



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN January 17th, 2021
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Cure of the Ten Lepers – Luke 17:12-19

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 115.15,12

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Verse: What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me?

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 13:17-21

Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in you that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 115.15,12

Τίμιος ἐναντίον Κυρίου ὁ θάνατος τῶν ὁσίων αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Τί ἀνταποδώσωμεν τῷ Κυρίῳ περὶ πάντων, ὧν ἀνταπέδωκεν ἡμῖν;

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 13:17-21 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, πείθεσθε τοῖς ἡγουμένοις ὑμῶν, καὶ ὑπέικετε· αὐτοὶ γὰρ ἀγρυπνοῦσιν ὑπὲρ τῶν ψυχῶν ὑμῶν, ὡς λόγον ἀποδώσοντες· ἵνα μετὰ χαρᾶς τοῦτο ποιῶσιν, καὶ μὴ στενάζοντες· ἀλυσιτελὲς γὰρ ὑμῖν τοῦτο. Προσεύχεσθε περὶ ἡμῶν· πεποίθαμεν γὰρ ὅτι καλὴν συνείδησιν ἔχομεν, ἐν πᾶσιν καλῶς θέλοντες ἀναστρέφεσθαι. Περισσότερως δὲ παρακαλῶ τοῦτο ποιῆσαι, ἵνα τάχιον ἀποκατασταθῶ ὑμῖν. Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς εἰρήνης, ὁ ἀναγαγὼν ἐκ νεκρῶν τὸν ποιμένα τῶν προβάτων τὸν μέγαν ἐν αἵματι διαθήκης αἰωνίου, τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦν, καταρτίσαι ὑμᾶς ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ εἰς τὸ ποιῆσαι τὸ θέλημα αὐτοῦ, ποιῶν ἐν ὑμῖν τὸ εὐάρεστον ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ, διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ· ᾧ ἡ δόξα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας τῶν αἰώνων. Ἀμήν.

The Gospel According to Luke 17:12-19

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 17:12-19 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσερχομένου αὐτοῦ εἰς τινα κώμην ἀπήντησαν αὐτῷ δέκα λεπροὶ ἄνδρες, οἳ ἔστησαν πόρρωθεν, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἦσαν φωνὴν λέγοντες· Ἰησοῦ ἐπιστάτα, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. καὶ ἰδὼν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε ἑαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσι. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς ἐκαθαρίσθησαν. εἷς δὲ ἐξ αὐτῶν, ἰδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη, ὑπέστρεψε μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν, καὶ ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ εὐχαριστῶν αὐτῷ· καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν Σαμαρεῖτης. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· οὐχὶ οἱ δέκα ἐκαθαρίσθησαν; οἱ δὲ ἐννέα ποῦ; οὐχ εὐρέθησαν ὑποστρέψαντες δοῦναι δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ εἰ μὴ ὁ ἄλλογενὴς οὗτος; καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀναστὰς πορεύου· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε.

Christmas Card and New Year 2021 Greeting: is on its' way ! With printers getting ill, bulk mail not on time (have you noticed your mail delivery?) everything is a bit late but is on the way We are most grateful to the extensive outpouring of participation this year as never before. Your love of God, His church and His people is most appreciated. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021 !

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,**

SAINT ANTHONY FEAST DAY IS TODAY ! Chronia Polla to all named Anthony and Antonia! This great saint of the Syrian desert initiated the universal monastic movement.

Parochial Observance approaches: Please mark your calendar this month for the Patronal Feast of the THREE HIERARCHS: Friday, January 29th-VESPER (7-9 P.M.)

Saturday, 30th. Divine Liturgy of 3 Saints,

Sunday , January 31st. - Post Feast of Saints Cyrus and John the Holy Unmercenaries.

Please join us!

