

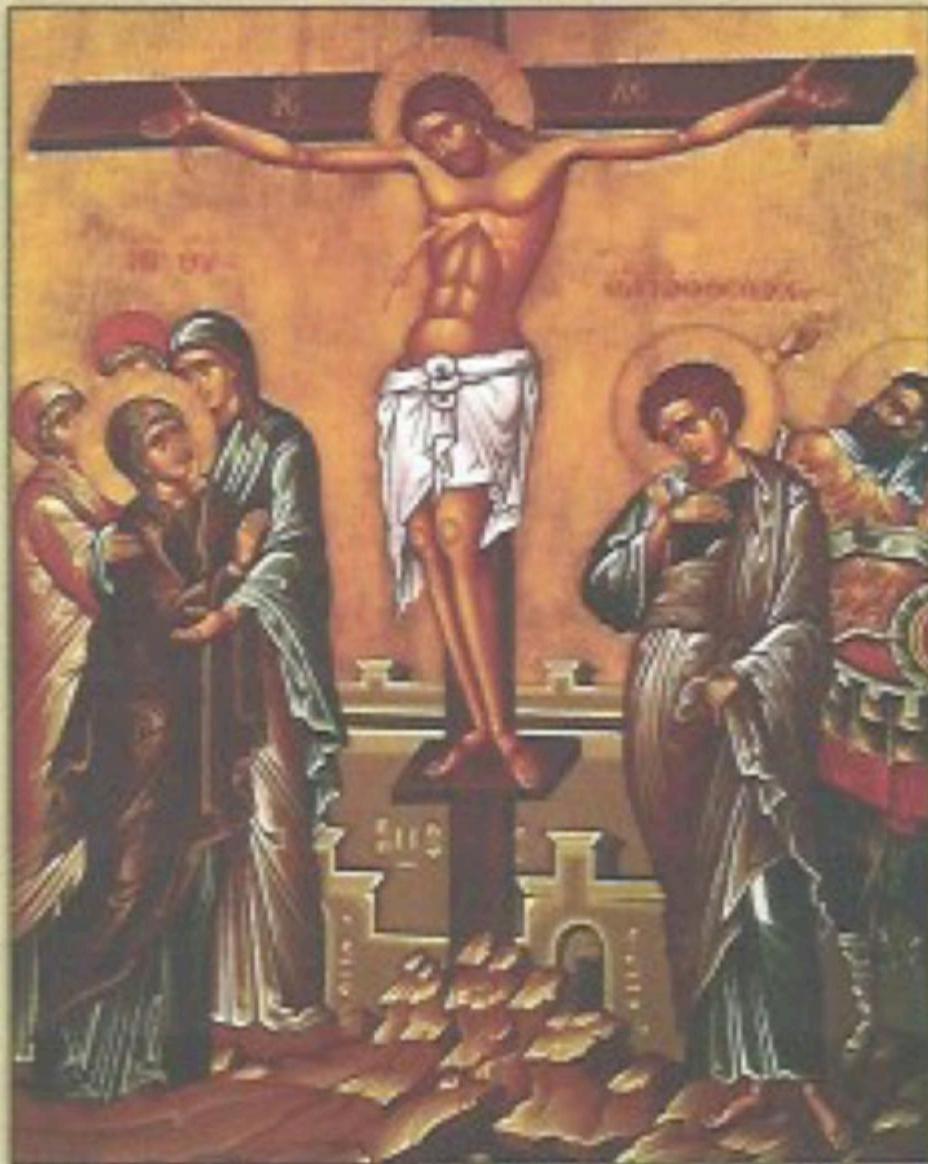


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 16th, 2018  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Crucifixion of Christ on the Cross*

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280  
Web site: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org) E-mail : [info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org](mailto:info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org)

Sunday after Holy Cross

St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

**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 Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Sunday after Holy Cross

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 2:16-20

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1**

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

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

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 2:16-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα εἶναι ἀπο

Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιούται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεύσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου· διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. Εἰ δέ, ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ, εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; Μὴ γένοιτο. Εἰ γὰρ ἂ κατέλυσα, ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἑμαυτὸν συνίστημι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δέ, οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ, τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

Sunday after Holy Cross

The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

he Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 8:34-38, 9:1 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλη τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῆ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνθῆ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

**DEVOTIONS THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday 19th,

**PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE**  
Anointing prayers and memorial  
tribute will be intoned.

6:30 P.M.

