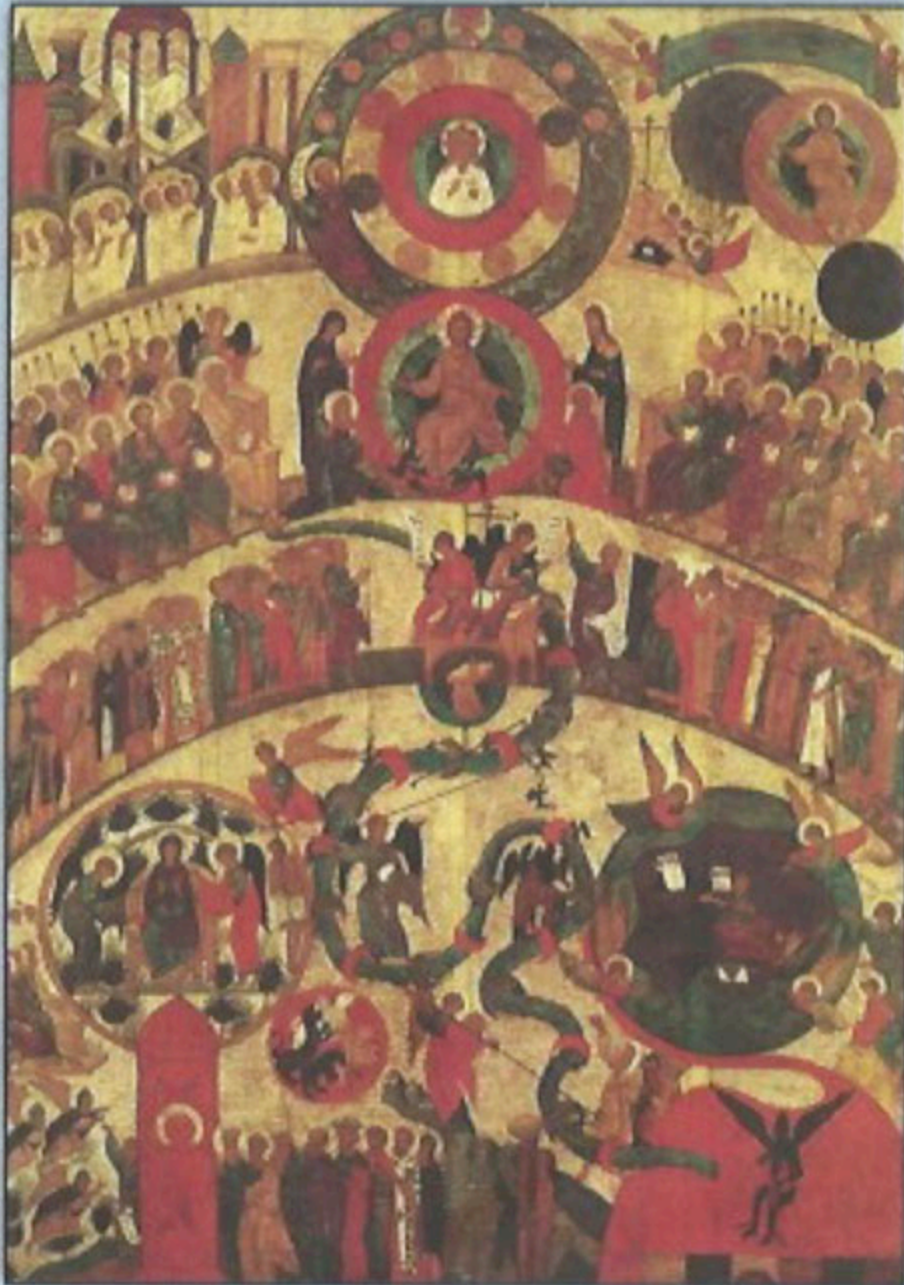




# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN March 3rd, 2019  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY OF MEATFARE JUDGMENT SUNDAY



*Icon of the Last Judgment*

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4.**

**Psalm 146.5;134.3**

Great is our Lord, and great is his power.

Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 8:8-13; 9:1-2

Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

**Προκείμενον. Ύχος δ'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 146.5;134.3**

Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχύς αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 8:8-13, 9:1-2 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐκ ἐπαίρει τὸν ἄνθρωπον εἰς τὸ θεῶν· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενούσιν. Ἐὰν γὰρ τις ἴδῃ σε τὸν ἔχοντα γνῶσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐκ ἢ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἰκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθута ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολείται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῆ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὕτως δὲ ἁμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενούσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἁμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐκ ἐφάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμι ἐλευθερός; Οὐκ ἔχω τὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν ἐώρακα; Οὐκ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμι· ἢ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

The Gospel According to Matthew 25:31-46

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 25:31-46 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναθροίσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὡς περὶ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ ἐυωνύμων. τότε ἐρεῖ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπεινάσα γὰρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐπότισάτέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιεβάλετέ με, ἠσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἦμην, καὶ ἤλθετε πρὸς με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἢ διψῶντα καὶ ἐπότισαμεν; πότε δὲ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἢ γυμνὸν καὶ περιεβάλομεν; πότε δὲ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν πρὸς σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐρεῖ αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. τότε ἐρεῖ καὶ τοῖς ἐξ ἐυωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπεινάσα γὰρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐπότισάτέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενῆ καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἢ διψῶντα ἢ ξένον ἢ γυμνὸν ἢ ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐποιήσαμεν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον οὐκ ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

**AGAPE COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR:** is being offered and served to all by the Parish Council in Whitehall. Everyone is most welcomed. Join us please.

**CONFIRMATION SERVICE TODAY:** We are pleased and honored to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church of Orthodoxy: **MISS ASHLEY VAN HOFF** as she is anointed into the faith by Holy Chrism with the saintly name "EIRINI" (Irene) . May the Lord of All Hosts bless her with faith, perseverance and humility. May the sponsoring 'GOD-MOTHER' be equally blessed with grace.

**CHOIR MEMBER** are to be feted to a sumptuous luncheon at **PERRY'S RESTAURANT** today after the Divine Liturgy. We are all most grateful for the music provided by our organist, **Maestra Katie Hambas** and the melodious tones that descend from the balcony during our sacred rituals. **DO – RE-MI – FA – SO- LA- TI- DO!**

**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.

**PRESIDENT of HELLENIC COLLEGE and HOLY CROSS SEMINARY** will visit our Parish on Sunday, March 17th. Rev. Fr. Christopher Metropoulos will address the faithful at the Divine Liturgy discussing the premier accredited Orthodox Christian college, graduate school of theology and seminary in the **UNITED STATES of AMERICA**. Truly this is an honor for our community and a learning lesson for all regarding the accomplishments in academia for the Greek Orthodox Church. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW.**

**FOLLOWING the HELLENIC COLLEGE /HOLY CROSS President's** delivery a **PASTA LUNCHEON** will be hosted and served in **ROSEHALL** by the 'Golden Greeks' **BOY SCOUT TROOP 531**. This annual fund raiser helps promote the moral and ethical study and exercise of our young lads. This is the **FIRST SUNDAY of LENT!** Come and share the Lenten table of delicious dining and gracious fellowship on the occasion of **Saint Patrick's Day (MARCH 17th.)** The sacred icon of this **ORTHODOX SAINT** will be venerated for all. Your **IRISH-AMERICAN** neighbors, friends, and kin must be invited.

