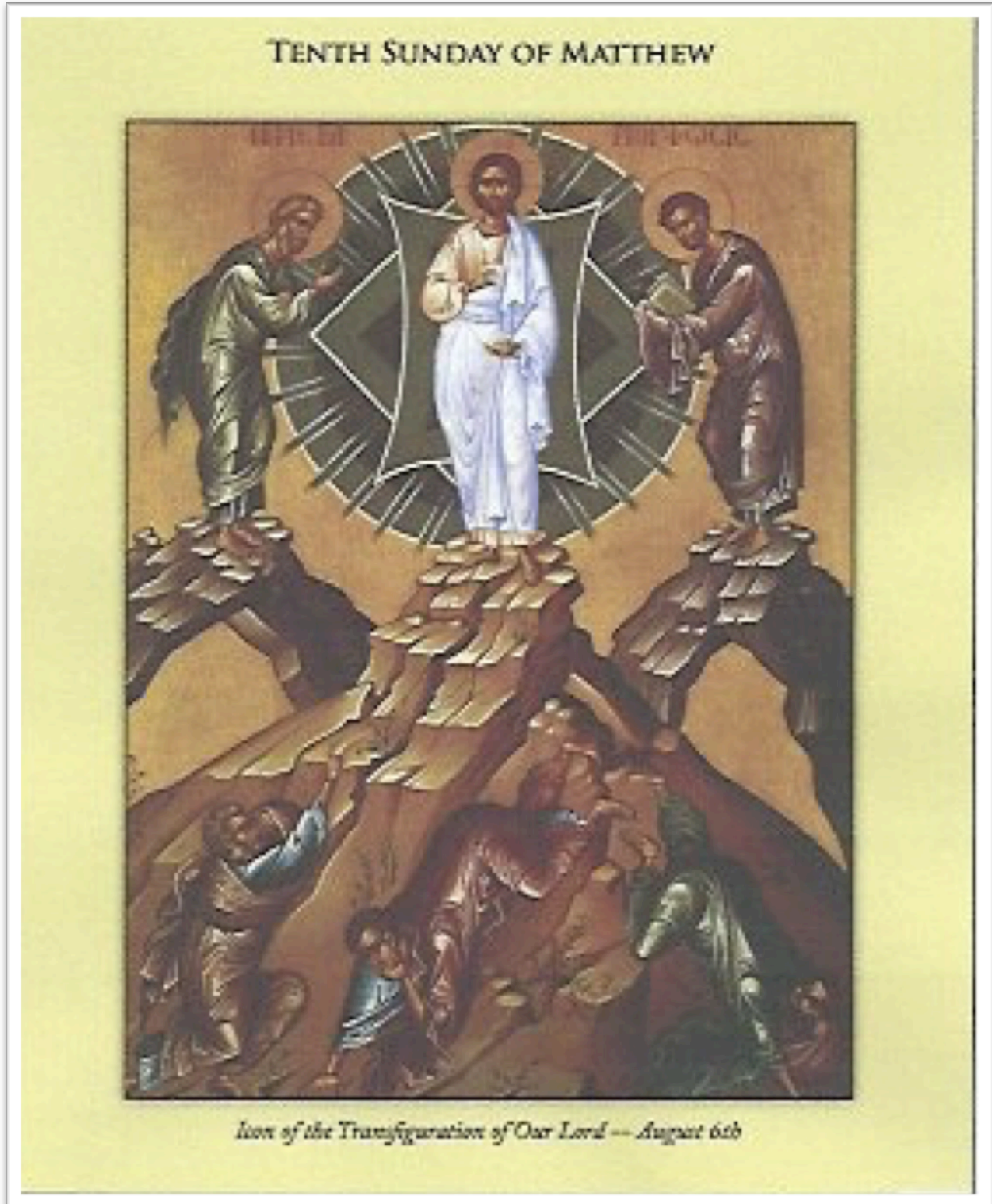




DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN August 5th, 2018
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10th Sunday of Matthew
St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

