

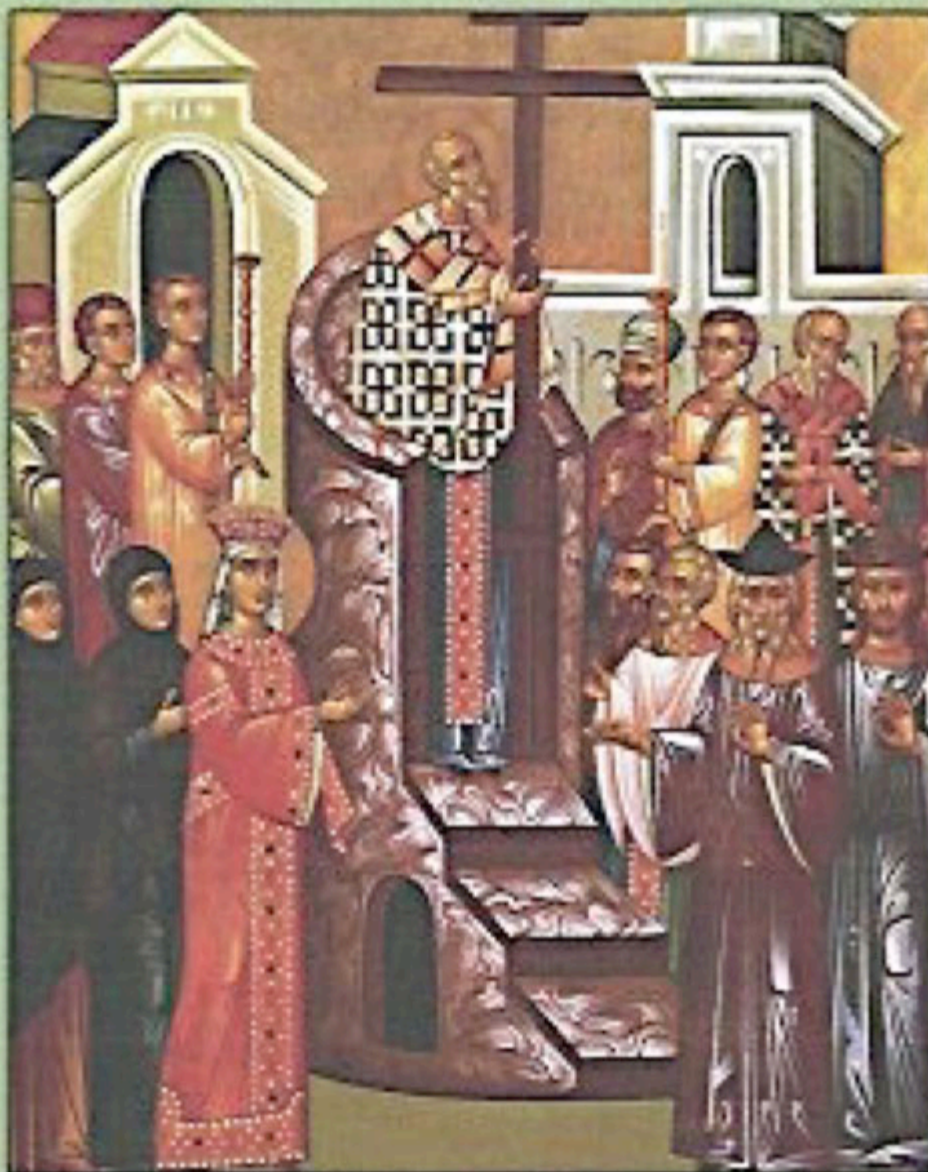


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 9th, 2018
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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Sunday before Holy Cross

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 6:11-18

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 Galatians 6:11-18

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Sunday before Holy Cross

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 6:11-18

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 Γαλάτας 6:11-18 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ. Ὅσοι θέλουσιν ἐν σαρκὶ ἐνταυτοῖς ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμνεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται. Οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτετμημένοι αὐτοὶ νόμον φυλάσσουσιν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν ὑμᾶς περιτέμνεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρᾳ σαρκὶ καυχῶνται. Ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· δι' οὗ ἔμοι κόσμος ἐσταύρωται, καγὼ τῷ κόσμῳ. Ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι ἰσχύει, οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ κτίσις. Καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ στοιχήσουσιν, εἰρήνην ἔπ' αὐτοὺς, καὶ ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ θεοῦ. Τοῦ λοιποῦ, κόπους μοι μηδεὶς παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου βαστάζω. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί. Ἀμήν.

