



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERarchs GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN March 7th, 2021
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

MEATFARE SUNDAY -- 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. Ἡχος δ'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 146.5;134.3

Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἴσχυς ἀύτου.

Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.

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

Ἄδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησιν τῷ θεῷ· οὗτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύομεν, οὗτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. Βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἔξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. Εάν γάρ τις ἵδη σε τὸν ἔχοντα γνῶσιν ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἱκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; Καὶ ἀπολεῖται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῇ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν; Οὗτος δὲ ἀμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφούς, καὶ τύποντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν, εἰς Χριστὸν ἀμαρτάνετε. Διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος; Οὐκ εἰμὶ ἐλεύθερος; Οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν κύριον ἡμῶν ἐώρακα; Οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἔστε ἐν κυρίῳ; Εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμὶ ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμὶ· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἔστε ἐν κυρίῳ.

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

'Εκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 25:31-46 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

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."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· "Οταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἄγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναχθήσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὥσπερ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ εὔωνύμων. τότε ἔρει ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρός μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπείνασα γάρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με, ἔνος ἡμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιεβάλετέ με, ἡσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἡμην, καὶ ἤλθετε πρός με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἦ διψῶντα καὶ ἐποτίσαμεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἦ γυμνὸν καὶ περιεβάλομεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἦ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἤλθομεν πρός σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἔρει αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὃσον ἐποίησατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποίησατε. τότε ἔρει καὶ τοῖς ἐξ εὐωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπείνασα γάρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐποτίσατέ με, ἔνος ἡμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενῆς καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἦ διψῶντα ἦ ξένον ἦ γυμνὸν ἦ ἀσθενῆ ἦ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐ διηκονήσαμέν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὃσον οὐκ ἐποίησατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποίησατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

TODAY : DOUBLE HEADER ! TWINS ARE CHURCHED TODAY: The new born set of brother and sister ‘ JOHN and ELEFTHERIA ‘ born on Three Hierarchs Day – January 30th, of Emanuel and Georgiana Nikoloudakis. NA SAS ZESOUN ! Congratulations.

TODAY MARCH 07 : His Eminence Archbishop Daniel of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America will offer a special homily to our faithful on the occasion of his pastoral visit to our MISSION PARISH of Saint Panteleimon. We welcome His Eminence a long time friend of Three Hierarchs and extend POLLA TA ETH DESPOTA! GOD GRANT YOU MANY YEARS!

Bi-Centennial Observance of the INDEPENDENCE of GREECE from the yoke of Turkish Ottoman oppression and subjugation begins THIS YEAR (1821-2021) on Thursday – MARCH 25th. (ANNUNCIATION/EVANGELISMOS FEAST). Our Parish will highlight this historic, monumental, phenomenal feat of liberation, identity and renaissance of the Greek nation throughout the year. Please join us in every endeavor to encourage our people, our faithful, and particularly our YOUTH in the significance of the 200 year old event and it's consequences in OUR life TODAY! We are holocaust survivors too having suffered the indignation of oppressed servitude for OVER 400 years of Ottoman, Turkish and Islamic domination. ZHTO H ELLAS ! ZHTO O LAOS !

Special commemorations will commence at THREE HIERARCHS on March 25th and there after. It is the duty of all to commemorate this event with pride and marvel, while reflecting upon the determined strength of our ancestral roots that served as the catalyst of the renewed democracy, freedom, heritage and legacy that we cherish today. it was OUR, is OURS, and will with God's Grace – be OURS forever.

FASTING NOTE: There is no fasting on March 24th, (Wednesday), March 25th, (Thursday) and March 26th, (Friday), as we approach CARNIVALE (Apokrees)' Celebrate and eat up! Happy Greek Independence!

ARTOKLASIES are most welcomed for feast days, name days, thanksgiving and special intentions. Please coordinate with the Office for scheduling.

WINE and PROSPHORA are always needed for liturgical rites. Please see the clergy for direction and scheduling.

TRIODION COMMENCED: Sunday February 21st.

LENT COMMENCES: Monday March 15th..... and the journey continues!

PASCHA IS CELEBRATED ON MAY 02nd.