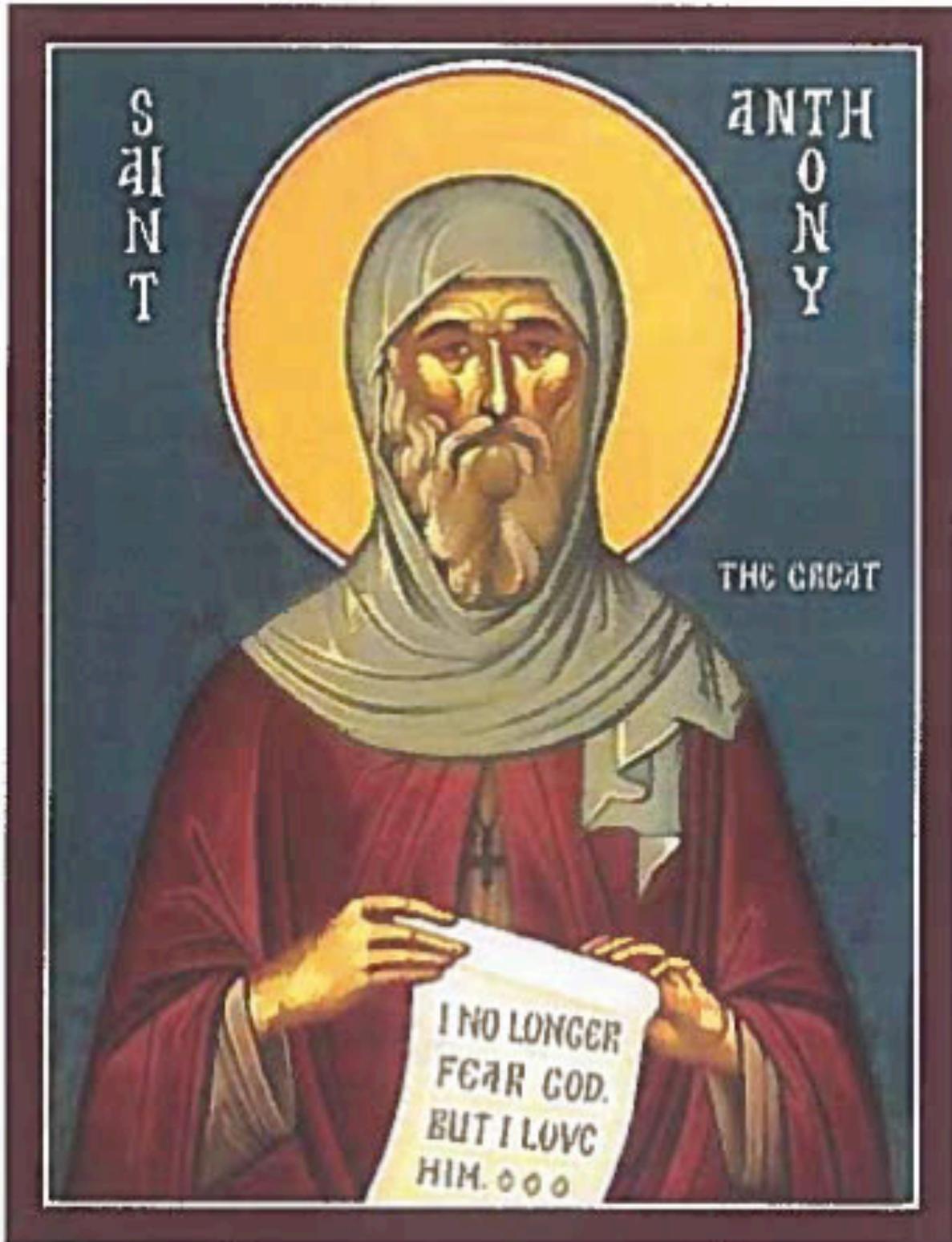
**MEMORIAL TODAY: + LIDIYA and + ANATOLIY GRIGORIEV
+ FRANCES VORIAS (FRANGOULA)**

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.