Sunday before Holy Cross

The Gospel According to John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life." For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 3:13-17

Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἰπεν ὁ Κύριος· καὶ οὐδεὶς ἀναβέβηκεν εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν εἰ μὴ ὁ ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καταβάς, ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὁ ὢν ἐν τῷ οὐρανῷ. καὶ καθὼς Μωϋσῆς ὕψωσε τὸν ὄφιν ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, οὕτως ὑψωθῆναι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Οὕτω γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον. οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἵνα κρίνῃ τὸν κόσμον, ἀλλ' ἵνα σωθῇ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ.

AGAPE FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR is being served and hosted by the Parish Council.
DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:

TODAY: September 09th we welcome back our Three Hierarchs **SACRED CHOIR** which enhances all of our, divine rituals and services. Indeed, we did miss you all!

ARTOKLASIA today is being offered by Mrs. Georgia Bouzakis in grateful 'thanksgiving' to God on her Birthday #71! The Lord is indeed good and extends life and health to all.

GREEK SCHOOL COMMENCES: The new academic year 2018 – 2019 will begin with registrations on Wednesday, September 12th 3-4 P.M. and an **AGIASMOS** for the children and parents Greek language, Hellenic history, culture and Orthodox faith. Please see centerfold for more information.

UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN: All classes are in full operation. Do you know a 4 year old who could be registered **FREE** for the full year? Call the school office secretary (347) 729-0446 for the Principal Miss Polina.

VENERATION of the True Relic of the **CROSS** of **CHRIST** will be available during the **ORTHOS SERVICE** –9:30 – 10:30 A.M. **NEXT SUNDAY**. The reliquary which is perpetually on the high altar is authenticated with the wax seal and inscription of the Basilica of Saint Peter, Vatican City, **ROME**. What an excellent opportunity to have an intimate moment with Jesus.

HOLY CROSS FEAST approaches! The **VESPER** of the Elevation of the **TRUE CROSS** will be celebrated at our sister parish of Holy Cross on Ridge Boulevard, Brooklyn at 7:00 P.M. on Sept, 13th. **DIVINE LITURGY** will be celebration with the distribution of blessed basil 'BASILIKO' at **THREE HIERARCHS** the next day September 14th. Ypsomata for those presenting **ARTOKLASIES** will also be distributed to those celebrating their patron name day **STAVROS, STAVROULA, CHRONIA POLLA!**

BASILIKO, VASILIKO, BASIL or by whatever name you may call it, is graciously accepted at the **ELEVATED CROSS** on the **SOLEA** for the feast of Holy Cross. If you have such a plant potted it may be presented at the **CROSS** anytime for the sacred and high observance. Sprigs of the plants will be distributed to all the faithful on September 14th. at 11:00 A.M.

CROSSES of all sizes and shapes worn around the neck with chain, or on the wall of your home or office, or suspended from the rear view mirror of your automobile; **WILL BE BLESSED WITH HOLY WATER** and **SACRED OIL AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE Liturgy** on **SEPTEMBER 14TH**. Has your cross been appropriately blessed? **DO YOU EVEN WEAR A CROSS?** Why not? It's your privilege as a baptized Orthodox Christian to witness the faith. **WEAR IT!** Inevitable we will all wear a cross on our "tombstone"..... so, why wait?