PSYCHOSABBATA:

March	07th	CARNIVALE (apokrees)	Saturday	MARCH 13th
March	14th	CHEESEFARE	Saturday	MARCH 20th

LENTEN SCHEDULE for the Paschal observance has been posted by mail to all registered stewards of the parish. Additional copies will be available upon request through the Office.

REGISTRATION of STEWARDSHIP (MEMBERSHIP) for the year 2021 has commenced as of January 1st. 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. Up-coming

MEMORIALS TODAY:

+ DR. JOHN ELEFTHERAKIS

+ MICHAEL SPILIOS

+ ANNA LIKES (Lykiardopoulos)



Sunday, February 21st, we shared a wonderfully inspiring Divine Liturgy conducted by the reverend Archimandrite CHRYSOSTOMOS from NIGERIA,AFRICA. Fr. Chrysostomos was most enlightening in his homily or submission to the WILL of GOD ! We anticipate a return visit to our parish in the Lenten period. His authored book ORTHODOXY IN AFRICA is available through the Church Office for a donation of \$20. (TWENTY-DOLLARS) for missions. We have only six volumes left ! First come, first served. Get your copy today.

ARCHIMANDRITE CHRYSOSTOM ONYEKAKAYAH

Orthodoxy in AFRICA



ABOUT THE BOOK

Orthodoxy is primarily a body of revealed doctrine which formulates a certain vision of God, Man, history and time, et cetera. The Church's history records the progress of Christ's work throughout the course of the human experience. History in Orthodoxy such as this, has both a theological and ecclesiastical importance because of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ who voluntarily chooses to work in and through human history to bring us salvation.

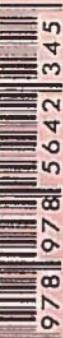
Thus, this Patriarchal knowledge and history thereof becomes a sacred history not in the same sense as the Scripture which forms the Salvation story itself, but rather as a record of the continued witnesses and effects of the Salvation story in the experience of Man through the holy and unbroken chain of the Apostolic succession.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Very Rev. Archimandrite Fr. Onyekakayah is a Bachelor of Orthodox Theology and public Administration. He authored "St. John Chrysostom: The Independent Exiled Genius (2009)"; and "Orthodox Liturgia; a theological/catechetical reflection (2009)" to his credit. He has written Many published Articles in the both International and local journals.

Fr. Chrysostom is the second son and last born of the 8 children of Mercilinus and Regina Onyekakayah from Umuofor Owu Amakohia, Ikeduru L.G.A. in Imo State, Nigeria.

He was Ordained in the priesthood by +Alexander Gianninis just 10 years ago for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Nigeria and currently pastors St. Christopher's Awoldemili Parish, Orsu L.G.A., Imo State.



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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Έκδιδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακή Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἅγιου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 –imaflio@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Ετος ΛΗ'
Φλώρινα - ἄριθμ. φύλλου 2356

Κυριακὴ τῆς Ἀπόκρεω (Ματθ. 25,31-46)
7 Μαρτίου 2021

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Εἶμαστε ἔμεῖς πρόβατα τοῦ Χριστοῦ;

«...Καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ» (Ματθ. 25,33)

Φοβερά, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἰνε δλα δσα ἀκού-
σαμε στὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο [βλ. Ματθ. 25,31-46]
εἰνε φοβερὴ ἡ ἡμέρα τῆς κρίσεως, φοβερὸς
ὁ Κριτής, φοβερὴ ἡ τιμωρία καὶ καταδίκη....
Ἄλλα ἔγω ἔδω, σὲ κήρυγμα μέσα στὴ θεία
λειτουργία, δὲν θὰ μιλήσω οὕτε γιὰ τὸν Κρι-
τή, οὕτε γιὰ τοὺς κρινομένους, οὕτε γιὰ τὶς
δύο ἀποφάσεις τοῦ θείου κριτηρίου. Ἄλλοτε,
ἄν θέλῃ ὁ Θεός, θὰ μιλήσουμε γιὰ δλα αὐτά,
καὶ ἐκεῖ θὰ μᾶς δοθῇ εὐκαιρία νὰ ποῦμε πε-
ρισσότερα καὶ νὰ ἔξετάσουμε πόσο φοβερὴ
εἰνε ἡ ἡμέρα τῆς Κρίσεως. Τώρα, στὰ λίγα λε-
πτὰ ποὺ διαθέτουμε, θέλω νὰ ἔξετάσουμε ἔ-
να μόνο σημεῖο τῆς περικοπῆς, καὶ τὸ σημεῖο
αὐτὸ εἰνε τὸ ἔξης.