Prokeimenon. Mode 1.
Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.
Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος α'.
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 4:9-16 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ θεὸς ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἀποστόλους ἐσχάτους ἀπέδειξεν ὡς ἐπιθανατίους· ὅτι θέατρον ἐγενήθημεν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ ἀγγέλοις, καὶ ἀνθρώποις. Ἡμεῖς μωροὶ διὰ Χριστόν, ὑμεῖς δὲ φρόνιμοι ἐν Χριστῷ· ἡμεῖς ἀσθενεῖς, ὑμεῖς δὲ ἰσχυροί· ὑμεῖς ἐνδοξοὶ, ἡμεῖς δὲ ἄτιμοι. Ἄχρι τῆς ἄρτι ὥρας καὶ πεινῶμεν, καὶ διψῶμεν, καὶ γυμνητεύομεν, καὶ κολαφίζόμεθα, καὶ ἀστατοῦμεν, καὶ κοπιῶμεν ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσίν· λοιδορούμενοι εὐλογοῦμεν· διωκόμενοι ἀνεχόμεθα· βλασφημοῦμεν παρακαλοῦμεν· ὡς περικαθάρματα τοῦ κόσμου ἐγενήθημεν, πάντων περίψημα ἕως ἄρτι. Οὐκ ἐντρέπων ὑμᾶς γράφω ταῦτα, ἀλλ' ὡς τέκνα μου ἀγαπητὰ νουθετῶ. Ἐὰν γὰρ μυρίους παιδαγωγοὺς ἔχητε ἐν Χριστῷ, ἀλλ' οὐ πολλοὺς πατέρας· ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς ἐγέννησα. Παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταί μου γίνεσθε.

10th Sunday of Matthew

The Gospel According to Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Jesus and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 17:14-23 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντων αὐτῶν πρὸς τὸν ὄχλον προσῆλθεν αὐτῷ ἄνθρωπος γονυπετῶν αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ἐλέησόν μου τὸν υἱόν, ὅτι σελιηνιάζεται καὶ κακῶς πάσχει· πολλάκις γὰρ πίπτει εἰς τὸ πῦρ καὶ πολλάκις εἰς τὸ ὕδωρ. καὶ προσήνεγκα αὐτὸν τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου, καὶ οὐκ ἠδυνήθησαν αὐτὸν θεραπεῦσαι. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος καὶ διεστραμμένη! ἕως πότε ἔσομαι μεθ' ὑμῶν; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετέ μοι αὐτὸν ὧδε. καὶ ἐπέτιμησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὸ δαιμόνιον καὶ ἐθεραπεύθη ὁ παῖς ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας ἐκείνης. Τότε προσελθόντες οἱ μαθηταὶ τῷ Ἰησοῦ κατ' ἰδίαν εἶπον· διατί ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· διὰ τὴν ἀπιστίαν ὑμῶν. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐὰν ἔχητε πίστιν ὡς κόκκον σινάπεως, ἐρεῖτε τῷ ὄρει τούτῳ, μεταβῆθι ἐντεῦθεν ἐκεῖ, καὶ μεταβήσεται, καὶ οὐδὲν ἀδυνατήσῃ ὑμῖν. τοῦτο δὲ τὸ γένος οὐκ ἐκπορεύεται εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Ἀναστρεφόμενων δὲ αὐτῶν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μέλλει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοσθαι εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθήσεται. καὶ ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα.

DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

Tuesday	August 07th,	Supplication to the Virgin Mary (PARAKLESIS)	7:00 P.M.
Thursday	August 09th,	Supplication to the Virgin Mary (PARAKLESIS)	7:00 P.M.

TODAY: we welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony and His Excellency Archbishop Daniel of the UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH of AMERICA under the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The Hierarchs are here to observe the feast of Saint Panteleimon (Julian Calendar calculation). The entire Ukrainian community of faithful will host a lunch reception for the feast in WhiteHall at 2:30 P.M.

TOMORROW: is the feast of the HOLY TRANSFIGURATION with Liturgy at 9:30 A.M. The blessing of the grape harvest is at 11:00 A.M. Chronia Polla to those observing their patron saint day, named SOTIRIOS, SOTIRIS, SALVATORE. Artoklasies are welcomed!

THIS SATURDAY, August 11th, Cosmos F.M. will be broadcasting 'REMOTE' from Coney Island – DENO'S WONDER WHEEL PARK, as the Coney Island Historical Society will observe the ... immigration trail from the early 1099's to the present day. Charles Denson, noted historian, Dennis Vourderis and Father Eugene will dialogue on the Greeks who made this amusement center; world-famous'. TUNE IN on W.N.Y.E. 91.5 FM from 1:00 P.M. through 2:00 P.M. At 2:15 the outdoor festivities will commence on the street level adjacent to the Wonder Wheel. It's all FREE – come on down.