The Orthodox Christian Church Calendar cites countless thousands of martyrs, saints patrons and doctors of the faith each day of the year. Usually the most famous and prime holy personages are recorded by name on each date. There are also events, feasts, and sacred observances that are listed on particular dates. Most of the dates and observances are **FIXED** and un-movable. However, there are specific dates such as **Lent, PASCHA (Easter)** and subsequent holy days that are **MOVEABLE** from year to year depending upon the calculations of the moon and seasons. Are you aware of **YOUR** patronal feast day (**NAME-DAY**). It maybe a fixed or a moveable date..... check with the clergy for affirmation.

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 TODAY: + **ATHANASIOS VAZINTARIS**
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + **SPYRIDON GALIATSATOS**



St. George the Martyr

The New Martyr George was one of the last victims of the forced recruitment of Christian boys by the Ottomans (they were known as Janissaries). This happened when he was 12 years old. Nevertheless he was able to preserve his Christian faith untainted, a faith for which he was martyred despite the Turkish environs of Ioannina considering him to be a Turk.

The New Martyr George, who was modest in his ways, always wore the traditional long foustanela of his village and an embroidered waistcoat, with which he is depicted in icons.

In October 1836, he decided to get engaged and then marry on the feast of St. Demetrios a Christian girl from Ioannina, Eleni.





They had a son together who was baptized in keeping with Christian religion.

All this of course, provoked his persecution and eventually his death by martyrdom. Despite being tortured by the Turks to make him deny his Christian faith, the Saint confessed with courage, “ I was never a Turk, I was always a Christian.”

When his Turkish tormentors asked him “What are you?” before pulling up the gallows, George asked that his hands be untied. He made the sign of the cross and said, “ I am a Christian and I shall die a Christian. I bow before my Christ and my Lady Theotokos.” Then, turning to the Christians who stood there he said, “ Forgive me brethren, and God will forgive you.” “





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Ἐγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνὴν ὅπως μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (ἁ. 1,30)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΓ'
Φθώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 691*

Κυριακὴ πρὸ τῆς Ὑψώσεως (ἁ. 3,13-17)
9 Σεπτεμβρίου 2018 (1899)

Συντάκτης (F) ἐπίσκοπος
Αἰγυψίου Ν. Κωνσταντῆς

Ἀπέθανε γιὰ μᾶς!

«Οὕτω γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον» (ἁ. 3,16)

Ψάχνοντας, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὸ μάταιο αὐτὸ κόσμον βρῆκα ἕνα μυστικὸ βουνό, καὶ σὰς προσκαλῶ ὅλους, νὰ ῥθῆτε σ' αὐτὸ μὲ τὰ τσαπιά καὶ τίς ἀξίνες σας νὰ σκάψετε. Σὰς ὑπόσχομαι, ὅτι θὰ βρῆτε θησαυρὸ μεγάλο.

Παιὸς εἶνε αὐτός ὁ θησαυρός; Ποιὸς εἶνε τὸ μυστικὸ βουνό, μὲ τὰ κοπάσματα χρυσοῦ;

Εἶνε ἕνα μικρὸ βιβλίον. Εἶνε ἡ ἁγία Γραφή. Αὐτὸ τὸ βιβλίον εἶνε γεμάτο χρυσάφι. Ἀπ' αὐτὸ θὰ πάρω γιὰ νὰ σὰς δώσω ἕνα χρυσὸ νόμισμα. Ἐγὼ ὁ φτωχὸς θὰ σὰς δώσω ἕνα πεντάλιον. Ἄν τὸ κρατήσετε στὰ χέρια σας, ἂν τὸ βάλετε στὰ σπίτια σας, ἂν τὸ θέσετε σὲ κίνησι, ἂν τὸ ἐξαργυρώσετε, ἂν δηλαδὴ τὸ ἐφαρμόσετε, σὰς λέγω, ὅτι καὶ ὁ πῶς φτωχὸς θὰ γίνῃ πλούσιος.

—Μὰ παιὶ εἶνε αὐτὸ τὸ πεντάλιον;

Εἶνε τὰ λῆγια αὐτά, ποὺ ἀκούσαμε σήμερον. «Οὕτω γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον» (ἁ. 3,16).