**AGAPE FELLOWSHIP COFFEE HOUR** is being served and hosted by the Parish Council.

**GREEK SCHOOL COMMENCED:** The new academic year 2018 – 2019 began 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. TODAY.** 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.

**PHILOTOCHOS SOCIETY:** opens the season with their monthly sessions beginning **MONDAY - September 24th, 7:00 P.M.** in **WHITEHALL.** Delicious refreshments are always served.

**GRACIOUSLY :** we offered an **ARTOKLASIA** in loving tribute to God on **HOLY CROSS FEAST** by Steve (STAVROS) **KRITSAS.** May the Lord continue to grace him with life and restored health. Ypsomata were offered to the loving family members.

**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 TODAY.** 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?

**UP-COMING EVENTS OF NOTE: MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

**Philoptochos BOARD:** Monday, September 17th  
**Greek Classes Commence** September 17th,  
**A. H. E. P. A. Chapter #200 – Coney Island** will host a Breakfast in **WHITEHALL** to benefit the victims of the **GREEK FIRES** last month. September 30th , Sunday  
**OCTOBER AGIASMOS:** Monday , October 1st 11:00 A.M.  
**Choir Honors Day- Saint Romanos o Melodos** Sunday , October 07th, **WHITEHALL**

**RADIO MINISTRY:** Each Saturday at 1:15PM Fr. Eugene hosts and produces the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN it's 20<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** The website address. **W.W.W.gaepis.org (Click live audio)**

**MEMORIAL TODAY:** + **SPYRIDON GALIATSATOS**

**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + **BALSANO GIAOURIS**  
+ **NICHLAS PENGOS**  
+ **STRATONIKI GEROULANOS**



**Greek Afternoon  
School  
Registration**

Children aged 5 through 13 years old may  
be inscribed for weekday Greek Language, History ,  
Religion and Culture lessons from  
Monday through Thursdays 3:45 P.M to 5:30 P.M.



Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ  
Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω

**Registration Commences**

Wednesday September 12<sup>th</sup> – 3:00. - 4:00 P.M

Agiasmos 4:00 - 5:00 P.M.

Classes Begin Monday September 17<sup>th</sup> 3:45 P.M.

Books and Tuition: 1 child \$650 per year

2 children \$950 per year

For further details contact the church Office at 718 -339-0280



**Principal V. Rev. Fr. Eugene Pappas**





# SENIOR CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2018



Dear Senior Club Members,  
Greeting you all as we start another year of activities. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and happy summer time. Let's get ready to enjoy another year of fun filled activities, events, speakers, celebrations and as always good fellowship.

September 19th,



Our WELCOME BACK celebration will commence with a large cake graciously hosted and served by Kay Diamond and Helen Kokis. We thank both ladies as devoted participants for their outreach and generosity. BINGO as usual as we share the news of our summer experience.



September 26th,

A short business meeting will take place at the beginning to get our activities in order. BINGO, coffee and lots of sweets to follow.



October 3rd,



It's CHINESE AUCTION DAY! – Mary Ann Kolidas will provide 'chop-sticks' for everyone as Father Eugene will demonstrate the proper use and etiquette in using the instruments. It's lots of fun if you can handle them. Coffee, sweets of all kinds will be served. BINGO will be played if there is enough time.



October 10th

Bingo, coffee and sweets for all.