CHURCHING NEXT WEEK: The new born daughter and second child of Charlie (KYRIAKOS) and LOUISA ASPIOTIS will be received into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church with the name NANCY JEAN (ANNUNCIATA EUGENIA) Na sas zese!

PLEASE NOTE: Double service is scheduled for MONDAY – AUGUST 13th.
PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE at 6:30 P.M.
FINAL PARAKLESIS to the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 7-8:00 P.M.

Where does one begin to say WOW and THANK YOU! The festivities of last week's 'FATHER EUGENE BIRTHDAY # (?) were incredible.' Whitehall was filled to the utmost with young and elders alike. Special gratitude is expressed to the following faithful: MELINDA NAMATH, TEODOZIA, FLORYNA, GIORGI, LIVAN, GENNADIY, NEONILA, NADEZHDA and ALEXANDER, OLGA and PETER, TETYANA and VASILYI, TEIMURAZ BORIS, MICHAEL, SOPHIA @ DINA, LYUDMILA, NINA, SOPHIA, IRINA, LARISA and VASILYI, LARISA and IRINA, ZURAB and MARIAM, MARIANNA, MANANA, TATYANA, IVAN, TATIANA and MARK, THECLA JOHNIDES, DINA and LIZ RIGAS, JULIA DEMAKAKOS, GEORGIA DEMAKAKOS.

A major shout out to EVCHARISTO – to the Russian Community, with Fr. Mystislav, and the UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY with Fr. Vasyl for their outpouring of song and toasting. The parish council, Philoptochos Society, and Senior Club along with the Altar Boy Society were well represented. Hugs and kisses to Haritini Pandis, John Eugenis, Angela Sakkas, Natalya Segal, Susan and Mary Jannace, Photini Daniil, Robert Malfi, the Bezugly Family, Olga and Peter Melis, Connie and Alex Ioannides, Dina Daniels, Bernice Williams, Maya, Georgia Bouzakis, Stella Oberle, Pamela and Dina Kelly, George, Annie and Chris Annis, Harout Doghramadjian, Anatoli Papadopoulou... and many others with well wishes. Special note of gratitude to Maria Notaro of Aluotta Bakery and THREE STAR Restaurant owners Steve and George, as well as Billy Giannopoulos of Madison Florist.

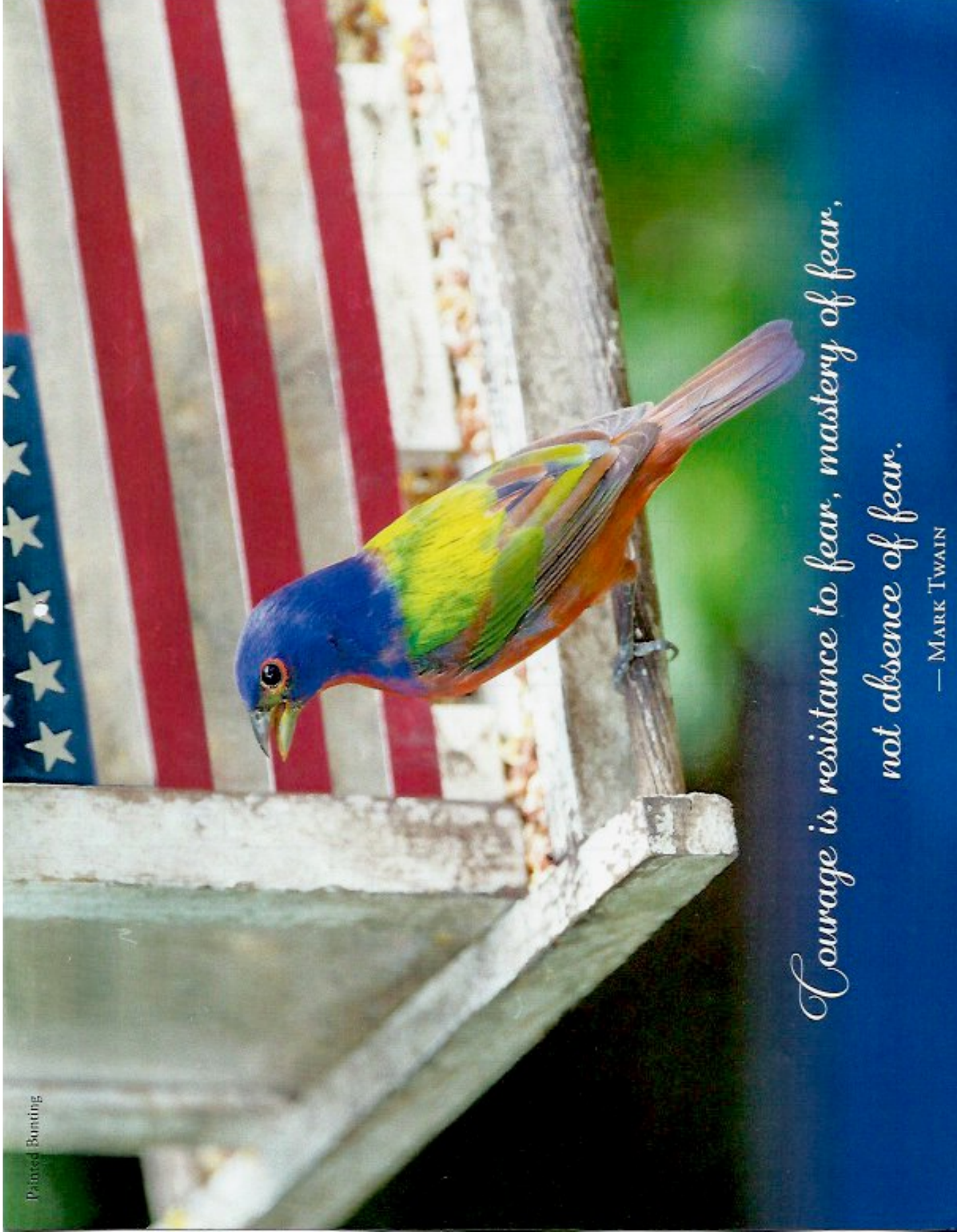
AUGUST is the MONTH of MARY in the Orthodox Christian Tradition:

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:

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](#))

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + ALEXANDRA and + APOSTOLOS PAPOUTSAKIS



Painted Bunting

*Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear,
not absence of fear.*

— MARK TWAIN

The Transfiguration

Apostles Peter, John, and James accompanied Jesus to pray on Mount Tabor. As they prayed, Jesus was transformed. "His face shone like the sun and His garments became white as light." (Matthew 17.2) Moses holding the Tablets of the Law and the ancient prophet Elijah with his book of prophecies appeared and spoke with Jesus. A bright light enveloped them all and a voice resounded from Heaven. "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!*" (Matthew 17.5) When the vision ended, the apostles saw Jesus alone, no longer surrounded by the radiant light. Fearful and overwhelmed, they had witnessed the manifestation of God's glory. As they descended the mountain, Jesus commanded them saying, "*Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the Dead.*" (Matthew 17.9) Italian Renaissance artist Lodovico Carracci imagined the miraculous event with this magnificent work.

Lodovico Carracci, The Transfiguration (1594-95) Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna, Italy Photo credit: Bridgeman Images





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυνακκία τῆρὸ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 09 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imazflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2112

Κυριακὴ Ι' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 17,14-23)
5 Αὐγούστου 2018

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Κύριε, ἐλέησόν με

«*Προσηλθεν αὐτῷ ἄνθρωπος γονυπετῶν αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ἐλέησόν μου τὸν υἱόν...*» (Ματθ. 17,14-15)

Καὶ πάλι, ἀγαπητοί μου, καὶ πάλι βρίσκομαι ἐνώπιόν σας. Ἄς ἔχη δόξα ἡ ἅγια Τριάς, ποὺ με ἀξιῶνει γιὰ μία ἀκόμη φορά, τελευταία ἴσως, νὰ βρεθῶ στὴ θέσι αὐτή.

Εἶμαι ὑποχρεωμένος νὰ σᾶς μιλήσω καὶ θὰ σᾶς παρακαλέσω νὰ κάνετε λίγη ὑπομονή, γιὰ ν' ἀκούσετε λόγια, ποὺ ἴσως τὰ ἔχετε ἀκούσει καὶ ἄλλοτε εἴτε ἀπὸ τοὺς γονεῖς σας εἴτε ἀπὸ τοὺς δασκάλους σας. Ἄς τ' ἀκούσετε ἀκόμη μιὰ φορά. **Τὸν καλὸ τὸ λόγο νὰ τὸν ἀκοῦτε πάντοτε**, τὰ ἄσχημα λόγια ποτέ.