Τὴν ἡμέρα ἐκείνη τῆς θείας δίκης ὁ Χρι-
στὸς θὰ μοιράσῃ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους σὲ δύο μέ-
ρη. "Οπως ὁ βοσκὸς γυρίζοντας τὸ βράδυ στὴ
στάνη χωρίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τὰ κατσίκια,
καὶ ἀλλοῦ βάζει τὰ πρόβατα - ἀλλοῦ τὰ κατσί-
κια, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς θὰ ξεχωρίσῃ τοὺς δι-
καιούσους ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀμαρτωλούς. Σύμφωνα λοι-
πὸν μὲ τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιο τοὺς ἀμαρτωλοὺς
τοὺς ὀνομάζει «ἔριφια» δηλαδὴ κατσίκια, ἐνῶ
τοὺς δικαιούσους τοὺς ὀνομάζει «πρόβατα» [ι.ε.
25,32-33]. Ἄλλα γιατί τοὺς δικαιούσους τοὺς παρομοι-
άζει μὲ τὰ πρόβατα; Αὔτο θέλω νὰ ἔξετάσου-
με τώρα καὶ θὰ δῆτε δτι θὰ διδαχθοῦμε πολ-
λὰ ἀπὸ τὴν παρομοίωσι αὐτῆ.

Τὸ πρόβατο, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἰνε μιὰ εἰκόνα
τοῦ Χριστιανοῦ. Γιατὶ τὸ πρόβατο ἔχει πολλὰ
φυσικὰ ιδιώματα ποὺ πρέπει νὰ μιμηθῇ καὶ ν'
ἀντιγράψῃ ὁ Χριστιανός.

✓ Πρώτα - πρώτα τὸ πρόβατο εἰνε ἄκακο,
ἀθῷο. Τὸ βλέμμα του, ἡ φωνή του, τὸ βάδι-
σμά του, δλα εἰνε ἥμερα, χαριτωμένα. Τὸ πρό-
βατο δὲν πειράζει κανένα, δὲν κάνει ζημιές,
δὲν κάνει κακό. Δὲν ἔχει δόντια γιὰ νὰ κατα-
σπαράζῃ δπως ὁ λύκος, δὲν ἔχει νύχια γιὰ νὰ

ξεσχίζῃ δπως ἡ τίγρις καὶ τὸ λιοντάρι. Δὲν ἐ-
πιτίθεται, δὲν χτυπάει, δὲν πληγώνει, δὲν θα-
νατώνει, δὲν τρώει τὰ ἄλλα ζῷα. Ζῇ ἡσυχα,
χωρὶς νὰ ἐνοχλῇ κανένα.

"Ετοι πρέπει νὰ γίνη καὶ ὁ κάθε Χριστια-
νός, ἥμερος καὶ ἄκακος. Νὰ μὴν δργίζεται καὶ
βρίζῃ, νὰ μὴν ἐπιτίθεται εἴτε μὲ λόγια εἴτε μὲ
ἔργα, νὰ μὴ χειρονομῇ καὶ μουντζώνῃ, νὰ μὴ
χειροδικῇ, νὰ μὴ χτυπάῃ καὶ κλοτσάῃ, νὰ μὴν
πληγώνῃ καὶ σκοτώνῃ. Νὰ μὴν ἀδικῇ, νὰ μὴ
βλάπτῃ κανένα. Νά 'νε ἀθῷος καὶ ἄκακος. Τὸ
ῦφος του ἥπιο, εἰλικρινές, ἀνυπόκριτο. Καὶ τὸ
βλέμμα του ἀθῷο, χωρὶς περιέργεια, πο-
νηριὰ καὶ πάθος. Καὶ τὸ βάδισμά του σεμνὸ
καὶ ταπεινό. Καὶ τὰ λόγια του γλυκά, μὲ κα-
λωσύνη. Καθαρός ἀπὸ κάθε ἀτιμία, κάθε πρᾶ-
ξι κακή, κάθε ἔγκλημα. "Όλα ἐπάνω του νὰ
ἔχουν τὸ χρώμα τῆς ἀθψότητος. Τότε μοιάζει
μὲ τὸ πρόβατο, τὸ πρᾶ, τὸ ἥμερο, τὸ ἄκακο.

