

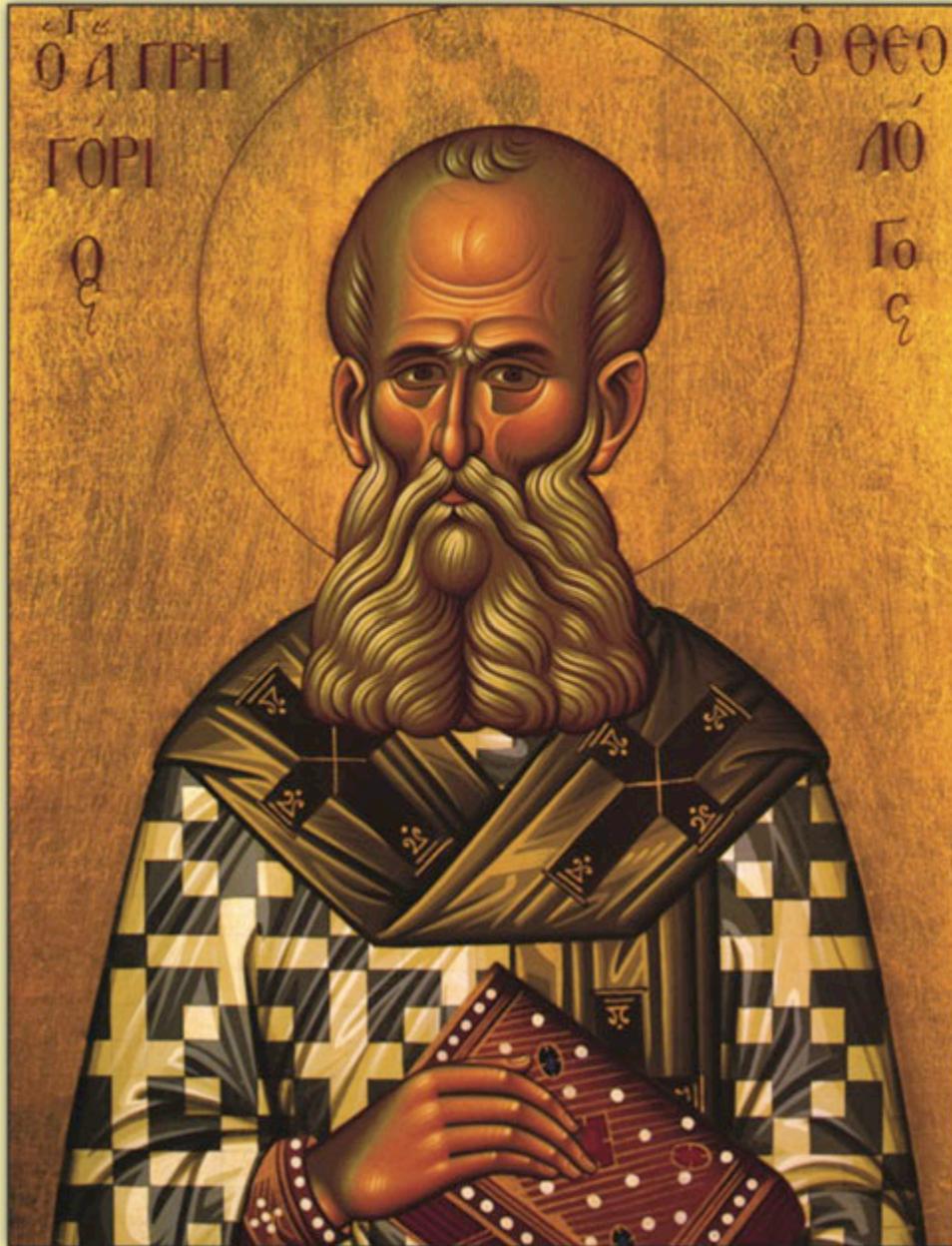


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN January 24th, 2021
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Gregory the Theologian – January 25th

St. Paul's First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

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 First Letter to Timothy 1:15-17

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. And I am the foremost of sinners; but I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience for an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory to the ages of ages. Amen.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

