



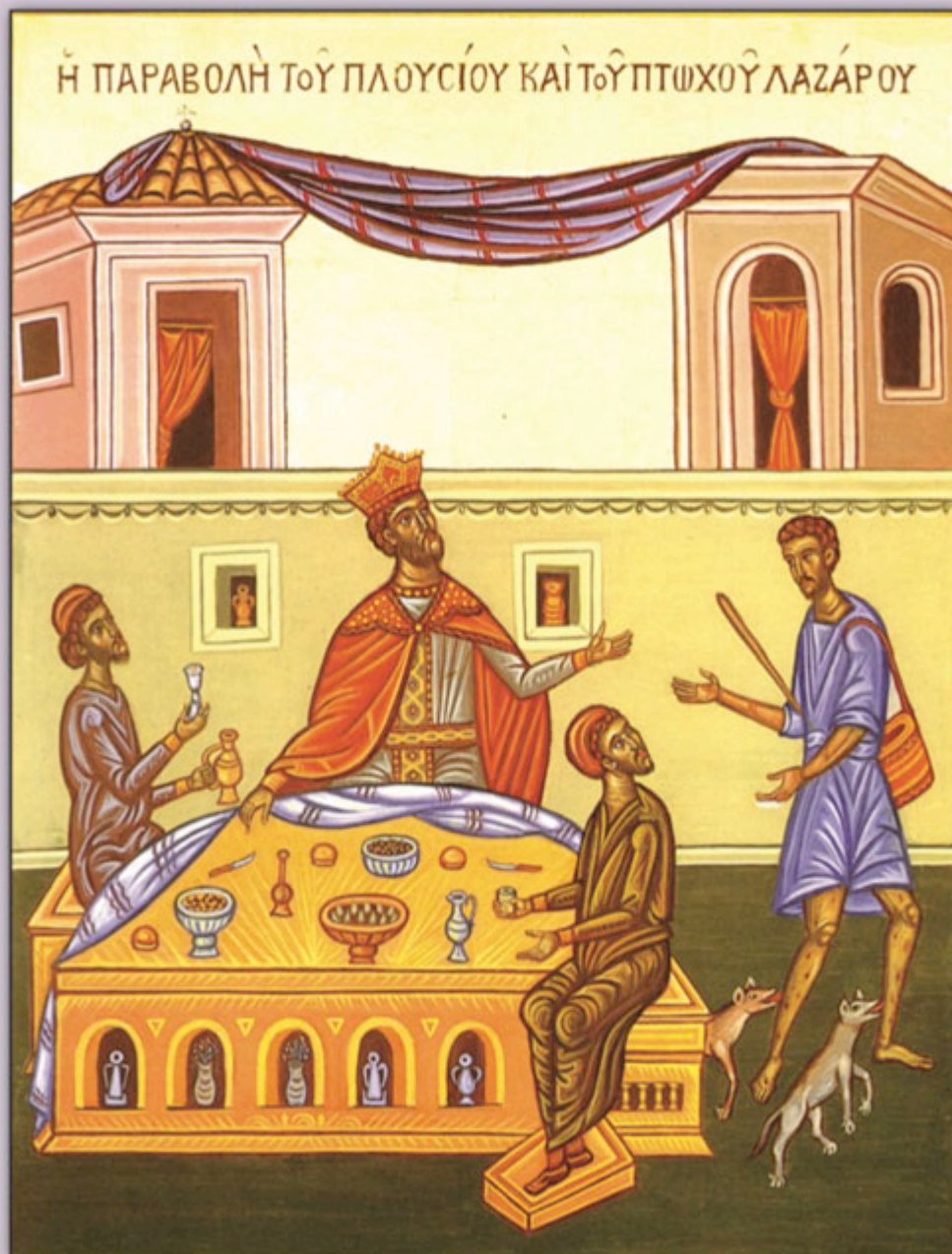
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 31st, 2021

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)