Θὰ μιλήσουμε ἐπὶ τοῦ ἱεροῦ εὐαγγελίου. Ἄλλὰ **τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο**, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ὠκεανὸς θεῶν νοημάτων· εἶνε ἓνα μεταλλεῖο χρυσοῦ ποὺ, ὅσοδήποτε χρυσάφι καὶ ἂν βγάλουμε, οἱ φλέβες του μένουν ἀνεξάντλητες· εἶνε μιὰ πηγή, ποὺ ὅσο νερὸ καὶ νὰ πάρουμε, δὲν στερεύει· εἶνε ὁ ἄρτος, ὄχι ὁ γήινος ἀλλὰ ὁ ὑπερφυσικός, ὁ πνευματικός, ὁ ἄρτος με τὸν ὁποῖο κατὰ τὸν ἅγιο Γρηγόριο τὸν Θεολόγο «*τρέφονται ψυχαὶ Θεὸν πεινῶσαι*», ψυχὲς δηλαδὴ ποὺ πεινοῦν τὸ Θεό. Καὶ ὅπως ἡ μάνα παίρνει τὸ ψωμί, τὸ κόβει σὲ φέτες καὶ μικρὰ κομμάτια καὶ τὸ δίνει στὸ παιδί, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας, μάνα στοργικὴ, παίρνει τὸ πνευματικὸ ψωμί, τὸ ἱερὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, καὶ με τὴν ἐρμηνεία της τὸ κάνει λιανὰ κομματάκια.

Τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε δέκα στίχοι (βλ. Ματθ. 17,14-23). Ποιὸν ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς νὰ ἐρμηνεύσουμε; **Κάθε στίχος** μᾶς δίνει ἀφορμὴ γιὰ ἀνάπτυξι καὶ ἐνὸς σπουδαίου θέματος.

● Ἄν εἶχα μπροστά μου νέους καὶ νέες, θὰ ἔλεγα **στὰ νιάτα** τῆς ἐποχῆς μας· Παιδιά τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, τῆς ἐπιστήμης καὶ τῶν πυραύλων, παιδιά ποὺ τρέχετε σὰν ἄλογα ἀχαλίνωτα καὶ πληγώνεστε πάνω στὰ βράχια τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τοῦ κακοῦ, **ρίξτε ἓνα βλέμμα** στὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο· εἶνε –τί νομίζετε– ἡ

φωτογραφία τῆς σύγχρονης νεολαίας. Γιατὶ μιλάει γιὰ ἓνα νέο ποὺ σεληνιαζόταν, ἀφρίζε κ' ἐπεφτε πότε στὸ νερὸ καὶ πότε στὴ φωτιά (βλ. ἔλ. 17,15). Ἔτσι εἶνε καὶ οἱ νέοι τῆς ἐποχῆς μας, δαιμονιζόμενοι, ὅπως θὰ ἔλεγε κάποιος σπουδαῖος Ῥώσος συγγραφέας.

● Ἄν εἶχα μπροστά μου **γονεῖς**, δυστυχισμένους γονεῖς τῆς ἐποχῆς μας, με παιδιά ἀνυπότακτα ποὺ δὲν τοὺς ἀκοῦνε ἀλλὰ ποτίζουν κάθε μέρα τὴ μάνα καὶ τὸν πατέρα με φάρμακι, θὰ τοὺς ἔλεγα· **Φέρτε ἐγκαίρως τὰ παιδιά σας στὸ Χριστό** (βλ. ἔλ. 17,17)· εἶνε ὁ μόνος παιδαγωγός, ὁ μόνος διδάσκαλος καὶ ὁ μόνος Σωτήρας τῆς νεότητος.

● Ἄν εἶχα μπρός μου **ἀσκητὰς**, ποὺ ζοῦνε στὶς φωλιὲς τοῦ Ἁγίου Ὄρους καὶ στὰ ἄλλα ἱερὰ μοναστήρια, θὰ τοὺς ἔλεγα· Πατέρες τῆς ἐρήμου, καλόγεροι καὶ ἡγούμενοι, γιατί ἀφήσατε καὶ σκούριασαν τὰ δυὸ μεγάλα ὄπλα σας; Τὰ ὄπλα αὐτά, ποὺ ἔχετε ὄχι μόνο ἐσεῖς ἀλλὰ καὶ κάθε Χριστιανὸς κ' εἶνε τώρα σκουριασμένα, ἂν τὰ πάρετε πάλι στὰ χέρια σας καὶ τὰ σπιλώσετε, θὰ κάνετε θαύματα· τὸ ἓνα εἶνε ἡ προσευχὴ καὶ τ' ἄλλο ἡ νηστεία, κατὰ τὸ λόγο τοῦ Κυρίου «*Τοῦτο τὸ γένος οὐκ ἐκπορεύεται εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ*» (ἔλ. 17,21).