✓ "Άλλη ίδιότητα τοῦ προβάτου εἰνε ὑπο-
μονητικό. Δὲν ξέρω ἀν σᾶς ἔτυχε -σπάνιο βέ-
βαια γιὰ κατοίκους τῶν ἀστικῶν κέντρων- νὰ
βρεθῆτε ποτὲ τὸ καλοκαίρι σὲ μαντρὶ ἡ στά-
νη ὅταν κουρεύουν τὰ πρόβατα. Εἶνε χαρα-
κτηριστικό. Νὰ δῆτε λοιπὸν ἐκεῖ μὲ πόση ὑ-
πομονὴ τὸ πρόβατο, πλαγιασμένο, δέχεται τὸ
βοσκὸ νὰ τὸ κουρεύῃ μὲ τὸ χοντρὸ ψαλίδι.

"Ετοι καὶ ὁ Χριστιανὸς πρέπει νὰ 'χῃ ὑπο-
μονὴ σὲ δλες τὶς περιστάσεις τῆς ζωῆς του.
Ο πιστὸς ποὺ ἀσκεῖται στὴν ὑπομονὴ ἀφήνει
τὸ Θεὸ νὰ ἐνεργῇ ἐπάνω στὴ ζωὴ καὶ στὴν ψυ-
χὴ του δ,τι ἐκείνος κρίνει σκόπιμο καὶ ἀναγ-
καῖ γιὰ τὴν πνευματικὴ προκοπὴ καὶ τὸν ἀγι-
ασμό του. Ή θλίψις, ποὺ ἐπιτρέπει ὁ πανάγα-
θος Κύριος, εἰνε τὸ ψαλίδι ποὺ κρατάει στὰ
χέρια του ὁ οὐράνιος ποιμένας μας, ὁ Χρι-
στός· μ' αὐτὴν κουρεύει καὶ καθαρίζει τὴν ψυ-
χὴ μας ἀπὸ κάθε βλαβερὸ καὶ περιπτὸ στοι-
χεῖο. Έμεῖς μὴ δυσανασχετοῦμε κατὰ τῆς
θείας προνοίας· ξέρει ὁ Κύριος τί κάνει.

✓ "Υπομονητικὸς λοιπὸν ὅπως τὸ πρόβατο πρέπει νά 'νε ὁ Χριστιανός, ἀλλὰ καὶ πειθαρχημένος. Γιατὶ τὸ πρόβατο εἶνε καὶ ὑπάκουος· αὐτὸς εἶνε τὸ ἄλλο γνώρισμά του. Παρατηρήστε το. Ἀκούει τὸν τσοπᾶνο, γνωρίζει τὴ φωνὴ του, τὸν ἀκολουθεῖ παντοῦ ἡσυχα μὲ τὸ κεφάλι σκυμμένο, πειθαρχεῖ στὰ κελεύσματά του. Ἐχει ἐμπιστοσύνη στὸν ποιμένα του, δὲν ἀπομακρύνεται ἀπὸ κοντά του, συμβαδίζει εἰρηνικά μὲ τὸ ὑπόλοιπο κοπάδι.

"Ἔτοι καὶ κάθε γνήσιος Χριστιανός. Ἐχει ὑπακοή. Ἀκολουθεῖ πιστὰ τὸ Χριστό. Γνωρίζει τὴ φωνὴ του καὶ δὲν ἀκούει τὶς φωνὲς ἄλλων. Γιατὶ ὑπάρχουν καὶ πολλοὶ ποὺ κάνουν τὸ φίλο, μιμοῦνται τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, καλοῦν τοὺς Χριστιανοὺς νὰ τοὺς ἀκολουθήσουν, ὁ σκοπός τους ὅμως εἶνε δόλιος. Δὲν θέλουν νὰ ὠφελήσουν, νὰ σώσουν τὰ πρόβατα· ὁ σκοπός τους εἶνε ἄλλος, θέλουν νὰ ἐκμεταλλευτοῦν τὰ πρόβατα, εἶνε ἴκανοι ἀκόμη καὶ νὰ τὰ θυσιάσουν χάριν τοῦ συμφέροντός τους. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ προβατόσχημοι λύκοι, λύκοι ποὺ φοροῦν προβειά γιὰ νὰ ἔξαπατήσουν τὰ πρόβατα. Γι' αὐτοὺς φωνάζει ὁ Χριστός: «Προσέχετε ἀπὸ τοὺς ψευδοπροφῆτες...» (Μαθ.7,15). Καὶ ὁ ἀληθινὸς Χριστιανὸς γνωρίζει καλὰ τὸν ποιμένα του Χριστό, καὶ δὲν πέφτει θῦμα ὥστε νὰ παραπλανηθῇ καὶ ν' ἀκολουθήσῃ ἄλλους ἀρχηγούς, ἄλλους βοσκούς. Ξέρει καλά, δτι οἱ ἄλλοι δὲν εἶνε ποιμένες ποὺ φροντίζουν τὰ πρόβατα, ἀλλὰ λυκοποιμένες ποὺ θέλουν νὰ ἔχουν τὰ πρόβατα ὑπὸ τὶς διαταγές τους γιὰ νὰ τὰ ἐκμεταλλεύωνται.