Brethren, the God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into Paradise -- whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows -- and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος β'. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος. Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 11:31-33, 12:1-9 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, Ὁ θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ οἶδεν, ὁ ὢν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι. Ἐν Δαμασκῷ ὁ ἐθνάρχης Ἀρέτα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐφρούρει τὴν Δαμασκηνῶν πόλιν, πιάσαι με θέλων· καὶ διὰ θυρίδος ἐν σαργάνῃ ἐχαλάσθην διὰ τοῦ τείχους καὶ ἐξέφυγον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ. Καυχᾶσθαι δὴ οὐ συμφέρει μοι· ἐλεύσομαι γὰρ εἰς ὀπτασίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεις κυρίου. Οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν δεκατεσσάρων - εἴτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα· εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ἀρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον - εἴτε ἐν σώματι, εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος, οὐκ οἶδα· ὁ θεὸς οἶδεν - ὅτι ἠρπάγη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον, καὶ ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλήσαι. Ὑπὲρ τοῦ τοιοῦτου καυχῆσομαι· ὑπὲρ δὲ ἑμαυτοῦ οὐ καυχῆσομαι, εἰ μὴ ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου· ἐὰν γὰρ θελήσω καυχῆσασθαι, οὐκ ἔσομαι ἄφρων· ἀλήθειαν γὰρ ἐρῶ· φείδομαι δέ, μή τις εἰς ἐμὲ λογίσηται ὑπὲρ ὃ βλέπει με, ἢ ἀκούει τι ἐξ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ τῇ ὑπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκί, ἄγγελος Σατάν, ἵνα με κολαφίζῃ, ἵνα μὴ ὑπεραίρωμαι. Ὑπὲρ τούτου τρεῖς τὸν κύριον παρεκάλεσα ἵνα ἀποστῇ ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. Καὶ εἰρηκέν μοι, Ἀρκεῖ σοι ἡ χάρις μου· ἡ γὰρ δύναμίς μου ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ τελειοῦται. Ἦδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον καυχῆσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου, ἵνα ἐπισκηνώσῃ ἐπ' ἐμὲ ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 16:19-31 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

The Lord said, "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.' And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.' But Abraham said, 'They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' He said to them, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.'"

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἄνθρωπος δὲ τις ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐνεδιδύσκετο πορφύραν καὶ βύσσον εὐφραϊνόμενος καθ' ἡμέραν λαμπρῶς. πτωχὸς δὲ τις ἦν ὀνόματι Λάζαρος, ὃς ἐβέβλητο πρὸς τὸν πυλῶνα αὐτοῦ ἡλκωμένος καὶ ἐπιθυμῶν χορτασθῆναι ἀπὸ τῶν ψιχίων τῶν πιπτόντων ἀπὸ τῆς τραπέζης τοῦ πλουσίου· ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ κύνες ἐρχόμενοι ἀπέλειχον τὰ ἔλκη αὐτοῦ. ἐγένετο δὲ ἀποθανεῖν τὸν πτωχὸν καὶ ἀπενεχθῆναι αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τῶν ἀγγέλων εἰς τὸν κόλπον Ἀβραάμ· ἀπέθανε δὲ καὶ ὁ πλούσιος καὶ ἐτάφη. καὶ ἐν τῷ ᾄδῃ ἐπάρας τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ, ὑπάρχων ἐν βασάνοις, ὁρᾷ τὸν Ἀβραάμ ἀπὸ μακρόθεν καὶ Λάζαρον ἐν τοῖς κόλποις αὐτοῦ. καὶ αὐτὸς φωνήσας εἶπε· πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, ἐλέησόν με καὶ πέμψον Λάζαρον ἵνα βάψῃ τὸ ἄκρον τοῦ δακτύλου αὐτοῦ ὕδατος καὶ καταψύξῃ τὴν γλῶσσάν μου, ὅτι ὀδυνῶμαι ἐν τῇ φλογὶ ταύτῃ. εἶπε δὲ Ἀβραάμ· τέκνον, μνήσθητι ὅτι ἀπέλαβες σὺ τὰ ἀγαθὰ σου ἐν τῇ ζωῇ σου, καὶ Λάζαρος ὁμοίως τὰ κακά· νῦν δὲ ὧδε παρακαλεῖται, σὺ δὲ ὀδυνᾶσαι· καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσι τούτοις μεταξὺ ἡμῶν καὶ ὑμῶν χάσμα μέγα ἐστήρικται, ὅπως οἱ θέλοντες διαβῆναι ἔνθεν πρὸς ὑμᾶς μὴ δύνωνται, μηδὲ οἱ ἐκεῖθεν πρὸς ἡμᾶς διαπερῶσιν. εἶπε δέ· ἐρωτῶ οὖν σε, πάτερ, ἵνα πέμψῃς αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν οἶκόν τοῦ πατρός μου· ἔχω γὰρ πέντε ἀδελφούς· ὅπως διαμαρτύρηται αὐτοῖς, ἵνα μὴ καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλθωσιν εἰς τὸν τόπον τοῦτον τῆς βασάνου. λέγει αὐτῷ Ἀβραάμ· ἔχουσι Μωϋσέα καὶ τοὺς προφῆτας· ἀκουσάτωσαν αὐτῶν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· οὐχί, πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις ἀπὸ νεκρῶν πορευθῇ πρὸς αὐτούς, μετανοήσουσιν. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ· εἰ Μωϋσέως καὶ τῶν προφητῶν οὐκ ἀκούουσιν, οὐδὲ ἐάν τις ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῇ πεισθήσονται.