October 17th,



LUNCHEON is being hosted and served in loving memory of +FLORENCE GOLD MARINOS by her beloved son George and wife June. This would have been FLORENCE'S 'birthday'... In tribute to Florences' favorite dessert, Harriet Theodosakis is baking BAKLAVA! YES, B A K L A V A for everyone. B I N G O and coffee will follow for all.

October 24th,



The PRE-FEAST of SAINT DEMETRIOS will be observed in honor of those named Demetra and Demetrios. We will also observe the anniversary of 'OXI-DAY' – October 28th. Anyone offering sweets for the occasion is most welcomed but please call Eleutheria Theologis (718-444-7327) to confirm on the array of sweets. NO WASTE ON THE SWEETS.

October 31st,



THIS IS HAPPY HALLOWEEN OBSERVANCE. Masks and costumes would be fun to see and share. Let's enjoy the day with less 'tricks' and more 'treats'- Bingo witches, pumpkins, candies, treats and NO TRICKS?



Anticipating seeing you all again after a long hot summer vacations.



Sincerely,  
Helen Pavlides





# 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 Γραμματεία τῆρὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [info@yghoo.gr](mailto:info@yghoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΕ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2121	Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὴν Ὑψώσιν (Μάρκ. 8,34 - 9,1) 16 Σεπτεμβρίου 2018	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Κέρδη καὶ ζημιές

«Τί ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ;» (Μάρκ. 8,36)

**Α**κούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Μιλᾷ σήμερα γιὰ ζημιές καὶ κέρδη. Μὰ ὄχι μόνο τὸ εὐαγγέλιο· καὶ ὁ κόσμος κάθε μέρα δὲν μιλάει γιὰ ζημιές καὶ γιὰ κέρδη; Ὑπάρχει ὅμως **διαφορὰ**· ἄλλο ἐννοεῖ ὁ κόσμος ὅταν λέη ζημιές ἢ κέρδη, καὶ ἄλλο ἐννοεῖ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ἄς δοῦμε λοιπὸν τί εἶδους ζημιές καὶ κέρδη εἶνε αὐτὰ πού λέει ὁ **κόσμος**, καὶ τί εἶδους εἶνε αὐτὰ πού λέει σήμερα ὁ **Χριστός**.

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—**Ζημιώθηκα, κᾶκα!** ἀκοῦμε συχνά. Ὅχι ἀπλῶς «ζημιώθηκα», ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ τὸ ἐκφράσῃ πρὸ ζωηρὰ σοῦ λέει «κᾶκα»· καὶ σκοτεινιάζει ἢ ὄψι του, δὲν ἔχει ὄρεξι νὰ μιλήσῃ.

√ «Ζημιώθηκα, κᾶκα!». Ποιὸς τὸ λέει; Ὁ **ἔμπορος**, ὁ ἄνθρωπος τῆς ἀγορᾶς. Ἄνοιξε μαγαζὶ πιστεύοντας πὺς θὰ ἐλκύσῃ κόσμον· καὶ δὲν ἀρκέστηκε στὸ νόμιμο κέρδος μὲ ἓνα κύκλο πελατῶν ὥστε νὰ βγάξη τὸ ψωμί του, ἀλλὰ ἀπλώθηκε, γιὰ νὰ κερδίσῃ περισσότερα. Στὸ τέλος ὅμως ἔχασε ἑκατομμύρια, χρεωκόπησε, ἔφτασε σὲ μεγάλη ἀπελπισία καὶ τραβάει τὰ μαλλιά του. Νά ἓνας ζημιωμένος.

