



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN September 19th, 2021  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY AFTER HOLY CROSS



*Icon of Saint Euphemia -- September 16th*

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**Prokeimenon. Mode 4.**

**Psalm 103.24,1**

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος δ'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1**

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 2:16-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιούται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεύσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου· διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. Εἰ δέ, ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ, εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἅρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; Μὴ γένοιτο. Εἰ γὰρ ἂ κατέλυσα, ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἑμαυτὸν συνίστημι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δέ, οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῆ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὃ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῆ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

Sunday after Holy Cross

The Gospel According to Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 8:34-38, 9:1 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλη τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

**GRANDPARENT'S DAY** was celebrated all across the nation on September 12th. This is a marvelous occasion for youngsters to come to church with Yiayia and Papou and share the legacy of faith and tradition inherited through the family for generations. How about a late breakfast or luncheon hosting the grandparents in the afternoon. Special focus was attached in the homily and liturgy to the 'GRANDPARENTS' OF JESUS, SAINT JOACHIM AND SAINT ANNA. Even JESUS OUR LORD had a Yiayia and Papou.

**9/11 MEMORIAL TRIBUTE** which was observed last Sunday (9-12-21) had an extra highlight with two violin pieces from Bach saluting the sacrifices of one and all over the past twenty years. The violinist is a Julliard Musician of the finest caliber and literally mesmerized the congregation at the conclusion of the memorial service. Many thanks to Ms. SHALEAH FEINSTEIN and her masterful presentation.

**GREEK SCHOOL OPENED;** This past Tuesday afternoon our Greek language and culture school registered students for the new academic year. The faculty students and P.T.A. convened in the Church for the 'agiasmos' service and blessing. As Principal of the School, our Pastor Father Eugene addressed the entire body with an inspirational homily titled CROSS OF LIFE ETERNAL!

**THE DAY AFTER.** Please consider registering your child or grand-child in our formidable school. Call the church office to register TODAY: (718) 339 0280. For some it is already 'the day after' .....don't procrastinate. Time does fly when dealing with children.

**CHOIR RETURNS:** Like the swallows that return each year to the Mission Church of CAPISTRANO (California) on EXACTLY March 19th. ( Saint Joseph's Day) ..... our indomitable choir which has been on hiatus these past many months will return to duty in the balcony of the church for divine services. We welcome back MAESTRA Katie Hambas and all choristers'. WE MISS YOU! The curtain goes up on Sunday September 26th, with the anticipated SAINT ROMANOS O MELODOS artoklasia hosted by the Choir on Sunday October 03.

Congratulation are extended to Mr. Constantine Christakos and his beloved wife Susan (SIDERI) Contos who celebrate their 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY this coming Saturday 09-25-2021 with a church benediction with renewal of vows. GOD GRANT YOU BOTH, MANY YEARS OF LOVE, HEALTH, HAPPINESS !  
SURROUNDED BY YOUR GRANDCHILDREN.

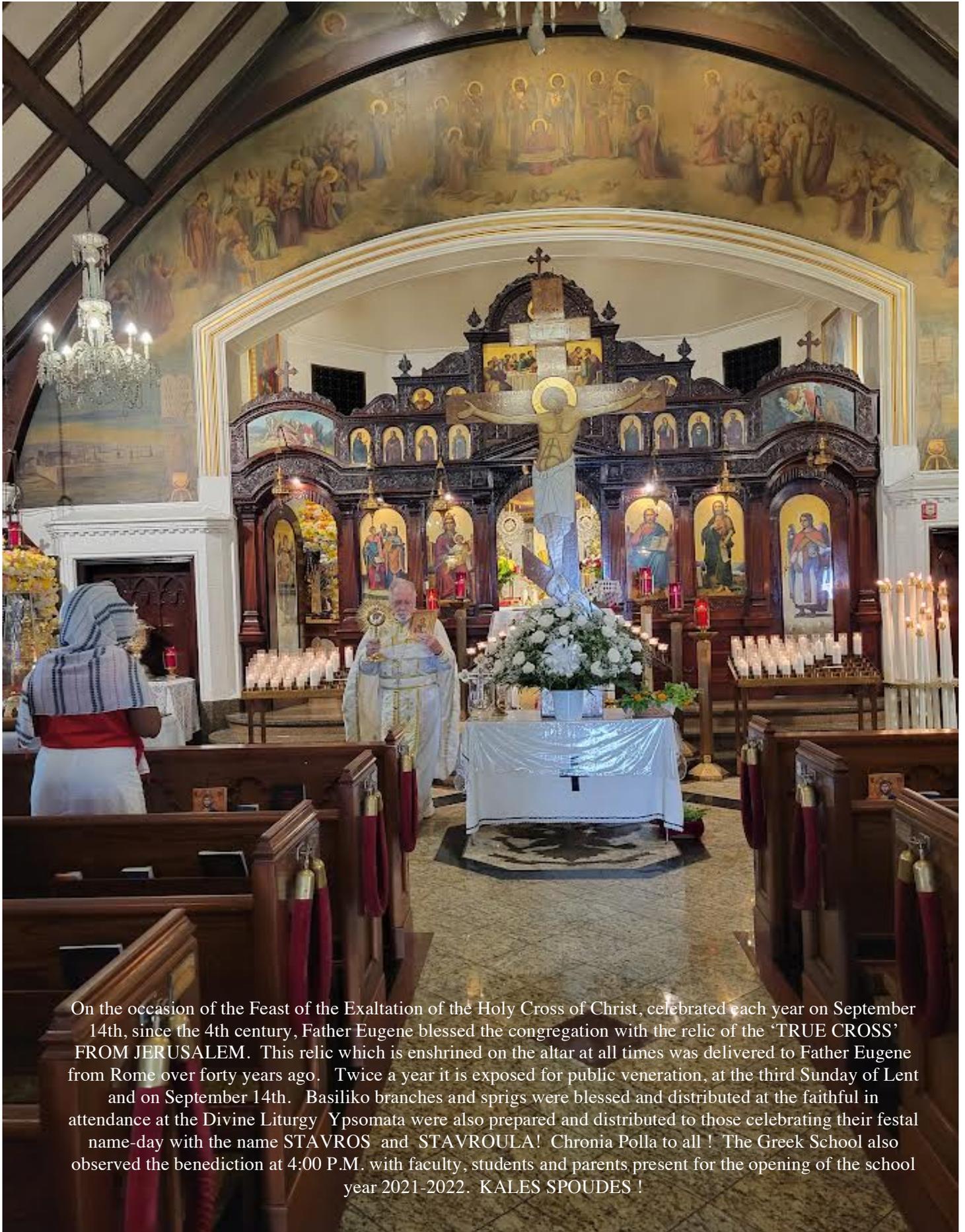
**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** Each month on the FIRST (01st) or if it be a SUNDAY, then the very next day...02nd, the AGIASMOS SERVICE ( thirty minutes) is offered with fresh holy water to take home, to share with others, to bless graves and homes.....and automobiles. This water you may drink and sprinkle on your threshold, beds, and doorways for protection and dedication in the name of JESUS CHRIST. See you on the first from 11:00 -11:30 A.M.

Traditionally on the middle WEDNESDAY EVENING of the month we host the PRAYER AND HEALING service, witnessing, prayer and spiritual healing DOES TAKE PLACE, from 6:30-8:00 P.M. You should join us and receive the Divine Grace of the HOLY SPIRIT'S presence.

**MEMORIALS TODAY + SPYROS GALIATSATOS + ANDROMACHI GELERIS  
+ DENNIS GONATAS + GIORGOS TSAMASIROS + ZURAB PESVIANIDZE**

**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + ANNA LIKES (Likiardopoulos)**

**UNIVERSAL PRE- PRE-KINDERGARTEN (U.P.K. SCHOOL)** at Three Hierarchs Church is expanding its outreach to community children aged 3 and 4 years old. SIX CLASSES are open for full registration FREE OF CHARGE by the New York City Department of Education. Are there 3 or 4 year olds in your family which deserve a full head start in education ? REGISTER FREE at THREE HIERARCHS by calling (347) 729 0446 and ask for GEORGIA BOUZAKIS ( school Secretary) or POLINA ROBBINS (school Director)for full information. Take advantage of this excellent opportunity for the kids and working parents. CALL NOW!



On the occasion of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross of Christ, celebrated each year on September 14th, since the 4th century, Father Eugene blessed the congregation with the relic of the 'TRUE CROSS' FROM JERUSALEM. This relic which is enshrined on the altar at all times was delivered to Father Eugene from Rome over forty years ago. Twice a year it is exposed for public veneration, at the third Sunday of Lent and on September 14th. Basiliko branches and sprigs were blessed and distributed at the faithful in attendance at the Divine Liturgy Ypsomata were also prepared and distributed to those celebrating their festal name-day with the name STAVROS and STAVROULA! Chronia Polla to all ! The Greek School also observed the benediction at 4:00 P.M. with faculty, students and parents present for the opening of the school year 2021-2022. KALES SPOUDES !

Welcome Back!



# Homecoming



## SENIOR CLUB NEWSLETTER

Happy days are here again! We are pleased to announce that the ' CLUB ' Will resume Wednesday afternoon social gatherings with refreshments. Please note the date of the two scheduled sessions for September.

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 22nd, 1:00 P.M.



### HOME-COMING LUNCHEON!

A full buffet and table of home cooked Greek and American food will be hosted and served to all. Sweets, treats and coffee too !

B I N G O as per usual.....

Father Eugene will offer blessings of HOLY CROSS AGIASMOS to all with Basiliko.



WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 29th, 1:00 P.M.



We shall Celebrate the ecclesiastical NEW YEAR! (INDIKTOU) – SEPTEMBER 01st, Father Eugene will give a brief lecture on the tradition of the 'church' new year calculation. We will examine the contents of the EVANGELION up close. BINGO, coffee, sweets and fruits.



Our treasurers Gerry Manuel and Evanthia Karounos will commence the annual registration and dues for 2021-2022 ! Please help us keep the CLUB active and progressive.



We wish to thank all the past officers for their continued support and outreach. Lets all do a little bit more this year to increase our membership, our treasury, and our planned activities. YOU ARE NEEDED.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please call the church office (718( 339-0280 to reserve your place on the 'buffet line' .... We need to know that you are coming and if you have a guest also. All are welcome.

Fr. Eugene



Georgia Stamos



Jimmy Bouroutis





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γενναϊκὴ Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28910 - [info@yahoo.gr](mailto:info@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΗ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2408

Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὴν Ὑψωσιν (Μάρκ. 8,34 - 9,1)  
19 Σεπτεμβρίου 2021

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Κανπώτης

## Ὑπαρξει καὶ ἀξία τῆς ψυχῆς

«Τί ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ;» (Μάρκ. 8,36)

Θὰ σὰς μιλήσω, ἀγαπητοί μου, πολὺ ἀπλᾶ. **Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια** οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν εἶχαν τὰ μέσα καὶ τίς εὐκολίες πού ἔχουμε σήμερα ἐμεῖς, πού ζοῦμε στὸν αἰῶνα πού λέγεται τεχνολογικός. Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια δὲν εἶχαν π.χ. ἠλεκτρικὸ ρεύμα· μετὰ ἀπὸ τὰ δαδιὰ τῶν πρωτογόνων φωτίζονταν τὴ νύχτα μὲ λυχνάρια καὶ κεριά. Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια δὲν εἶχαν ψυγεῖα, γιὰ νὰ συντηροῦν τίς τροφές, ἀλλὰ φρόντιζαν νὰ τίς κρατοῦν σὲ μέρη ὄροσερά. Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια δὲν εἶχαν τὰ σημερινὰ ταχύτατα μέσα συγκοινωνίας (αὐτοκίνητα, ἀτμόπλοια, σιδηροδρόμους, ἀεροπλάνο κ.λπ.)· ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὰ πόδια τους καὶ τὰ γαῖδουράκια, μετακινούνταν μὲ κάρρα καὶ ἄμαξες πού ἔσερναν ἄλογα, καὶ στὴ θάλασσα μὲ βάρκες καὶ ἰστιοφόρα πλοῖα. Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια ἡ ἐπικοινωνία γινόταν ἀπὸ στόμα σὲ στόμα ἢ μὲ γράμματα πού μετέφεραν ταχυδρόμοι. Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια ἡ ἐνημέρωσι τοῦ κοινοῦ γινόταν μὲ ἀναρτήσεις σὲ πίνακες ἀνακοινώσεων καὶ μὲ ντελάληδες πού διαλαλοῦσαν μηνύματα ἢ διαταγές. Δὲν εἶχαν τότε οὔτε τηλέφωνα, οὔτε ραδιόφωνα καὶ τηλεοράσεις γιὰ ν' ἀκούνε καὶ νὰ μαθαίνουν τὰ νέα τοῦ κόσμου· τίποτε ἀπ' αὐτά. Ἦταν φτωχοὶ, ρακένδυτοι, πεινασμένοι· κατοικοῦσαν σὲ ταπεινὰ σπιτάκια καὶ σὲ καλύβες ἀπέριττες.

Παρ' ὅλα ὁμως αὐτὰ οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἐκεῖνοι, πρὶν ἀπὸ διακόσια - τριακόσια χρόνια, εἶχαν ἕνα μεγαλεῖο· μεγαλεῖο πού δὲν τὸ ἔχουμε ἐμεῖς σήμερα. Ποιὸ ἦταν τὸ μεγαλεῖο τους; **πίστευαν, πίστευαν βαθειὰ στὸ Θεό,** καὶ γι' αὐτὸ πού πίστευαν δάκρυζαν. Ἐμπαίναν στὴν ἐκκλησία κι ὅταν περνοῦσαν τὰ ἅγια καταύσσονταν, γονάτιζαν, ἔκλαιγαν.

(Συγγνώμη. **Εἶδατε σήμερα κανέναν ἀπὸ μᾶς νὰ κλάψῃ;** Ἐκεῖνοι ἔκλαιγαν, ὅπως τώρα κλαῖνε στὴ Ῥωσία, στὴν πρώτην ἄβη χώρα· ὅταν

βγαίνουν τὰ ἅγια οἱ Ῥῶσοι συγκινοῦνται. Ἐμεῖς; ὁ ἕνας κοιτάζει τὸ ρολοὶ του, ὁ ἄλλος χαζεύει, ὁ ἄλλος κουβεντιάσει... Ἐπανέρχομαι.)

Οἱ παλαιοὶ ἐκεῖνοι πίστευαν στὸ Θεό. **Τί πίστευαν;** Ὅτι ὑπάρχει Θεός, ἀφέντης ὄλων, πού ἔφτιαξε τὸν κόσμον· πίστευαν, ὅτι ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει μεγάλο προσορισμό, **ἔχει ψυχὴ ἀθάνατη**· πίστευαν, ὅτι θὰ γίνῃ κρίσις παγκόσμια καὶ θὰ δώσουμε λόγο γιὰ τὰ ἔργα μας· πίστευαν ὅτι ὑπάρχει παράδεισος καὶ κόλασι.

Καί, σύμφωνα μὲ τὴν ἀγνή πίστι τους, **ἄσπραφτε καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τους.** Ψέματα δὲν ἔλεγαν, σὲ δικαστήρια δὲν πήγαιναν, χέρι δὲν ἔβαζαν ἐπάνω στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο νὰ ὀρκιστοῦν, εἶχαν ἀγάπη μεταξύ τους, στίς οἰκογένειες τὰ ἀντρόγυνα εἶχαν πιστότητα, δὲν ἀπατοῦσε ὁ ἕνας τὸν ἄλλο, πορνεία καὶ μοιχεία δὲν ἀκουγόταν. Τὸ διαζύγιο ἦταν ἀγνωστο· ἐπὶ τριακόσια χρόνια δὲν ὑπῆρχε διαζύγιο, μόνο τὸ φτυάρι τοῦ νεκροθράφτη χῶριζε τὸ ἀντρόγυνο. Προσεύχονταν, νῆστευαν, ζοῦσαν σὰν ἄγγελοι.

Ἐώρταζαν καὶ τιμοῦσαν τίς ἁγίες ἡμέρες. Κι ὅταν ἀντάμωναν ὁ ἕνας μὲ τὸν ἄλλο σὲ ἑορτές, δὲν ἔλεγαν «χρόνια πολλά» -τί νὰ τὰ κάνης τὰ χρόνια τὰ πολλὰ μέσα στὴν ἁμαρτία καὶ στὴ ραθυμία;-, ἀλλὰ τί ἔλεγαν· **«καλὴ ψυχὴ», «καλὸν παράδεισο»!** Ἐκεῖνοι ποτε σὲ σήμερα αὐτὰ; Σβήσανε πλέον.

Ἐκεῖνοι πίστευαν. Τώρα οἱ σημερινοί, οἱ ἄνθρωποι τοῦ αἰῶνος μας, παρ' ὅλα τὰ μέσα καὶ τίς εὐκολίες πού ἔχουν, δὲν πιστεύουν. Ἡ **ἀπιστία** πῆρε μεγάλες διαστάσεις. Ζήτημα σήμερα μέσα στοὺς ἑκατὸ νὰ πιστεύῃ ἕνας μὲ τὴν καρδιά του. Καὶ ποιὰ ἡ αἰτία; **ἀπὸ ποῦ ἄρχισε ἡ ἀπιστία;** «Τὸ ψάρι», λέει ἡ παροιμία, «βρωμαεῖ ἀπ' τὸ κεφάλι»· καὶ ἡ κοινωνία βρώμισε ἀπὸ τοὺς μεγάλους. Τὸ κακὸ ἄρχισε ἀπὸ τοὺς «γραμματισμένους», ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς πού πᾶνε στὰ πανεπιστήμια καὶ μαθαίνουν λίγα

κολλυβογράμματα –δχι γράμματα–, και φουσκώνουν σαν τούς γάλλους και γίνονται αερόστατα από έγωισμό και υπερηφάνεια· αυτόι δίδαξαν στο λαό μας τήν άπιστία και άθεια.

Θέλετε ένα παράδειγμα; Έδω κοντά σ' ένα χωριό ζούσε μιá γριά· ήταν ένενήντα χρονών, άρρωστη στο κρεβάτι και πλησίαζε να πεθάνη. Ό καλός παπās πήγε να τή δῆ. –Γερόντισσα, τί κάνεις; –Νά, πεθαίνω. –Έτοιμάστηκες για τὸ ταξίδι; θέλεις να έξομολογηθῆς, να πῆς τὰ κρίματά σου, να μεταλάβης; (είχε χρόνια να έξομολογηθῆ και να κοινωνήση). Κ' έκεινή; Γέλασε ή γριά. –Ά, παπᾶ, εἶπε, κάποτε τὰ πστευα κ' έγώ αυτό, τώρα πιά δχι. –Γιατί, γιαγιά; –Έχω έναν έγγονό που πάει στο πανεπιστήμιο τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης, σπουδάζει γιατρός, κι αυτός μου εἶπε· Γιαγιά, αυτό, δτι υπάρχει Θεός, άγγελιοι, Παναγιά, άλλη ζωή, εἶνε ψέματα... Και ή γριά άκουσε τὸν έγγονό της.

Ψέματα λοιπόν εἶνε; Όχι δέν εἶνε ψέματα. Ἡ πίστι μας εἶνε ἀληθινή. Καμμιά θρησκεία δέν έχει τις ἀλήθειες, τὰ μυστήρια, τὰ θαύματα τῆς άγίας μας Έκκλησίας. Εἶνε ζωντανή - όλοζώντανη πίστι, που δέν μποροῦν δλοιο οἱ δαίμονες τῆς κολάσεως να τήν ξερριζώσουν από τις καρδιές. Και αν ό φοιτητής εἶπε πώς δέν υπάρχει Θεός, μεγάλοι σοφοί και έπιστήμονες πιστεύουν και όμολογοῦν και λατρεύουν τὸ Χριστό, και λένε «Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε, όταν έλθης εν τῆ βασιλεία σου» (Ματ. 23,42). Έχουμε αποδείξεις, που καμμιά θρησκεία δέν έχει. Αν μπορῆς να μετρήσης τὰ άστρα τ' ουρανοῦ, θα μπορέσης να μετρήσης τις αποδείξεις και τὰ θαύματα τῆς πίστεώς μας.

Άλλά παραπάνω απ' όλα αυτά ποιό εἶνε; Πιστεύουμε – γιατί πιστεύουμε; Πιστεύουμε, διότι τὰ διδάγματα τῆς πίστεώς μας τὰ εἶπε ένας που ποτέ δέν εἶπε ψέμα, που μαρτύρησε για τήν ἀλήθεια, που περνοῦν οἱ αἰώνες και δσα εἶπε βῆγκαν - βγαίνουν - και θα βγοῦν μέχρι τέλους ἀληθινά. Τὰ εἶπε ό Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ό Υἱός του Θεοῦ που εἶγινε άνθρωπος. Κι ό ουρανός ν' αλλάξῃ, και τὰ ποτάμια να ξεραθοῦν, και τὰ δέντρα να μαραθοῦν, και τὰ πάντα να γίνουν άνω - κάτω, τὰ λόγια του θα έξακολουθοῦν να ισχύουν. Ό ήλιος θα σβήση μιá μέρα, αλλά τὰ λόγια του Χριστοῦ θα μένουν αἰώνια (βλ. Ματθ. 24,35). Τὸ εἶπε ό Χριστός; αυτό φτάνει για μᾶς· άείζει παραπάνω από κάθε άλλη βεβαίωση. Μπροστά στον Κύριο ήμῶν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν όλα τὰ θεωρούμενα μεγάλα πρόσωπα εἶνε μηδέν, πελώρια μηδενικά.

• • •

Τὸ εἶπε ό Χριστός. Τί εἶπε; Νά, σήμερα στο

εὐαγγέλιο μεταξύ τῶν άλλων εἶπε ένα λόγο που δέν υπάρχει ζυγαριά να τὸν ζυγίσουμε. Τ' άκούσαμε. Τὸ προσέξαμε άραγε; Εἶπε· «Τί ώφελήσει άνθρωπον εάν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον όλον, και ζημιωθῆ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ;» (Ματθ. 8,36). Όμιλεῖ περι ψυχῆς· λέει, δτι υπάρχει ψυχή που εἶνε άθάνατη και αἰώνια.

Μέ απλᾶ λόγια. Ὑποθέστε, δτι υπάρχει ένας άνθρωπος που έχει άφθονα πλοῦτη, δτι έχει χρῆμα σε όλα τὰ νομίσματα (λίρες, ρούβλια, δολάρια, μάγκα)· υποθέστε δτι αυτός κατέχει δλο τὸ χρυσάφι, δτι έχει συγκεντρώσει στα χέρια του όλα τὰ διαμάντια και τούς πολυτίμους λίθους, δτι έχει δλους τούς θησαυρούς τῆς γῆς· υποθέστε δτι αυτός έξουσιάζει δλο τὸν πλανήτη μας, δτι κατέκτησε και υπέταξε δλη τήν οἰκουμένη· υποθέστε δτι εἶνε σαν τὸ μέγα Άλέξανδρο, σαν τὸ Σολομώντα, σαν τὸν Κροῖσοο ή άλλους πλουσίους. Ὑποθέστε δηλαδή δτι αυτός τὰ έχει όλα, αλλά... Έχασε όμως τήν ψυχή του! Τί λέτε, αν δώση όλα αυτά που κατέχει, μπορεῖ να κερδίση τήν ψυχή του; Όχι! άπαντᾶ τὸ σημερινό εὐαγγέλιο. Δέν υπάρχει «ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς» (εἶ. 8,36-37)· τόσο μεγάλη εἶνε ή άξία της. Ἡ άξία τῆς ψυχῆς εἶνε άνυπολόγιστη.

Αὐτὰ λοιπόν, άγαπητοί μου, διδάσκει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Γι' αυτό εμεῖς να πιστεύουμε. Και κλειστε τ' αυτιά σας, μην άκοῦτε κάτι ήμισυθεῖς που μιᾶνε σαν άθεοι. Ξέρετε δτι δυστυχώς στην Ελλάδα ή παιδεία έχει υποβαθμισθῆ άρκετά, ξεφτίσε πιά. Τὰ ξένα πανεπιστήμια, τῆς Εὐρώπης και τῆς Ἄμερικῆς, δέν δέχονται τὰ χαρτιά μας. Δέν μελετοῦν τὰ παιδιά, δέν σπουδάζουν, δέν κατέχουν τήν ἀληθινή έπιστήμη, έχουν άλλα ενδιαφέροντα· εἶνε μιá κατάρρα αὐτή. Μην παρασύρεστε λοιπόν.

Νά πιστεύετε, όπως οἱ πατέρες μας, όπως οἱ γενεές γενεῶν τῶν προγόνων μας. Και αν συμβῆ μέσο στο σπίτι να μην πιστεῦη ό άντρας σου ή τὰ παιδιά σου, εσὺ να πιστεύῃς. Και αν μέσο στο χωριό εἶρθῃ ώρα κατηραμένη, που να μην πιστεύουν δλοιο και μείνης ένας, τότε και ένας, ένας αν μείνης, μη φοβῶσαι. Δέν θα νικήσουν οἱ πολλοί, θα νικήση ό Ένας, ό Χριστός ό Υἱός του Θεοῦ του ζώντος. Και αν άκόμα στο ντουιιά όλόκληρο γονατίσουν δλοιο και πιστέψουν στον διάβολο και προσκυνήσουν τὸν έωσφόρο, ένας να μείνης στον πλανήτη, εσὺ να έξακολουθῆς να πιστεύῃς.

Ἡ πίστις θα νικήση, ή πίστις θα κυριαρχήση. Ἰησοῦς Χριστός νικᾶ εἰς αἰῶνας αἰώνων· άμήν.

(†) επίσκοπος 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

### *Facing Death with Us*

There is a legend about a tribe of people who, many years ago, had the custom of offering one of their maidens in sacrifice. When the appointed time arrived, the young girl was placed in a boat and allowed to drift over the falls to her death below. The chief of the tribe was a good man who loved his family very much. He was very saddened when his daughter was chosen to be the next sacrifice. When the day for the sacrifice arrived, the chief was not to be found. Nevertheless, the tribesmen put the chief's daughter in a boat, and set her adrift on the river towards the raging falls.

As the girl floated down the river, she passed the spot where her father secretly waited in his own boat. He paddled quickly

and brought his boat next to hers. When he was close enough, he grasped her hand and pulled her close to him. Then, they both went down the falls together!

It is interesting that the legend does not say that the father rescued the girl. Instead, he gave up his own life so that she should not have to face death alone. The same is true with our Lord, Jesus Christ. He does not take away the reality of death from us. Instead, by His crucifixion and resurrection, He makes death powerless! By His death, Christ has conquered death. Christ is with us at the time of our own death and leads us to eternal life. This is the great victory of the Cross – which we gloriously exalt today!

**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](http://W.W.W.gaepis.org) (Click live radio)

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