ARTOKLASIA TODAY: is being offered in loving tribute to SAINT COSMAS and SAINT DAMIANOS (November 01st) by altar boy DAMIAN VAGANOV, and ANARGYROS APERGIS. Chronia Polla to all who celebrate this feast of the “HOLY UNMERCENARIES”. The two saints were physicians who served the people without compensation.

TOMORROW: MONDAY – November 01st. AGIASMOS HOLY WATER BLESSING 11:00 – 11:30 A.M.

TUESDAY: November 02nd. His All – Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew will officiate at the THYRANOXIA (Opening of the doors) of the World Trade Center SAINT NICHOLAS SHRINE at 11:00 A.M. The public is invited to the ceremonies.

NOTE WELL: Next weekend – November 6-7 (Saturday to Sunday the CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR!) Please be vigilant to change your clocks on the night of the 06th. Daylight Saving Time ENDS! We’re back to early darkness by 4-5:00 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS: to the Greek Students of our SCHOOL who presented a most memorable OXI-DAY observance with recitations, songs, and the wreath tribute to the war deceased. Appreciation is extolled to the faculty members Ms Maria and Ms. Emmanuella as well as the P.T.A. Ms. Silvia Raptis and committee that hosted a sweets reception in WHITEHALL for the public.

GAVA VATERANS DAY: Observance with participation from the GOLDEN GREEKS Boys Scouts Troop will be held Sunday November 14th due to the New York City MARATHON being hosted .

GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Church will be held at 12:30 P.M. on Sunday, November 14th. All registered stewards of the parish are invited to attend and participate in the dialogue and voting procedures for the future growth and stabilization of our church and school community. **ARE YOU REGISTERED FOR 2021?**

Daughters of Penelope DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 had an impressive ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of their Patron Saint Demetrios last Sunday. The daughters hosted ORDER dignitaries from the ALBANY DISTRICT. A reception was offered after the OXI-DAY ceremonies. **BRAVA! BRAVA! AXIES! AXIES! AXIES!**

PRAYER and HEALING SERVICES: will be offered on Wednesday, November 17th, from 6:30 – 8:00 P.M. with Thanksgiving reception sweets at 8:00 P.M. The theme of the homily is INGRATITUDE – UNHEALING WOUND. We have all suffered this indignity! **COME, LEARN, LISTEN, SHARE, BE HEALED. It’s THANKSGIVING.**

Saint Photios Shrine ESSAY CONTEST: please see the centerfold for full details. With an \$1,000 (one thousand dollar prize) this is also an excellent opportunity for young Greek Orthodox students to employ their Hellenic genius in composition. Encourage your kids to try!

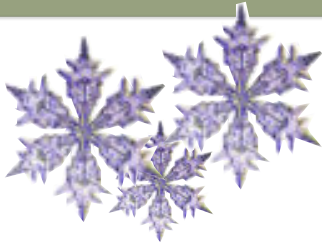
PATRIARCHAL APOSTOLIC VISIT commenced on October 24th, through November 03rd. His Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew will make visitation to NEW JERSEY, WEST VIRGINIA, South Bend *NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY (INDIANA, and NEW YORK CITY. The highlight of the pilgrimage will be the THYRANOXIA (Opening of the Doors) of the NATIONAL SAINT NICHOLAS SHRINE CHURCH at ‘ground-zero’ World Trade Center. Full details of the visit will be forth-coming for the public.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Agiasmos for NOVEMBER is being offered on Monday – November 01st. 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Come and receive this exceptional blessing each month with the drinking, sprinkling and , Euchelaion anointing. What a great spiritual exercise it is for those in attendance. **COME! PRAY! SHARE!**

COSMOS F.M. (W.N.Y.E.- RADIO 91.5) has begun its annual ‘ FUND RAISER ‘ Join Father Eugene and Joanna Giannopoulos (Program Director) on the air in support of the one and only DAILY GREEK BROADCASTING PROGRAM in the United States of America. YES! DAILY BROADCASTING to the Hellenic and phil-Hellenic American audience across the globe. Father Eugene’s 23 year long broadcasting each Saturday on prime-time 1:00 P.M. has never missed a single Saturday! Join in the effort of support to HELLENIC BROADCASTINGnow!

MEMORIAL TODAY + KATINA PLEVritis
MEMORIAL NOVEMBER 07. + PARASKEVAS KOKOTAS
+PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY DECEASED MEMBERS





SENIOR CLUB NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021



Wednesday, November 03,

1:00 P.M.

Pre-feast Holy Archangels
Lecture Father Eugene
DO YOU HAVE A GUARDIAN ANGEL
Coffee, Sweets, B I N G O



Wednesday, November 10,,

1:00 P.M.

BIRTHDAY PARTY SURPRISE !!!!!

Joyce Mitchell #-----?

PIZZA PARTY FOR ALL/WINE TOAST
CAKE WITH A THOUSAND CANDLES!
B I N G O



Wednesday, November 17,

1:00 P.M.

Thanksgiving Luncheon with all
the trimmings.....cranberries too!
wear FALL AUTUMN COLORS with straw
in your pockets and hair.
Father Eugene will READ your notes
of thankfulness to God. WRITE ONE PLEASE.
Coffee, sweets, candies and B I N G O



PLEASE NOTE : Due to the holiday of National Thanksgiving there will NOT be a regular meeting on Wednesday, November 24th. Happy Thanksgiving!

Wednesday, December 01,

1:00 P.M.

DECEMBER AGIASMOS BLESSING for all.
Holy Water will be available to take
home for loved ones and house blessing.
Coffee, sweets and treats - BINGO!



Wednesday, December 08,

1:00 P.M.

SANTA CLAUSE or SAINT NICHOLAS
Ypsomata for all on the feast day
of Saint Nicholas, (December 06th.)
Take an ypsoma to some 'home-bound'
or ill. It's a blessing t all.
Cakes, Artos, Candies, Coffee, BINGO



Wednesday, December 15,

1:00 P.M.

METHORTIA of SAINT EUGENE!
ARTOS, GREEK SWEETS, Today we honor
Saint Eleutherios Feast Day.
Christmas Party Luncheon (Fasting)
Exchange of Christmas Cards
Singing of Greek Kalada - Carols.
Coffee, cakes, BINGO



We wish one and all a most blessed and Holy Christmas and a Healthful

NEW YEAR 2022

Georgia Stamos

Takis (Demetrios) Bouroutis





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 Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΑΗ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2418

Κυριακὴ Ε' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 16,19-31)
31 Ὀκτωβρίου 2021

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Πέντε διδάγματα

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, σὲ ὅλους τοὺς ναοὺς τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας διαβάζεται ἡ περικοπὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελιστοῦ Λουκᾶ ποὺ εἶνε γνωστὴ ὡς ἡ **παραβολὴ τοῦ πλουσίου καὶ τοῦ Λαζάρου** (βλ. Λουκ. 16,19-31). Ὁ Λουκᾶς ἦταν γιατρός ἀλλὰ καὶ ζωγράφος· ζωγραφίζει λοιπὸν στὸ Εὐαγγελίό του θαύματα καὶ παραβολὰς τοῦ Κυρίου. Καὶ μία ἀπὸ τὶς ὠραιότερες εἰκόνες του εἶνε αὐτὴ ἡ σημερινὴ παραβολή. Ἔχουν περάσει τόσοι αἰῶνες, θὰ περάσουν καὶ ἄλλοι, ἀλλὰ ἡ εἰκόνα τῆς παραβολῆς αὐτῆς θὰ ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ ἔχη ἀμείωτη λάμψη.

Ζωγραφίζει δύο πρόσωπα· ἀπὸ τὴν μία τὸν πλούσιο στὸ ζενίθ τῆς κατὰ κόσμον εὐτυχίας, καὶ ἀπὸ τὴν ἄλλη τὸν φτωχὸ στὸ ναδίρ τῆς ἀνθρωπίνης δυστυχίας. Νὰ ἐρμηνεύσουμε ὅλη τὴν παραβολή; Οὔτε χρόνος ὑπάρχει, οὔτε ἐσεῖς ἔχετε ὑπομονή, οὔτε κ' ἐγὼ τὴ δύναμι. Θὰ προσπαθήσω μόνον, μὲ ἀφορμὴ τὴν παραβολή, νὰ βγάλω **μερικὰ διδάγματα**.

● **Πρῶτο δίδαγμα.** Στὸν κόσμον αὐτὸν **δὲν θὰ λείψῃ ποτέ ἡ δυστυχία**· δὲν εἶνε δυνατόν. Θὰ ὑπάρχουν ἀπ' τὸ ἓνα μέρος πλούσιοι, ποὺ θὰ διαθέτουν κεφάλαια καὶ θὰ σκορπίζουν μέσα σὲ μιὰ νύχτα ἑκατομμύρια, κι ἀπ' τὸ ἄλλο μέρος φτωχοί, ποὺ δὲν θὰ ἔχουν οὔτε ψωμὶ νὰ φᾶνε οὔτε φάρμακο στὴν ἀρρώστια τους οὔτε μιὰ γωνιά νὰ στεγαστοῦν. Ἡ κατάστασι τοῦ Λαζάρου εἰκονίζει τὴ σύγχρονη ζωὴ.

Παρουσιάστηκαν βέβαια συστήματα παλαιότερα καὶ νεώτερα, ποὺ φιλοδόξησαν νὰ ἐξαλείψουν τὴν κοινωνικὴ ἀδικία, νὰ ἰσοπεδώσουν τὰ βουνα τῆς ἀνισότητος, νὰ κάνουν τὴ ζωὴ ἓνα λειο κάμπο χωρὶς τίς αἰχμηρὲς προεξοχὲς τῆς ἰδιοτελείας καὶ τῆς ἀσπλαχνίας· ὑποσχέθηκαν, ὅτι ὅλοι οἱ ἄνθρωποι θὰ ζήσουν εὐτυχισμένοι. Τὸ πέτυχαν; Ὁχι. Ἡ δυστυχία δὲν ἐξέλιπε οὔτε στὴ Ῥωσία, ὅπου ἐγίνε τὸ πείραμα τοῦ κομμουνισμοῦ. Τὴν ὥρα αὐτὴ ποὺ μιλάμε τὸ ἓνα τρίτο τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος ὑποσιτίζεται καὶ πολλοὶ πεθαίνουν ἀπὸ πείνα καὶ ἀσθένειες.

Μένει λοιπὸν ἀπραγματοποίητο τὸ ὄνειρο τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος γιὰ δικαιοσύνη; Ὁχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Ἐὰν ὅλοι μας, ἐφαρμόσουμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ, δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχουν πεινασμένοι καὶ δυστυχεῖς· χωρὶς τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ὅμως δὲν ὑπάρχει τέλος τῶν κακῶν.

● **Τὸ δεύτερο δίδαγμα** εἶνε, ὅτι **κάποτε ὅλα τελειώνουν**. Κι ἂν ἀκόμα ὑποθέσουμε ὅτι κάποιος ζῇ ὄχι ἓνα καὶ δυὸ χρόνια ἀλλὰ ἑκατὸ χρόνια σὲ πέλαγος εὐτυχίας, κ' εἶνε ἀπολύτως ὑγιὲς καὶ πλούσιος ὅπως ὁ Κροῖσος καὶ δυνατὸς ὅπως ὁ Ναπολέον καὶ σοφὸς ὅπως ὁ Σολομὼν, αὐτὰ δὲν εἶνε αἰῶνια. **Τελειώνουν τὰ ὠραῖα καὶ εὐχάριστα**. Ἐρχεται ὁ θάνατος, ὁ μεγάλος δημοκράτης, ποὺ ἐξισώνει ὅλους καὶ τοὺς ἰσοπεδώνει ξαπλώνοντάς τους στὰ νεκροταφεῖα. Ὅπως λένε τὰ τροπάρια τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, **«ἐπελθὼν ὁ θάνατος, ταῦτα πάντα ἐξηφάνισται»**. Παύει πᾶσα διάκρισις· **«Ἄρα τίς ἐστὶ βασιλεὺς ἢ στρατιώτης, πλούσιος ἢ πένης, δίκαιος ἢ ἀμαρτωλός;»** (βλ. καὶ νεκρία. Ἰσάκ. ἡ γ' καὶ πλ. σ). Ἄλλ' ὅπως τελειώνουν τὰ ὠραῖα, ἔτσι τελειώνουν καὶ **τὰ ἄσχημα καὶ δυσάρεστα**. Ἄν ὑποθέσουμε ὅτι κάποιος ἐπὶ ἑκατὸ χρόνια δὲν βλέπει ἄσπρη μέρα, ἀλλὰ ζῇ ἀσθενὴς καὶ φτωχὸς καὶ ἀδικημένος, θὰ ἔρθῃ ὅμως καὶ γι' αὐτὸν τὸ τέλος τῶν δεινῶν.