√ Ὑπάρχει κι ἄλλος. Εἶνε ἓνας τύπος ἥσυχος, ἄνθρωπος τοῦ γραφείου, δὲν θέλει τίς περιπέτειες πού ἔχει τὸ ἐμπόριο· θέλει κι αὐτὸς τὸ κέρδος, ἀλλὰ ὄχι μὲ ἀγωνίες καὶ καρδιοχτύπια. Ἐπιδίδεται λοιπὸν σὲ **αἱματηρὴ οἰκονομία** καὶ στηρίζει τὴν ἐλπίδα του στοὺς **τόκους** πού δίνει τὸ κράτος. Τρώει ψωμί καὶ κρεμμύδι ἀκόμη καὶ τὸ Πάσχα - δὲν σᾶς λέω ὑπερβολή (γιατὶ ὑπάρχει νηστεία τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ «νηστεία» τοῦ διαβόλου), δὲν κόβει εἰσιτήριο γιὰ λεωφορεῖο ἀλλὰ πάει μὲ τὰ πόδια, κι ἀφήνει τὴ γυναῖκα του μὲ ροῦχα σχισμένα καὶ τὸ παιδί του χωρὶς γιαιτρὸ καὶ φάρμακο. Δὲν δίνει «οὔτε στὸν ἄγγελό του νερό». Ἔτσι μαζεύει μαζεύει. Καὶ τί τὰ κάνει; τὰ καταθέτει στὴν τράπεζα, στὰ ταμειυτήρια, γιὰ νὰ πάρῃ τόκους. Ἔχει ἐμπιστο-

σύνη στὸ κράτος. Μὰ κάποτε τὸ κράτος χρεωκοπεῖ, κι αὐτὸς τὰ χάνει ὅλα (τὸ εἶδαν αὐτὸ οἱ παλαιότεροι· θυμᾶστε στὴν Κατοχή, πού ἦρθε ὁ νόμος τοῦ Σβώλου καὶ ἐκμηδένισε τίς καταθέσεις;). Κι αὐτὸς λοιπὸν τώρα τραβάει τὰ μαλλιά του καὶ λέει «Ζημιώθηκα!».

Θὰ μάκραινε ὁ λόγος ἂν θὰ λέγαμε ἄλλες παρόμοιες περιπτώσεις, πού εἶνε πλῆθος· ὅλοι μιλᾶνε γιὰ ζημιές, πού φέρνουν θλίψι. Ἀντιθέτως, **ὅταν κάποιος κερδίῃ, τότε λάμπει**, ἔχει «λαμπρή». Ὁ κερδοσκοπός, ἂν τὴ λαμπρὴ τοῦ συμβῇ ζημιὰ, ἔχει «Μεγάλη Παρασκευὴ»· καὶ ἂν τὴ Μεγάλη Παρασκευὴ τσεπώσῃ ἀργύρια τοῦ Ἰούδα, τότε ἔχει «Πάσχα»· ἔχει, βλέπετε, κι ὁ μαμωνᾶς πένθη, ὅπως ἔχει γιορτές καὶ πανηγύρια ὅταν κερδίῃ χρήματα. Θεωρεῖται ἀξιοζήλευτος ὁποῖος, ἐνῶ κατοικοῦσε σὲ μιὰ τρώγλη, τώρα ἀπέκτησε πολυκατοικία· καὶ, ἐνῶ κάποτε δὲν εἶχε οὔτε βάρκα, τώρα ἡ θάλασσα πῆχτωσε ἀπ' τὰ καράβια του. *Τυχερός, ἀξιος, ἔξυπνος, καπάτσος, ἀετονύχης...*· αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ λεξιλόγιο τοῦ κόσμου γιὰ κέρδη καὶ ζημιές.

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Ἦς ἐδῶ προσέχατε· θὰ συνεχίσετε ἄραγε καὶ παρακάτω; Γιὰ νὰ δοῦμε.