**UP-COMING SACRED RITES:**

Saturday	March 09th	<b>SECOND PSYCHOSABBATON (All Souls DAY-LIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS at 2:00 A.M. ( the 10th )</b>	<b>9:00 to 11:00 A.M</b>	
Sunday	March 10th	<b>Cheesefare Sunday ( SAINT ANASTASIA</b>	<b>10:30</b>	<b>A.M.</b>
Monday	March 11th	<b>CLEAN MONDAY – LENT BEGINS! <u>AHEPA LENTEN DINNER ( Open to all free )</u> Whitehall – Lenten foods only!</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Wednesday	March 13th	<b>Pre-Sanctified Liturgy Saint Gregory Pope of Rome ( Ukrainian Evening Liturgy at 6:30 P.M.)</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>A.M.</b>
Friday	March 15th	<b>FIRST Salutations to the Virgin Mary</b>	<b>7:00</b>	<b>P.M.</b>
Saturday	March 16th	<b>THIRD and FINAL Psychosabbaton All Souls commemorations are intoned!</b>	<b>9:00 - 11:00</b>	<b>A.M.</b>
Sunday	March 17th	<b>Procession of the Holy Icons Liturgy Boy Scout Troop <u>LENTEN PASTA DINNER</u></b>	<b>10:30</b> <b>12:30</b>	<b>A.M.</b> <b>P.M.</b>

**INSERT** today reflects the 90th. Anniversary Gala Dinner – Dance that was a phenomenal success beyond all expectations. We owe so much thanks to all who supported the event, the journal, the honorees, the florists, the caterers, the committee members one and all, the orchestra, singers, and D.J. **WE THANK OUR STEWARDS.**

*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.*

**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)

**MEMORIALS on Sunday March 10th + THEODORE + GEORGIA VEROUTIS  
+ LINDA ( LYDIA) + STEPAN + MARIA LISHINSKAYA**



# DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE DEMETRA CHAPTER#33

## Sponsor BINGO NIGHT



MONDAY MARCH 4th , 2019  
7:00 P.M., WHITEHALL  
THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH  
1724 Avenue P  
Brooklyn, N.Y.  
718-627-0967

YOU ARE ALL INVITED !  
A NIGHT FULL OF FUN!  
PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT  
OUR EFFORTS.



Many Prizes and  
Refreshments

**DONATION**  
\$10.00 per card  
additional cards 1:00  
Each

**CASH PRIZES & GIFTS**

B I N G O



**Coney Island Chapter #200**

**A. H. E. P. A.**

**Hosts**

**SARAKOSTIANO GLENDI**

**MONDAY, MARCH 11th, 2019**

**KATHARI DEFTERA**

**Three Hierarchs Whitehall**

**7:30 - 11:00 PM**

**Dinner Menu:**

**Fasolada, Pasta with Seafood sauce,**

**Halvas,**

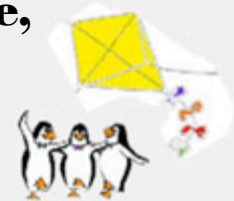
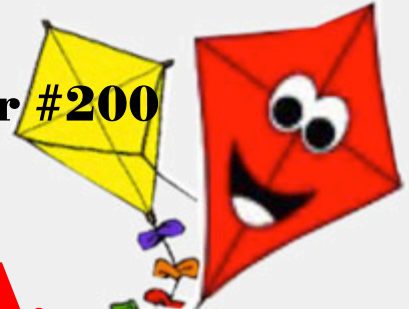
**Various salads,**

**Wine, soda & coffee**

**Live Music**

**Raffles & Prizes**

**FREE WILL ADMISSION**





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερά Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [imaaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imaaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΣΤ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2161

Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἀπόκρεω (Ματθ. 25,31-46)  
3 Μαρτίου 2019 πρωί

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ἔχουμε δίκη!