Συνεπῶς καὶ σὺ ποὺ εὐτυχεῖς, μὴ ἐπαναπαύεσαι καὶ παγιδεύεσαι, καὶ σὺ ποὺ ὑποφέρεις, μὴ ἀπελπίζεσαι καὶ ἀθυμεῖς.

● **Τὸ τρίτο δίδαγμα.** Γιὰ νὰ λέμε τὴν ἀλήθεια, εἴμαστε ἐπιπόλαια καὶ ῥηχὰ πνεύματα· δὲν ἔχουμε ἐμβαθύνει στὰ μυστήρια τοῦ Θεοῦ. Πρέπει νὰ τὸ πιστέψουμε ἀκραδάντως· **ὁ θάνατος δὲν ἀποτελεῖ τὸ τέρμα τῆς ζωῆς**. Ὁχι.

Δὲν εἴμαστε σὰν τὰ δέντρα ποὺ ξεραίνονται ἢ σὰν τὰ ζῶα ποὺ ψοφοῦν· εἴμαστε κάτι ἀνώτερο. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἔχει ψυχὴ ἀθάνατη. Τὸ σῶμα λειώνει, διαλύεται, ἀλλὰ **ἡ ψυχὴ ὑπάρχει, μένει**. Τί λέει τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο; Μᾶς παρουσιάζει τίς δύο ψυχές· ἀπὸ τὴν μιὰ μεριὰ τοῦ πλουσίου στὴν κόλασι (τὴν ὁποία συμβολίζουν τὰ βάσανα καὶ ἡ φλόγα), κι ἀπὸ τὴν ἄλ-

λη του Λαζάρου στον παράδεισο (τόν ὁποῖο συμβολίζει ὁ κόλπος τοῦ Ἀβραάμ).

Ἄθεοι, ἄπιστοι καὶ ὑλισταί, δὲν εἶνε ψέμα· ναὶ **ὑπάρχει ἄλλος κόσμος, ἄλλη ζωή!**

● Τέταρτο δίδαγμα. Ἄν ἐδῶ ἀπὸ τὰ μάτια σου στάξῃ ἓνα δάκρυ μετανόιας γιὰ τὰ κρίματά σου, τὸ δάκρυ αὐτὸ γίνεται θάλασσα μέσα στὴν ὁποία σβήνουν ὅλα τ' ἁμαρτήματα. Ὅταν ὅμως ὁ θάνατος μᾶς σφαλίσῃ γιὰ πάντα τὰ μάτια καὶ ἀπ' ἐδῶ μὲ τὴ βαρκούλα τῆς ὑπάρξεώς μας διαπεράσουμε στὴ χώρα τῆς αἰωνιότητος, ἐκεῖ ὅχι ἓνα δάκρυ ἀλλὰ ἓναν Ἀλιάκμονα δακρύων νὰ χύσουμε πενθοῦντες, ἐκεῖνα τὰ δάκρυα δὲν θὰ ἔχουν καμμία ἰσχύ. Ἐκεῖ θ' ἀναστενάζουν οἱ ἀσπλαχνοὶ πλούσιοι, θὰ κλαῖνε οἱ πόρνοι καὶ οἱ μοιχοί, θὰ βογγοῦν οἱ βλάστημοι, θὰ καταριῶνται τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς γεννήσεώς τους οἱ ἀμετανόητοι ἁμαρτωλοί, μὰ δὲν θὰ εἰσακούωνται. Ἡ σημερινὴ παραβολὴ μᾶς βεβαιώνει, ὅτι **«ἐν τῷ ᾧ ἔστι οὐκ ἔστι μετάνοια»**.

● Ἐνα τελευταῖο δίδαγμα προσφέρει ὁ σπουδαῖος **διάλογος** τῆς παραβολῆς –θὰ ἤθελα ἐκτενέστερα νὰ διατρίψω σ' αὐτόν–, διάλογος ποὺ ἐγινε στὸν Ἰσραὴλ γιὰ τὸ ἐκεῖ ὁμιλοῦν οἱ ψυχές.

Ὁ πλούσιος, ἐνῶ καίγεται στὴν κόλασι, βλέπει τὸ Λάζαρο στὸν παράδεισο καὶ παρακαλεῖ: –Πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, λέει, στείλε τὸ Λάζαρο νὰ μοῦ δροσίσι λίγο τὴ γλῶσσα μὲ τὸ δαχτυλάκι του, γιὰτὶ βασανίζομαι σὲ τούτῃ τῇ φλόγᾳ· μὴ στάλα δροσιᾶς παραδείσου ζητῶ.

