So many candles on the cake, one might have thought it was Pascha night! MARY JANNACE, daughter of the first Pastor of Three Hierarchs Parish, the REVEREND VASILIOS MIICHALOPOULOS celebrated her ---- near 100th BIRTHDAY at the Senior Club afternoon party on June 20th. Well wishers joined in singing CHRONIA POLLA to Mary, whose women Kin-folk including sisters and mom reached the CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY YEARS. NA TA CHILIASI! BRAVA!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER EUGENE

Everyone is invited to Father Eugene's
Birthday "Pizza" Party

On Sunday July 22nd, on Plaza

pizza, cake, soda, coffee,

Anyway you slice it,
You are in for a "GREAT TIME!"





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κατοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αἰγυυστίου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28510 - imaaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2105

Κυριακὴ ΣΤ' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 9,1-8)
8 Ἰουλίου 2018

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αἰγυυστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ὁ Θεὸς γνωρίζει τὶς σκέψεις μας

«*Καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν εἶπεν· Ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν;*» (Ματθ. 9,4)

Ἐμπρὸς στὸν Κύριό μας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ἐνῶ βρίσκεται στὴν Καπερναοῦμ καὶ διδάσκει, φέρνουν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἕναν **παράλυτο**. Ὁ ἀνθρώπος αὐτὸς **ἔπασχε ψυχικά, ἔπασχε καὶ σωματικά**. Ψυχικά μὲν, γιατί ἀναστέναζε κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ βάρος ἁμαρτιῶν ποῦ εἶχε διαπράξει, σωματικά δέ, γιατί ἡ παραλυσία τοῦ σώματός του, ὅπως φαίνεται, ἦταν ὀλοκληρωτικὴ καὶ εἶχε καταστήσει τὴ ζωὴ του μαρτυρικὴ. Ὁ πολυεύσπλαχνος Χριστὸς ἔλεε τὸ πλάσμα τῶν χειρῶν του. Καὶ ἐφ' ὅσον ἡ πάθησί του ἦταν διπλῆ (ἐσωτερικὴ καὶ ἐξωτερικὴ), διπλῆ προσφέρει καὶ τὴ θεραπεία. Θεραπεύει πρώτα τὴν ψυχὴ μὲ τὸν σωτήριό ἐκεῖνο λόγο του «*Θάρσει, τέκνον· ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου*», ἔχε θάρρος παιδί μου, σοῦ συγχωροῦνται οἱ ἁμαρτίες σου· θεραπεύει κατόπιν καὶ τὸ σῶμα μὲ τὴν θαυματουργικὴ προσταγή του «*Ἐγερθεὶς ἄρον σου τὴν κλίνην καὶ ὕπαγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου*», σήκω ἐπάνω, φορτώσου τὸ κρεβάτι σου καὶ πήγαινε στὸ σπίτι σου (Ματθ. 9,28).

Καὶ ἡ μὲν θαυματουργικὴ θεραπεία τοῦ σώματος τοῦ παραλυτικοῦ ἦταν **φανερὴ** καὶ προκάλεσε τὸν θαυμασμό τοῦ κόσμου ποῦ βρέθηκε τότε ἐκεῖ, ἡ θεραπεία ὁμως τῆς ψυχῆς, ἡ ἀφεσις δηλαδὴ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν, εἶνε **ἀόρατη**, καὶ γι' αὐτὸ μπορούσαν νὰ ἐγερθοῦν ἀμφισβητήσεις ὡς πρὸς τὸ ἂν αὐτὸς ὁ Ναζωραῖος ἔχη τὴν ἐξουσία νὰ συγχωρῇ τὶς ἁμαρτίες. Καὶ πράγματι τέτοιες ἀμφισβητήσεις, ποῦ γεννιῶνται σὲ καρδιὰς ἀπιστες καὶ φθονερές, ξεσηκώνονται τώρα μέσα στις ψυχὰς τῶν παρισταμένων γραμματέων, τῶν ἐχθρῶν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. Διαλογίζονται μέσα τους κι ἀγανακτοῦν ἐσωτερικά, δὲν ἐκδηλώνουν ὁμως τὴ δυσφορία τῶν ψυχῶν τους, γιατί φοβοῦνται τὸ λαό, ποῦ βλέπουν ὅτι περιβάλλει τὸν Διδάσκαλο μὲ μεγάλη τιμὴ καὶ ἀγάπη.