**Δ**ὲν χρειάζονται, ἀγαπητοί μου, κηρύγματα σήμερα· **χρειάζονται δάκρυα.** Τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Ματθ 25,31-46) εἶνε τὸ πιὸ φοβερὸ ὄλου τοῦ ἔτους· ἀστράφτει καὶ βροντᾷ! Ἐνας ἅγιος διδάσκαλος τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἀνέβηκε στὸν ἄμβωνα, ἄρχισε νὰ ὀμιλῇ γιὰ τὴ μέλλουσα Κρίσι, καὶ δὲν μπόρεσε νὰ συνεχίσῃ· τὰ μάτια βούρκωσαν, τὰ χεῖλη πάγωσαν, ἡ γλῶσσα τραύλιζε, οἱ λογισμοὶ του σταμάτησαν. Κ' ἐγώ, ἀδελφοί μου, δὲν ἔχω δύναμι γιὰ νὰ παρουσιάσω μπροστά σας τὴ φρικτὴ εἰκόνα τῆς **μελλούσης Κρίσεως.**

Ἐνα μόνο λέω, ὅτι τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα φωνάζει σὲ ὅλους μας· **Ἐτοιμασθῆτε γιατί ἔχουμε δίκη!** καὶ εὐτυχῆς μὲν ὅποιος κερδίσῃ τὴ δίκη· δυστυχῆς δέ, αἰωνίως, ὅποιος τὴ χάσῃ. Τί κάνει ὅποιος λάβῃ κλήσι γιὰ δικαστήριον, τί κάνει ὅταν ἔχη δίκη; Προετοιμάζεται προσπαθεῖ νὰ βρῇ μάρτυρες ὑπερασπίσεως καὶ δικηγόρον ἰκανό· ἕως ὅτου ἔρθῃ ἡ μέρα τῆς δίκης εἶνε ἐναγώνιος, κι ὅταν καθίσῃ στὸ ἐδώλιο πασχίζει ν' ἀπαλλαγῇ ἀπὸ τὴν κατηγορία.

Αὐτὰ γιὰ ὅποιαδήποτε δίκη, καὶ τὴν πιὸ μικρὴ. Ἐν τούτοις γιὰ τὴ δίκη αὐτὴ πού λέει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιον, μόνο γι' αὐτὴν, τὴν παγκόσμια Κρίσι, **ὁ κόσμος μένει ἀδιάφορος.** Γιατί ἄραγε; Τί εἶν' αὐτὰ πού λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον, παραμύθια; δὲν εἶνε κάτι πού θὰ συμβῇ; Πῶς μένουμε ἀδιάφοροι κ' οἱ καρδιὲς δὲν συγκινουῦνται; πῶς δὲν ἔχουμε φόβον, τὸν ἴδιον τοῦλάχιστον πού ἔχουμε σ' ἕνα ἐπίγειον δικαστήριον; Τί συμβαίνει;

Ἔχουμε συνηθίσει. Ἐρχόμαστε στὴν ἐκκλησία, ἀνάβουμε τὸ κερί μας, προσκυνοῦμε τὴν εἰκόνα, μὰ **δὲν σκεπτόμαστε τί μᾶς περιμένει.** Ζοῦμε, τρέχουμε, χωρὶς νὰ βλέπουμε τὸ τέρμα τῆς ὁδοῦ. Ξέρετε πῶς μοιάζουμε; σὰν ἕνα διαβάτη, πού περπατᾷ σ' ἕνα δημόσιον δρόμον, τὸν ρωτᾷς, -Ποῦ πηγαίνει; κι αὐτὸς σοῦ ἀπαντᾷ· -Δὲν ξέρω. Ἡ σὰν ἕνα ἐπιβάτη πού ἀνεβαίνει σ' ἕνα τραῖνο ἢ λεωφορεῖο καὶ δὲν ξέρει πού θὰ κατεβῇ. Ὑπάρχει τέτοιος ὁδοιπόρος ἢ ἐπιβάτης; Ὅχι ἀσφαλῶς. Νὰ ὅμως ἕνας

ταξιδιώτης πού δὲν ξέρει πού πηγαίνει· εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος πού ζῆ χωρὶς σκοπὸν στὴ ζωὴ του.