● Ἄν εἶχα ἐδῶ τοὺς **ἱερεῖς**, τοὺς **θεολόγους**, τοὺς **ἱεροκήρυκες**, τοὺς **ἐπισκόπους** τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, θὰ ἔλεγα· Ἀδελφοί μου, μέσα στὸ εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε ἡ φωτογραφία μου καὶ φωτογραφία μας. Τὸ κακὸ αὐξήθηκε στὴν ἐποχὴ μας· δὲν εἶνε πιά ρυάκι, ἐγίνε Δούναβις ποταμός· δὲν εἶνε πιά χαλικάκι, ἐγίνε βουνὸ πελώριο. Ἀλλὰ τί λέει ὁ Κύριος· Ἄν ἔχετε ἓνα κουκκί πιστι, θὰ πῆτε στὸ βουνό, Ξερριζώσου ἀπὸ ἴδω καὶ πηγαινε ἐκεῖ, καὶ θὰ πάη (βλ. ἔλ. 17,20)· θὰ τὸ ἀρπάξη τὸ χέρι τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ θὰ τὸ ρίξη μέσ' στὸ πέλαγος σὰν νὰ ἔνε χαλικάκι. Τί ἐνοεῖ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο λέγοντας ὅτι με τὴν πίστι

μπορεί να ξερριζώνουμε βουνά; Βουνά είναι οι **ἀμαρτίες**. Σήμερα πλέον δεν είναι χαλικάκια, μικρά ἀμαρτήματα, αλλά βουνά τεράστια: ἀποφυγή τῆς τεκνογονίας, ἐκτρώσεις, γυμνισμός, πλεονεξία, φιλαργυρία - τὰ τριάκοντα ἀργύρια τοῦ Ἰούδα, ἀπιστία, ἀθεία... Ὅλα αὐτὰ πιέζουν τὴν καρδιά. Ποιός μπορεῖ νὰ τὰ ξερριζώσει; Ἐμεῖς; Ἄν εἶχαμε τὴν πίστι τῶν ψαράδων τῆς Γαλιλαίας, τῶν ἁγίων ἀποστόλων, καὶ τῶν ἁγίων προπατόρων μας, θὰ κάναμε τὸ θαῦμα. Οἱ ἀπόστολοι ξερρίζωσαν τὸ βουνὸ τῆς εἰδωλολατρίας, καὶ οἱ ἅγιοι τῆς τουρκοκρατίας Κοσμᾶς ὁ Αἰτωλός, Νικόδημος ὁ Ἁγιορείτης, Ἀρσένιος ὁ ἐν Πάρῳ τίναξαν τὸ ζυγὸ τῆς σκλαβιάς, ποὺ σὰν βουνὸ πελώριο πίεζε τὶς καρδιές τῶν Ἑλλήνων πεντακόσα χρόνια· αὐτὸ φαινόταν ἀδύνατον, κι ὁμως μιὰ φούχτα φτωχοὶ κι ἀδύναμοι ἀγωνίστηκαν καὶ ἡ πατρίδα μας ἐλευθερώθηκε. Αὐτὸ λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα: **ὁποῖος ἔχει πίστι, ξερριζώνει βουνά.**

• Ἄν τέλος εἶχα μπροστά μου ὄχι ἀνθρώπους τῆς ἐπαρχίας καὶ τῆς ὑπαίθρου, ἀλλὰ τῆς Ἀθήνας καὶ τῶν **μεγαλουπόλεων** ποὺ κατήντησαν Σόδομα καὶ Γόμορρα, θὰ ἔπαιρνα ἄλλο ῥητὸ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ θὰ ἔλεγα: **«Ὁ γενεὰ ἄπιστος καὶ δειστροαμμένη! ἕως πότε ἔσομαι μεθ' ὑμῶν; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν;»** [ἐξ 17,17].

Ἄλλα τώρα ἔχω μπροστά μου ἐσᾶς, ποὺ με γνωρίζετε καλά· καί, μολονότι πρέπει νὰ μιλήσω, ἐγὼ αἰσθάνομαι δυσκολία· νιώθω πὼς τώρα **πρέπει νὰ σιωπήσω**, δὲν πρέπει νὰ κηρύξω. Γιατί; Για δύο λόγους.