Φαίνεται ὅτι ὅλοι ἀγαποῦμε τὸ κέρδος· ἔχουμε χαρὰ γιὰ κάθε ἐπιτυχία στὰ ὕλικά, καὶ λύπη γιὰ κάθε ζημιὰ. Μιὰ λάμπα νὰ καῖ, ἓνα πιάτο νὰ σπάσῃ, παραφερόμεθα· ὑπάρχουν γονεῖς πού μπορεῖ νὰ τσακίσουν στὸ ξύλο τὸ παιδί τους γιατί ἔσπασε ἓνα ποτήρι. Τὴν ὕλικὴ ζημιὰ λοιπὸν τὴ νιώθουμε· ἀλλὰ πέρα ἀπ' αὐτὴν **δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλη ζημιὰ στὸν κόσμον**; τί καταλαβαίνετε, ὑπάρχει; κι ἂν ὑπάρχῃ, τὴ νιώθουμε;

—Μὰ ποιὰ εἶνε αὐτὴ ἡ ἄλλη ζημιὰ;

Δὲν εἶνε ὕλική, ἐμπορικὴ, οἰκονομικὴ· εἶνε **πνευματικὴ**, εἶνε ζημιὰ πού γίνεται **στὴν ψυχὴ**.

—Ζημιὰ ψυχῆς; ἀπορεῖ ὁ ἄλλος πού μοιάζει σὰν ὑπνωτισμένος. **Μὰ ὑπάρχει ψυχὴ**; λέει.

Έμένα ρωτῆς, ἀγαπητέ μου; Δὲν διαβάζεις; Δὲν θὰ σοῦ πῶ, ὅτι τὸ λέει ὁ Πλάτων, ὁ Ἄριστοτέλης ἢ ἄλλοι σοφοί: **τὸ εἶπε ὁ Χριστὸς**, κι αὐτὸ ἀρκεῖ. Τὰ λόγια του εἶνε χρυσάφι. Αὐτὸς μᾶς λέει, ὅτι **ἡ ψυχὴ εἶνε ἀθάνατη**. Καί, ὡς δημιουργὸς τῆς, εἶνε σὲ θεοὶ νὰ ἐκτιμῆσῃ τὴν ἀξία τῆς. Αὐτὸς λοιπὸν, ποῦ ἔφτειαξε τὸν ἄνθρωπο, ξέρει καὶ ἐκτιμᾷ τὴν ἀθάνατη ψυχὴ του, καὶ αὐτὸς μᾶς βεβαιώνει ὅτι **κινδυνεύει νὰ ζημιωθῇ**. Μιλάμε γιὰ **ζημιὰ τῆς ψυχῆς**. Ἄχ νὰ μπορούσα καὶ ὁ ἴδιος νὰ τῆ δῶ στὸ φῶς τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ κατόπιν νὰ τῆ δείξω καὶ σ' ἐσᾶς! Τὴν αἰσθάνεσθε; Θὰ φέρω 2 - 3 παραδείγματα.

● Ἔχει π.χ. κάποιος μιὰ ὑπόθεσι στὸ δικαστήριο. Ἐρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ τοῦ λέει: Δὲν εἶνε τίποτε ἂν ἀπλώσῃς τὸ χέρι πάνω στὸ **Εὐαγγέλιο** καὶ καταθέσῃς λίγο διαφορετικὰ τὰ πράγματα; θὰ σὲ συμβουλέψουν κ' οἱ δικηγόροι πῶς νὰ τὰ πῆς; μ' **ἓνα μικρὸ ψέμα** κέρδισες τὴν πολυκατοικία... Πάει αὐτός, καταθέτει, κερδίζει, καὶ μετὰ θριαμβολογεῖ «Κέρδισα τὴν ὑπόθεσι!». Ναί, Χριστιανέ μου, κέρδισες τὴ δίκη, μὰ ἔχασες τὴν ψυχὴ σου. Κι ἅμα χάσῃς τὴν ψυχὴ, τί νὰ τὰ κάνῃς ὅλα τὰ ὑλικά κέρδη; Κέρδησες τὰ χαλίκια κ' ἔχασες τὸ διαμάντι.