INAUGURATION prayers and petitions will be offered in supplication TODAY and on WEDNESDAY January 20th, for the peaceful and fruitful transition of the Presidency. May GOD BLESS AMERICA our native land, home of the brave and the free! Let's keep it that way. JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR THE NATION, OUR CONSTITUTION, OUR UNITY and SECURITY.

Saint Anthony is the 'DEAN' of the ascetics, which is spiritual attainment. Born humbly in Coma of Middle Egypt in 251 A.D. he based his vocation on these scriptural passage in Saint Matthew's gospel here Christ says, 'If you would be perfect sell all that you possess go. and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in Heaven'. Anthony applied all this and retreated to be Egyptian desert. He mastered reading and writing.



At the synod of Nicaea, Anthony was invited because of his wisdom, to defeat the heresy of Arianism. With neither rank, nor title, nor power he conquered heresy. He attracted thousands to asceticism in his proration of the monastic life. Anthony is the global 'patriarch' of all monastic communities of the Christian faith.



EPIPHANY (Wednesday-January 06th) was a monumental spiritual inspiration to the faithful congregation. Not only was it the 'THEOPHANIA' (Showing of the God-head-Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the epiphany (revelation of the divine on high), it was also our Pastor's first service in the New Year 2021 ! The entire church proper was sprinkled with the holy waters of the 'JORDAN' as each walled icon was drenched in tears of joy and hope for the NEW YEAR 2021. Parishioners were also sprinkled with the sacred water of cleansing and rejuvenation in the spirit. Holy Water will be distributed throughout January upon request.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γεννακία Τερτὸ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@yghoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΗ'	Κυριακὴ ΙΒ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 17,12-19)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2347	17 Ἰανουαρίου 2021	

Μικρὸ κακὸ ἢ ἀχαριστία;

«Οὐχὶ οἱ δέκα ἐκαθαρίσθησαν; οἱ δὲ ἑννέα ποῦ;» (Λουκ. 17,17)

Σὲ ἐλεεινὴ κατάστασι ἦταν, ἀγαπητοί μου, οἱ δέκα λεπροὶ ποὺ ἀκούσαμε στὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Λουκ. 17,12-13).

Ἡ ἀσθένειά τους ἦταν φοβερή. Τὸ σῶμα τους γεμάτο πληγές, ποὺ δὲν ἔκλειναν. Τὸ δέρμα σκεπασμένο ἀπὸ λέπια, ποὺ ἔπεφταν κ' ἔβγαιναν πάλι ἄλλα. Ὑπέφεραν οἱ ταλαίπωροι τὴν ἡμέρα ἀπὸ πόνους, ὑπέφεραν καὶ τὴ νύχτα ἀπὸ ἀυπνία· μὲ τὸν κνισμὸ, τὴ φαγούρα ποὺ ἐνιωθάν νὰ τοὺς τρώῃ στὰ διάφορα μέλη τους, δὲν μπορούσαν νὰ κλείσουν μάτι. Καὶ ἡ ὄψι τους ἀλλάζε κι αὐτή. Ἐπεφταν σάρκινα κομμάτια, τὰ αὐτιά, ἡ μύτη. Ἡ ἀσθένεια ἔτρωγε τὰ φρύδια, ἀλλοίωνε τὰ χαρακτηριστικὰ τοῦ προσώπου, ὁ ἀσθενὴς παρουσίαζε ὄψι φρικτὴ. Καταντούσαν ἀγνώριστοι, ἡ μορφή τους παραμορφωμένη προκαλοῦσε φόβο.

Καταραμένη ἀσθένεια. Καὶ τὸ χειρότερο, ἀνίστη, ἀπὸ τὰ ἀρχαῖα χρόνια μέχρι καὶ τῶν ἡμερῶν τοῦ Κυρίου. Στὰ χρόνια ἐκεῖνα κανένα φάρμακο δὲν εἶχε βρεθῆ γιὰ τὴ λέπρα καὶ κανένας γιατρός δὲν μπορούσε νὰ κάνῃ κάτι γιὰ νὰ βοηθήσῃ τοὺς πάσχοντες, νὰ θεραπεύσῃ τοὺς λεπρούς.