Ἄν πιάσῃς κ' ἕνα μικρὸ παιδί καὶ τὸ ρωτήσῃς -Τί τάξι πᾶς; θὰ σοῦ πῇ -Στὴν τελευταία τοῦ δημοτικοῦ. -Μετὰ πού θὰ πᾶς; -Στὸ γυμνάσιον, μετὰ στὸ λύκειον, μετὰ στὸ πανεπιστήμιον. Ρωτᾷς κ' ἕνα φοιτητὴ, -Ὅταν τελειώσῃς τὸ πανεπιστήμιον τί θὰ κάνῃς; -Θὰ πάω στρατιώτης, μετὰ θὰ πιάσω δουλειά, μετὰ θὰ παντρευτῶ νὰ κάνω οἰκογένεια, μετὰ θ' ἀγοράσω οἰκόπεδον, θὰ χτίσω σπίτι, θὰ πάρω αὐτοκίνητον. -Μετά; -Μετά θὰ γίνω συνταξιούχος καὶ θὰ γεράσω πιά. -Καὶ μετά;... Ἐδῶ μὲ δυσκολία θὰ πῇ· -Ἐ, μετὰ ἔρχεται ὁ θάνατος. -Καὶ ὕστερα; -**Ὑστερα τέλος!...**

Αὐτὸ βέβαιον μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ πῇ ὅποιος δὲν πιστεύει στὸ Θεόν. Ἀλλὰ ἐσύ, πού ἔρχεσαι σήμερα στὴν ἐκκλησία, τέτοια ἅγια ἡμέρα τῶν Ἀποκρεω, τί ἄκουσες στὸ εὐαγγέλιον; **Ὅχι τέλος!** δὲν τελειώνει ἡ ζωὴ μας μὲ τὸ φτυάρι τοῦ νεκροθάφτη. Ποιὸς τό 'πε; Ὁ τάφος δὲν εἶνε τὸ τέρμα τῆς ζωῆς, εἶνε ἡ ἀρχὴ μιᾶς νέας ζωῆς.

Τὸ ζήτημα εἶνε πολὺ ἀπλό, εἶνε ἕνα ἐρώτημα· **ἢ ὑπάρχει Θεός, ἢ δὲν ὑπάρχει.** Ἀλλὰ, ἀδελφοί μου, ποιὸς πού διαθέτει λίγο μυαλὸ τολμάει νὰ πῇ πῶς δὲν ὑπάρχει Θεός; Αὐτὸ εἶνε παράλογον, ἀφροσύνη. *«Ἐῖπεν ἄφρων ἐν καρδίᾳ αὐτοῦ· Οὐκ ἔστι Θεός»* (Ψαλμ. 13,1). **Ὑπάρχει Θεός!** καὶ ἐφ' ὅσον ὑπάρχει, εἶνε δίκαιος· κ' ἐφ' ὅσον εἶνε δίκαιος, δὲν μπορεῖ παρὰ θὰ τιμωρῇ ὅσους παραβαίνουν τὸ νόμον του.

Τί βλέπουμε ὅμως στὸν κόσμον αὐτόν; Συχνὰ **ὁ ἐγκληματίας δὲν τιμωρεῖται.** Στούς χίλιους δρῶστες τιμωρεῖται ἕνας· οἱ 999 μένουσιν ἀτιμώρητοι. Στὴν Ἀμερικὴ μπροστὰ σὲ πλῆθος κόσμου σκοτώθηκε ὄχι ἕνας ἄσχημος ἄνθρωπος ἀλλὰ ὁ πρόεδρος τῶν Ἡνωμένων Πολιτειῶν (ὁ Τζὼν Κέννεντυ), καὶ ἐπὶ μέρες, σὲ μία τόσο ὀργανωμένη χώρα, δὲν μπορούσαν νὰ πιάσουν τὸ δράστη. Ἔτσι τὰ περισσότερα ἐγκλήματα μένουσιν ἀτιμώρητα. Καὶ μόνο ἀτιμώρητα;

Βλέπουμε συχνά τὸ ἐξῆς παράδοξο· αὐτὸν ποὺ ζῆ μὲ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ μὲ τιμιότητα νὰ κάθεται σ' ἓνα ὑπόγειο, νὰ κυκλοφορῆ μὲ σακκάκι τρύπιο, νὰ 'νε παραγκωνισμένος, νὰ θεωρῆται ἡλίθιος· καὶ τὸν ἄλλο, τὸν ξευπνο, τὸν «ἀτσιδα», αὐτὸν ποὺ καταπατεῖ θεῖους καὶ ἀνθρωπίνους νόμους, νὰ πλουτίζῃ καὶ νὰ εὐτυχεῖ. Λοιπὸν, ποῦ εἶνε ἡ δικαιοσύνη;

Χθὲς εἶχα γράμμα ἀπὸ τὴν Αὐστραλία, ἓνας νέος τριάντα ἐτῶν μοῦ γράφει· Πάτερ, εἶμαι στενοχωρημένος. Γεννήθηκα σ' ἓνα χωριὸ τῆς Πελοποννήσου. Ἀπὸ μικρὸς ἔβλεπα τὸ ἀδικο, μεγάλωσα μέσα στὴν ἀδικία· στὸ σχολεῖο ἀδικία, στὸ στρατὸ ἀδικία, στὸ ἐργοστάσιο ἀδικία. Ἀγίασα. Ἄς φύγω, εἶπα, νὰ πάω στὰ ξένα νὰ δῶ δικαιοσύνη. Πάω στὴ Γερμανία ἀδικία, πάω στὴ Γαλλία ἀδικία, πάω στὴν Ὁλλανδία ἀδικία, πάω στὴν Ἀγγλία ἀδικία, ἦρθα στὴν Αὐστραλία ἀδικία... **Κλωνίζομαι στὴν πίστι.** Ὑπάρχει Θεός;

Ὑπάρχει, ἀγαπητέ μου. Ὅσοι στὸν κόσμο αὐτὸν βλέπετε τὸ κακὸ νὰ θριαμβεύῃ, τὸν ἀσεβῆ καὶ ἄπιστο νὰ εὐτυχεῖ καὶ τὸ κακὸ νὰ στεφανώνεται, ἀκούσατε σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Τί λέει· ὅτι **δὲν τελειώνουν ἐδῶ τὰ ἀνθρώπινα.** Εἶνε ψέμα, καραμέλλα τοῦ σατανᾶ, αὐτὸ ποὺ ἀκούμε, ὅτι «ἐδῶ εἶνε ἡ κόλασι, ἐδῶ καὶ ὁ παράδεισος». Ὅχι! Τὰ ἐγκλήματα θὰ τιμωρηθοῦν, ἡ ἀρετὴ θὰ στεφανωθῇ, τὸ καλὸ θὰ βραβευθῇ. Δὲν εἶνε τὰ πράγματα ὅπως τὰ φαντάζεται ὁ κόσμος, εἶνε ὅπως τὰ λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο.

Ὑπάρχει Θεός. Ὅπως λέω πολλές φορές, ὑπάρχει ἓνα μάτι ποὺ τὰ βλέπει ὅλα, ἓνα αὐτὶ ποὺ τ' ἀκούει ὅλα, κ' ἓνα χέρι ποὺ τὰ γράφει ὅλα· καὶ θά 'ρθῃ ἡ ὥρα ποὺ ὁ καθένας θὰ δώσῃ λόγο γιὰ τὰ ἔργα του. Κι ὄχι μόνο γιὰ τὰ ἔργα, ἀλλ' ἀκόμα καὶ γιὰ τὰ λόγια τὰ ἀπερίσκεπτα καὶ τίς σκέψεις μας τίς πονηρές. Τὸ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος· θὰ τιμωρηθῇ ὄχι μόνο ἡ μοιχεία ἀλλὰ κ' ἓνα βλέμμα πονηρὸ (βλ. Ματθ. 5,28), ὄχι μόνο ὁ φόνος ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ μῖσος· «*Πᾶς ὁ μισῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ ἀνθρωποκτόνος ἐστί*» (βλ. Ἰω. 3,15). **Ὅλα τ' ἁμαρτήματα, τὰ ἐν ἔργῳ τὰ ἐν λόγῳ καὶ τὰ ἐν διανοίᾳ, θὰ βροῦν τὴν τιμωρίαν τους.**

—Μὰ δὲν τιμωροῦνται. Πότε θὰ τιμωρηθοῦν;

Δὲν ἦταν δύσκολο στὸ Θεό, κάθε στιγμή ποὺ ἁμαρτάνει ἀνθρώπος νὰ πέφτῃ ἀπ' τὰ οὐράνια κ' ἓνας κεραυνὸς στὸ κεφάλι του. Μὰ τότε δὲν θὰ ζοῦσε κανεὶς, γιατί ὅλοι εἴμαστε ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἔστω κι ἂν ζήσουμε μόνο μία ἡμέρα πάνω στὴ γῆ (βλ. Ἰωβ 4,17· 14,4· πρβλ. Παροιμ. 20,9). Δὲν τιμωρεῖ ὁ Κύριος τὰ ἁμαρτήματα καὶ ἐγκλήματα ὅλα, διότι **περιμένει τὴ μετάνοιά μας,** νὰ ποῦμε τὸ «*Ἥμαρτον*», τὸ «*Ἰλάσθητί μοι τῶ ἁμαρτωλῶ*» (βλ. Ἰωβ. 15,18,21· 18,13). Δὲν τὰ τιμωρεῖ ὅλα,

γιατί θέλει ἀκριβῶς νὰ μᾶς διδάξῃ, ὅτι ὑπάρχει καὶ ἄλλος κόσμος **ὑπάρχει καὶ ἄλλο κριτήριο,** ὅπου θὰ κριθοῦμε ὅλοι, μικροὶ - μεγάλοι.

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Θέλω, ἀγαπητοί μου, σήμερα στὸ σπίτι ν' ἀνοίξετε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ **νὰ διαβάσετε** προσεκτικὰ μία καὶ δυὸ καὶ τρεῖς φορές αὐτὴ τὴν **περικοπὴ** τῆς μελλούσης Κρίσεως.

Τελειώνω μ' ἓνα ἀνέκδοτο. Ἦταν σὲ μιὰ πόλι κάποιος ποὺ δὲν τοῦ ἔλειπε τίποτα, καὶ διασκέδαζε μὲ τοὺς φίλους του. Μιὰ μέρα ὁμως, ἐκεῖ ποὺ γλεντοῦσαν —ὅπως γίνεται τώρα—, χτυπάει ἡ πόρτα κ' ἓνας κλητήρας ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνάκτορα τοῦ ἀνακοινώνει, ὅτι σὲ λίγες μέρες ὁ βασιλιάς τὸν καλεῖ νὰ δικασθῇ γιὰ κάτι ποὺ εἶχε κάνει πρὶν ἀπὸ χρόνια. Μόλις πῆρε τὴν κλησὶ αὐτὸς παρέλυσε, ἔπεσαν ἀπ' τὰ χέρια του τὰ πιρουνία, ἔγινε μελαγχολικός. Οἱ φίλοι ἀκούγοντας αὐτὰ σηκώθηκαν κ' ἔφυγαν. Αὐτὸς ἔμεινε ἄπυκνος. Τὸ πρωὶ πῆρε μὲ σειρὰ τὰ σπίτια τους, χτυποῦσε καὶ ἔλεγε· —Φίλε, δικάζομαι, ὑπάρχει φόβος νὰ καταδικασθῶ σὲ θάνατο, σὲ παρακαλῶ ἔλα νὰ μὲ υπερασπίσῃς στὸ δικαστήριον. —Δὲν εὐκαιρῶ, τοῦ εἶπαν ὁ ἓνας μετὰ τὸν ἄλλο. Ἐνας μόνο τοῦ εἶπε· —Θὰ ἔρθω· ἀλλὰ ξέρεις, βασιλιάς εἶν' αὐτὸς, τὸν φοβᾶμαι· θὰ σὲ συνοδεύσω μέχρι τὴν πόρτα, μέσα ὁμως δὲν θὰ μῶ...  
Καταλαβαίνετε; Παραβολικὸς εἶνε ὁ λόγος. Ὁ ἀνθρώπος αὐτὸς ποὺ γλεντοῦσε εἶμαι ἐγώ, εἶσαι σύ, εἴμαστε ὅλοι, ποὺ ζοῦμε ἀμελῶς, μὰ κάποτε θὰ μᾶς καλέσῃ ὁ Κύριος νὰ δώσουμε λόγο τῶν πράξεών μας. Θὰ ζητοῦμε τότε συμπάραστασι ἀπὸ συγγενεῖς καὶ φίλους, καὶ κανένας δὲν θὰ μπορῇ νὰ βοηθήσῃ· ὅποιος μᾶς ἀγαπάει θὰ μᾶς συνοδεύσῃ μέχρι τὴν πόρτα τοῦ δικαστηρίου, ὡς τὸ νεκροταφεῖο δηλαδὴ ποὺ θὰ μᾶς θάψουνε· παραπέρα, τὴν ὥρα τῆς δίκης, κανεὶς. «*Ὁ ποία ὥρα τότε...*» (βλ. Κυρ. Ἀποκ. 11).

**Δὲν εἶνε παραμύθια αὐτά.** Ὅλα μπορεῖ νὰ 'νε ψέμα, ἓνα δὲν εἶνε ψέμα, τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ· «*Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι*» (βλ. Ματθ. 24,35· Ἰωβ. 21,33· βλ. 8 Ἰωβ. 13,31).

Λοιπὸν, ἀδέρφια μου, σήμερα - αὔριο ἔχουμε δίκη, θὰ μᾶς δικάσῃ ὁ δίκαιος Κριτής. Προετοιμασθῆτε, **βρῆτε μάρτυρες υπερασπίσεως.** Ἐκεῖ οἱ μόνοι ποὺ θὰ μᾶς συνοδεύσουν εἶνε τὰ **καλὰ ἔργα**· ἡ πίστι, ἡ ἐλπίδα, ἡ ἀγάπη. Μακάριοι ὅσοι θὰ ἔχουμε τὸ εἰσιτήριο αὐτό, ὥστε νὰ βρεθοῦμε ἔτοιμοι μπροστὰ στὸ Θεὸ καὶ διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου καὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων νὰ βροῦμε ἔλεος ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ φρικτῇ.

(f) **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**

*If You Love God, You will Love your Neighbor; If You Love your Neighbor, You will Love God*

Surely everyone knows that human beings are social creatures and for that reason are not made for a solitary and uncivilized life. Nothing is better suited to our nature than to have continual relationships to seek one another out and to love one's own kind. The Lord asks no more than the fruit of the seed He has implanted in us, when He says: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another." (John 13:34) To lead us to obey this precept He does not want the badge of recognition of disciples to consist in miracles. Rather He asserts: "By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:35) And between the commandment to love God and the commandment to love your neighbor, He has established so close a bond that He takes as done to Himself anything done to our brothers or sisters. He says: "I was thirsty and

you gave me drink." (Matt. 25:35) And He adds: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." (Matt. 25:40) The keeping of the first commandment includes the keeping of the second, and in the fulfillment of the second the first is fulfilled. Whoever loves God loves his neighbor. The Lord says: "Anyone who loves me will keep my word" (John 14:23) and "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12) So then, whoever loves his neighbor loves God, and God reckons our unity with our brothers and sisters is unity with Him. One is reminded of Moses. He loved his brothers and sisters so much that he asked to be blotted out of the book of the living if the people did not receive forgiveness of their sins. (Exod. 32:32).

*Saint Basil the Great*

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