✓ "Ἀκακο λοιπὸν τὸ πρόβατο, ὑπομονητικό, ὑπάκουο στὸ βοσκό, καὶ τέλος ἔχει ἄλλη μία ἰδιότητα· εἶνε οἰκονομικὰ προσοδοφόρο στὸν ἀνθρωπὸ τοῦ προσφέρει τὸ γάλα του, τὸ βούτυρό του, τὸ μαλλί του, τὸ κρέας του, τὸ δέρμα του. Καὶ δλα αὐτὰ εἶνε πολὺ χρήσιμα.

"Οπως πηγὴ λοιπὸν τὸ πρόβατο εἶνε πηγὴ ἀγαθῶν καὶ εὐημερίας, ἕτοι κι ὁ ἀληθινὸς Χριστιανὸς εἶνε πηγὴ εὐλογίας καὶ πλούτου σὲ μιὰ κοινωνία. Γιατὶ δποιος ἀκολουθεῖ πιστὰ τὸ Χριστὸ δχι μόνο δὲν κάνει κακὸ σὲ κανένα, ἀλλὰ καὶ σκορπίζει ἀγαθὰ σὲ δλους. Αισθάνεται πῶς δ,τι ἔχει, δλα τοῦ τὰ 'δωσε ὁ Θεός· δὲν τὰ κρατάει γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό του, ἀλλὰ τὰ διαθέτει καὶ στοὺς ἄλλους. Ἀν λοιπὸν ἔνα πρόβατο ποτίζῃ παιδιὰ μὲ τὸ γάλα του, στηρίζῃ ἀρρώστους μὲ τὸ κρέας του, ντύνη γέροντες μὲ τὸ μαλλί του, πόσο καλὰ μπορεῖ καὶ κάνει ὁ Χριστιανός! Μὲ τὸ λόγο του μεταδίδει τὴν ἀλήθεια, στηρίζει, παρηγορεῖ καὶ ὀδηγεῖ στὸν καλὸ δρόμο τοὺς γύρω του. Μὲ τὰ χρήματά

του συμπαραστέκεται ὅσο μπορεῖ. Ἀπὸ κάποια θέσι, ποὺ κατέχει, προσπαθεῖ νὰ ἔξυπηρτείσῃ τοὺς συνανθρώπους του. Ἄν ὑπάρχη ἀνάγκη, εἶνε πρόθυμος καὶ τὸ αἷμα του νὰ προσφέρῃ. Κάποτε καὶ τὴ ζωὴ του ἀκόμη θυσιάζει γιὰ νὰ σώσῃ κάποιον ποὺ κινδυνεύει. Πλούτος λοιπὸν ἀπὸ τὰ ζῶα εἶνε τὸ πρόβατο, καὶ πραγματικὴ εὐλογία μεταξὺ τῶν ἀνθρώπων εἶνε ὁ πιστὸς Χριστιανός. Εύτυχισμένη ἡ κοινωνία ποὺ ἔχει τέτοιους Χριστιανούς. Ἄν ἄλλοι μὲ τὰ μίστη καὶ τὶς ἔχθρες τους, μὲ τοὺς ἐγωισμοὺς καὶ τὰ πάθη τους γίνωνται αἱμοβόροι λύκοι καὶ λιοντάρια καὶ τίγρεις, ὁ ταπεινὸς Χριστιανὸς εἶνε χαριτωμένο πρόβατο τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ὁ Χριστὸς ἔστειλε τοὺς μαθητάς του στὸν κόσμο σὰν ἀρνάκια, «ώς πρόβατα ἐν μέσῳ λύκων» (Ιαν.10,16. λουκ.10,3). Καὶ τὸ θαυμαστὸ εἶνε δτι τὰ πρόβατα αὐτὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔχουν τὴ δύναμι νὰ νικοῦν τοὺς λύκους· ἔχουν ἀπὸ τὸ Χριστὸ τὴ δύναμι ἀκόμη καὶ λύκους νὰ τοὺς μεταβάλλουν σὲ πρόβατα. Καθόλου μὴν ἀμφιβάλλετε. Μὲ τὴν ἡμερότητα, τὴν ὑπομονή, τὴν πραότητα, τὴν αὐταπάρνησι, πολλοὶ, ἀπὸ λύκοι πραγματικοὶ ποὺ ἦταν, μεταβλήθηκαν, ἔγιναν καὶ αὐτοὶ πρόβατα!

