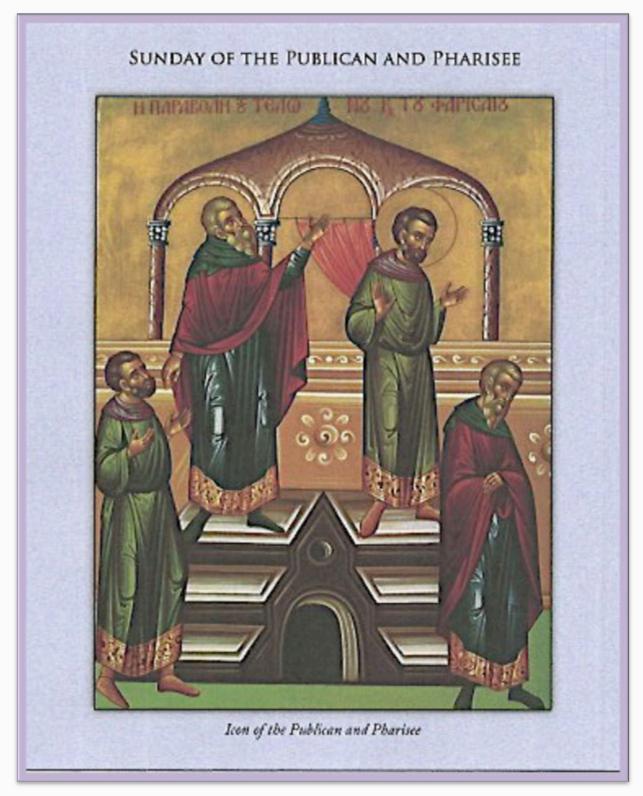


THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN February17th, 2019 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas



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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 Second Letter to Timothy 3:10-15

TIMOTHY, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. α'. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 11.7,1

Σὺ Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς. Στίχ. Σῶσον με, Κύριε, ὅτι ἐκλέλοιπεν ὅσιος.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 3:10-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῆ διδασκαλία, τῆ ἀγωγῆ, τῆ προθέσει, τῆ πίστει, τῆ μακροθυμία, τῆ ἀγάπη, τῆ ὑπομονῆ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς παθήμασιν, οἶά μοι ἐγένετο ἐν ἀντιοχεία, ἐν Ἰκονίω, ἐν Λύστροις, οἴους διωγμοὺς ὑπήνεγκα· καὶ ἐκ πάντων με ἐρρύσατο ὁ κύριος. Καὶ πάντες δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται. Πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον, πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ δὲ μένε ἐν οἶς ἕμαθες καὶ ἐπιστώθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερὰ γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσαι εἰς σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

The Gospel According to Luke 18:10-14

The Lord said this parable, "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:10-14 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τήν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἱερὸν προσεύξασθαι, ὁ εἶς Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἔτερος τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα προσηύχετο· ὁ Θεός, εὐχαριστῶ σοι ὅτι οὐκ εἰμὶ ὥσπερ οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἄρπαγες, ἄδικοι, μοιχοί, ἢ καὶ ὡς οὖτος ὁ τελώνης· νηστεύω δὶς τοῦ σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῶ πάντα ὅσα κτῶμαι. καὶ ὁ τελώνης μακρόθεν ἑστὼς οὐκ ἤθελεν οὐδὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν ἐπᾶραι, ἀλλὶ ἔτυπτεν εἰς τὸ στῆθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ Θεός, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἁμαρτωλῷ. λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη οὖτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος· ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψῶν ἑαυτὸν ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ταπεινῶν ἑαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται.

AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR: is being offered and served to all by the PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY in Whitehall after the Divine Liturgy.

SENIOR CLUB NEWS: Every Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 – 4:00 P.M. our members have a great time in White-Hall, eating, drinking, celebrating birthdays, name days, anniversaries and much more. Check out the calendar for FEBRUARY!!! (stretching exercises, Saint Valentine Party, Pizza Luncheon, President's Day Cherry Pie celebration and so much more than BINGO!

PRAYER and HEALING: service for Month of February – Wednesday the 20th, commencing at 6:30 P.M. Homily, Witnessing, Scripture study, Prayer and Anointing. A coffee and sweets reception always follows. Try it. You may like itOPEN TO ALL.

ICON DEDICATION: On Sunday, February 24th, and icon of Saint KYRIAKI is to be consecrated at the divine liturgy in procession and anointing. We invite all the faithful especially those named KYRIAKI and KYRIAKOS to be present among the first to kiss and venerate this Virgin Martyred young woman. The installation of the sacred icon will take place after the 40 day blessing. This treasured icon is being offered in blessed memory of +NICHOLAS HAMBAS by his spouse Katie (Kyriakoula) Hambas.

PSYCHOSABBATON: Enclosed with this Sunday Bulletin you will find a copy of the LISTING of NAMES of the faithfully departed for presentation at the SATURDAY of SOULS COMMEMORATIONS: March 02nd, March 09th and March 16th 9:00 – 10:30 A.M. Please submit the names you wish to be intoned at the HOLY ALTAR in loving remembrance at your earliest convenience. New lists are prepared for each Saturday observance.

HOLLYWOOD FILM EPIC: depicts an historic novel romance of the Greek War of Independence 1821. The titled film is CLIFFS of FREEDOM premiering in Los Angeles, New York and London in early MARCH 2019! The full length epic authenticated with names, places, events and costuming of the period will open at all AMC THEATERS. Directed by the notable VAN LING, the cast highlights Christopher Plummer, Billy Zane (Titanic) (Only You) Tania Raymonde and Jan Yuddin and so many others. Many organizations and fraternal groups are planning 'theater parties' to attend the cinema en masse. Cosmos P.M. interviewed the principle characters and Director Ling with Father Eugene on Saturday, February 09th. The program is now archived and available on the web-site. Check it out.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES hosted a successful luncheon last Sunday the 10th, for the benefit of SAINT BASIL ACADEMY. Their Basilopita was cut for all the faithful and their respective organizations. The Greek School was the favored piece with the 'coin' of blessing.

GREEK PARADE on FIFTH AVENUE: this year is scheduled for SUNDAY, APRIL 14th. Please circle your calendar from NOW...not to miss that memorable patriotic expression of our ethnic heritage. Buses will depart from the Church for the afternoon (1:30 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.) event. Seats are reserved by name. First come, first seated.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The NEW UPDATED STEWARDSHIP/MEMBERSHIP FEE is as follows:

HUSBAND and WIFE FAMILY is \$300 for the year SINGLE MEMBERSHIP is \$250 for the year \$200 for the year

SENIOR CITIZEN COUPLE is \$225..... please register

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)

YEONAS MEMORAL: + Thelma Yeonas beloved wife of Steven Yeonas former Executive Director of LEADERSHIP 100 of the Greek Orthodox Church is being commemorated TODAY at the very hour her 40 day memorial is intoned at the National Cathedral of Saint Sophia in Washington D.C. May her memory be eternal as we extend our solace to the family and kin. Blessed be the way in which she walks this day as the gates of heaven are opened to her.

MEMORIALS:

+THELMA YEONAS

90th ANNIVERSARY YEAR



The Patrons of our Parish
Saint John Chrysostom

1929 - 2019 EIS ANOTERA!



The Three Holy Mothers of the Three Hierarchs
Saint Emmeleia Saint Anthousa Saint Nonna





«Έγενόμην έν Πνεύματι έν τῆ Κυριακῆ ἡμέρφ καὶ ῆκουσα φωνὴν ὁπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Έκδίδεται ἀπό τήν Κοινοβιακή Γυνοικεία Τερά Μονή Άγίου Αύγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 -imaatlo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Έτος ΛΣΤ' Φλώρινα - αριθμ. φύλλου 2157 Κυρ. Τελώνου & Φαρισαίου (Λουκ. 18,10-14) 17 Φεβρουαρίου 2019

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

«Άναβαίνωμεν!»