Αὐτὸ τὸ ῥητό, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ὡκεανὸς ἀπὸ θεῖα καὶ οὐράνια νοήματα. Θὰ σὰς παρακαλέσω νὰ κάνετε λίγη ὑπομονή γιὰ νὰ ἀκούσετε μία ἀνάλυσί του.

Τὸ ἐπαναλαμβάνω. «Οὕτω γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον».

«ἠγάπησε», λέει. Ποιὸς «ἠγάπησε»; «Ὁ Θεὸς ἠγάπησε». Παιὸν ἠγάπησε; «Τὸν κόσμον».

Ἐχομε ἀποδείξεις πολλές, ποὺ δείχνουν, ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς ὄχι μόνον δημιούργησε τὸ σῶμπαν ἀλλὰ καὶ ὅτι ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ ἐνδιαφέρεται γιὰ τὰ πλάσματά του, κατ' ἐξοχὴν δὲ γιὰ τὸ ὑπεροχώτερο πλάσμα του τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Ὅλη

ἡ φύσι γύρω μας, τὸ ὄξιγόνο, τὰ δέντρα, τὰ ποτάμια, οἱ θάλασσες, τὰ πουλιὰ τοῦ κελαῖ-δοῦν, τὰ ζῶα ποὺ μᾶς ὑπηρετοῦν, ὁ ἥλιος, τὸ φεγγάρι, τ' ἀστέρια, ὅλα δείχνουν τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Ἐφτείαξε ὁ Θεὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπο. Τοῦ ἔδω-σε μάτια νὰ βλέπῃ, πόδια νὰ περπατᾷ, χέρια νὰ ἐργάζεται, τὸ χερί τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἶνε τὸ τελειότερο ἐργαλεῖο καί, ἂν δὲν εἶχε χερί ὁ ἄνθρωπος, δὲν θὰ ἔκανε τίποτε. Τοῦ ἔδωκε αὐτιά γιὰ νὰ ἀκούῃ. Τοῦ ἔδωκε καρδιά γιὰ νὰ ἀγαπᾷ. Τοῦ ἔδωκε μιὰ συνείδησι μέσα του ποὺ τοῦ λέει ἅλτ! Τοῦ ἔδωκε φαντασίαν καὶ μνήμη. Τὸν ἔκανε «κατ' εἰκόνα» του καὶ «καθ' ὁμοίωσιν» (ἁ. 12). Τὸν ἔκανε ἕνα μικρὸ θεὸ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Τὸν ἔβαλε πάνω στὴ γῆ, ποὺ εἶνε ἕνας μικρὸς παράδεισος. Διότι τὰ ἄλλα ἀστέ-ρια, εἶνε σὰν τὸ ξερονήσια.

Ἄνθρωπε ἀχάριστε, γιατί δὲν γονατίζεις νὰ πῆς ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ στὸ Θεό; Ἐδὼ ἕνα σκύλο ἔχεις, τοῦ πετᾷς ἕνα κόκκαλο καί, ἐπειδὴ δὲν ἔχει γλώσσα νὰ σοῦ πῇ εὐχαριστῶ, σοῦ κουνάει τὴν οὐρά. Κ' εἰσύ, ἄνθρωπε, ποῦ ὁ Θεὸς ἀνοίγει τὸ χερί του καὶ σοῦ σκορπᾷ ὅλα τὰ ἀγαθὰ, δὲν λές ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ;...

Τώρα ὅμως, ἀδελφοί μου, θέλω νὰ ἐπιστή-σω τὴν προσοχή σας στὰ πὰ κρίσιμο σημεῖο.

Καὶ ἂν ἀκόμα ὑποθέσουμε ὅτι δὲν ἐτρεχαν ποτάμια, δὲν φύτρωναν δέντρα, δὲν κελαῖδού-ραν ἀηδόνια, δὲν ἐβοσκοῦν ἀρνάκια, δὲν φώτι-ζε ἥλιος, δὲν ἔλαμπε φεγγάρι, δὲν ἐβγαίνουν ἄ-στρα, ἔφτανε, ἀδελφοί μου, ἕνα καὶ μόνον γιὰ νὰ μᾶς κάνῃ νὰ γονατίσουμε καὶ νὰ ποῦμε: Χριστέ, σ' εὐχαριστοῦμε. Ποιὰ εἶν' αὐτά, ποῦ εἶνε ἀνώτερο ἀπὸ τὰ ποτάμια, ἀνώτερο ἀπὸ τὸ φεγγάρι καὶ τὸν ἥλιο, ἀνώτερο ἅπ' ὅλα; Ποιὰ εἶν' αὐτὸ, ποιὰ εἶνε ἡ μεγαλειώδης ἀπό-δειξις ὅτι «ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε ἀγάπη» (ἁ. 1,3);

Ἡ μεγαλύτερη απόδειξις εἶνε ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Κυρίου.

Θά 'θελα νά 'χα γλώσσα ἀγγέλου, γιὰ νὰ μπορέσω νὰ σὰς ἐξηγήσω, ὅτι ἡ **μεγαλύτερη εὐεργεσία** εἶνε ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἐνα μόνο παράδειγμα θὰ σὰς πῶ, γιὰ νὰ σὰς δώσω μιὰ ἀμυδρὰ ἰδέα τῆς μεγαλειώδους αὐτῆς ἀγάπης, τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Σὲ κάποια πόλι τῆς Ἑλλάδος, ἀπὸ **τὰ χρόνια τῆς κατοχῆς**, ὑπάρχει ἀκόμα ἕνας σταυρὸς, καὶ πάνω στὸ σταυρὸ εἶνε γραμμένο τὸ ὄνομα ἑνὸς νέου ποὺ σκοτώθηκε. Κι ἀπὸ κάτω εἶνε γραμμένες οἱ λέξεις «Ἀπέθανε δι' ἐμέ».

Τί συνέβη; Ἐπιασαν οἱ Γερμανοὶ μερικοὺς ἄντρες, τοὺς ξεχώρισαν, τοὺς ἐβγαλαν ἔξω, καὶ εἶπαν· **Αὐτοὶ θὰ ἐκτελεσθοῦν**. Τοὺς ἐβγάλαν στὴ σειρά καὶ τοὺς μέτρησαν. Ἐτοίμασαν τὰ ὄπλα τους, καὶ ὁ Γερμανὸς ἀξιωματικὸς, ἀδίστακτος, ἦταν ἑτοιμὸς νὰ διατάξῃ πῦρ.

Τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη ἐρχεται κάποιος τρέχοντας –ὑπάρχει **ἀγάπη** στὸν κόσμον, δὲν ὑπάρχει μόνο μῖσος· δὲν εἶνε παραμύθι αὐτὸ ποὺ σὰς λέω, εἶνε γεγονός·, πλησιάζει καὶ πέφτει στὰ πόδια τοῦ Γερμανοῦ ἀξιωματικοῦ λέγοντας·

–Σὲ παρακαλῶ. Τὸν βλέπεις ἐκεῖνον, ποὺ εἶνε ἐκεῖ στὴ γραμμὴ καὶ πάει γιὰ ἐκτέλεσι; Εἶνε προστάτης οἰκογενείας. Ἐχει μάνα, ἔχει γυναῖκα, ἔχει παιδιὰ. Ἐγὼ δὲν ἔχω κανένα στὸν κόσμον. Σὲ παρακαλῶ, διώξ' τον αὐτόν, καὶ **νὰ μὴ ἐγὼ στὴ θέσι του**. Νὰ σκοτωθῶ ἐγώ, γιὰ νὰ ζήσῃ αὐτός. Δὲν ἔχεις νὰ χάσῃς τίποτε. Δεκαπέντε σοὺ εἶπαν νὰ ἐκτελέσῃς, δεκαπέντε θὰ ἐκτελέσῃς. Βάλε με ἐμένα μέσα.

Ὁ Γερμανὸς συγκινήθηκε.

–Ἄντε, τοῦ λέει, πήγαινε μέσα.