● Θέλετε ἄλλη περίπτωσι ζημιᾶς, πιὸ σοβαρῆ; Τὴ βλέπεις ἐκεῖνη τὴν κόρη; Εἶνε ἓνας ἄγγελος; φτωχαδάκι, δουλεύει στὸ ἐργοστάσι καὶ στὸ σπίτι μὲ τὴ βελόνα, ἀλλὰ στέκει ψηλά. Τὴ βλέπουν ὅλοι καὶ τὴν ἔχουν παραπάνω ἀπὸ μιὰ πριγκίπισσα καὶ μιὰ βασιλίτισσα; γιατί ἡ τιμὴ καὶ ἀξιοπρέπεια τῆς γυναίκας εἶνε οὐράνιο στέμμα. Τὴ φθόνησε ὁμοῦς ὁ διάβολος, βγήκε μπροστὰ τῆς –Θεὸς φυλάξοι!–, κι αὐτὴ δὲν πρόσεξε. Δὲν ἐννοῶ διάβολος μὲ κέρατα καὶ οὐρές, ἐννοῶ διάβολος κρυμμένος μέσα σὲ ἄνθρωπο. Δὲν ἦταν κανένας χωριάτης - τίμιο παιδί; ἦταν κάποιος εὐπαρουσίαστος καὶ περιποιημένος. Τῆς ἔδειξε συμπάθεια, τὴν πήρε μὲ τ' ἄμαξι του βόλτα, καὶ τῆς ὑποσχέθηκε πολλά. Ἔ, ἄκουσες τὸν διάβολο, κορίτσι μου, καὶ ὑποχώρησες στὰ κέφια του; **Κερδίζεις πλοῦτη, ἀλλὰ χάνεις τὴν τιμὴ σου**, χάνεις τὴν ψυχὴ σου.

● Καὶ μιὰ ἀκόμη περίπτωσι. Τὸν βλέπεις ἐκεῖνο τὸν Χριστιανό; Εἶνε φτωχός, ἀλλὰ στὴν ἐκκλησιὰ νιώθει ῥίγος, ἀνατριχίλα, γιατί πιστεύει στὸ Θεό, στὴν ἁγία Τριάδα; εἶνε **ὀρθόδοξος!** Μικρὸς πλοῦτος εἶν' αὐτό; Βλέποντας ὁμοῦς τὴν δυστυχία του τὸν πλησιάζει ὁ αἰρετικός, καὶ ὁ διάβολος –κρυμμένος πίσω ἀπ' τὸν αἰρετικό– τοῦ λέει: Σὲ ἀφῆσαν ὁ παπᾶς, ὁ δεσπότης, ἡ Ἐκκλησία, οἱ συγγενεῖς σου; Ἐλα σ' ἐμᾶς; κοντὰ μας θὰ ἔχῃς χρήματα, δέματα, κάθε ἐνίσχυσι καὶ ὑποστήριξι, ὑπὸ ἓναν ὄρο: **ν' ἀ-**

**φήσῃς τὴν Ὀρθόδοξη πίστι**. Ἔ λοιπὸν, ἂν γελαστή καὶ τὸ κάνῃ αὐτό, κέρδισε μὲν τὰ δολάρια, ἀλλὰ χάνει τὴν αἰώνιο σωτηρία του.

\* \* \*

Τί κάνουν, ἀγαπητοί μου, **οἱ ἄνθρωποι, τί διαλέγουν** ἐμπρὸς σ' αὐτὰ τὰ διλήμματα; Ἀπ' τὸ ἓνα μέρος ὁ διάβολος κρατᾷ ὅ,τι θέλεις (καὶ κορώνες, καὶ στέμματα, καὶ σπαθιά, καὶ δολάρια, καὶ μάρκα, καὶ ρούβλια, καὶ στολὲς καὶ φουστάνια..., ὅ,τι φανταστῆς), καὶ σοῦ λέει: –Τὰ βλέπεις; κάνε μιὰ τούμπα νὰ μὲ προσκυνήσῃς καὶ θὰ σ' τὰ δώσω. Ἀπ' τὸ ἄλλο μέρος εἶνε ὁ Θεάνθρωπος καὶ σοῦ προτείνει τὸ σταυρό του. Ὁ διάβολος λέει «Χριστέ, θὰ σὲ νικήσω», μὰ ὁ Χριστὸς μένει ἐκεῖ σταθερά. **Ἐσὺ ποῖόν θὰ διαλέξῃς;** Ἐδῶ εἶνε τὸ μυστήριο, ἐδῶ εἶνε ἡ κρίσις: «*αὕτη δὲ ἐστὶν ἡ κρίσις*» τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο [κ.3.3].