Ἦταν τέλος καὶ ἀσθένεια μεταδοτικὴ, γι' αὐτὸ οἱ ὑγιεῖς ἔπρεπε νὰ προστατεύωνται. Γιὰ νὰ μὴ διαδίδεται καὶ μολύνωνται καὶ ἄλλοι, τὸ κύριο μέτρο ποὺ ἐλάμβαναν οἱ τότε ἀρχεῖς ἦταν, ν' ἀπομονώνουν τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς. Οἱ λεπροὶ ἔμεναν μακριὰ ἀπὸ τίς κατοικημένες περιοχές, ἀπὸ πόλεις καὶ χωριά. Γιὰ νὰ εἰδοποιούνται οἱ ὑγιεῖς ὅτι πλησιάζει κάποιος λεπρὸς καὶ νὰ φυλάγνται, κρεμοῦσαν στὸ λαιμὸ τοῦ λεπροῦ κουδούνι, σὰν τὰ πρόβατα. Οἱ λεπροὶ ζοῦσαν σὲ μία κοινωνικὴ ἀπομόνωση. Φρικτὴ ἡ κατάστασι, ἐλεεινὴ ἡ ζωὴ τους. Ἦταν ζωντανοὶ νεκροί, νεκροὶ ἄταφοι.

Ἔτσι ζοῦσαν καὶ οἱ δέκα λεπροὶ τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Ἐμεναν μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸν κόσμον, σ' ἓνα βουνό. Μόνη παρηγοριά γι' αὐ-

τοὺς ἦταν ἡ μεταξύ τους συναναστροφή. Κατοικία τους εἶχαν μιὰ σπηλιά. Συντροφιά τους τὰ θηρία τῆς ἐρήμου. Κανεῖς δὲν τολμοῦσε ἀλλὰ καὶ δὲν μπορούσε νὰ τοὺς πλησιάσῃ.

Ἄν ὁμως δὲν τοὺς ἐπισκέπτεται κανεῖς ἄλλος, τοὺς σκέπτεται καὶ τοὺς ἐπισκέπτεται ὁ Χριστός. Καὶ νάτος, ἔρχεται τώρα πρὸς τὸ μέρος τους. Τ' ἀκούνε αὐτοί, τὸ πληροφοροῦνται, κι ὅταν τὸν βλέπουν νὰ πλησιάζῃ, τότε ὄλοι μαζί ὑψώνουν φωνή· «Ἰησοῦ ἐπιστάτα, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς»· διδάσκαλε Ἰησοῦ, ἐλέησέ μας (Λουκ. 17,13). Ὁ Χριστὸς τοὺς σπλαχνίζεται καὶ ἀποφασίζει νὰ τοὺς θεραπεύσῃ. Τοὺς διατάζει λοιπὸν νὰ πάνε ἀμέσως στοὺς ἱερεῖς, γιὰ τὴν ἰατρικὴν ἐπισκευὴν. Καὶ τὸ θαῦμα γίνεται καθ' ὁδόν· καθὼς βαδίζουν πηγαίνοντας ὄλοι μαζί στοὺς ἱερεῖς, ἐκεῖ στὸ δρόμον γιαιτρεύονται. Ποιὸς τώρα μπορεῖ νὰ περιγράψῃ τὴ χαρὰ τους ὅταν παίρνουν στὸ χεῖρ τὴν πιστοποίησιν ὅτι εἶνε ὑγιεῖς καὶ τὴν ἄδεια νὰ ἐπιστρέψουν στὸ σπιτί τους, νὰ βγοῦν στὴν κοινωνία!

Ἄλλ' ἐνῶ πηγαίνοντας στοὺς ἱερεῖς βάδιζαν ὄλοι μαζί, φεύγοντας τώρα ἐπὶ κεῖ οἱ πρῶνι λεπροὶ χωρίζονται. Οἱ μὲν ἑννέα πῆγαν ὁ καθένας πρὸς τὸ σπιτί του, ἀλλὰ ὁ ἓνας θεώρησε χρέος του νὰ ἐπιστρέψῃ καὶ νὰ εὐχαριστήσῃ τὸν Χριστό· κι αὐτὸς ἦταν ὄχι Ἰουδαῖος ἀλλὰ Σαμαρεῖτης. Ἐρχεται λοιπὸν, πέφτει στὰ πόδια τοῦ Κυρίου μὲ τὸ πρόσωπον ἐπὶ τὴ γῆ, καὶ μὲ δυνατὴ φωνὴ τὸν εὐχαριστεῖ. Μόνον αὐτός, ὁ ἓνας· οἱ ἄλλοι ὄχι. Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς ἐκφράζει παράπρον· Δέκα δὲν καθαρίστηκαν; «οἱ δὲ ἑννέα ποῦ;» (βλ. 17,17).

Ἄλλὰ, ἀδελφοί μου, τὴ διαγωγὴ ποὺ ἔδειξαν οἱ ἑννιά θεραπευμένοι, δείχνουμε δυστυχῶς κ' ἐμεῖς ἀπέναντι στὸν Εὐεργέτη μας. Εἴμαστε κ' ἐμεῖς ἀχάριστοι καὶ μάλιστα σὲ βαθμὸ χειρότερον. Μᾶς εὐεργετεῖ κ' ἐμᾶς ὁ Θε-

ός. Ποιές εἶνε οἱ εὐεργεσίες του; Πολλές, ἀμέτρητες. Εὐεργεσίες ὑλικές, στὸ σῶμα· ἀέρας καὶ ὀξυγόνο, ἥλιος καὶ φῶς, καρποί, τροφές, νερό, ροῦχο καὶ τόσα ἄλλα δῶρα του. Μὰ πιὸ μεγάλες εἶνε οἱ πνευματικές του εὐεργεσίες, οἱ εὐεργεσίες στὴν ψυχὴ.

Τί ἔχει ἡ ψυχὴ μας; Εἶνε ἄρρωστη, ἀκάθαρτη, λεπρὴ. Ἄν μπορούσαμε νὰ τὴ δοῦμε μὲ μάτια πνευματικά, θὰ τὴ βλέπαμε γεμάτη ἀπὸ τὰ λέπια τῆς ἁμαρτίας, ὄλο πληγές καὶ πύον. Δὲν εἶνε τόσο ἀκάθαρτος ἕνας λεπρὸς ὅσο εἶνε ἡ ψυχὴ μας. Ἐν τούτοις ἕνα «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» μὲ ἀληθινὴ μετάνοια, μία εἰλικρινῆς ἐξομολόγησι, ἀρκοῦν γιὰ νὰ πλυθῆ, νὰ καθαρῶσθῃ, νὰ γειάνῃ. Δὲν εἶνε αὐτὸ μεγάλη εὐεργεσία; Ὡ ἀδελφοί μου, τὴν ψυχὴ μας, ποὺ κανεὶς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὴν καθαρῶσθῃ, τὴν καθαρῶσθῃ ὁ Χριστός. Πῶς; Μὲ τὸ τίμιον αἷμα του. «Τὸ αἷμα Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ...καθαρίζει ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ πάσης ἁμαρτίας» (1^η 1^η).