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

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 1:15-17 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος, ὅτι Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἁμαρτωλοὺς σῶσαι, ὧν πρῶτός εἰμι ἐγώ· ἀλλὰ διὰ τοῦτο ἠλεήθην, ἵνα ἐν ἐμοὶ πρώτῳ ἐνδείξηται Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς τὴν πᾶσαν μακροθυμίαν, πρὸς ὑποτύπωσιν τῶν μελλόντων πιστεύειν ἐπ' αὐτῷ εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. Τῷ δὲ βασιλεῖ τῶν αἰώνων, ἀφθάρτῳ, ἀοράτῳ, μόνῳ σοφῷ θεῷ, τιμὴ καὶ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

14th Sunday of Luke

The Gospel According to Luke 18:35-43

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

ὦ καιρῷ ἐκεῖνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυΐδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· υἱὲ Δαυΐδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνάβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

TODAY: on the occasion of the Feast of Saint Xenia, we also observe by anticipation the Feast day of Saint Gregory the Theologian (ONE OF THE THREE HIERARCHS). Venerate his sacred icon in the narthex, the east wall of the church or on the iconostas ion. Give thanks for his intercession.

CENTERFOLD: SCHEDULE of THREE HIERARCHS FEAST CELEBRATION: Please take note of the explanatory letter regarding an historical event that will take place at our parish next weekend. This inspired initiative of His Eminence under the hierarchical direction of Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos (St. Photios National Shrine – Florida) is the stepping-stone of the SPANISH MINISTRY OUTREACH INITIATIVE (VICARIATE) for the whole of the U.S.A. Please join us for any and all of the services, which will be inspiring, monumental, and historic. Do you have Hispanic friends familiar with the Spanish language? This is their opportunity to share in Orthodoxy faith and practice. Please invite them.

TAKE NOTE; The blessing of Holy Water for the Month of February will take place on **MONDAY – FEBRUARY 8th**, at 11:00 A.M. (Fest of Saint Parthenios). Please mark your calendar appropriately. Bottled water is available upon request of the clergy.

Ecclesiastical Calendars for the year 2021 citing all the Holy Days of Obligation. Feasts and Festivals has been mailed to all the REGISTERED STEWARDS of the Parish. If you have NOT received your copy, please see the Office Secretary. The CALENDARS are of two varieties GREEK/ENGLISH and RUSSIAN/ENGLISH of the Gregorian calculations and the ‘OLD’ Julian calculations. We are indeed here to serve everyone.

Father Eugene : would like to express his appreciation for the outpouring of prayers best wishes and speedy total recovery from his encounter with the Covid-19 pandemic. With full clearance from the medical experts (physicians) and diagnosed with the ‘antibodies’, Father has returned to full service. It would be remiss if it was not mentioned that 30-40 telephone calls were received on a daily bases from a myriad of parishioners concerned with the Pastor’s welfare. Special thanks is extended also to those extraordinary faithful who deposited food, medications, and other items at the residence door during the 23 day ‘quarantine period’. It has all ended with God’s intervention of compassionate mercy. As Father Eugene proclaimed at the EPIPHANY BLESSING” Through this experience, I have garnered 1,000 new sermons with a powerful positive message of hope, perseverance and resolve!” **YOU CERTAINLY MAY HEAR ONE---ANY SUNDAY AT THREE HIERARCHS.**

HOLIDAY GREETINGS : were presented to the Pastor by the Parish Council, the RUSSIAN COMMUNITY and the UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY on the Feast of the Holy Epiphany for his recovery and ‘home-coming’. Special thanks to President John Eugenis, Constantina Daniels, Demetri and Niki Bouroutis, Jimmy and Paraskevas Kokotas, Helen and Ron Mc Comiskey, Effie Galiatsatos, Georgia Bouzakis, Gerasimos and Stella Makris, Rev. Vasyli Shak Family, Ukrainian Council Members, Russian Council Tatiana Migdal, Giorgi, Sophia ,Boris, Nelya, Teimuraz, Michael, Sophia ® Larisa, Irina, Oleg, Kate, Vijay Teodozia, Flora, Lyudmila, Tetyana, Vasiliy, Olga, Peter, Tatiana, George Tatyana Irina.... and others, Deacon Evangelos, Regina, Elizabeth, Maria Fischer, Maria Halkias, Larisa Grigorley, Dahill, Ed Sparacio, Let’s not leave out Eva Giannoulakis, Gregory and Laura Tsatsis, Bezugly Family, Mikhail Freydovich, Marsha Ross, Paras Family, Dean and Susie Veroutis, Joanna Giannopoulos Family, Angeliki Vlahos Family, PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY, SENIOR CITIZEN CLUB, George and Annie Annis, Mary Ann Kolidas, Eleutheria Xenakis, Boris and Emilia Rodionov,