Δὲν ἐκφράζονται δυσμενῶς κατὰ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, δὲν μιλάνε φωναχτὰ ἐναντίον του· ἀλλὰ μέσα στις καρδιὰς τους μυστικῶς, σφοδρῶς καὶ μὲ ἐμπάθεια διεξάγεται ἡ συζήτησις, τῆς ὁποίας τὸ συμπέρασμα εἶνε δύο λέξεις φαρμακερές· «*Οὗτος βλασφημεῖ*», αὐτὸς ἐδῶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς βλασφημεῖ! Ἐχουν μὲν δηλαδὴ τὴν ὀρθὴ πίστι ὅτι μόνο ὁ Θεὸς ἔχει τὴν ἐξουσία τῆς ἀφέσεως τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν, ἀλλὰ ἔχουν καὶ τὴν ἐσφαλμένη γνώμη ὅτι αὐτὸς ὁ Ἰησοῦς, τὸν ὁποῖον αὐτοὶ δὲν τὸν πιστεύουν ὡς Θεὸ ἀλλὰ τὸν θεωροῦν ὡς ἕνα κοινὸ ἄνθρωπο, μὲ τὸ νὰ δίνῃ τώρα σ' αὐτὸ τὸν παράλυτο ἀφεσι ἁμαρτιῶν οἰκειοποιεῖται δικαίωμα θεῶ, καὶ συνεπῶς βλασφημεῖ κατὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ. **Τὴ γνώμη ὁμως αὐτὴ δὲν ἔχουν τὸ θάρρος νὰ τὴ φανερώσουν**· τὴν κρύβουν μέσα τους.

Ἀλλὰ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ὡς Θεὸς ποῦ εἶνε, γνωρίζει τί γίνεται στὸ βάθος τῶν ψυχῶν τῶν γραμματέων, διαβάσει τὶς σκέψεις τους ὅπως ἐμεῖς διαβάζουμε τὶς σελίδες ἑνὸς βιβλίου ποῦ ἔχουμε ἀνοιχτὸ μπροστά μας. Θέλοντας λοιπὸν νὰ δώσῃ στοὺς φθονεροὺς καὶ ἀπίστους ἐχθροὺς του, ἀλλὰ καὶ σὲ κάθε ἄλλον, μία ἀκόμη ἀπόδειξι τῆς Θεότητός του, **ἀποκαλύπτει τὶς πονηρὰς σκέψεις τους**. Μὲ τὸ θεῖο κύρος του τοὺς ἐρωτᾷ· «*Ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν*», γιατί κάνετε μέσα σας σκέψεις πονηρὰς (ἐλ. 9,4); Ἀμφισβητεῖτε, κύριοι γραμματεῖς, τὸ δικαίωμα ποῦ ἔχω νὰ συγχωρῶ ἁμαρτίες; δὲν πιστεύετε στὴ Θεότητά μου; δὲν σὰς ἀρκοῦν γιὰ νὰ πεισθῆτε τὰ τόσα θαύματα ποῦ ἔκανα; Νά λοιπὸν, σὰς προσφέρω τώρα καὶ ἕνα νέο θαῦμα, μιά ἀκόμη ἀπόδειξι· φανερώνω τί σκέπτεσθε τὴ στιγμὴ αὐτὴ μέσα σας ἐναντίον μου.

Μπορεῖτε, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ φανταστῆτε τὴν **ταραχὴ ποῦ ἐνίσωσαν** τὴ στιγμὴ ἐκείνη οἱ γραμματεῖς; Ἀπὸ τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ τοῦ Κυρίου

βεβαιώθηκαν ότι το βλέμμα του εισέδουσε εκεί που κανείς δεν μπορούσε να εισδύσει και είδε αυτά που κανείς δεν μπορούσε να δει. "Ένας κακοῦργος που θὰ τὸν ἐπιαναν ἐπ' αὐτοφώρῳ δὲν θὰ ταραζόταν τόσο ὅσο ταραχτήκαν αὐτοὶ «συλληφθέντες» ἀπὸ τὸν Κύριο «ἐν διαβουλίῳις οἷς διαλογίζονται» τὸς συνέλαβε στὸ τί κακὰ σκέπτονται [πρβλ. Ψαλμ. 92].

* * *

Τί μᾶς λέει, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ γεγονὸς αὐτό; Ὅτι ὁ Κύριος γνωρίζει τίς σκέψεις μας. Καὶ τίς γνωρίζει μόνο αὐτός.