✓ Ἄν διαβάζετε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, θὰ εἶδατε ὅτι μιὰ φορὰ ὁ Χριστὸς πῆγε στὸ χωριὸ του, στὴ Ναζαρέτ. Μαζεύτηκαν οἱ συγχωριανοὶ καὶ μεταξύ τους ἔλεγαν: «Ἦρθε ὁ γιὸς τοῦ μαραγκοῦ, ποὺ σὰν παιδιὰ παίζαμε ἐδῶ μαζί· πάμε νὰ δοῦμε τί θὰ πῆ... Καὶ τὸν ἄκουσαν. Ἄλλὰ τὸν πίστεψαν; Δὲν τὸν πίστεψαν. Ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς τοὺς εἶπε μερικὲς πικρὲς ἀλήθειες, ὅταν ἄνοιξε τὴν ἁγία Γραφή καὶ τοὺς ὑπέδειξε τὰ καθήκοντά τους, ὅλοι ἐκεῖ, μικροὶ - μεγάλοι, -ἀπίστευτο- πήραν λιθάρια νὰ τὸν λιθοβολήσουν! Καὶ τότε ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε τὸ λόγο ἐκεῖνο, ὅτι **«Οὐδεὶς προφήτης δεκτὸς εἰς τὴν πατρίδα αὐτοῦ»** [βλ. Ιωκ. 42]. Καὶ ἂν τὸ εἶπε αὐτὸ ὁ Χριστὸς, πὼς εἶνε δυνατόν ἐγὼ ν' ἀποτελέσω ἐξαιρέσι τοῦ κανόνος; Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ ἕνας λόγος γιὰ τὸν ὁποῖο θέλω νὰ σιωπήσω.

✓ Ὁ δεῦτερος λόγος εἶνε, ὅτι **με κατέχει βαθεῖα συγκίνηση**. Ἀναπολῶ ἀνθρώπους ποὺ γνώρισα καὶ τώρα ἔχουν ἀναχωρήσει γιὰ τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, καὶ μιὰ μελαγχολία καταλαμβάνει

τὴν ψυχὴ μου. Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ παλαιοί; Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ πατεράδες καὶ οἱ παπποῦδες μας; (ὁ μακαρίτης ὁ πατέρας μου δὲν με λυπόταν - πατεράδες ποὺ χαϊδεύουν τὰ παιδιὰ τους δὲν κάνουν καλά· ἀγαποῦσε, ἀλλ' ὅταν ἔκανα καμμιά ἀταξία, ἦταν φόβος καὶ τρόμος). Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ εὐλαβεῖς ἱερεῖς, ποὺ μᾶς ἀγίαζαν; Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ καλοὶ ἐπίτροποι, ποὺ «πολλὰ ἐκοπίασαν» [πρβλ. Ρωμ. 16,12] ὑπηρετώντας χρόνια τοὺς ναοὺς μας ἀνιδιοτελῶς; Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ ψαλτάδες, ποὺ μόλις χτυποῦσε ἡ καμπάνα ἔρχονταν νὰ ποῦν τὸν Ἐξάψαλο με κατάνυξι κι ἀνέβαιναν στὸ στασιδί νὰ ψάλουν με ἱεροπρέπεια; Ποῦ εἶνε οἱ δασκάλοι μας; Ποῦ εἶνε ὅλοι αὐτοί; Δὲν βρίσκονται πλέον μεταξύ μας. Ζοῦμε με τὶς ἱερὲς ἀναμνήσεις τους καὶ γονατίζουμε μπροστὰ στοὺς τάφους τους. Γι' αὐτὸ ἀπὸ τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο παίρνω ἕνα μόνο λόγο, τὸ **«Κύριε ἐλέησον»**, τὸ **«Κύριε ἐλέησον»!** [Ματθ. 17,19].