Εὐεργετῆ ὁ Θεός. Κ' ἐμεῖς πῶς φερόμαστε ἀπέναντί του; **Ἀποδεικνύομαστε ἀχάριστοι.** Δέκα (10) ἦταν οἱ λεπροὶ ποὺ θεραπεύθηκαν καὶ ἕνας (1) φάνηκε εὐγνώμων. Σήμερα μέσα σὲ χίλιους (1.000) εὐεργετημένους Χριστιανοὺς ζήτημα εἶνε ἂν, ὄχι ἑκατὸ (100) ποὺ εἶνε ἡ ἀναλογία, ἀλλὰ οὔτε δέκα (10) τοῦ λένε εὐχαριστῶ. Δὲν βλέπετε στὸ μέρος ποὺ ζητεῖ; ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ στέλνῃ τὰ ἀγαθὰ του σὲ πόλεις ὀλόκληρες καὶ χωριά. Ἄν λειτουργοῦσε μόνο ἡ δικαιοσύνη του, γιὰ τὰ πονηρὰ ἔργα καὶ τὴν ἀσεβεία μας θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ στείλῃ σεισμοὺς νὰ μᾶς καταστρέψῃ, κεραυνοὺς νὰ μᾶς κάψῃ, ν' ἀνοίξῃ τὴ γῆ νὰ μᾶς καταπιῇ. Μᾶς σῶζει ἀπὸ συμφορές, καὶ μᾶς στέλνει ἀγαθὰ· τί περιμένει ἄραγε ἀπὸ μᾶς; Περιμένει καὶ τὸ ζητάει ὁ Χριστός, νὰ ἔρθουμε σήμερα ὄλοι καὶ νὰ τοῦ ποῦμε· Σ' εὐχαριστοῦμε, Κύριε.

Τίποτα ἐμεῖς. Μένουμε στὸ σπῆτι ἢ τρέχουμε ἄλλοῦ, ἀλλὰ στὴν ἐκκλησίαν δὲν πᾶμε. Κι ὅταν ἀκουστῇ ἡ καμπάνα ἢ μᾶς πῆ κάποιος, «Ἐλα νὰ πᾶμε ν' ἀνάψουμε ἕνα κερί καὶ νὰ ποῦμε ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ στὸ Θεό! βρίσκουμε πάντα μιὰ δικαιολογία, «προφάσεις ἐν ἁμαρτίαις» (1^η 10^η)· προφασίζομαστε ἄλλοτε τὸ κρῦο, ἄλλοτε τὴ ζέστη, ἄλλοτε τὶς δουλειές, ἄλλοτε ὅ,τιδήποτε. Τί δείχνει αὐτό; **Εἶμαστε ἀχάριστοι!**

Καὶ μόνο ἀχάριστοι; Πολλοὶ ὄχι μόνο δὲν αἰσθάνονται χρέος νὰ εὐχαριστήσουν τὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὶς δωρεές του, ἀλλὰ —φοβερὸ καὶ νὰ τὸ ποῦμε— ἀνοίγουν τὸ στόμα καὶ βλαστημοῦν. Ὅριστε· κάθεται τὸ μεσημέρι στὸ τραπέζι, ἔχει μπροστά του ὄλα τ' ἀγαθὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἀπολαμβάνει τὰ δῶρα του, τὸ ψωμὶ ἔχει στὸ στό-

μα - τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ τί κάνει; βλαστημάει ὁ ἄθλιος! **Φίδια ἔχουμε καταντήσει.** Μοιάζουμε μὲ τὸ χωρικὸ ἐκεῖνο ποὺ εἶδε τὸ χειμῶνα στὸν παγωμένο δρόμο ἕνα φίδι, τὸ λυπήθηκε, τὸ πήρε καὶ τὸ ἔβαλε στὸν κόρφο του, κ' ἐκεῖνο μόλις ζεστάθηκε τὸν δάγκωσε. Αὐτὸ κάνουν πολλοί. Ἀχάριστοι! Τοὺς θερμαίνει ὁ Θεὸς μὲ τὸν ἥλιο του, τοὺς τρέφει, τοὺς ποτίζει, τοὺς προστατεύει, κι αὐτοὶ ἀντὶ γιὰ εὐχαριστῶ χύνουν τὸ φαρμάκι τῆς ψυχῆς τους κατὰ τοῦ Πλάστου καὶ Δημιουργοῦ τοῦ κόσμου. Δαγκώνουμε οἱ ἄθλιοι τὸ χέρι ποὺ κάθε μέρα ἀνοίγει καὶ μᾶς δωροφορεῖ.