Εἶνε ἀλήθεια ὅτι ὑπάρχουν καὶ πάντα θὰ ὑπάρχουν ἄνθρωποι (ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, κορίτσια καὶ νέοι, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, φτωχοὶ καὶ πλούσιοι) ποῦ **προτιμοῦν νὰ χάσουν τὰ πάντα** παρὰ νὰ χάσουν τὴν ψυχὴ τους. Ἀλλὰ εἶνε ἀλήθεια, ὅτι ὑπάρχουν καὶ πολλοὶ ἄλλοι ποῦ, γιὰ ἓνα πῆχυ γῆς, γιὰ ἓνα κομμάτι οἰκόπεδο, γιὰ ἓνα γιαπί, **γιὰ κάτι ἐλάχιστο, πουλᾶνε τὴν ψυχὴ τους**. Μιὰ τραγικὴ ἀλήθεια εἶνε αὕτη, ἁδέρφια μου. Πῶς νὰ σᾶς τὴν παρουσιάσω;

Διάβαζα στὶς ἐφημερίδες, ὅτι στὴ Θεσσαλονίκη ἓνας φτωχὸς ἀγόρασε λαχεῖο καὶ σημεῖωσε τὸ νοῦμερό του. Τὸ βράδυ κάποιος φίλος τοῦ λέει: Δὲν πᾶμε ἐδῶ ποῦ μαζεύονται ὅλοι καὶ παίζουν χαρτιά; ποῦ ξέρεις, μπορεῖ νὰ κερδίσῃς... Δέχτηκε αὐτὸς καὶ πῆγαν στὸ χαρτοπαίγνιο. Μπήκαν, κάθησαν ἐκεῖ κ' ἔπαιξαν ὅλη νύχτα. Ὅ,τι εἶχε ὁ φτωχὸς τό ἔχασε, δὲν τοῦ ἔμεινε δραχμὴ. Τέλος σκέφτηκε: Ἔχω ἓνα λαχεῖο, τὸ παίζω κι αὐτό. **Χάνει ὁμοῦς καὶ τὸ λαχεῖο**, τοῦ τὸ πήρε ὁ ἄλλος. Τὴν ἄλλη μέρα ἀνοίγει ἐφημερίδα, κοιτάζει τοὺς ἀριθμοὺς καὶ τί νὰ δῆ; αὐτὸ τὸ λαχεῖο κέρδισε τὸν πρῶτο λαχνό, δυόμισι ἑκατομμύρια! Τοῦ ἔρθε ζαλάδα. Ζήτησε ἀπ' τὸν ἄλλο νὰ τοῦ τὸ ἐπιστρέψῃ, ἐκεῖνος ἀρνήθηκε κ' ἔπεσαν στὰ δικαστήρια....

Τί θέλω νὰ πῶ; Ἔτσι καὶ στὸν καθένα μας ὁ Θεὸς ἔχει δώσει ἓνα λαχεῖο (τὰ μάτια μας, τὰ αὐτιά, τὴν καρδιά, τὸ μυαλό, τὴν πατρίδα, τὴν θρησκεία, τὴν ἀθάνατη ψυχὴ μας). **Τὰ παίζουμε ὅλα**. Μὰ θὰ ἔρθῃ ὥρα ποῦ θὰ θρηνησοῦμε, γιατί δὲν σκεφτήκαμε τὸ «*τί ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ;*» [Ματθ. 16.26].

(†) **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.

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