Τὰ ἔργα μας ἔχουν ἐξωτερικὲς ἐκδηλώσεις καὶ εἶνε γνωστὰ σὲ λίγους ἢ σὲ πολλούς. Δὲν λέω ὅτι εἶνε γνωστὰ ὅλα· γιατί ὑπάρχουν καὶ ἔργα ποὺ ἐκτελοῦνται μὲ τὴν δεξιότητα ἀποκρύψεως, ὥστε δὲν περιέρχονται εἰς γνῶσιν τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Ἐν πάσῃ ὁμως περιπτώσει τὰ ἔργα, ἀγαθὰ ἢ πονηρά, ὡς ἐξωτερικὲς ἐνέργειες, εἶνε δυνατόν νὰ γνωστοποιηθοῦν· γι' αὐτὸ καὶ καταβάλλονται συχνὰ προσπάθειες εἴτε νὰ καλυφθῆ μία φαύλη πρᾶξι ὅσο τὸ δυνατόν περισσότερο, εἴτε νὰ δημοσιοποιηθῆ μία ἀγαθὴ πρᾶξι ὅσο τὸ δυνατόν εὐρύτερα. Τὰ ἔργα μας λοιπὸν εἶνε φανερά. Τὰ βλέπουν οἱ οἰκεῖοι μας, οἱ συγγενεῖς μας, οἱ γείτονές μας· τὰ ἐντοπίζουν οἱ δικασταί, τὰ παρακολουθοῦν οἱ ἀρμόδιες ἀρχές, οἱ ὁποῖες κατορθώνουν ν' ἀνακαλύπτουν κάποτε τὰ ἔχνη καὶ τοῦ πιδ μυστηριώδους ἐγκλήματος. Γι' αὐτὸ καὶ δίνουμε οἱ περισσότεροι τὴν προσοχὴ στὴν ἐξωτερικὴν μας κυρίως διαγωγὴν.

Οἱ σκέψεις μας ὁμως; Ἄ, οἱ σκέψεις μας ἀποτελοῦν τὸ ἄδυτο τῆς ψυχῆς μας. Κανένας νομοάντις (αὐτὸς ποὺ ἔχει τὴν ἰκανότητα νὰ μαντεύῃ τὴ σκέψιν τοῦ ἄλλου) δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ γνωρίσῃ τί γίνεται στὰ βάθη τῶν καρδιῶν τῶν ἄλλων, ποιοὶ κόσμοι λογισμῶν καὶ σκέψεων κινοῦνται μέσα στὸν ἄνθρωπο πρὸς ὄλες τίς κατευθύνσεις. Κοιμᾶσαι στὸ ἴδιο δωμάτιο μὲ ἕνα φίλο σου καὶ δὲν γνωρίζεις, ἂν αὐτὸς σκέπτεται νὰ σὲ δολοφονήσῃ. Συνεργάζεσαι μὲ ἕνα συνάδελφό σου στὸ ἴδιο γραφεῖο καὶ δὲν γνωρίζεις, ἂν αὐτὸς ὁ ἰσόβαθμός σου μηχανορραφῆ καὶ βυσοδομῆ γιὰ νὰ σὲ ὑποσκελίσῃ. Συζῆς μὲ τὴ γυναῖκα σου καὶ δὲν γνωρίζεις, ἂν αὐτὴ σὲ ἀπατᾷ ἢ σκέπτεται νὰ σὲ διαπομπεύσῃ, νὰ σὲ δηλητηριάσῃ, νὰ σὲ ξεκάνῃ.

Ἄβυσσος σ' ἀλήθεια ἢ ἀνθρώπινη καρδιά, ὅπως λέει ὁ προφήτης Ἰερεμίας· «βαθεῖα ἢ καρδιά παρὰ πάντα, καὶ ἀνθρωπὸς ἐστὶ καὶ τίς γινώσκει αὐτόν;» [πρ. 17]. Ἄλλὰ στὴν ἐρώτησιν αὐτὴ τοῦ Ἰερεμῖα ἀπαντοῦν ἄλλοι προφῆτες, ὅτι ὁ Κύριος εἶνε ὁ μόνος καρδιογνώστης. Ὁ

Σολομών λέει, «Σὺ», Κύριε, «μονώτατος οἶδας τὴν καρδίαν πάντων υἰῶν ἀνθρώπων» [Ψαλμ. 139], καὶ ὁ Δαυὶδ ψάλλει, ὅτι Σὺ εἶσαι «ὁ ἐτάζων καρδίας καὶ νεφρούς» [Ψαλμ. 7, 10]. Μόνον ὁ Κύριος γνωρίζει τὸ ἐσωτερικὸν μας. Καὶ μέρος τοῦ ἐσωτερικοῦ μας εἶνε οἱ σκέψεις.

Ἄφου λοιπὸν ὁ Κύριος γνωρίζει καὶ παρακολουθεῖ τίς σκέψεις μας, **πόση προσοχὴ θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ δίνουμε στὸ τί σκεπτόμαστε!** Ὅπως ὁ στρατιώτης, ποὺ γνωρίζει ὅτι ὁ ἀξιωματικὸς του θὰ τὸν ἐπιθεωρήσῃ καὶ στὰ ἐλάχιστα ἀκόμη, καταβάλλει κάθε προσπάθεια γιὰ νὰ 'νε σ' ὅλα ἐν τάξει, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ Χριστιανός, ποὺ γνωρίζει ὅτι ὁ Κύριος ἐπιθεωρεῖ ὄχι μόνον τὸν ἐξωτερικὸν του βίον, τὰ ἔργα, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν ἐσωτερικὸν του βίον, τίς σκέψεις, θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ φιλοτιμηταῖ ὥστε καὶ οἱ σκέψεις του νὰ 'νε καθαρές - ἀγνές, γιὰ νὰ μποροῦν ν' ἀντικρύσουν τὸ βλέμμα τοῦ Κυρίου.