MEMORIAL TODAY: + GIULIO ABBRUZZESE

Holy Water Bottles from the EPIPHANY will be distributed each Sunday in January at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. You may request as many bottles as you wish. It’s a perfect and most appropriate gift to those who are ‘COVID HOME BOUND’ or to others who are incapacitated to attend services in person. **IT IS THE ‘PERFECT MEANINGFUL GIFT’ !**

REGISTRATION of STEWARDSHIP (MEMBERSHIP) for the year 2021 has commenced as of January 01st. Please respond as never before. Our parish like all others across the nation is suffering from a lack of attendance and weekly contributions due to the ‘social distancing and close-down’ of houses of worship. **PLEASE DO A BIT MORE TO KEEP US FUNCTIONING.** This ‘ IS’ your spiritual home.



THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



January 14, 2021
Apodosis of Theophany

Beloved in Christ,

With humble pride and joy we are pleased to announce the inaugural ordination and commencement of the SPANISH MINISTRY INITIATIVE (Vicariate) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America. Under the inspired spiritual initiative of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and the delegated direction of Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos, Hierarchal Proistamenos of "Saint Photios National Shrine" Saint Augustine, Florida, a married theologian candidate of Argentinian background will be ordained to the Holy Diaconate during the Feast of the Holy Three Hierarchs. We welcome Pablo Lopez De Cicco and his spouse Ana into the embrace of our Archdiocese of America and the ranks of our devoted clergy.

The schedule of services to which one and all are most cordially invited is as follows:

Friday: January 29th Three Hierarchs Great Vespers 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Celebrant: His Grace, Demetrios of Mokissos

Saturday: January 30th. Three Hierarchs Feastal Liturgy 10:00-12:00 Noon.

Diaconate Ordination of Pablo Lopez De Cicco

Celebrant: His Grace, Demetrios of Mokissos

Sunday: Jan. 31st. Divine Liturgy of Holy Unmercenaries 10:00-12 Noon

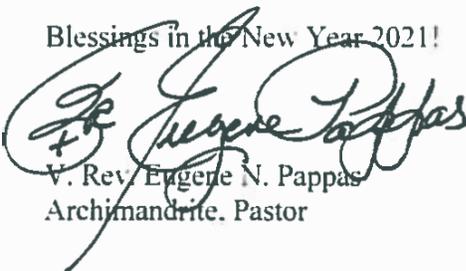
Tuesday: February 2nd. Holy Presentation Hierarchal Liturgy 10:00 -12:00 Noon

Priestly Ordination of Pablo Lopez De Cicco

Celebrant: His Grace, Demetrios of Mokissos

Most regretfully, under the municipal civil restraints due to the COVID pandemic, there will NOT be any open reception after the divine services. Your understanding is most appreciated. We encourage one and all to attend and participate in this historic outreach in evangelism and ministry to Spanish speaking Americans, throughout the nation. The liturgical rites will be tri-lingual; Greek, English and Spanish.

Blessings in the New Year 2021!


V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas
Archimandrite, Pastor



\$250,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

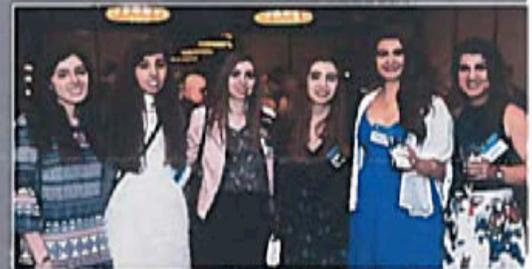
\$20,000 awarded to Music and Arts Majors

\$200,000

20 Awards of \$10,000 each
based on academic merit and financial need

\$50,000

20 Awards of \$2,500 each
based on academic merit and financial need



The 2020/2021 scholarship application is available and can be completed online!