Καὶ **διατάζει τὸν ἄλλο νὰ φύγῃ**.

Σὲ λίγο ἀκούστηκε ὁμοβροντία. **Σκοτώθηκε μεταξύ τῶν ἄλλων καὶ ὁ ἀθῶος**.

Ὁ ἄλλος, ποὺ γλύτωσε τὴ ζωὴ του χάρις στὴν αὐταπάρνησι καὶ αὐτοθυσίᾳ τοῦ φίλου του, πῆγε καὶ μάζεψε τὸ ἄψυχο κορμί του. Τὸ φιλοῦσε καὶ τὸ ἐβρεχε μὲ δάκρυα. Τὸ ἔθαψε στὸ νεκροταφεῖο, καὶ πάνω στὸ σταυρὸ ἔγραψε τὸ ὄνομά του, κι ἀπὸ κάτω τὰ λόγια· «Ἀπέθανε δι' ἐμέ», **πέθανε γιὰ μένα**.

Μὲ καταλάβατε; μὲ νιώσατε;

Θαυμάζετε καὶ συγκινεῖσθε γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ φίλου; Ἄχ, ἀδελφοί μου, **αὐτὸ ἀκριβῶς ἔκανε ὁ Χριστός**. Ἐμεῖς ὅλοι μας ἤμασθε ὀφειλόμενοι τῆς ζωῆς καὶ θανάτου. Δὲν θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ πάθῃ ὁ Χριστὸς αὐτὰ ποὺ ἔπαθε ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ, ὅχι. Ὅχι τὰ δικά του χέρια, ποὺ ἦταν ἀμόλυντα, ἀλλὰ τὰ δικά μας βρωμερὰ χέρια, ποὺ κάνουν τοῦ κόσμου τὶς ἀτιμίες, αὐτὰ ἔπρεπε

νὰ καρφωθοῦν ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ. Ὅχι τὰ δικά του ἀμόλυντα καὶ πανάχραντα πόδια, ἀλλὰ τὰ δικά μας πόδια, ποὺ τρέχουν ὅπου εἶνε τοῦ διαβόλου τὸ θέλημα, αὐτὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ καρφωθοῦν. Ἡ δική μας γλώσσα, ποὺ βγάζει βόρβορον καὶ λάσπη, ἔπρεπε νὰ ποτιστῇ μὲ δῆλος καὶ χολή, καὶ ὅχι ἡ γλώσσα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ποὺ εἶπε τὰ ὡραιότερα λόγια. Καὶ δὲν ἔπρεπε νὰ κεντηθῇ ἡ πλευρὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀλλὰ ἡ δική μας καρδιά. Καὶ τὸ ἀγκάθινο στεφάνι ὅχι στὸ κεφάλι τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἀλλὰ στὸ δικό μας κεφάλι ἔπρεπε νὰ τεθῇ.

Τὰ ἔπαθε ὁ Χριστὸς ὅλα αὐτὰ γιὰ μᾶς. Μπῆκε στὴ θέσι ὧν μας. **Ἐγίνε ὁ ἀντικαταστάτης μας**. Ἀπέθανε γιὰ μένα, ἀπέθανε γιὰ σένα, ἀπέθανε γιὰ τὸν κάθε ἁμαρτωλό. Γι' αὐτὸ λέω· Ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Κυρίου εἶνε ἡ μεγαλύτερη ἀπόδειξις τῆς ἀγάπης του. Γι' αὐτὸ λέει καὶ ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστός, ὅτι τόσο ἀγάπησε ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν μονογενῆ τοῦ υἱὸν τὸν παρέδωκε εἰς θάνατον σταυρικόν, **ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτόν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον**» (Ἰω. 3,16).