«"Ανθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν είς τὸ ἰερὸν προσεύξασθαι» (Λουκ. 18.10)

Ηζωή αὐτή ποὺ ζοῦμε ἐδῶ, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ζυμωμένη μὲ δάκρυα. Κανείς ἐν τούτοις δὲν μπορεῖ ν' ἀρνηθῆ, ὅτι ἔχει καὶ ὧρες χαρᾶς, μὲ τὴ διαφορὰ ὅτι χαρὰ ἀπὸ χαρὰ διαφέρει. Χαρὰ τοῦ φιλαργύρου π.χ. εἶνε τὸ κέρδος, χαρὰ τοῦ φιλοδόξου τὰ ἀξιώματα, χαρὰ τοῦ σαρκολάτρου ἡ ἡδονή, χαρὰ τοῦ φιλάθλου ἡ νίκη τῆς ὁμάδος του, χαρὰ τῆς νέας οἱ ἀρραβῶνες καὶ ὁ γάμος της... 'θὰ ἐμάκραινε πολὺ ὁ λόγος ἄν ἤθελα νὰ σᾶς παρουσιάσω ὅλο τὸ δειγματολόγιο τῆς ἐγκοσμίου χαρᾶς.

"Αν όμως φύγουμε ἀπό τὸν κόσμο μὲ τὴ διαφθορά του καὶ πᾶμε ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἔζησαν καὶ ζοῦν ᾶγιοι ἄνθρωποι καὶ τοὺς ρωτήσουμε, ποιά εἴνε ἡ ὥρα ποὺ τοὺς δίνει χαρά, θὰ μᾶς ποῦν, ὅτι αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ ὥρα τῆς προσευχῆς, ὅταν γονατίζουν μπροστὰ στὸν Ἐσταυρωμένο καὶ λένε «Ὁ Θεός, ἱλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἀμαρτωλῷ»(Խм. [8.15].

Άκριβῶς τὴ χαρὰ αὐτή, ποὺ δοκιμάζει ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπικοινωνία μὲ τὸ Θεὸ καὶ τὴν προσευχή, μᾶς περιγράφει σήμερα τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Οἱ πρῶτες λέξεις του εἶνε «Ἄνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν...» ἔὰ ΙΙ,ΙΙΙ. Δὲν θὰ ἐξηγήσω ὅλο τὸ εὐαγγέλιο· θὰ ῥίξω ἔνα βλέμμα μόνο στὶς πρῶτες αὐτὲς λέξεις του καὶ θὰ ἐπιστήσω τὴν προσοχή σας ἰδίως στὴ λέξι «ἀνέβησαν». Ἐκ πρώτης ὅψεως φαίνεται νὰ μὴ ἔχῃ κάποια σημασία, ἀλλ' ἐὰν ἐμβαθύνουμε στὴν ἔννοιά της, θὰ συλλάβουμε τὸν πολύτιμο μαργαρίτη· ἔκτακτα νοήματα, ὑπέροχες σκέψεις, εὐγενῆ συναισθήματα, ποὺ περικλείει ἡ λέξις αὐτή.

Τί σημαίνει «ἀναβαίνω»; "Αν βρίσκεσαι στὸ ὑπόγειο μιᾶς πολυκατοικίας καὶ θέλης νὰ πặς στὸν τελευταῖο ὅροφο, χρησιμοποιεῖς τὴ σκάλα ἢ τώρα καλύτερα τὸ ἀσανσέρ· πατặς ἔνα κουμπὶ καὶ ἀνυψώνεσαι στὸν 7ο, τὸν 8ο, τὸν 10ο ὅροφο· ἤ, ἄν εἴσαι στὴ Νέα "Υόρκη, στὸν 100ὸ ὅροφο τοῦ οὐρανοξύστου.