Applications from eligible college students accepted through **January 31, 2021**.

The application and qualification criteria, requirements, and guidelines are available at **www.panhellenicsf.org**.

If you are an undergraduate of Hellenic descent, we encourage you to apply for the scholarship awards!

For any questions or inquiries:

Please email info@panhellenicsf.org or call our office at (312) 357-6432



**PANHELLENIC
SCHOLARSHIP
FOUNDATION**

PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation
8501 West Higgins Road • Suite 210
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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΒ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1134	Κυριακὴ ΛΑ' (Α' Τιμ. 1,15-17) 24 Ἰανουαρίου 2021 (2005)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ὁ Χριστὸς μᾶς σώζει μὲ τὴ μετάνοια

«Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς ἦλθεν εἰς τὸν κόσμον ἁμαρτωλοὺς σώσαι, ὧν πρῶτός εἰμι ἐγώ» (Α' Τιμ. 1,15)

Ἦρθε, ἀγαπητοί μου, μᾶς λέει σήμερα στὸ ἀποστολικὸ ἀνάγνωσμα ὁ Παῦλος, **ἦρθε στὸν κόσμον** ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς, ποὺ εἶνε Θεός, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς σώσῃ. Στὸ Σύμβολο ὁμῶς τῆς πίστεως χρησιμοποιεῖται εἰδικώτερα τὸ ῥῆμα **«κατήλθε»** («κατελθόντα ἐκ τῶν οὐρανῶν...»-ἄρ. 3). Μπαίνω σ' ἓνα μεγάλο μυστήριο, σὲ πλατεῖα καὶ βαθειὰ θάλασσα. Τὸ Σύμβολο τῆς πίστεως λέει, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν **«ἦλθε»** ἀπλῶς, ὅπως λέει ὁ Παῦλος ἐδῶ (Α' Τιμ. 1,15), ἀλλὰ **«κατήλθε»**. Γιατί **«κατήλθε»**;

Πέρα ἀπὸ τὰ ἄστρα καὶ πέρα ἀπὸ τὸν ἥλιο, πάνω ψηλά, στὸν κόσμον τῶν ἀγγέλων καὶ ἀρχαγγέλων, ἐκεῖ εἶνε ἡ Θεότης. Κι ἀπὸ **ἑκεῖ ἦλθε κοντά μας**. Φανταστῆτε ὁ βασιλιάς μᾶς χώρας ν' ἀφήσῃ κάποια στιγμή τὸ παλάτι του, νὰ βγῆ στὰ βουνά, νὰ φορέσῃ μιὰ κάππα, νὰ πάρῃ μιὰ γκλίτσα καὶ νὰ γίνῃ βοσκός. Θὰ βουίξῃ ὁ κόσμος καὶ θὰ καταπλαγῆ. Ἀλλὰ τί εἶν' αὐτό! Ὁ Χριστὸς κατέβηκε ἀπὸ πολὺ ψηλότερα, ἀπ' τὰ παλάτια τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. Ἔχετε δεῖ ποτὲ αὐτό; Πεταίει σὲ μεγάλο ὕψος τὸν βλέπει στὸν οὐρανὸν σὰν κεφάλι καρφίτσας. Καὶ κάνοντας ἀλλεπάλληλους κύκλους χαμηλώνει, μέχρι ποὺ ἔρχεται καὶ κάθεται πάνω σ' ἓνα βράχο. Ἔτσι **κι ὁ Χριστὸς, ὁ χρυσάετος** -ἡ Ἀποκάλυψις ὀνομάζει τὸ Χριστὸ μᾶς αὐτό (βλ. 12,14)-, ἀφῆσε τὰ οὐράνια δώματά του καὶ ἀγγίξε τὴ γῆ. Καὶ ἡ γῆ δὲν κάηκε. Ὡς ταπεινώσις, ὡς μελαλεῖο ταπεινώσεως ἀφραστο!