Ἀδελφοί μου! Ἄν ὑπάρχῃ σ' ἐσὰς ἕνα ἴχνος ἀγάπης στὸ Χριστό, ἐλάτε κοντά του. Ἄν ἔχετε πόδια, τὰ πόδια σας νὰ κάνουν φτερά· κι ἂν ἀκούτε τὴν καμπάνα νὰ χτυπᾷ, νὰ τρέχετε στὴν ἐκκλησίᾳ καὶ νὰ λέτε· **Σ' εὐχαριστοῦμε, Χριστέ**. Ἄν ἔχετε χέρι, νὰ ἐνώνετε τὰ τρία σας δάκτυλα, νὰ κάνετε κανονικὰ τὸ σταυρὸ, καὶ νὰ λέτε· Χριστέ μου, σ' εὐχαριστῶ. Ἄν ἔχετε μάτια, ἀτενίστε τὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο καὶ πέστε μουσικὰ· Χαῖρε, ὁ Βασιλεὺς ἡμῶν! Κι ἂν ἔχετε πνευματικὰ αὐτιά, ἐλάτε στὴν ἐκκλησίᾳ, γιὰ νὰ τὸν ἀκούσετε ποὺ λέει· **Ἀγαπᾶτε ἀλλήλους**» (Ἰω. 13,34). Κι ἂν ἔχετε μυαλό, τὸ μυαλό σας νὰ σκεφθῇ τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας. Κι ἂν ἔχετε καρδιά, πλησιάστε τον καὶ πέστε· Χριστέ μου, μιὰ καρδιά ἔχω, τὴν καρδιά αὐτὴ σοὺ τὴ δίνω· δική σου εἶνε, πᾶρ' την καὶ πλάσε την ὅπως θέλεις.

Καὶ τὸ τελευταῖο, ἀδελφοί μου. Ἄν ἔχετε ἁμαρτήματα –καὶ ποῖός δὲν ἔχει ἁμαρτήματα·, ἐλάτε, ἀδέρφια μου, **μὴν ἀπελπιστῇ κανεὶς**. Φέρτε τα ὅλα ἐδῶ μπροστὰ στὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο. Καὶ θὰ τὰ κάψῃ ὁ Χριστός, θὰ νικηθῇ ἡ ἁμαρτία στὸν κόσμον.

Ἐπαναλαμβάνω. Τὸ πεντόλιρο ποὺ σὰς δίνω εἶνε τοῦτο· **Οὕτω γὰρ ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων εἰς αὐτόν μὴ ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον**» (Ἰω. 3,16)· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

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

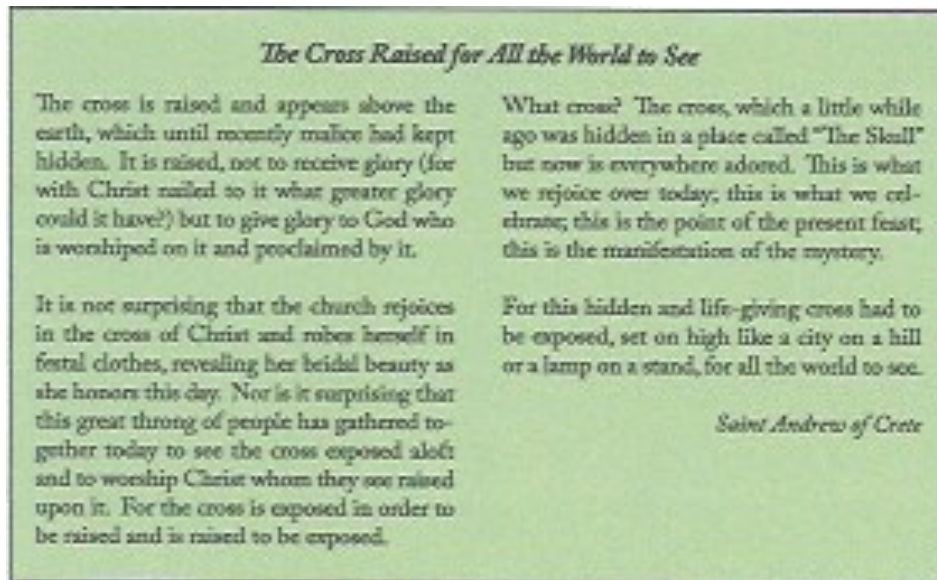
SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$150 PER YEAR

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



WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org