Δὲν εἶνε μικρὸ κακὸ ἡ ἀχαριστία. Κι ἄλλες ἁμαρτίες ἐξαχρειώνουν τὸν ἄνθρωπο, ἀλλ' αὐτὴ τὸν κατεβάζει πρὸ κάτω κι ἀπὸ τὰ ζῶα. Γιατί καὶ τὰ ζῶα ἀκόμα ξέρουν νὰ εὐγνωμονοῦν τὸν ἀφέντη τους· κ' ἐπειδὴ δὲν μποροῦν νὰ τοῦ μιλήσουν μὲ τὴ γλῶσσα τους, τὸ λένε καθένα μὲ τὸν τρόπο του. Τὰ πουλιὰ στὸ δάσος μόλις ξυπνήσουν κελαῖδούν καὶ ὑμνοῦν ἔτσι τὸν Πλάστη τους. Τὰ σκυλιὰ εὐγνωμονοῦν τὸν κύριό τους· τοὺς ρίχνει ἐκεῖνος ἕνα κόκκαλο κι αὐτὰ ἀμέσως τοῦ κουνοῦν τὴν οὐρά τους. Ἀναφέρονται περιπτώσεις ποὺ καὶ θηρία ἀκόμη ἔδειξαν πῶς γνωρίζουν τὸν εὐεργέτη τους. Λένε, ὅτι ἕνα λιοντάρι ἀκολούθησε σὲ ὄλη του τὴ ζωὴ ἕναν ἄνθρωπο, ὁ ὁποῖος κάποτε τὸ εἶχε σῶσει ἀπὸ ἕνα φίδι!

Ἄλογα κτήνη δηλαδὴ εἶνε πιὸ νοήμονα καὶ εὐαίσθητα. Καὶ μόνο ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀποδεικνύεται **ἀνήμενος, ἀναίσθητος, παράλογος, ἀχάριστος.** Ἀχάριστος πρὸς τὸ Θεό, πρὸς τοὺς γονεῖς του, πρὸς τοὺς εὐεργέτες του γενικῶς.

* * *

Σήμερα λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί μου, ποὺ ἀκούσαμε αὐτὸ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, **νὰ βάλουμε κ' ἐμεῖς μία τάξι στὴ ζωὴ μας.** Ποτέ μὴν καθίσουμε γιὰ φαί χωρὶς τὸ «εὐχαριστῶ» γιὰ τ' ἀγαθὰ ποὺ γευόμαστε. Ποτέ μὴν κοιμηθοῦμε, χωρὶς νὰ εὐχαριστήσουμε τὸν Κύριον γιὰ τὴν πρόνοια καὶ τὶς εὐλογίες τῆς ἡμέρας. Ποτέ μὴν ξυπνήσουμε χωρὶς νὰ τὸν θυμηθοῦμε, νὰ εὐχαριστήσουμε γιὰ τὸν ὕπνο, νὰ τὸν προσκυνήσουμε.

Μ' αὐτὸ τὸν τρόπο θὰ ἔχουμε τὴ χαρὰ τῆς ψυχῆς μας καὶ τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἐκεῖνος εἶνε γενναιόδωρος· ὅσο περισσότερο τὸν εὐγνωμονοῦμε, τόσο περισσότερο θὰ μᾶς ἀγαπᾷ καὶ θὰ μᾶς εὐεργετῇ. Καὶ ὡς τελευταία καὶ μεγαλύτερη εὐεργεσία του θὰ μᾶς χαρίσῃ **τὴ βασιλείαν τῶν οὐρανῶν,** τῆς ὁποίας εἶθε ν' ἀξιωθοῦμε διὰ τῶν πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου καὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**

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

Faith, Cleansing and Gratitude

Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest." So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found to give glory to God except this for-

eigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

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)

WEB-SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit YOUR E-MAIL address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org