Γιὰ ποῖο σκοπὸ κατέβηκε ὁ Χριστὸς στὸν κόσμον; Γιὰ νὰ σώσῃ τὸν ἄνθρωπο.

Ἀπὸ τί κινδύνευε ὁ ἄνθρωπος; Ἀπὸ σεισμό, ἀπὸ φωτιά, ἀπὸ ἐπιδημία, ἀπὸ ἀσθένεια, ἀπὸ πλημμύρα, ἀπὸ ἓνα νέο κατακλυσμὸ, ἀπὸ πολέμους καὶ ἐμφύλιους σπαραγμούς; Ἀπὸ πολλὰ πράγματα κινδυνεύει. Πρὸ παντὸς ὁμῶς κινδυνεύει ἀπὸ τὴν **ἁμαρτία**. Γι' αὐτὸ ἦρθε ὁ Χριστὸς, γιὰ νὰ σώσῃ τὸν κόσμον ἀπὸ τὴν

ἁμαρτία. Ἄν βγάλῃς ἓνα σπυράκι, φοβᾶσαι καὶ τρέχεις στὸ γιατρό, μήπως εἶνε καρκίνος. Χριστιανέ μου, σήμερα - αὔριο, ἓνα κουφάρι θὰ γίνῃς μέσα στὴ γῆ. Τρέμεις τὴν ἀσθένεια, ἀλλὰ **τὴν ἁμαρτία δὲν τρέμεις**.

Σήμερα οἱ ἄνθρωποι **γεύονται τὴν ἁμαρτία** ὄχι μὲ τὸ κουταλάκι τοῦ γλυκοῦ ἀλλὰ μὲ τὴν κουτάλα, πίνουν τὴ μοιχεία καὶ τὴν πορνεία σὰν ἓνα ποτήρι δροσερὸ νερό (βλ. 15,18). Τοὺς φαίνεται σὰν ἓνα ὠραῖο πρᾶγμα, σὰν γλύκισμα, ἀλλὰ μέσα σ' αὐτὸ ὁ διάβολος ἔχει ρίξει τὸ φαρμάκι του. Ἡ ἁμαρτία εἶνε φωτιά ποὺ καίει, σκορπιὸς ποὺ κεντάει εἶνε φίδι, κεραυνός, σεισμός, τὸ μεγαλύτερο κακό.

Ὁ διάβολος εἶνε φοβερὸς ψαράς. Ἀπλώνει τὰ δίχτυα του στὰ παλάτια, στὰ δικαστήρια, στοὺς στρατώνες, στὰ χωράφια, στὰ ἐργαστήρια, στὰ χρηματιστήρια, στὶς τράπεζες, στὰ σχολεῖα, στὰ πανεπιστήμια, παντοῦ. Σὰν τὴν ἀράχνη **τοὺς πιάνει ὅλους**, δὲν μένει κανεὶς ἔξω. Καὶ οἱ ἄντρες, καὶ οἱ γυναῖκες, κ' ἐκεῖνος ὁ ἀσπρομάλλης γέρος ποὺ ἔχει τὸ ἓνα πόδι στὸν τάφο καὶ πρέπει νὰ κρατᾷ κομποσχοῖνι καὶ κάθε μέρα νὰ προσεύχεται, καὶ τὸ μικρὸ παιδί· **κι ὁ ἀγράμματος ἀλλὰ καὶ ὁ καθηγητὴς**, ὅλοι εἶνε ἁμαρτωλοὶ. Ἀμαρτάνει καὶ ὁ στρατιώτης ποὺ στὸ στρατόπεδο βλαστημάει τὸ Θεό, ἀμαρτάνει **κι ὁ ἀξιωματικὸς** ποὺ δὲν ἐκτελεῖ τὸ ἱερό του καθῆκον. Ἀμαρτάνουν οἱ θνητοὶ ὄλων τῶν χρωμάτων καὶ τῶν καταστάσεων. Ὅπως τὸ ψάρι κολυμπᾷ μέσ' στὴ θάλασσα, ἔτσι ὁ ἄνθρωπος κολυμπᾷ μέσ' στὴν ἁμαρτία.

Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ κάθε μέλος καὶ σὲ κάθε μέρος. Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ τὰ χέρια· ἀντὶ μ' αὐτὰ νὰ κάνουμε τὸ σταυρὸ μας, νὰ κάνουμε τὸ καλό, νὰ βοηθᾶμε ὁ ἓνας τὸν ἄλλο, ἐμεῖς τὰ βάφουμε μὲ αἷμα ἢ τ' ἀπλώνουμε στὰ δικαστήρια καὶ δίνουμε ὄρκους. Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ τὰ πόδια, ποὺ εἶνε ἔτοιμα νὰ τρέξουν στὸ κακό,

νά γλιστρήσουν τη νύχτα στο ξένο σπίτι και ν' ατιμάσουν τη γυναίκα του άλλου. Έχουμε πόδια για τὸ διάβολο, πόδια για τὸ Χριστὸ δὲν ἔχουμε. Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, καὶ δὲν τρέχουμε στὴν ἐκκλησία. Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ τὰ μάτια· μᾶς τὰ ἴδωσε ὁ Θεὸς γιὰ νὰ βλέπουμε τὰ ἄστρα τ' οὐρανοῦ καὶ τὰ ὠραῖα τῆς γῆς καὶ νὰ τὸν δοξάζουμε, κ' ἔμεῖς τὰ ἔχουμε μόνο γιὰ τὴ διαφθορά. Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ τὰ αὐτιά· τὰ τεντώνουμε ν' ἀκούσουμε ὅ,τι αἰσχρό, ἀλλὰ τὰ κλείνουμε μὲ βουλοκέρι νὰ μὴν ἀκούσουμε τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ τὴ γλῶσσα· ἀντὶ νὰ εἶνε μιὰ κιθάρα ποὺ θὰ ὑμνῆ τὸ Θεό, ἔμεῖς μ' αὐτὴν κάνουμε κατακρίσεις, συκοφαντίες, ὕβρεις, βλασφημίες· τὸ σκουλήκι τῆς γῆς βλαστημᾷ τὸ Δημιουργό του. Ἀμαρτάνουμε μὲ ὅλες τὶς αἰσθήσεις καὶ μὲ τὸ μυαλό. Πές μου τί σκέπτεσαι, νὰ σοῦ πῶ ποιὸς εἶσαι. Σκέπτεσαι γυναῖκες; εἶσαι ἕνας διεφθαρμένος. Σκέπτεσαι λεφτά; εἶσαι ἕνας φιλάργυρος. Σκέπτεσαι νὰ ἐκδικηθῆς; εἶσαι ἕνας Κάιν. Ποῦ φτερουγίζουν τὰ ὄνειρά σου; Ἀμαρτάνουμε καὶ μὲ τὴν καρδιά. Μᾶς τὴν ἔδωσε ὁ Θεὸς γιὰ νὰ ἀγαποῦμε, κ' ἔμεῖς τὴ γεμίσαμε φίδια καὶ σκορπιούς.

Ἀμαρτάνουμε τὴ μέρα, τὴ νύχτα, στὸ δρόμο, στὸ χωράφι, στὸ αὐτοκίνητο, στὸ ἀεροπλάνο, στὸ πλοῖο, παντοῦ. Ἀμαρτάνουμε —ὡ Θεέ μου— καὶ μέσα στὴν ἐκκλησία, ποὺ ἔπρεπε νὰ εἶνε χώρος ἀπυρόβλητος ἀπὸ τὸ διάβολο.

Ἀλλὰ ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε μακρόθυμος. Ἦρθε νὰ μᾶς σώσῃ ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία.