Μ' αὐτὸ μοιάζει ἐκεῖνο ποὺ ἔλεγε ὁ Ῥήγας Φεραίος: «Καλύτερα μιᾶς ὥρας ἐλεύθερη ζωὴ παρὰ σαράντα χρόνια σκλαβιὰ καὶ φυλακή». Δὲν ζητῶ πολλά· παρακαλῶ γιὰ μιὰ στιγμή χαρᾶς ἀπὸ ἐκείνην ποὺ αἰσθάνεται ἡ ψυχὴ ὅταν λέγῃ **«Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε...»** (Λουκ. 22:42), ἐκείνη μὲ τὴν ὁποία δὲν συγκρίνονται οἱ ἐπίγειες χαρές.

–Ὅχι, ἀπαντᾷ ὁ Ἀβραάμ· ὁ καθένας σας ἐζησε ὅπως διάλεξε. Καὶ τώρα χάσμα μεγάλο χωρίζει τὴ μία κατάστασι ἀπὸ τὴν ἄλλη· εἶνε ἀδύνατη κάθε ἐπικοινωνία.

Ὁ πλούσιος ὑποβάλλει δεύτερη παράκλησι: –Ἐχω, πάτερ, στὴ γῇ πέντε ἀδέρφια. Ζοῦν ὅπως ζοῦσα κ' ἐγώ· σὲ παρακαλῶ, στείλε τὸ Λάζαρο στὸ πατρικὸ μου νὰ τοὺς πῇ νὰ μετανοήσουν· μὴν ἔρθουν κι αὐτοὶ σὲ τοῦτα τὰ βάσανα.

–Ἐχουν τὸ Μωυσῆ καὶ τοὺς προφῆτες, τοῦ ἀπαντᾷ ὁ Ἀβραάμ· ἂς ἀκούσουν αὐτοὺς. Μὰ ὁ πλούσιος ἔχει ἀντίρρηση κ' ἐπιμένει: –Ὅχι, πάτερ· ἂν ὅμως ἀναστηθῇ κάποιος νεκρὸς καὶ πᾶρ σ' αὐτοὺς, θὰ μετανοιώσουν. Καὶ ὁ Ἀβραάμ κλείνει τὸ διάλογο λέγοντας:

–**«Εἰ Μωϋσῆς καὶ τῶν προφητῶν οὐκ ἀκούουσιν, οὐδὲ ἐάν τις ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῇ πεισθῇσονται»** (Λουκ. 16:31)· ἂν δὲν ἀκούνε τὴ Γραφή, καὶ νεκρανάστασι νὰ δοῦν δὲν θὰ πεισθοῦν.

Θὰ ἤθελα στὸ σημεῖο αὐτὸ νὰ κάνω εἰδικὴ ὁμιλία· ἀλλ' ὅς τελειώσω μὲ τὰ ἐξῆς λίγα λόγια ἐπὶ τῆς παραβολῆς, ποὺ κάποιος τὴν χαρακτηριστῆρισε ὡς **κοινωνικὸ εὐαγγέλιο**.

Πολλοί, ἀγαπητοί μου, **ζητοῦν θαύματα γιὰ νὰ πιστέψουν**· νὰ ἔρθῃ π.χ. κάποιος ἀπ' τὸν ἄλλο κόσμο καὶ νὰ πῇ, Ὑπάρχει κόλασι καὶ παράδεισος! Ὅχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Κι αὐτὸ νὰ γίνῃ, δὲν πιστεύουν. Ἀπόδειξις· ὁ Χριστὸς ἀνέστησε τὸν τετραήμερο Λάζαρο. Πίστεψαν; Ὅχι μόνο δὲν πίστεψαν, ἀλλὰ καὶ μελετοῦσαν πῶς νὰ θανατώσουν πάλι τὸν ἀναστημένο! (βλ. 1ω. 12:10-11). Τόσο διεφθαρμένος εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος· ὅποιος δὲν ἔχει καλὴ διάθεσι, ὅσα θαύματα κι ἂν δῇ δὲν πιστεύει.

Καὶ λοιπόν, δὲν ὑπάρχει κάτι ποὺ νὰ πειθῇ γιὰ τὴν πέρα τοῦ τάφου αἰωνία ζωὴ; **Ὑπάρχει ἓνα θαῦμα**· μὴ μοῦ μιλάτε γιὰ ἄλλα θαύματα. Αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ θαῦμα τῶν θαυμάτων. Ἄν αὐτὸ δὲν τὸ πιστέψετε, τότε πλέον εἶστε ἄξιοι τῆς τύχης σας. Ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ θαῦμα; Εἶνε τὸ **Εὐαγγέλιο**, τὸ μικρὸ αὐτὸ βιβλίον, ποὺ μπορεῖτε νὰ τὸ ἀπολαμβάνετε μέρα καὶ νύχτα.

Ὡ Εὐαγγέλιο, **λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἀθάνατα!** Κόσμε ταλαίπωρε, ποὺ ἀνοίγεις ραδιόφωνα καὶ τηλεοράσεις, νὰ τὸ θαῦμα! Πάρ' το, ἀνοιξέ το, μελέτησέ το. Ἀπιστοι, ποὺ τὸ μελέτησαν εἶπαν **«Ἀληθῶς Θεοῦ Υἱὸς ἦν οὗτος»** (Ματθ. 27:54).

Ἐνα παράδειγμα. Ὁ **Ῥώσος Ντοστογιέφσκυ** ἦταν ἄθεος· ἀλλ' ὅταν ἤρθε σὲ σύγκρουσι μὲ τὸ τσαρικό καθεστῶς καὶ τὸν ὠδηγοῦσαν δεμένο στὴ Σιβηρία, στὸ δρόμο σ' ἓνα χωριό, μιὰ ἀπλοϊκὴ Ῥωσίδα τοῦ ὅσως λίγα φρούτα καὶ τοῦ εἶπε: –Πάρε, γυιόκα μου, κι αὐτὸ τὸ μικρὸ βιβλίον (τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον) νὰ τὸ διαβάσῃς. Γέλασε ὁ Ντοστογιέφσκυ, ἀλλὰ τὸ πῆρε. Καὶ μέσα στὰ τρία χρόνια ποὺ ἔμεινε στὶς φυλακές ἦταν τὸ μόνο βιβλίον ποὺ διάβαζε. Ἄνοιξαν τὰ μάτια του, πίστεψε, ἐγινε ἄλλος ἄνθρωπος καὶ κορυφαῖος λογοτέχνης.

Δὲν εἶνε ντροπὴ μας, νὰ διαβάζουν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιον Ῥώσοι, Ἀγγλοὶ, Νέγροι, ... κ' ἐμεῖς ποὺ τὸ ἔχουμε γραμμένο στὴ γλῶσσα μας, νὰ μὴν τὸ διαβάζουμε; **Χωρὶς τὴ Γραφὴ δὲν μπορεῖς νὰ σωθῇς**. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δῇς τὸ πρόσωπο μὲ **«τὸ ὄνομα τὸ ὑπὲρ πάντων ὀνομα»** (Ἰω. 2:3).

Παντοῦ λοιπόν ἡ Γραφή! στὰ σπίτια καὶ στὰ σχολεῖα. Καὶ τώρα ποὺ ἀρχισαν τὰ κατηχητικὰ μαθήματα παρακαλῶ ὅλους νὰ τρέξουν σὰν διψασμένα ἐλάφια γιὰ νὰ δροσιστοῦν στὰ ρεύματα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, καὶ κανεὶς νὰ μὴ βρεθῇ στὸν τόπο τῆς κολάσεως, ἀλλὰ ὅλοι ν' ἀπολαύσουμε τὴ χαρὰ στὴν ἀπέραντη αἰωνιότητα διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου καὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων· 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

Lazarus and the Rich Man

In the 1940's, France was known for its extensive collection of Egyptian artifacts. Many forgotten treasures were holed up in the basement of a Paris museum. One day, some workmen uncovered a forgotten burial case pushed into a dark corner of the basement. They decided that the box would be an excellent storage container for many of the smaller artifacts. So, without consulting any of the museum authorities, the workmen took it upon themselves to empty the contents of the box into the sewer. They then filled the empty box with odds and ends. Some time later, they made the unhappy discovery that they had mistakenly discarded the remains of Cleopatra, one of the most famous women of ancient Egypt!

In ignorance, people regularly discard things of great value. One of the more valuable

things that people discard are opportunities. We see this in today's Gospel reading of the Parable of Lazarus and the Rich Man. The rich man had everything he needed in the world, while Lazarus was in constant need. Each day, the rich man had the opportunity to attend to the need of Lazarus who wanted nothing more than to eat the crumbs which fell from his table. The rich man, for his part, never abused Lazarus or mistreated him – he simply ignored him and for this he was condemned. The sin of the rich man was not his wealth, it was his blindness – blindness to the needs of others.

Let us not forget that "the truly rich man is not one who possesses much, but one who gives much." (Saint John Chrysostom)

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 23rd 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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