Πόση δυστυχῶς ἀπροσεξία δείχνουμε στὴν σκέψιν μας! Ἐχουμε τὴ θύρα τῆς καρδίας μας ἀνοιχτὴ καὶ ἀφήνουμε νὰ μπαίνουν ἀνεξέλεγκτα λογισμοὶ ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ δημιουργήσουν θραῦσι, μεγάλη καταστροφὴ. Διότι ὁ λογισμὸς, ὁ πονηρὸς λογισμὸς, εἶνε ὁ σπόρος τοῦ διαβόλου, τὸ ὄριον τῆς ἀμαρτίας, ἢ μικρὴ σχισμὴ ἀπ' τὴν ὁποία θὰ μπηῖ ὁ πονηρός. Ἀπὸ τὰ μικρὰ αὐτὰ θὰ προέλθουν τὰ μεγάλα, ὅπως ἀπὸ τοὺς σπόρους προέρχονται τὰ πανύψηλα δέντρα, ἀπὸ τὰ ὄρια τὰ ὄρνεα καὶ οἱ γίγαντες, ἀπὸ τίς σχισμὰς τὰ ναυάγια, ἀπὸ τοὺς σπινθηροὺς οἱ πυρκαϊές, ἀπὸ τὰ νήπια οἱ τέλειοι ἄντρες. Ἔτσι καὶ ἀπὸ τοὺς κακοὺς λογισμοὺς προέρχονται τὰ μεγάλα ἀμαρτήματα καὶ ἐγκλήματα. Νά γιατί ὁ Κύριος δίνει τὴν σημασίαν στοὺς λογισμοὺς τῆς καρδίας.

Γι' αὐτὸ ἂς φράξουμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τίς θύρας τῶν καρδιῶν μας στοὺς πονηροὺς λογισμοὺς· ἂς τοὺς φοβηθοῦμε περισσότερο ἀπὸ τὸ ληστὴ ποὺ τὴ νύχτα παραβιάζει τὴ θύρα τοῦ σπιτιοῦ μας γιὰ νὰ μπηῖ καὶ νὰ μᾶς κλέψῃ. **Λησταὶ εἶνε καὶ οἱ κακοὶ λογισμοὶ** ντυμένοι πολλὰς φορὰς μὲ μάσκες ἀγαθότητος καὶ καλωσύνης. Νὰ τοὺς διώξουμε λοιπὸν. Γιὰ νὰ μὴν ἀκούσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς τότε ἀπὸ τὸ στόμα τοῦ Κυρίου τὸν ἔλεγχον «Ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν;», ἂς ἀκούσουμε τώρα τὸν ἀπόστολον ποὺ μᾶς συμβουλεύει σχετικᾶ· «Τὸ λοιπὸν, ἀδελφοί, ὅσα ἐστὶν ἀληθῆ, ὅσα σεμνά, ὅσα δίκαια, ὅσα ἀγνά, ὅσα προσφιλή, ὅσα εὐφρημα, εἴ τις ἀρετὴ καὶ εἴ τις ἔπαινος, ταῦτα λογίζεσθε... καὶ ὁ Θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης ἔσται μεθ' ὑμῶν» [Ῥωμ. 13].

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος

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

Rise and Walk

It is easier said than done. Whether the sins of the paralytic were forgiven, only He who forgave them knew for sure. "Arise and walk." Both he who arose and those who saw him arise were able to vouch for this. Hence there is a bodily sign in order to demonstrate a spiritual sign, though its impact is to curb the imperfections of body and soul. And we are given an understanding of sin and many bodily weaknesses to come. Perhaps, too, sins are forgiven first, so that with the causes of infirmity removed health may be restored.

St. Jerome

Furthermore, so it could be understood that He was in a body and that He could forgive sins and restore health to bodies, Jesus said,

"That you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins," then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your pallet." He could have simply said "Arise," but since the reason for doing every work had to be explained, He added, "Take up your pallet and go home." First He granted remission of sins; next He showed His ability to restore health. Then, with the taking up of the pallet, He made it clear that bodies would be free from infirmity and suffering; lastly, with the paralytic's return to his home, He showed that believers are being given back the way to paradise from which Adam, the parent of all, who became profligate from the stain of sin, had proceeded.

St. Hilary of Poitiers

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