Τὴ Μεγάλῃ Παρασκευῇ ἀκοῦμε στὰ ἐγκώμια ἕνα παράδειγμα σχετικό. Ὁ πελεκᾶνος εἶνε φιλόσοργος· ἀγαπᾷ τὰ παιδιά του καὶ τρέχει νὰ τοὺς βρῆ τροφή. Τὴν ὥρα ὅμως ποὺ λείπει πάει τὸ φίδι στὴ φωλιά, τοιμπάει καὶ δηλητηριάζει τὰ πουλιά. Ὅταν ἔρχεται ὁ πελεκᾶνος καὶ βλέπῃ τὰ πουλάκια νὰ σπαρταρᾶνε, σχίζει μὲ τὸ ράμφος τὸ στήθος του καὶ τοὺς μεταγίγει ἀπὸ τὸ καθαρὸ αἷμα του· ἔτσι τὰ σώζει.

*«Ὅσπερ πελεκᾶν
τετρωμένος τὴν πλευράν σου, Λόγε,
σοὺς θανόντας παῖδας ἐζώωσας
ἐπιστάξας ζωτικούς αὐτοῖς κρουνοὺς».*

Ὁ Χριστὸς καλεῖ· *«Πίετε ἐξ αὐτοῦ πάντες, τοῦτό ἐστι τὸ αἷμα μου...»* (Ἰωάν. 26,27). Μᾶς ποτίζει, μᾶς μεταγίγει τὸ πεντακάθαρο αἷμα του. Τὴν ὥρα ποὺ κοινωνᾶς, κάθε σταγόνα εἶνε τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποὺ ἀχνίζει.

Ὁ Χριστὸς σώζει ὅλους, καὶ τοὺς πῶ μεγάλους ἀκόμη ἁμαρτωλοὺς. Ἡ ἀξία ἑνὸς γιατροῦ φαίνεται ἂν θεραπεύῃ ὄχι μιὰ μικρὴ πάθησι ἀλλὰ καὶ τὶς βαρεῖες ἀρρώστιες. Καὶ σήμερα

βλέπουμε ἕνα τέτοιο ἄρρωστο, ἕναν πολὺ βαρεῖα ἁμαρτωλὸ ποὺ ἔσωσε ὁ Χριστὸς. Εἶνε ὁ **ἀπόστολος Παῦλος**. Ἦταν διώκτης καὶ ἠθέλε ν' ἀφανίσῃ τοὺς Χριστιανούς. Θὰ πῆ κανεῖς· Πῶς τὸν ἀνεχόταν ὁ Χριστὸς; Μποροῦσε ὁ Χριστὸς νὰ στείλῃ ἀστροπελέκι νὰ τὸν κάψῃ. Δὲν τὸ ἔκανε, γιατί μακροθυμοῦσε· ἤξερε, ὅτι ἀπ' τὸ κάρβουνο αὐτὸ θὰ γίνῃ ἕνα διαμάντι.

Γι' αὐτὸ τώρα ὁ Παῦλος λέει· Ἦμουν ἁμαρτωλός, ἀλλὰ ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ ἔσωσε· ἦρθε στὸν κόσμον νὰ σώσῃ τοὺς ἁμαρτωλοὺς, καὶ πρῶτος ἀπ' ὅλους εἶμαι ἐγώ (Ἰ Τμ 1,15).

Καὶ μόνο τὸν Παῦλο ἔσωσε ὁ Χριστὸς; Ἔσωσε τὸν τελώνη ποὺ ἔγινε εὐαγγελιστής, ἔσωσε τὸ Ζακχαῖο ποὺ πῆγε στὸ σπίτι του καὶ εἶπε *«Σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο»* (Ἰωάν. 9,9), ἔσωσε τὸν ἑκατόνταρχο, ἔσωσε τὸ ληστή, ἔσωσε μυριάδες ψυχές. **Σώζει κ' ἐμᾶς.**