Καταλάβατε, ἀδελφοί μου, γιατὶ ὁ Χριστὸς ὀνομάζει τὰ παιδιά του πρόβατα; Τώρα λοιπὸν ἂς ἔχετάσσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς προσεκτικὰ τὸν ἐαυτό μας. Ἄνηκουμε ἀραγε στὴ στάνη τοῦ Χριστοῦ; τὸν ἀκολουθοῦμε μὲ ὑπακοή; "Ἐχουμε ὑπομονή, πραότητα, αὐταπάρνησι; Μ' ἔνα λόγο, είμαστε πρόβατα τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Εάν ναι, δόξα τῷ Θεῷ· ὁ Κύριος θὰ μᾶς ἀναγνωρίσῃ ὡς δικούς του μαθητὰς καὶ θ' ἀξιωθοῦμε ν' ἀκούσσουμε τὴ γλυκειὰ φωνὴ του, τὴ γλυκύτερη ἀπ' δλα τὰ μουσικὰ ὅργανα τοῦ κόσμου· «Δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρός μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ύμιν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου...» (Μαθ.25,34 κ.λ.). Εάν δμως ἡ συνείδησι μᾶς πληροφορῇ δτι δὲν είμαστε πρόβατά του ἀλλὰ είμαστε γεμάτοι ἐλαττώματα καὶ κακίες, τότε πρέπει νὰ φοβηθοῦμε πολὺ καὶ νὰ φροντίσσουμε μὲ κάθε τρόπο νὰ γίνουμε πρόβατα τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Γιατὶ ὅσο ζοῦμε σ' αὐτὸ τὸν κόσμο, ὑπάρχει χρόνος ἀλλαγῆς· τὸ κατσίκι μπορεῖ νὰ γίνη πρόβατο (ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸ πρόβατο μπορεῖ νὰ γίνη κατσίκι). Έκεῖ δμως δὲν ὑπάρχει καμμιά ἐλπίδα μεταβολῆς οἱ δίκαιοι θὰ μείνουν αἰωνίως δίκαιοι, καὶ οἱ ἀμαρτωλοὶ αἰωνίως ἀμαρτωλοί.

Συναμπτωλοὶ ἀδελφοί, λογικὸ μᾶς ἔδωσε ὁ Θεός. "Ἄς σκεφτούμε κι ἂς ἀποφασίσσουμε! (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

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

He Will Separate Them

"And he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats." So then, people on earth are intermingled, and not only intermingled in that the righteous live side by side with the wicked, but they are also indistinguishable. Between the righteous and the wicked there is no apparent difference. Even as in wintertime you cannot tell the healthy trees apart from the withered trees but in beautiful springtime you can tell the difference, so too each person according to his faith and his works will be exposed.

The wicked will not have any leaves or show any fruit, but the righteous will be clothed

with the leaves of eternal life and adorned with the fruit of glory. In this way they will be separated by the heavenly shepherd and Lord. The earthly shepherd separates animals by their type of body, whereas Christ separates people by their type of soul. The sheep signify righteous people by reason of their gentleness, because they harm no one, and by reason of their patience, because when they are harmed by others, they bear it without resistance. He refers to sinners as goats, however, because these vices characterize goats: capriciousness toward other animals, pride and belligerence.

*From a Homily,
Incomplete Work on Matthew*

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](#))

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