Ἐλεος, Κύριε! Ζητῶ τὸ ἐλεός σου γιὰ ὅλους, ζώντας καὶ νεκροὺς, γιὰτὶ ὅλοι ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Εἶσαι **νέος**: φύλαξε τὴ σημερινὴ φωτογραφία σου, γιὰτὶ θὰ περάσουν χρόνια καὶ θὰ γίνῃς ἀγνώριστος. Ποῦ τὸ κάλλος, ἡ ὁμορφιά, ἡ δύναμι; **Ἦς ἄνθος μαραίνεται καὶ ὡς ὄναρ παρέρχεται**· κάθε ἄνθρωπος [κατ. ἀπλ.]. Εἶσαι **πλούσιος**: **«Πλούσιοι ἐπτώχευσαν καὶ ἐπέινασαν...»** [Ματθ. 23,11]. Τροχὸς εἶνε ἡ ζωὴ. Αὐτὸς ποὺ σήμερα εἶνε ζητιάνος αὔριο μπορεῖ νὰ 'νε βιομήχανος, κι ὁ ἄλλος ποὺ σήμερα εἶνε πλούσιος, αὔριο νὰ 'νε φτωχός. Εἶσαι **ὑγιής**; Περίμενε τὴν ἀσθένεια, καὶ μάλιστα -μὴ φοβᾶστε, μὴν τρέμετε- τὴν ἀσθένεια ποὺ εἶνε ἡ μάστιγα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος καὶ δὲν μπόρεσε ἀκόμη ἡ ἐπιστήμη νὰ τὴ νικήσῃ· ἐννοῶ τὸν καρκίνο. Εἶμαστε ἐδῶ πεντακόσοι ἄνθρωποι; Τὸ ἕνα πέμπτο [15] θὰ πεθάνουμε ἀπὸ τὴν ἀσθένεια αὐτὴ, ἐκτὸς ἐὰν δώσῃ ὁ Θεὸς καὶ βρεθῇ τὸ φάρμακο.

Δώσε τὸ ἐλεός σου, Θεέ μου, στοὺς λίγους γεωργούς μας, ποὺ εἶνε ἡ ρίζα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος· ἔλεος στοὺς λίγους βοσκούς, ποὺ πάνω στὶς ράχες λένε ἀκόμα τὰ τραγούδια σου· ἔλεος στὰ παιδιὰ μας, ποὺ κινδυνεύουν νὰ γίνουν Δανοὶ καὶ Σουηδοὶ· ἔλεος στοὺς γονεῖς, ποὺ μοχθοῦν γιὰ τὰ παιδιὰ τους· ἔλεος στοὺς δασκάλους, ἔλεος στοὺς ἱερεῖς, ἔλεος στοὺς ἀρχιερεῖς, ἔλεος σὲ ὅλους.

Ἐέχασα ἕναν! Ποιόν; Αὐτὸ ποὺ εἶμαστε ὅλοι. **Ἐλεος, Θεέ μου, γιὰ τοὺς ἀμαρτωλοὺς**. Καὶ ποιός δὲν εἶνε ἀμαρτωλός; Ὁ Θεὸς θὰ μᾶς δικάσῃ ὄχι γιὰτὶ ἀμαρτάνομε, ἀλλὰ γιὰτὶ δὲν μετανοοῦμε. Θεέ μου Θεέ μου, ποιός μετανοοεῖ!...

(†) **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

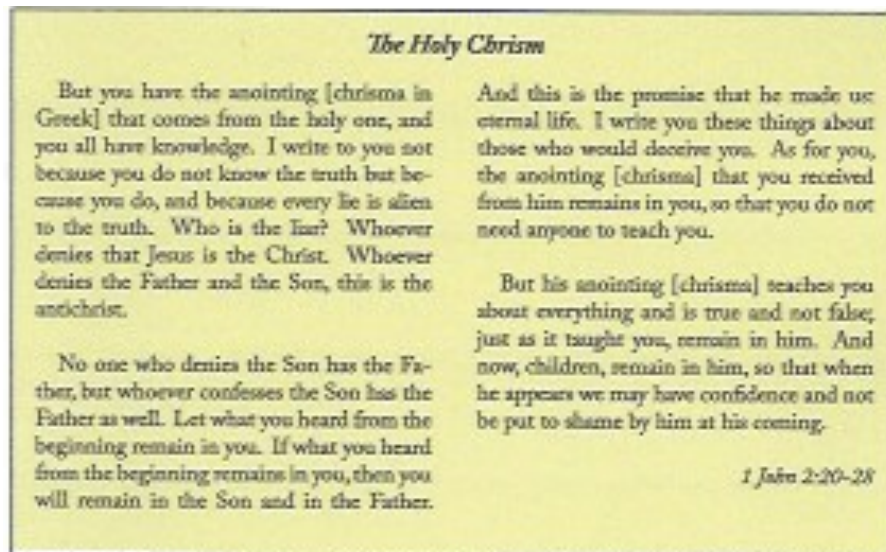
SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$150 PER YEAR

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



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