Σ' ἕνα χωριὸ τῆς Ρούμελης ἦταν μιὰ **γριά ἐνενήντα χρονῶν**. Πῆγαινε στὶς ἐκκλησιές, ἀσπαζόταν τὶς εἰκόνες, ἔκανε μετάνοιες· τὴν εἶχαν γιὰ ἁγία. Ὅταν πλησίαζε νὰ πεθάνῃ, φοβήθηκε. Ζήτησε παπᾶ. Ἐτρεξαν τὰ ἐγγόνια τῆς νὰ φέρουν πνευματικό. Ἐπειδὴ ὅμως ἀργοῦσαν κι αὐτὴ ξεψυχοῦσε, εἶπε· Ἐλάτε, παιδιά μου, νὰ σᾶς πῶ τὰ κρίματά μου... Ποιὸ τὸ κρίμα τῆς; Ὅταν ἦταν δεκαεξὶ χρονῶν πῆγε στὸ ποτάμι νὰ πλύνῃ. Ἐκεῖ μάλωσε μ' ἕνα παιδί μικρότερο, τὸ χτύπησε μὲ μιὰ πέτρα καὶ τὸ σκότωσε. Ἄνοιξε λάκκο καὶ τὸ σκέπασε. Ἦρθε ἀστυνομία, δὲν τὴν ὑπωπεύθησαν. Πέρασαν ἐβδομηνταπέντε χρόνια, μὰ δὲν ἠσύχασε. Ἐλάτε, παιδιά μου, νὰ σᾶς πῶ **σκότωσα παιδί!** Παναγιά, Χριστέ, συχωρέστε με τὴν ἁμαρτωλή... Καὶ μὲ τὸ «συχωρέστε με τὴν ἁμαρτωλή» ξεψύχησε ἡ βάρβα. Μπορεῖ ν' ἀσπρίσουν τὰ μαλλιά καὶ νὰ πέσουν τὰ δόντια, ἀλλὰ ἡ **ἁμαρτία μένει μέσα κάρβουνο** ἀναμμένο.

Ἀδέρφια μου, μὴν ἀπελπισθῆτε· **μετανοεῖτε**. Μιὰ σταγόνα ἀπὸ τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ κάνει λειῶμα τὶς ἁμαρτίες σας. Καὶ **μὴν ἀργεῖτε**, γιατί ἡ ὥρα πέρασε. Εἶνε δώδεκα παρὰ πέντε. Δὲν ἔχω κλειδὶ ν' ἀνοίξω τὶς καρδιές σας, νὰ μετρήσω τ' ἁμαρτήματά σας. Ὁ Χριστὸς τὰ ξέρει καὶ τὰ ζυγίζει ὅλα. Ἄνοιξτε τὶς καρδιές, βγάλτε τ' ἁμαρτήματά σας στὴν ἐκκλησία, **ἐξομολογηθῆτε μὲ εἰλικρίνεια**. Ἐλάτε κοντὰ στὸ Χριστό, γονατίστε μπροστά του, καὶ στὴν καρδιά σας θὰ αἰσθανθῆτε παράδεισο. Κι ὅταν ἔρθῃ ἡ τελευταία ὥρα τῆς ζωῆς μας, νὰ ποῦμε· *«Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, ὅταν ἔλθῃς ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου»* (Ἰωάν. 21,42)· ἀμήν.

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος

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

Marriage: We are One Another's Hands

In the consummation of the union of love we help one another, and because we are sprung from the earth we are following the primordial law of the earth, which is also God's law.

Look at the benefits good marriages bring to humanity. Who are the teachers of wisdom, the discoverers of the deepest knowledge, the explorers of everything on the earth, in the sea, or in the sky? Who are the lawgivers in the cities, and before them, the founders of the cities themselves? Who founded the arts? Who populated the squares, and the houses, the tables of banquets? Who brought together the choirs that sing in the churches? Who tamed the ferocity of primitive life, first tilled the soil, and crossed the seas? What, if not marriage, could unite what was divided?

Here is still a better point. We are each other's hand and ear and foot, because marriage doubles our energy, cheers our friends, and depresses our enemies. Sharing our troubles lessens the pain; joys put in common are sweeter; harmony makes riches more precious. And marriage is more precious than the riches themselves.

Marriage is the key to the control of the desires; it is the seal of an unshakable friendship; it is drink from a hidden spring; strangers cannot taste it; it bubbles up yet cannot be drawn from outside. Those who are united in the flesh form one soul and purify their religion by their reciprocal love.

Saint Gregory the Theologian

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](#))

WEBSITE information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL