



# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 4th, 2020  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of Saint Thomas -- October 6th*

**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4.**

**Psalm 75.11,1**

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.  
Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1**

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.  
Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:16-18, 7:1 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὑμεῖς ἐστε ναὸς Θεοῦ ζῶντος, καθὼς εἶπεν ὁ θεός ὅτι Ἐνοικήσω ἐν αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἐμπεριπατήσω· καὶ ἔσομαι αὐτῶν θεός, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔσονται μοι λαός. Διὸ, Ἐξέλθετε ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν καὶ ἀφορίσθητε, λέγει κύριος, καὶ ἀκαθάρτου μὴ ἄπτεσθε· κἀγὼ εἰσδέξομαι ὑμᾶς, καὶ ἔσομαι ὑμῖν εἰς πατέρα, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἔσεσθέ μοι εἰς υἱοὺς καὶ θυγατέρας, λέγει κύριος παντοκράτωρ. Ταύτας οὖν ἔχοντες τὰς ἐπαγγελίας, ἀγαπητοί, καθαρίσωμεν ἑαυτοὺς ἀπὸ παντὸς μολυσμοῦ σαρκὸς καὶ πνεύματος, ἐπιτελοῦντες ἀγιωσύνην ἐν φόβῳ θεοῦ.

**The Gospel According to Luke 6:31-36**

The Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 6:31-36 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως. καὶ εἰ ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας ὑμᾶς, ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστί; καὶ γὰρ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας αὐτοὺς ἀγαπῶσι. καὶ ἐὰν ἀγαθοποιῆτε τοὺς ἀγαθοποιοῦντας ὑμᾶς, ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστί; καὶ γὰρ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ τὸ αὐτὸ ποιοῦσι. καὶ ἐὰν δανείζητε παρ' ὧν ἐλπίζετε ἀπολαβεῖν, ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστί; καὶ γὰρ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἁμαρτωλοῖς δανείζουσιν ἵνα ἀπολάβωσι τὰ ἴσα. πλὴν ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ ἀγαθοποιεῖτε καὶ δανείζετε μηδὲν ἀπελπίζοντες, καὶ ἔσται ὁ μισθὸς ὑμῶν πολὺς, καὶ ἔσεσθε υἱοὶ ὑψίστου, ὅτι αὐτὸς χρηστὸς ἐστὶν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀχαρίστους καὶ πονηροὺς. Γίνεσθε οὖν οἰκτίρμονες, καθὼς καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν οἰκτίρμων ἐστί.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTE:** that as prescribed by monastic tradition, the first of each month commences with the CONSECRATION of HOLY WATER. ( A G I A S M O S ) which is both consumed and sprinkled for blessing places and objects to the service of the Lord. This special service will be offered from 11:00 AM to 11:30 A.M. Bottles of Holy Water will be available for distribution. At this same service, those seeking recovery in spiritual and physical health may be anointed with EUCHELAION upon request.

**PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES:** will commence the new ecclesiastical year with an afternoon meeting of the membership on MONDAY, October 19th, in WHITEHALL at 1:00 P.M. All women of the parish community are cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be served as usual. SEE YOU THERE?

**TODAY SUNDAY:** October 4th our Three Hierarchs CHOIR will observe CHURCH MUSIC SUNDAY and the honoring of their Patron Saint ROMANOS with an artoklasia for the faithful.

**TODAY SUNDAY:** October 4th, we will have the pleasure of receiving ARCHBISHOP DANIEL of the UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE to address our faithful at the conclusion of the 10:30 Divine Liturgy. Archbishop Daniel is a long time friend and guest of our church faith community for many years. WELCOME YOUR EMINENCE! GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS

**ALTAR BOY SOCIETY:** of Saint Stephanos has come back strong to servicing the Sacred and Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings. We have received overwhelming satisfaction and approval from those in church at worship and those via the live-streaming of our Sunday worship that their presence is inspiring and encouraging to return to church Sunday worship in person! Will we see you soon?

**BOY SCOUTS, CUB SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS** are all in full operation this month with each TROOP meeting on FRIDAY EVENINGS at 7:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. in the community center. Are your children signed up? WHY NOT? It's a wondrous experience for them.

**GREEK SCHOOL:** is open with registration filled for the students return or just beginning their HELLENIC EDUCATION in language, religion, history, literature and culture. Young children can and do adapt to second languages easily if they are given the learning opportunity. We salute our faculty of renown MRS. ZOE ANASTASAKOS, MRS. MARIA HALKIAS, and our newly appointed teacher MS. EMMANUELLA KATSIBATAKIS from GREECE. Our P.T.A. PRESIDENT is MRS. SILVIA RAPTIS who continues to expend time, talent and treasure for the benefit of our school and students. AXIOI OLOI!

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TODAY** will be offered for + EUGENIA COSMOS RALLIS on 40th day anniversary of her passing. May her memory be eternal.

**SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB:** will meet for the first time this season on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7th, in WHITEHALL at 1:00 P.M. With all the traditional events of birthdays, holidays, lunches, sweets and treats,.....and .....B I N G O ! You're all invited! Come on down any Wednesday and join in the fun, fellowship and relaxation of your generation.

**WE SALUTE THE CHOIR MEMBERS:** listed for their continued service to the sacred hymnology of our Byzantine tradition.

Katie Hambas ,  
Mary Ann Kolidas,  
Ari & Niki Apergis,  
Evanthia Basias,  
Demetrios Bouroutis,  
Georgia Bouzakis,

### **CHOIR MEMBERS**

Despina Coutsouradis,  
Christina Gavaris,  
Bob Geroulanos  
Evanthea Karounos  
Robert Malfi,  
Gerry Manuel,

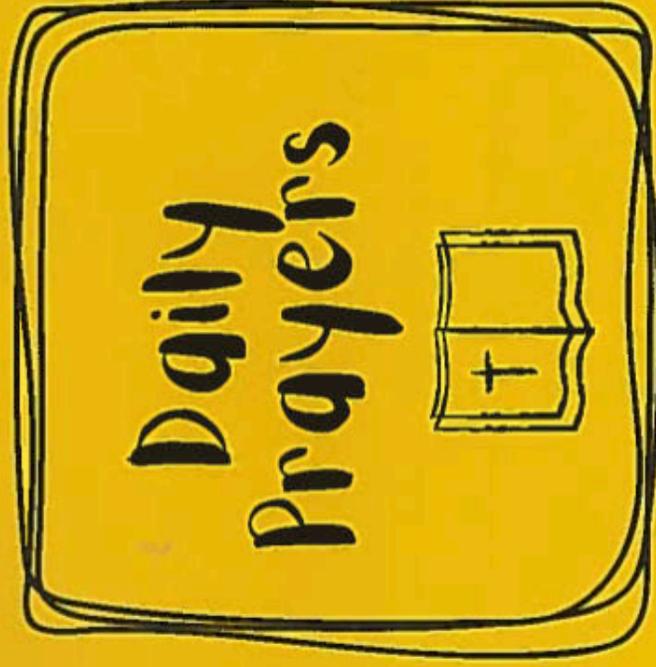
Harry & Toula Orthos,  
Helen Pavlides,  
Eleutheria Theologis,  
Nick Serras  
Angie Vlahos,  
Bernes Williams



### THE JESUS PRAYER

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.

## CHAPTER 5

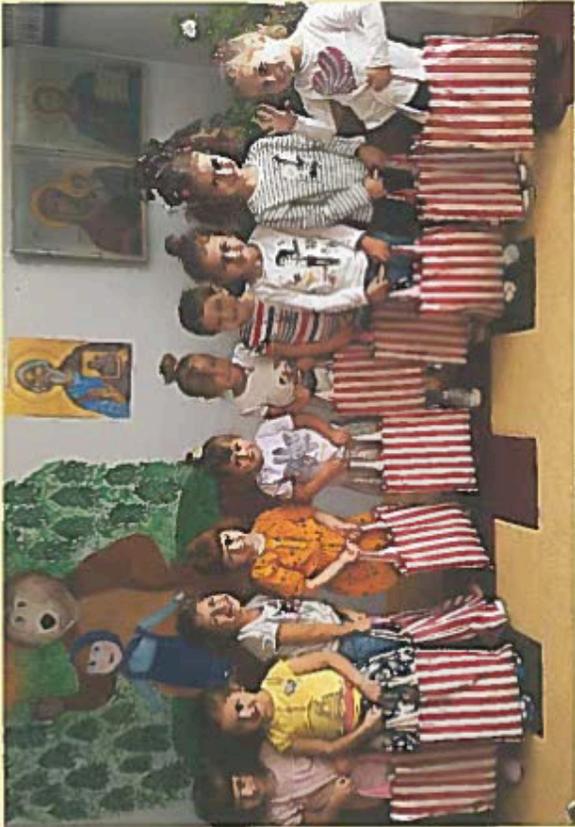


Prayer is an important part of our daily lives as Christians.

When you pray, you can start with some of the Orthodox daily prayers on the following pages. Then, use your own words to offer God thanks and to pray for children and families around the world.

Many people like to pray early in the morning or before they go to bed, but you can pray any time. The most important thing is to pray every day.

Prayers courtesy of the Orthodox Church in America ([oca.org](http://oca.org)).



Children in Georgia received school kits through IOCC.

#### PRAYER BEFORE MEALS

O Christ our God, bless the food, drink,  
and fellowship of Your servants,  
for You are holy always, now and ever  
and unto ages of ages. Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER MEALS

We give thanks to You, O Christ our God, that  
You have satisfied us with Your earthly blessings;  
deprive us not also of Your Heavenly Kingdom.  
As You did come to Your disciples and did grant  
them peace; so come to us and save us, O Savior.



A new well in Tanzania brought safe water to an entire community.

#### HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS

It is truly meet to bless you, O Theotokos,  
ever-blessed and most pure, and the Mother  
of our God. More honorable than the Cherubim,  
and more glorious beyond compare than the  
Seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to  
God the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you!

#### LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHREM

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the  
spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk.  
But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.  
Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own  
transgressions, and not to judge my brother,  
for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages. Amen.



# 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 Γυνακκία Τερῶ Μονῆ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [imsaflor@yahoo.gr](mailto:imsaflor@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΖ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2327	Κυριακὴ Β' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 6,31-36) 4 Ὀκτωβρίου 2020	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Τὸ μπλεγμένο κουβάρι καὶ ἡ χρυσῆ κλωστή

«*Καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, καὶ ὑμεῖς ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως*» (Λουκ. 6, 31)

**Ἀ**κούσατε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Θὰ προσπαθῶ νὰ σᾶς μιλήσω ἀπλᾶ. Ἡ περικοπὴ αὐτῆ περιέχει **ἓνα νόμο**. Περὶ νόμου λοιπὸν θὰ εἶνε σήμερα ὁ λόγος. Γιὰ νόμους μιᾶνε οἱ φυσικοὶ ἐπιστήμονες, γιὰ νόμους μιᾶνε οἱ δικηγόροι καὶ οἱ δικασταί, γιὰ νόμο μιᾶνει καὶ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ἀπ' ὄλους αὐτοὺς τοὺς νόμους ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ ἀνώτερος; Ἐγὼ νομίζω, ὅτι ἀνώτερος, ἢ κορυφὴ ὄλων τῶν νόμων, εἶνε αὐτὸς ποὺ ἀκούσαμε σήμερα στὸ εὐαγγέλιο.

• Ὑπάρχουν, ἀδελφοί μου, **νόμοι φυσικοὶ**. Ρίξτε μιὰ ματιὰ τῆ νύχτα στὸν οὐρανὸ. Πόσα εἶνε τὰ **ἀστρα**; Ἐκατομμύρια, δισεκατομμύρια, ἀμέτρητα. Τὸ καθένα ἔχει **δρομολόγιο**, ὅπως τὰ πούλμαν. Καὶ ἡ γῆ ἓνα πούλμαν εἶνε ποὺ τρέχει μέσα στὸ ἀπειρο καὶ κάνει ἓναν ὁλόκληρο κύκλο σὲ 365 μέρες. Ἄλλο ἀστέρι κάνει κύκλο σὲ 1 χρόνο, ἄλλο σὲ 2, ἄλλο σὲ 3, ἄλλο σὲ 5 ἢ 10 χρόνια. Κι αὐτὸς ὁ ἥλιος, ποὺ φαίνεται ἀκίνητος, ἔχει ἓνα τεράστιο δρομολόγιο. Καὶ τὰ δρομολόγια αὐτὰ εἶνε στὴν ὥρα τους, ἔχουν **ἀκρίβεια**, ρολοὶ ζενίθ.

**Ποιὸς** τὰ ἔφτιαξε, τὰ ρύθμισε, τὰ **κυβερνᾷ**; Μία ἢ ἀπάντησις· ὁ Θεός. «*Οἱ οὐρανοὶ διηγοῦνται δόξαν Θεοῦ, ποίησιν δὲ χειρῶν αὐτοῦ ἀναγγέλλει τὸ στερέωμα*» (Ψμ 18,2). Καὶ **πῶς** τὰ **κυβερνᾷ** ὁ Θεός; Ἐχετε δεῖ τὴν πρωτοχρονιά παιδάκια νὰ κρατοῦν μπαλλόνια; Ὅπως τὸ παιδί κρατᾷ με μιὰ κλωστή τὰ μπαλλόνια, ἔτσι ὄλα αὐτὰ τὰ οὐράνια σώματα τὰ κρατᾷ ὁ Θεὸς με μιὰ ἄλλη ἀόρατη κλωστή. Ἡ κλωστή αὐτῆ, λένε οἱ φυσικοὶ, εἶνε ὁ **νόμος τῆς παγκοσμίου ἑλξεως** ποὺ κάνει τὸ ἓνα νὰ ἑλκεται ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο. Πῶς γίνεται αὐτό; Μυστήριον· ἂν ρωτήσης τοὺς ἐπιστήμονες τί εἶνε αὐτῆ ἡ ἑλξις, δὲν μποροῦν νὰ τὸ ἐξηγήσουν. Τὰ κρατᾷ ὄλα αὐτὰ στὸ χέρι του ὁ Μεγαλοδύναμος καὶ τὰ κυβερνάει με τὸ νόμο τῆς παγκοσμίου ἑλξεως. Κόπηκε ἡ κλωστή τοῦ παιδιοῦ; ἔφυγαν τὰ μπαλλόνια· κόπη-

κε ἡ κλωστή τοῦ χαρταετοῦ; πάει ὁ αἰετός. Ἄν λοιπὸν σταματήσῃ νὰ λειτουργῇ ὁ νόμος τῆς παγκοσμίου ἑλξεως, θὰ γίνουν ὄλα συντρίμια. Ὅπως τ' αὐτοκίνητα, ἂν χάσουν τὸ φρένο, τρακάρει τὸ ἓνα πάνω στ' ἄλλο, ἔτσι καὶ τὰ οὐράνια σώματα· θὰ γίνῃ ἓνα ἀπέραντο ἐρείπιο.

Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸ νόμο τῆς παγκοσμίου ἑλξεως ὑπάρχουν κι **ἄλλοι φυσικοὶ νόμοι**, τοὺς ὁποίους σπουδάζουν οἱ ἐπιστήμονες. Ἡ ἐπιστήμη δὲν κάνει τίποτε ἄλλο παρὰ ἀνακαλύπτει, μελετᾷ κ' ἐκμεταλλεύεται τοὺς νόμους ποὺ ἔθεσε ὁ Θεός.

• Ἐκτὸς ὅμως ἀπὸ τοὺς φυσικοὺς νόμους ὑπάρχει καὶ ἄλλος νόμος, ὁ **ἠθικὸς νόμος**.

Δηλαδή· ὅπως τὰ ἀστρα ἔχουν τροχιά στὴν ὁποία βαδίζουν, ἔτσι ὁ Θεὸς ἔθεσε ὀρισμούς καὶ γιὰ τίς ἀνθρώπινες κοινωνίες. Γιατὶ **κάθε ἄνθρωπος τί εἶνε; ἓνα ἀστρο ἔμφυχο**. Κι ὁ Θεός, ὅπως κυβερνᾷ τὸ ὕλικὸ σύμπαν με τὸ νόμο τῆς ἑλξεως, ἔτσι κ' ἐδῶ ἔθεσε ἄλλους νόμους. Ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν οὐράνια σώματα δὲν ἐκτρέπονται ἀπὸ τὸ δρομολόγιό τους, ἐνῶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, λόγῳ τῆς ἐλευθερίας ποὺ ἔχει, δὲν θέλει νὰ βαδίζῃ πάντοτε ἐπάνω στὸ δρομολόγιο ποὺ τοῦ ὤρισε ὁ Θεός· γι' αὐτὸ στίς ἀνθρώπινες κοινωνίες καὶ τὰ ἔθνη συμβαίνουν **συγκρούσεις**.

Τί ὤρισε ὁ Θεός; Πόσα δάχτυλα ἔχετε; Δέκα. Κόβεις ἓνα δάχτυλό σου; Ὅχι. Δέκα δάχτυλα ἔχεις, δέκα ἐντολές ὑπάρχουν· αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ **Δεκάλογος**. Ἄν ἡ ἀνθρωπότης ὑπήκουε σ' αὐτὸν ὅπως ὁ ἥλιος τὸ φεγγάρι τὰ ἀστρα ὑπακούουν στὸν παγκόσμιο νόμο τῆς ἑλξεως, θὰ ὑπῆρχε **ἁρμονία**. Ὅπως ὑπάρχει ἁρμονία στὸν οὐράνιο κόσμον, ἔτσι θὰ ὑπῆρχε κ' ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ. Τὸ λέμε στὴν κυριακὴ προσευχῆ, μὰ ποιὸς τὸ προσέχει· «*Γενηθήτω τὸ θέλημά σου, ὡς ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς*» (Ματθ 6,10). Ὅπως γίνεται στὸν οὐρανὸ, ποὺ ἄγγελοι καὶ οὐράνια σώματα ἐκτελοῦν τοὺς ὀρισμούς σου, ἔτσι κ' ἐδῶ στὴ γῆ νὰ τηροῦμε κ' ἔμεῖς τὸ νόμο σου.

Δὲν ἐκτελοῦμε δυστυχῶς τὸ θέλημα τοῦ

Θεοῦ. Ἄν πῆς σέ κάποιον, Κόψε τὸ δάχτυλό σου, δὲν τὸ κόβει, ἀλλὰ τὸ νόμο τοῦ Θεοῦ τὸν κόβει. **Περιέκοψαν τὸν Δεκάλογο**, ἐλάχιστες ἐντολές κράτησαν. Εἶδατε ἄνθρωπο μὲ κομμένα δάχτυλα; Ἐγὼ εἶδα· θλιβερό. Μὰ τὸ πιὸ θλιβερό εἶνε ὅτι **πολλοὶ εἶνε ἠθικὰ κουλοὶ**· ὁ ἕνας κόβει μία ἐντολή, ὁ ἄλλος ἄλλη...· ἔτσι στὴν ἀνθρώπινη κοινωνία δημιουργοῦνται **συγκρούσεις**.

● Τὶς διαφορὲς ἀταξίες, ποὺ συμβαίνουν στὴν κοινωνία, ἔρχονται νὰ τὶς διορθώσουν οἱ νόμοι τῶν ἀνθρώπων, οἱ **νόμοι τοῦ κράτους**.

Καὶ βγαίνουν **πληθος** νόμοι. Γιατί; Μόλις ψηφίζεται καὶ ἐφαρμόζεται ἕνας νόμος, κάποιος φωνάζουν· Ἄδικος! Καὶ βγαίνει ἄλλος νόμος, κατόπιν ἄλλος, ἄλλος... Κάθε νόμος ἱκανοποιεῖ τοὺς μὲν, ἀλλὰ δυσσαρεστεῖ τοὺς δέ. Γιατί ὅλοι εἶνε **ἀτελεῖς**. Ἔτσι καὶ στὸ κράτος μας. Ρώτησα ἕναν ἀρεσπαγίτη· Ἐμπορεῖτε νὰ γνωρίζετε ὅλους τοὺς νόμους; Ἄδύνατον, πάτερ· ἀπ' τὸν καιρὸ τοῦ Ὁθωνος καὶ τοῦ Καποδίστρια μέχρι σήμερα ἔχουν ψηφιστῆ εἰκοσιπέντε χιλιάδες νόμοι! καὶ συνεχῶς βγαίνουν ἄλλοι. Καὶ ὅ,τι γίνεται στὴν Ἑλλάδα, γίνεται παντοῦ.

Τὸ ἀποτέλεσμα. Παλιὰ οἱ γιαγιάδες, ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἐπλεκαν, πῆγαινε ὁ μικρός, ὁ διαβολάκος, καὶ παίζοντας τοὺς μπερδεύε τὸ κουβάρι, κι αὐτὲς παιδεύονταν μετὰ νὰ τὸ ξεμπλέξουν. Ἔ, ἔτσι εἶνε σήμερα. Ὁ κόσμος μας κατήντησε **κουβάρι μπερδεμένο**· οἱ νομοθέτες μάταια προσπαθοῦν νὰ τὸ ξεμπλέξουν, καὶ στὴν προσπάθειά τους αὐτὴ τὸ μπλέκουν περισσότερο.

Ἐμπρός, ἀδέρφια μου, ἐμπρός! Ὑπάρχει μιὰ χρυσὴ κλωστή, ποὺ ἄμα τὴν τραβήξης τὸ κουβάρι θὰ ξεμπλέξη. Ποιὰ εἶνε, Χριστέ μου, ἡ κλωστή; Εἶνε ὁ **θεῖος νόμος!** Ἐχομε αὐτιά; Νάτο - τ' ἀκούσατε; Αὐτὰ ὅλα τὰ εἶπα, γιὰ νὰ φτάσω στὸ νόμο αὐτόν. Ποιός εἶνε ὁ νόμος; Εἶνε νόμος **ἀλληλεγγύης**, τὸν ὁποῖο διατύπωσε ὁ Χριστός μὲ πέντε λόγια. Νὰ ψάξης ὅλα τὰ βιβλία, φιλοσοφίες, κοράνια κ.τ.λ., δὲν θὰ βρῆς τελειότερο νόμο. Τί λέει ὁ Χριστός· *«Καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, καὶ ὑμεῖς ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως»* (Ματθ. 23). Εἶνε σὰν τὸ νόμισμα, ποὺ ἔχει δύο ὄψεις. Νὰ τὸ κάνω λιανὰ νὰ τὸ καταλάβετε; Μερικὰ παραδείγματα καὶ τελείωσα.

**Τρία εἶνε τὰ ἀπαραίτητα** γιὰ κάθε ἄνθρωπο. ✓ Τὸ πρῶτο εἶνε ἡ **περιουσία**. Δὲν λέω γιὰ τεράστιες περιουσίες· αὐτὲς εἶνε τοῦ διαβόλου. Ὁ Θεὸς εὐλογεῖ τὰ λίγα καὶ ἀναγκαῖα· μὰ καλύβα, μιὰ καρέκλα... Ὅσο φτωχός καὶ νὰ 'σαι, θὰ ἔχῃς ἕνα πουκάμισο. Καὶ Διογένης νὰ γίνῃς, θὰ ἔχῃς ἕνα πιθάρι νὰ μπαίνῃς μέσα. Ἐνας μόνον ἦταν τελείως ἀκτῆμων, ὁ Χριστός· δὲν εἶχε *«ποῦ*

*τὴν κεφαλὴν κλίνῃ»* (Ματθ. 23). Καὶ ἐρωτᾷ ὁ Χριστός· *Θέλεις ὁ ἄλλος νὰ σέ κλέψῃ, νὰ σέ γελάσῃ στὸ ζῦγι, νὰ σοῦ φάῃ τὸ μεροκάματο, νὰ σέ ἀπατήσῃ;* Ὁχι! Ἔ, ἔτσι κ' ἐσὺ νὰ μὴν τὸν κλέψῃς. Τὸ κλεμμένο εἶνε φωτιά. Λέει ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς· ἂν ἕνας τσοπάνος ἔχῃ 100 πρόβατα καὶ μέσ' στὸ κοπάδι τοῦ ῥίξη 1 κλεμμένο, θὰ χάσῃ καὶ τὰ ἄλλα. Ὅπως λοιπὸν θέλεις οἱ ἄλλοι νὰ σέβωνται τὰ δικά σου, κ' ἐσὺ νὰ σέβῃσαι τὰ δικά τους. ✓ Τὸ δεύτερο εἶνε ἡ **ζωή**. Θέλεις ὁ ἄλλος νὰ πάρῃ μαχαίρι νὰ σοῦ κόψῃ τὴ μύτη ἢ τ' αὐτί, νὰ σέ ἀκρωτηριάσῃ; νὰ βάλῃ δυναμίτη στὸ σπίτι νὰ σοῦ τινάξῃ στὸν ἀέρα τὴν οἰκογένεια; νὰ ῥίξη στὸ φαί σου δηλητήριο; νὰ νοθεύσῃ τὸ φάρμακό σου; Ὁχι! Ἔ, ὅπως θέλεις οἱ ἄλλοι νὰ σέβωνται τὴ ζωὴ σου, ἔτσι κ' ἐσὺ τὴ δική τους. ✓ Πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα ὅμως εἶνε ἡ **τιμὴ**. Θέλεις ὁ ἄλλος νὰ προσβάλλῃ τὴν οἰκογενειακὴ σου τιμὴ, νὰ ἀτιμάσῃ τὴ γυναῖκα ἢ τὸ κορίτσι σου; Ὁχι, προτιμῶ νὰ πεθάνω! Ὅπως λοιπὸν ἐσὺ θέλεις νὰ σέβωνται οἱ ἄλλοι τὴν τιμὴ τῆς οἰκογενείας σου, ἔτσι κ' ἐσὺ νὰ σέβῃσαι τὴν τιμὴ τους. Αὐτὸ σημαίνει *«Καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, καὶ ὑμεῖς ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως»*.

Εἶνε δύσκολα αὐτὰ; Δὲν θέλεις νὰ σοῦ κάνουν κακό, μὴν κάνῃς κ' ἐσὺ. Αὐτὴ εἶνε μιὰ ἢ πλευρά, ἡ ἀρνητικὴ. Ἡ ἄλλη, ἡ **θετικὴ**, ποιὰ εἶνε· πεινᾷς, θέλεις νὰ σοῦ δώσουν ψωμί διψᾷς, νὰ σοῦ δώσουν νερό· εἶσαι γυμνός, νὰ σέ σκεπάσουν· εἶσαι ἄστεγος, νὰ σέ στεγάσουν· εἶσαι ἄρρωστος, θέλεις γιατρό - φάρμακο· ἢ πέθανε ὁ πατέρας σου; νὰ σ' ἐπισκεφθοῦν. Ὅπως θέλεις οἱ ἄλλοι νὰ σοῦ κάνουν καλό, **κάνε κ' ἐσὺ καλό**. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ τέλειος νόμος, δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλος.

Λένε ὅτι ἕνας βασιλιάς στὴ Ἰώμη, βλέποντας ὅτι τὸ βασίλειο δὲν πάει καλά, εἶπε στοὺς σοφοὺς νὰ τοῦ βροῦν ἕνα νόμο νὰ ταιριάζῃ γιὰ ὅλους τοὺς πολῖτες, μὰ δὲν εὗρισκαν· ὅταν τέλος ἀνοίξε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο βρῆκε τὸ ῥητὸ *«Καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, καὶ ὑμεῖς ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως»*· τὸν ἔγραψε σὲ πινακίδες καὶ τίς κρέμασε παντοῦ. Ἄν ἐφαρμόσομε αὐτὸ τὸ νόμο, θὰ ὑπάρχῃ **εἰρήνη καὶ ἀσφάλεια**. Ἄν μπορούσα θὰ πῆγαινα στὰ Ἡνωμένα Ἔθνη νὰ τὸν γράψω μὲ γράμματα φωτεινά, νὰ τὸν βλέπουν ὅλοι οἱ λαοί. Ἄν ἄκουγε αὐτὸ τὸ νόμο ἡ ἀνθρωπότης, θὰ εἶχε εἰρήνη γιὰ χίλια χρόνια. Ἄντὶ αὐτοῦ δυστυχῶς ἰσχύει ὁ **νόμος τῆς ζούγκλας**, «τὸ μεγάλο ψάρι τρώει τὸ μικρό»· γι' αὐτὸ βρισκόμαστε σὲ παραμονὲς 3ου παγκοσμίου πολέμου.

Ἄς παρακαλέσομε τὴν Παναγιά καὶ τοὺς ἁγίους, ὁ Θεὸς νὰ ἐλεήσῃ καὶ σῶσῃ τὸν κόσμο· 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 2020 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**

### *A God Who Cries For US*

Making his rounds in a local hospital, a chaplain encountered a man who had sustained minor injuries in an automobile accident. Although his injuries were not life-threatening, those of his wife and small child were more serious. The chaplain encouraged the man to have faith and trust in God to which the man angrily replied, "why should I?" "Look at what God has done to my wife and child," he continued, "how can I have faith in a God who does things like that."

The chaplain then told the man about a particular occasion when Jesus was passing through a strange town and came across a funeral procession of a young man. Jesus didn't know the young man or anyone in his family, but He was moved with pity when He saw the crying mother. "Imagine," the chaplain said, "the Lord

Himself was so moved by pity that He actually cried with the widow." Jesus then stopped the procession and raised the young man from the dead and gave him back to his mother. (Luke 7:11-16)

The chaplain concluded by asking the man if he really thought that a God who loves us so much that He actually cries for us is capable of causing bad things to happen to us. The same God who cries for us – and who died for us – will never abandon us in our most critical time of need.

As the chaplain was leaving the man's room, the doctor entered and told the man that his wife and child would be fine. From out in the hallway, the chaplain overheard the man say, "thank You, Jesus."

**RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 22nd 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 radio)**