Τί σημαίνει «ἀναβαίνω»; Κοιτάζω ψηλά, βλέ-

πω τὴ χιονισμένη τώρα κορυφὴ ένὸς βουνοῦ, π.χ. τοῦ 'Ολύμπου, καὶ ἕνας πόθος μὲ τραβάει νὰ βρεθῶ κ' ἐγὼ ἐκεῖ. Γίνομαι λοιπὸν ὀρειβάτης καὶ φτάνω σὲ ψηλὲς κορυφές.

Τί σημαίνει «ἀναβαίνω»; Βλέπω στὸν οὐρανὸ τὰ σύννεφα, βλέπω στὸ διάστημα τὴ σελήνη καὶ τὰ ἄστρα, καὶ μιὰ μυστηριώδης νοσταλγία μὲ ἐλκύει πρὸς τὰ ἐκεῖ. Γιατὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος
δὲν εἶνε πλασμένος γιὰ ἐδῶ κάτω στὴ γῆ· εἶνε
πλασμένος γιὰ τὰ οὐράνια. «Ἄνω σχῶμεν τὰς
καρδίας», ὅπως λέει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας στὴν θεία
λειτουργία. "Ετσι πολλοὶ γίνονται ἀεροπόροι
καὶ πετοῦν στὰ ΰψη μὲ ἀεροπλάνο, ἢ κάποιοι γίνονται ἀστροναῦτες καὶ ταξιδεύουν μὲ διαστημόπλοιο νὰ φτάσουν στὴ σελήνη καὶ πιὸ πέρα.

«Άναβαίνω» λοιπὸν ἢ στὸν τελευταῖο ὄροφο, ἢ σὲ μιὰ ψηλὴ κορυφή, ἢ στὸν οὐρανό, ἢ στὸ διάστημα. Παραπάνω; ὑπάρχει παραπάνω; ᾿Αχ, ἀδελφοί μου, πῶς ἡ ζωὴ αὐτὴ μᾶς ἔκοψε τὰ φτερά! Ἅν εἴχαμε ψυχὲς θερμές, ἄν ἀγαπούσαμε φλογερὰ τὸν Κύριο, θὰ βλέπαμε, ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος μπορεῖ ν' ἀνεβῇ ἀκόμη ψηλότερα, νὰ πλησιάσῃ τὸ θρόνο τοῦ Θεοῦ. «Οἱ τὰ χερουβὶμ μυστικῶς εἰκονίζοντες...» [ἐΙει.]! Τὴν ὥρα ποὺ προσευχόμαστε, ἀνεβαίνουμε. Καὶ τὸ ἱερὸ κείμενο λέει «Ἅνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν...». Ποῦ «ἀνέβησαν»; Πῆγαν, μὲ τὴν προσευχή, ν' ἀνεβοῦν στὸν οὐρανό. Ὁ ἔνας ὅμως ὰπ' αὐτοὺς γλίστρησε καὶ ἔπεσε στὸν ἄδη.

Οί ἀρχαῖοι, καὶ πρὸ Χριστοῦ ἥδη, ἔχτιζαν τοὺς ναούς των στὰ ψηλώματα. Καὶ οί Ἰσραηλῖτες ἔχτισαν γιὰ τὸν ἀληθινὸ Θεὸ τὸ ναὸ τοῦ
Σολομῶντος ἐπίσης σὲ ὕψωμα, στὸ ὅρος Σιών.
Γι' αὐτὸ ἐδῶ λέει, ὅτι οἱ δυὸ αὐτοὶ ἄνθρωποι
«ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἰερὸν προσεύξασθαι» (Ιωι.
18,10) · ξεκίνησαν ἀπὸ τὰ σπίτια τους χαμηλὰ καὶ
ἀνέβηκαν στὸ ναὸ ποὺ ἦταν ψηλά.

Ή πατρίδα μας, ή άρχαία Έλλάδα, ποὺ ἀνέκαθεν διακρινόταν γιὰ τὴ θρησκευτικότητά της, ἔχτισε τὸ ναὸ τοῦ Παρθενῶνος ἐπάνω στὴν Ά- κρόπολι. "Επειτα στὴν χριστιανικὴ 'Ελλάδα οἰ πρόγονοί μας ἔχτιζαν ἐκκλησίες, π.χ. τοῦ Προφήτου 'Ηλία, σὲ κορυφές. Καὶ οἰ Χριστιανοὶ ἀγωνισταὶ τοῦ Εἰκοσιένα ἔχτισαν στὸ Λυκαβηττό, στὴν κορυφὴ τοῦ λόφου, τὸ ναὸ τοῦ 'Αγίου Γεωργίου' γιατὶ μὲ τὴ βοήθεια τῶν ἀγίων ἐλευθέρωσαν τὴ γωνιὰ αὐτὴ ποὺ ζοῦμε τώρα.

"Η ώρα τῆς προσευχῆς εἶνε πάντοτε ώρα άναβάσεως, ἀνυψώσεως. 'Ακόμα καὶ ἄν ὁ ναὸς εἶνε χτισμένος ὅχι ψηλὰ ἀλλὰ χαμηλά, καὶ πάλι ἀρμόζει τὸ ῥῆμα «ἀναβαίνω». 'Άν μπῆς στὴν ἐκκλησιὰ μὲ πίστι, σὲ παίρνουν φτερὰ ἀγγέλων καὶ σὲ ὑψώνουν· φθάνεις σὲ ἔνα «ὕψος δυσανάβατον ἀνθρωπίνοις λογισμοῖς» (Ινώ). ἱμι. Κὰ).

Διαβάστε ἀκόμα σελίδες ἀπὸ τὴν ἰστορία τῆς πατρίδος μας, παλαιὰ καὶ νεώτερη, νὰ δῆτε τί θαύματα ἔκαναν οἱ Ἦληνες μὲ τὴ δύναμι τῆς προσευχῆς. Στὸν βίο π.χ. τῆς ἀγίας Φιλοθέης (١٩θερ) βλέπουμε τί κατώρθωσε μέσα στὴν Ἀθήνα μιὰ γυναίκα μὲ μεγάλα ἰδανικά, μὲ πίστι στὸ Θεὸ καὶ ἀγάπη στὴν πατρίδα πῶς συγκέντρωνε κοντά της τοὺς ἀδύναμους σὲ νυχτερινὲς δεήσεις. Θυμηθῆτε οἱ γεροντότεροι κι ὅταν μᾶς βομβάρδιζαν ἰταλικά, γερμανικὰ κ' ἐγγλέζικα ἀεροπλάνα, καὶ οἱ σειρῆνες σφύριζαν, πῶς ἔτρεχαν ὅλοι στὰ καταφύγια, καὶ ἐκεῖ κάτω ἄκουγες προσευχὲς μὲ δάκρυα «Παναγία, σῶσε μας», «Χριστέ, ἐλέησέ μας»...

Ναί, ἀδελφέ μου. Μπορεῖ νά 'σαι μέσ' στὴ φυλακὴ - στὸ μπουντρούμι, ἢ μέσα σὲ ὅρυγμα στὴν πρώτη γραμμή, ἢ μέσα σὲ ὑποβρύχιο κάτω ἀπ' τὴν ἐπιφάνεια τῆς θαλάσσης, ἢ νά 'σαι πάνω στὸ κρεβάτι τοῦ πόνου, ἢ νὰ σ' ἔχουν στὸ χειρουργεῖο, ἢ σ' ὁποιαδήποτε ἄλλη περίστασι παντοῦ μπορεῖς νὰ προσεύχεσαι. "Όταν προσευχηθῆς μὲ πόνο, τότε ἔρχονται ἄγγελοι, σφουγγίζουν τὰ δάκρυά σου, παίρνουν τὴν προσευχή σου, τὴν ἀνεβάζουν ψηλά, σ' ἀκούει ὁ Θεός!

Τέτοια προσευχή, ἀδελφοί μου, ἦταν κι αὐτὴ ποὺ ἔκανε ὁ τελώνης τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Μιὰ προσευχὴ ζυμωμένη μὲ πόνο καὶ προπαντὸς μὲ ταπείνωσι, ἔχει μεγάλη δύναμι. Διαφορετικὰ δὲν εἰσακούεται, ἀποδοκιμάζεται. ᾿Απόδειξις ὁ φαρισαῖος, σύμβολο καὶ ἐνσάρκωσις τοῦ ἑωσφορικοῦ πνεύματος. Πῆγε μπροστά, στάθηκε στὴ μέση σὰν κυπαρίσσι ἀλύγιστο, καὶ ἔλεγε· Μὲ βλέπεις, Θεέ; ὅλα τὰ κακὰ τὰ κάνη ὁ ἄλλος, ἐγὼ ὅλα τὰ καλά· νηστεύω, προσεύχομαι, ἐλεῶ· πλήρωσέ με λοιπόν... (Αὐτὸ τὸ ἐγὼ μᾶς ἔφαγε· αὐτὸ διέλυσε οἰκογένειες καὶ κοινωνίες, γιατὶ ὁ καθένας ἔχει τὴν ἀξίωσι οἱ ἄλλοι νὰ πέσουν νὰ τὸν προσκυνήσουν). Ὁ φαρισαῖος εἶχε τὴν ἀξίωσι νὰ τὸν πληρώσουν, ἀλλὰ ὁ Θεὸς τὸν ἀποδοκίμασε· ἡ προσευχή του δὲν πῆγε ἐπάνω, ἔπεσε κάτω στὴ γῆ.

Ή ἄλλη προσευχή, ένὸς ταπεινοῦ ποὺ διέπραξε πολλὲς ἀμαρτίες ἀλλὰ εἶχε συναίσθησι τῆς ἀμαρτωλότητός του καὶ βαθειὰ μετάνοια, ἀνέβηκε στὸν οὐρανὸ μὲ φτερὰ ἀγγέλου. Γιατὶ αὐτὸς μπῆκε στὸ ναὸ μὲ τὰ μάτια κάτω, μὲ βαθὺ αἴσθημα ταπεινοφροσύνης.

Πάρτε ὅλες τὶς δικές μας προσευχές, τὰ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» κλήρου καὶ λαοῦ, καὶ στύψτε τα 'δὲν θὰ φτειάξετε τὸ «'Ο Θεός, ἱλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἀμαρτωλῷ». Λίγες κουβέντες, λίγα λόγια. Αὐτὴ ἡ μικρὴ προσευχή, ζυμωμένη μὲ τὸ δάκρυ, τὸν πόνο καὶ τὴν ταπείνωσι, ἔγινε μιὰ σκάλα ποὺ ἔφτασε μέχρι τὸν οὐρανό.

Δὲν ὑπάρχει, ἀδελφοί μου, πιὸ μεγάλη δύναμι ἀπὸ τὴν καθαρὴ προσευχή. Προσεύχεσθε! Προσεύχεσθε ἀντρόγυνα γιὰ νά 'χετε όμόνοια, προσεύχεσθε γονεῖς γιὰ τὰ παιδιά σας, προσεύχεσθε μικροὶ - μεγάλοι γιὰ ὅλα.

Άπὸ σήμερα ἀνοίγει τὸ Τριώδιο, τὸ ἱερὸ βιβλίο. Ὁ κόσμος τὸ ὑποδέχεται μὲ ἀμαρτία, ἀσέβεια, ἀκολασία· ἡ Ἐκκλησία μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ τὸ δεχτοῦμε μὲ τὸ «"Ανω σχῶμεν τὰς καρδίας»· μὲ νηστεία, κατάνυξι, ἀνάτασι ψυχῆς. Διαρκεῖ 10 βδομάδες, 70 μέρες, 1680 ὧρες.

Σήμερα εἶνε ἡ πρώτη Κυριακή. Μπροστά μας εἶνε μιὰ σκάλα οὐρανοδρόμος, ἔνα πνευματικὸ ἀσανσέρ. Ἐμπρὸς ν' ἀνεβοῦμε πρὸς τὰ ῦψη! ν' ἀνεβοῦμε ὡς ἄνθρωποι, ὡς Ἑλληνες, ὡς Χριστιανοί. Νὰ ζήσουμε ἔστω λίγες ὡρες μὲ τὸ δάκρυ τοῦ σταυροῦ, τὴ μνήμη τῶν κεκοιμημένων μας, τὸν πόνο τῆς πατρίδος.

Τὸ Τριώδιο ἀνοίγει μὲ τὴν ταπεινή προσευχὴ τοῦ τελώνου. Θὰ κλείση τὸ Μέγα Σάββατο, ὅταν ὁ ἱερεὺς κρατώντας κάνιστρο μὲ δαφνόφυλλα θὰ τὰ σκορπάη λέγοντας: «Άνάστα, ὁ Θεός, κρῖνον τὴν γῆν...» Ψὰμ δίβ. "Ετσι νὰ φθάσουμε καὶ νὰ ἑορτάσουμε τὰ σεπτὰ πάθη καὶ τὴν ἔνδοξο ἀνάστασι τοῦ Κυρίου: ἀμήν.

(†) 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: \$300 PER YEAR SINGLE MEMBERSHIP: \$250 PER YEAR SENIOR CITIZEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$200 PER YEAR SENIOR CITIZEN HUSBAND & WIFE MEMBERSHIP: \$225 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 2019 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

Faults of the Pharisee

Many are the faults of the Pharisee. First of all, he is boastful, and without sense, for he praises himself, even though the Sacred Scriptures cry aloud, "Let a neighbor praise you, and not your own mouth: a stranger and not your own lips" (Prov. 27:2). ... Our virtue, therefore, must not be contaminated with fault, but must be single-minded and blameless and free from all that can being reproach. For what profit is there in fasting twice a week, if you so doing serve only as a pretext for ignorance and vanity, and if it makes you prideful, haughty and selfish? You tithe your possessions and make a boast of it; but in another way you provoke God's anger, by condemning men generally on this account and accusing others. And you yourself are puffed up, though not crowned by the divine decree for righteousness, but on the contrary, heap praises upon yourself. For I am not, he says, as the rest of mankind. Moderate yourself, O Pharisee: "Set a guard, O Lord, over your mouth, keep watch over the door of your lips" (Ps. 140:3).

You speak to God Who knows all things. Await the decree of the Judge. None of those skilled in the practice of wrestling ever crowns himself; nor does any man receive the crown of himself, but awaits the summons of the arbiter. Lower your pride, for arrogance is both accursed and hated by God. Although, therefore, you fast with puffed up mind, your so doing will not avail you; your labor will be unrewarded; for you have mingled dung with your perfume. Even according to the law of Moses a sacrifice that had a blemish was not capable of being offered to God; for it was said unto him, "Of sheep, and ox, that is offered for sacrifice, there must be no blemish therein" (Lev. 22:21). Since, therefore, your fasting is accompanied by pride, you must expect to hear God saying, this is not the fast that I have chosen (Cf Isa. 58:5) ... You offer tithes, but you wrong in another way Him Who is honored by you, in that you condemn men generally. This is an act foreign to the mind that fears St. Cyrll of Alexandria