

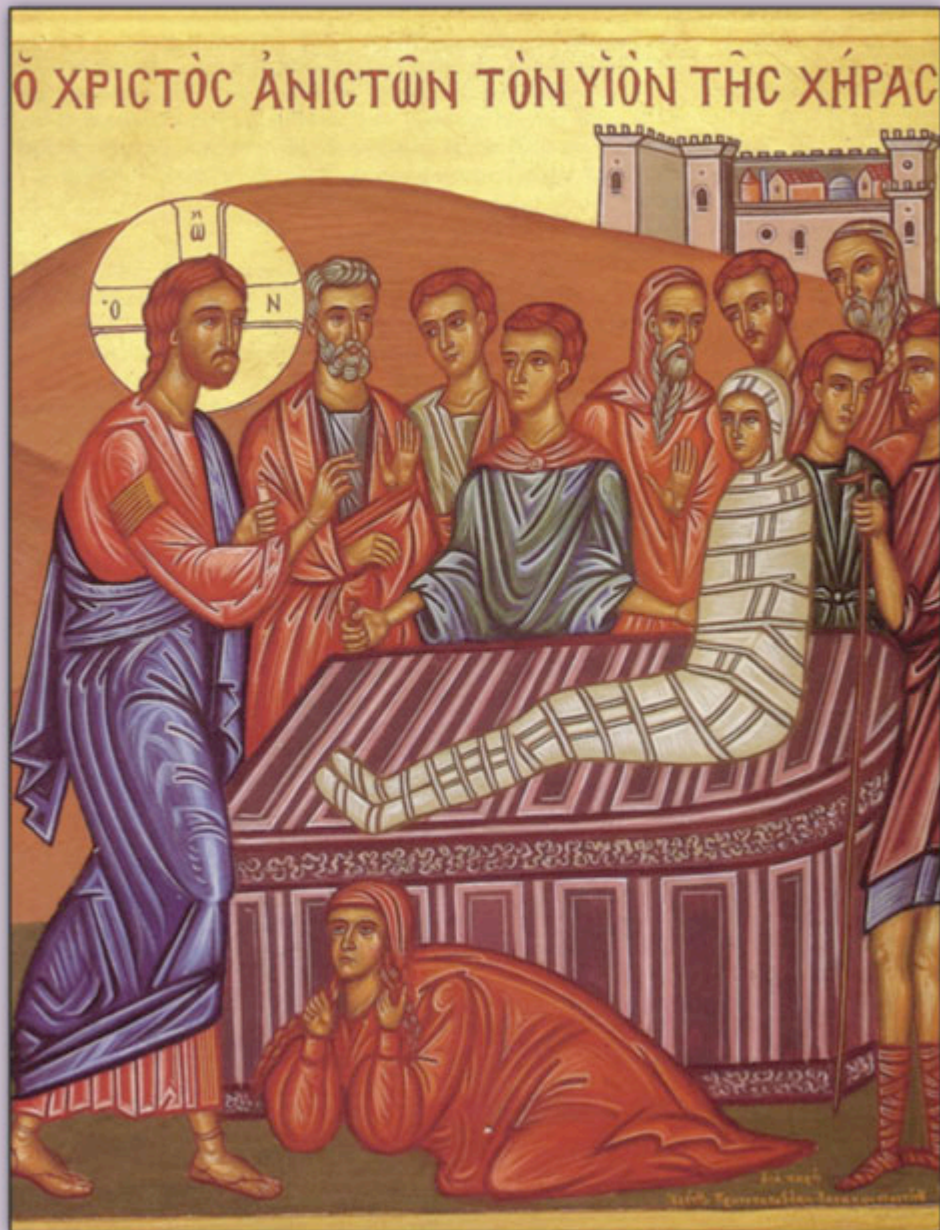


DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 10th, 2021
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Healing of the Widow's Son (Luke 7:11-16)

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Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:1-10

Brethren, working together with him, we entreat you not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At the acceptable time I have listened to you, and helped you on the day of salvation." Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We put no obstacle in any one's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we commend ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, tumults, labors, watching, hunger; by purity, knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχύϊν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:1-10 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες δὲ καὶ παρακαλοῦμεν μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ θεοῦ δέξασθαι ὑμᾶς - λέγει γάρ, Καὶρῷ δεκτῷ ἐπήκουσά σου, καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ, νῦν καιρὸς εὐπρόσδεκτος, ἰδοὺ, νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας - μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες προσκοπὴν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία· ἀλλ' ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις, ἐν πληγαῖς, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις, ἐν νηστείαις, ἐν ἀγνότητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν πνεύματι ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτως, ἐν λόγῳ ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει θεοῦ, διὰ τῶν ὅπλων τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας· ὡς πλάνοι καὶ ἀληθεῖς· ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι, καὶ ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι· ὡς ἀποθνήσκοντες, καὶ ἰδοὺ, ζῶμεν· ὡς παιδευόμενοι, καὶ μὴ θανατούμενοι· ὡς λυπούμενοι, ἀεὶ δὲ χαίροντες· ὡς πτωχοί, πολλοὺς δὲ πλουτίζοντες· ὡς μηδὲν ἔχοντες, καὶ πάντα κατέχοντες.

3rd Sunday of Luke

The Gospel According to Luke 7:11-16

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 7:11-16 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐπορεύετο εἰς πόλιν καλουμένην Ναὶν· καὶ συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοὶ καὶ ὄχλος πολὺς. ὡς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ πύλῃ τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκῶς υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ κλαῖε· καὶ προσελθὼν ἥψατο τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες ἔστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ. ἔλαβε δὲ φόβος πάντας καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν Θεόν, λέγοντες ὅτι προφήτης μέγας ἐγήγερται ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.

OCT 10th LAMENT/SOLACE + PARASKEVAS KOKOTAS

With lament and solace to the family, we announce the passing of a grande and generous friend of the entire Greek Community in Brooklyn, our beloved + PARASKEVAS (PERRY) KOKOTAS. He fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, September 30th, after a long illness. The Funeral Rites were observed at Three Hierarchs on TUESDAY – October 05th, at 12 noon with the interment at Greenwood Cemetery. The condolences and heartfelt empathy is extended to the entire family (KOKOTAS) by each and every organization of the parish. Perry's outreach through the 'DINER' touched us all. May his memory be eternal. The 40th DAY MEMORIAL tribute will be offered at Three Hierarchs on Sunday, November 07th at 11:30 A.M.

SENIOR CLUB: Will celebrate Christopher Columbus 'LANDING DAY' with an ITALIAN BUFFET of PIZZA, WINE, PASTRIES and 'SAMUCCA' for the daring! ---- all this for the members on Wednesday, October 13th, at 1:00 P.M.YES, we know the official day is October 12th. but as true Greeks we're always one day later. True to habit! ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CLUB? JOIN US THIS WEDNESDAY AND EVERY WEDNESDAY.

Saint Photios Shrine ESSAY CONTEST: please see the insert flyer 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 commences on October 23rd, through November 03rd. His Holiness Patriarch Bartholemew 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.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE: DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will convene for their first meeting of the season on MONDAY - OCTOBER 18th, in Whitehall at 7:30 P.M. The Ladies are preparing for their Patron Saint Holiday Observance of Saint Demetrios - HONORED October 26th, each year.

UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY at Three Hierarchs will celebrate the 'POKROVA OBSERVANCE' with an out door Ukrainian Folk Festival on the PLAZA of our Community Center next Sunday, October 10th, from 3:00 – 7:00 P.M. Music dancing, ethnic food and drink. Join our brothers and sisters of UKRAINE on 'THEIR DAY' !

BOSTON CONFERENCE: heralding the +ELDER of AMERICA, Bishop Gerasimos of Abydou on Tuesday and Wednesday October 19-20 at Holy Cross Seminary, Malliotis Center. Father Eugene is a organizing member of the committee and will be featured in the documentary film produced for the event. Check out the web site: www.bishopgerasimos.org

BOY SCOUTS, GIRL SCOUTS and CUB SCOUTS are in full swing. Are your children enrolled in this formidable youth activity engaging youngsters with responsibility involvement, and appreciation for nature. Weekly Friday evenings meetings from 7:00 to 9:00 P.M. are offered with training on many area of arts, crafts, survival techniques of first aid and camping experience. Come any Friday evening and speak with the SCOUTING LEADERSHIP.

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 : + MARITSA KONSTAS
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + NANCY VARDAKIS

LOUKOUMADA SUNDAY OCTOBER 17, 12 NOON



Full Packaged Dish to go
\$10. (ten dollars)



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Exarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate

FR. ALEXANDER KARLOUTSOS
Spiritual Advisor



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October 5, 2021

V. Rev. Eugene Pappas
Retired Greek Orthodox Clergy of America
2732 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11235
info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

Dear Father Pappas,

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, the Order of Saint Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in America, will be honoring the three scientists whose extraordinary efforts led to Covid vaccines: Dr. Albert Bourla, DVM, Ph.D., Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Pfizer; Dr. Ugur Sahin, MD, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer of BioNTech; and Dr. George D. Yancopoulos, MD, Ph. D., Founding Scientist, President and Chief Scientific Officer of Regeneron.

The Athenagoras Human Rights Award is given each year to a person, persons or organization whose life and mission reflect the noble principles of human rights and religious freedom. Drs. Bourla, Sahin and Yancopoulos, with the blessings of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, will be joining the list of distinguished past recipients, including President Joe Biden, former Presidents George Bush and Jimmy Carter, Mother Teresa, Elie Wiesel, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Archon Mikhail Gorbachev and Admiral James Stavridis.

The Archons are most pleased to invite you as our honored guest to this auspicious event in tribute of the scientists scheduled for Saturday, October 30, 2021 at the New York Hilton Hotel. The Banquet (Black Tie) begins at 7:00 pm in the Grand Ballroom, preceded by a Reception at 6:00 pm.

Kindly, contact Father Alexander Karloutsos, as soon as possible, at (212) 570-3550, regarding your plans to attend. We will gladly answer any questions you might have at that time.

With the hope that you will accept our invitation, I remain,

Sincerely,

Anthony J. Limberakis, MD
Archon Aktouarios
National Commander



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. 23852-28510 – info@sykhaoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΗ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2412

Κυριακὴ Γ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 7,11-16)
10 Ὀκτωβρίου 2021

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Μάθημα περὶ θανάτου

«*Καὶ εἶπε· Νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι*» (Λουκ. 7,14)

Ακούγοντας τὸ ὄνομα «*Χριστός*», ἀγαπητοί μου, πολλοὶ ἀκόμη καὶ θρησκούοντες δὲν ἀντιλαμβάνονται τὴν πλήρη ἀλήθεια γιὰ τὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ Κυρίου μας· τὸ ὄνομα «*Χριστός*», μόνο του, δὲν ἀποδίδει ὅλο τὸ ὄψος καὶ τὸ βάθος τῆς πραγματικότητος γιὰ τὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ Σωτῆρος μας· ἀναφέρεται κυρίως στὴν ἀνθρώπινη φύσι του. Τὸ ὄνομα «*Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός*» δηλώνει καὶ τὶς δύο φύσεις.

Ἡ λέξι «*χριστός*» (ἀπὸ τὸ ῥῆμα *χρίω* ποῦ σημαίνει «*ἀλείφω*» ἢ «*ἀλείβω*»), θὰ πῇ «*χρισμένος*», «*ἀλειμμένος*». Σύμφωνα δὲ μὲ τὴν ἁγία Γραφή, «*χριστοὶ Κυρίου*», χρισμένοι - ἀλειμμένοι μὲ ἱερὸ λάδι γιὰ τὸν Κύριο, ἦταν καὶ ἄλλοι ἄνθρωποι, οἱ βασιλεῖς καὶ οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς, ποῦ ἀσκοῦσαν ἐξουσία μὲ θεϊκὴ ἐντολή (βλ. π.χ. *Λευί* 4,5-10· 21,10· *1^η Κορ.* 16,12-13· 24,7-26,9 κ.ά.). Αὐτοὶ πρὶν ἀναλάβουν τὰ καθήκοντά τους ἐχρίοντο, ἀλείφονταν, μὲ λάδι. Αὐτοὶ ἦταν οἱ μικροὶ «*χριστοί*», μὲ μικρὸ χρί. Ὁ ἕνας κατ' ἐξοχὴν καὶ μοναδικὸς «*Χριστός Κυρίου*» (βλ. *Λουκ.* 2,29), μὲ χρί κεφαλαῖο, εἶνε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Δὲν τὸν ἐχρισε ἄνθρωπος μὲ λάδι· τὸν ἐχρισε αὐτὸς ὁ Θεὸς μὲ Πνεῦμα ἅγιο (βλ. *Ψαλ.* 61,1· *Λουκ.* 4,18· *Πρὸς* 10,38).

Ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὁ ἀπὸ Ναζαρέτ ἐμφανίστηκε βέβαια ὡς ἄνθρωπος στὴ γῆ· γεννήθηκε ἀπὸ ἁγία μητέρα, τῆς ἀχράντον ὑπεραγίαν Θεοτόκον. Ἀλλὰ εἶνε Θεός, Θεὸς ἀληθινός, τὸ δεύτερο πρόσωπο τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος (τὸ τρίτο πρόσωπο εἶνε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιο) – Τριάς ἁγία, τρισηλὺς Θεότης, σῶσον ἡμᾶς!

Τὸ ὅτι εἶνε Θεὸς τὸ ἀποδεικνύουν τὰ θαύματά του. Ποιὰ θαύματα; Μὰ εἶνε ἄπειρα. Μετρᾷς τὰ ἀστρα τοῦ οὐρανοῦ; μετρᾷς τὶς σταγόνες τῶν ὠκεανῶν; μετρᾷς τὰ φύλλα τῶν δασῶν; μετρᾷς τὶς ἀκτίνες τοῦ ἡλίου; Ἄλλο τόσο μπορεῖ κανεὶς νὰ μετρήσῃ τὰ θαύματα, ποῦ ἔκανε, κάνει καὶ θὰ κάνῃ μέχρι συντελείας τῶν αἰώνων ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

Ἔνα λοιπὸν ἀπὸ τὰ μεγαλύτερα θαύματα τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ εἶνε αὐτὸ ποῦ διηγεῖται σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. *Λουκ.* 7,1-18).

Ὁ Ἰησοῦς, συνοδευόμενος ἀπὸ τοὺς μαθητάς του καὶ κόσμον πολὺ, ἐπισκέφθηκε τὴ Ναὶν, μιὰ πόλι διὰ ποῦμε σὰν τὴ Φλώρινα. Πῆγε ἐκεῖ, γιὰ νὰ διδάξῃ, νὰ κατηχήσῃ τὸ λαό. Ἀλλὰ στὴν εἰσοδο τῆς πόλεως εἶδαν νὰ γίνεται ἐκφορὰ νεκροῦ, γινόταν κηδεῖα. Μέσα στὸ φέρετρο ἦταν ἕνας νέος, «*νεανίσκος*» ὅπως τὸν λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. 7,14), καὶ πίσω ἀπ' τὸ φέρετρο ἀκολουθοῦσε κλαίγοντας γοερὰ ἡ μητέρα τοῦ νεκροῦ, ποῦ ἦταν χήρα καὶ τὸν εἶχε μοναχοπαῖδι· ἄλλη παρηγοριά καὶ στήριγμα ἀπ' αὐτὸν δὲν εἶχε. Πληθος λαοῦ τῆς πόλεως ἀκολουθοῦσε τὴν κηδεῖα.

Ὁ Χριστὸς σπλαχνίστηκε τὴ χήρα καὶ τῆς λέει «*Μὴ κλαῖς*» (βλ. 7,13). Δὲν ἔμεινε ὅμως μόνο σ' αὐτό· πλησίασε, ἐνῶ αὐτοὶ ποῦ σήκωναν τὸ φέρετρο σταμάτησαν, ἀπλωσε τὸ χερί του πάνω στὸ νεκρὸ σῶμα, τὸ ἀγγίξε καὶ εἶπε· «*Νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι*», παλληκάρι, σ' ἐσένα μιλῶ, σήκω ἐπάνω. Κι ἀμέσως, ἐκεῖ μπροστὰ σὲ ὄλους, ἐγίνε τὸ θαῦμα· ὁ νεκρὸς νεανίσκος ἀνακάθισε μέσα στὸ φέρετρο καὶ ἀρχισε νὰ μιλάῃ! Ἔτσι ὁ Χριστὸς τὸν παρέδωσε ἀναστημένο στὴ μητέρα του, καὶ τὰ δάκρυα τοῦ πένθους τῆς ἐγίναν δάκρυα χαρᾶς.

Ὅλοι τότε μπροστὰ στὸ θαῦμα αὐτὸ ἐνωσαν δέος γιὰ τὸ πρόσωπο τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. Χαρούμενοι δόξαζαν μ' ἕνα στόμα τὸ Θεὸ καὶ ἔλεγαν ὁ ἕνας στὸν ἄλλο· Μεγάλος προφήτης ἐμφανίστηκε ἀνάμεσά μας καὶ «*ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ*» (βλ. 7,14-16).

Αὐτὸ μὲ συντομία εἶνε τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Τί λέει; Τὸ μάθημα εἶνε περὶ θανάτου.

Ὁ ἄνθρωπος, κατὰ τὴ Γραφή, γεννήθηκε ἀ-

θάνατος. Μικρόβιο δὲν ὑπῆρχε στὸν παράδεισο. Μετὰ τὴν ἁμαρτία παρουσιάστηκαν τὰ μικρόβια τῶν ἀσθενειῶν, ἀπὸ τὰ ὁποῖα σήμερα ταλαιπωρούμεθα. Καὶ παρ' ὅλες τὶς προσπάθειες τῶν ἐπιστημόνων, πολλὲς ἀσθένειες μένουν ἀνίατες καὶ πεθαίνουμε. Ὡς τιμωρία τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν μας παρουσιάστηκαν ὁ καρκίνος, τὸ ξητῆζ (aids) καὶ ἄλλες ἀσθένειες, ποὺ θερίζουν κόσμο. **Ὁ ἀθάνατος ἄνθρωπος ἔγινε θνητὸς καὶ πεθαίνει.** Ὁ χρόνος ποὺ ζῇ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς εἶνε ὠρισμένος· σὲ ἄλλον μικρότερος, σὲ ἄλλον μεγαλύτερος. Ἀλλὰ καὶ ἑκατὸ χρόνια νὰ ζήσης, καὶ μαθουσάλεια νὰ γίνουν τὰ χρόνια σου, κάποτε θὰ περάσουν καὶ θὰ ἔλθῃ ὁ θάνατος· ὁ χρόνος μᾶς δίδεται ὡς προθεσμία καὶ συνεχῶς τρέχει. Ἐν τέλει, δὲν ἔχει σημασία πόσο χρόνο θὰ ζήσουμε, ἀλλὰ πῶς θὰ ζήσουμε, **τί θὰ κάνουμε μέσα στὸν χρόνο αὐτόν.**

Γι' αὐτὸ πρέπει **συνεχῶς νὰ σκεπτόμαστε τὸ θάνατο.** Ὁ Φίλιππος, ὁ βασιλεὺς τῆς Μακεδονίας μας, εἶχε μιὰ καλὴ συνήθεια· εἶχε διατάξει ἕνα στρατιώτη του, κάθε πρωὶ μόλις ἀνατέλλει ὁ ἥλιος νὰ παρουσιάζεται μπροστά του καὶ νὰ τοῦ λέῃ· «Φίλιππε, μέμνησο, ὅτι θνητὸς εἶ»· βασιλιά, νὰ θυμᾶσαι, ὅτι εἶσαι θνητὸς. Ἀλλος βασιλεὺς, τῆς Ῥώμης, ἐξέταζε τὸ βράδυ τὸν ἑαυτό του· κι ὅταν εὕρισκε ὅτι δὲν ἔκανε τίποτα καλὸ, ἔλεγε· «Ἐχασα τὸν καιρὸ μου, ἔχασα τὴν ἡμέρα μου». Καὶ ἔτσι εἶνε βέβαια. Καὶ ὁ Ξέρξης, ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν Περσῶν ποὺ ἐξεστράτευσε ἐναντίον τῆς Ἑλλάδος καὶ ἔφτασε μέχρι τὴς Θερμοπύλες, ἐκεῖ ποὺ παρέταξε τὸ στρατό του, χιλιάδες μαχητὰς, κ' ἐπιθεωροῦσε τὸ στράτευμά του, σὲ μιὰ στιγμή τὸν εἶδαν νὰ κλαίῃ, νὰ τρέχουν δάκρυα ἀπὸ τὰ μάτια του. Γιατί; Διότι, λέει ἡ ἱστορία, τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη θυμῆθηκε τὸ θάνατο, ὅτι μετὰ ἀπὸ ἑκατὸ χρόνια κανεῖς ἀπὸ ὅλους αὐτοὺς δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχῃ στὴ ζωὴ! Καὶ ὁ σοφὸς **Σολομῶν**, ποὺ ὑπὸ τὴν ἐξουσία του συγκέντρωσε ὅλα τὰ πλούτη καὶ τοὺς θησαυροὺς (στέρνες χρυσοῦ ὑπῆρχαν στὰ ὑπόγεια τῶν ἀνακτόρων), ὅτι ζηλεύει ὁ κόσμος (ὅταν ἴσχυε ἡ πολυγαμία εἶχε συζύγους τὶς ὠραιότερες γυναῖκες τοῦ κόσμου), ποιό ἦταν στὸ τέλος τὸ συμπέρασμα τῆς ζωῆς του· «**Ματαιότης ματαιότητων, τὰ πάντα ματαιότης**» (Ἐκλ. 12) καὶ ἕνα εἶνε τὸ οὐσιώδες διδάγμα του, ὁ φόβος Κυρίου· «**Τὸν Θεὸν φοβοῦ καὶ τὰς ἐντολάς αὐτοῦ φύλασσε, ὅτι τοῦτο πᾶς ἄνθρωπος**» (Ἐκλ. 12:13).

Μὴ λησμονοῦμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὅτι **ἡ ὥρα τοῦ θανάτου εἶνε ἀγνωστὴ.** Ὅπως ὁ κλέφτης τρυπῶνει σὲ ὥρα ποὺ δὲν περιμένουμε, ἔτσι

καὶ ὁ θάνατος. Ἔρχεται μὲ χίλιες μορφές, καὶ θερίζει συνεχῶς τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα. Ἐνα διήγημα, τὸ ὁποῖο σᾶς μεταφέρω μὲ συνομία, λέει τὸ ἑξῆς. Ὁ χάρος πῆρε ἐντολὴ, νύχτα ἡ ὥρα νὰ πάρῃ κάποια ψυχὴ. Ἀλλὰ ἔκανε λάθος στὴ διεύθυνσι καὶ μπῆκε σὲ ἄλλο σπίτι. Ἐκεῖ τὸν δέχτηκαν μὲ φόβο καὶ τρόμο, τὸν περιποιήθηκαν, καὶ τέλος ὁ νοικοκύρης τοῦ λέει· —Κάνε μου μιὰ χάρι, χάρε. —Τί χάρι θέ'ς; —Ὅταν πρόκειται νὰ πεθάνω, νὰ μὲ εἰδοποιήσης ἕνα χρόνο νωρίτερα. —Σοῦ τὸ ὑπόσχομαι, λέει ὁ χάρος. Μετὰ ἀπὸ καιρὸ λοιπόν, ἀφοῦ μεσολάβησε ἄρκετὸ διάστημα, νὰ κ' ἐμφανίζεται ὁ χάρος μὲ τὰ μαῦρα φτερά του. Μπῆκε στὸ σπίτι καὶ ὅλοι ταραχτήκαν. —Ἐχω ἐντολὴ νὰ σὲ πάρω, λέει στὸ νοικοκύρη. —Νὰ μὲ πάρῃς; Μὰ γιατί δὲν τήρησες τὸ λόγο σου; Δὲν εἶπαμε, ὅτι θὰ μὲ προειδοποιήσης; —**Σὲ προειδοποίησα** πολλὰς φορές, ἀλλὰ ἐσύ δὲν ἔδωσες σημασία. —Μὰ πότε; —Ἀλλοτε ὁ σφυγμὸς σου ἦταν ἄτακτος, ἄλλοτε ἐξασθένησαν τὰ μάτια σου, ἄλλοτε μειώθηκε ἡ ἀκοή σου, ἄλλοτε ἄλλα μέλη, ἄλλοτε ὅλο τὸ σῶμα σου...

Τί ἦταν αὐτά, ἀγαπητοί μου; Προειδοποιήσεις, ὅτι **ὁ χάρος ἔρχεται.** Ἐν τούτοις ἐμεῖς δὲν προσέχουμε τὶς προειδοποιήσεις καὶ **βαδίζουμε σὰν ἄφρονες** στὸν κόσμον αὐτόν. Ἔρχεται! Ἀγνωστὴ ἡ ἡμέρα καὶ ἡ ὥρα του.

Μακάρια τὰ νήπια, ἀδελφοί μου, ποὺ φεύγουν ἀθῶα, γιὰ νὰ εἶνε κοντὰ στὸ Θεό· καὶ μακάριοι οἱ ὠριμοὶ ἄνδρες, οἱ ὁποῖοι διὰ μετανοίας καὶ ἐξομολογήσεως ἔχουν καθαρῶς τὸν ἑαυτό τους ἀπὸ τὰ ἐκούσια καὶ ἀκούσια ἁμαρτήματα. Αὐτὰ μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Ἐνα πάντως εἶνε τὸ παρηγορὸς ὅτι **θὰ γίνῃ ἀνάστασις νεκρῶν.** Θὰ ἔλθῃ ἡμέρα ποὺ θὰ σαλπίσουν σάλπιγγες καὶ οἱ νεκροὶ θ' ἀναστηθοῦν. Ὅλοι θὰ παρουσιαστοῦμε ἐνώπιον τοῦ Κυρίου, γιὰ νὰ δώσουμε λόγον τῶν πράξεών μας. «**Προσδοκῶ ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν καὶ ζωὴν τοῦ μέλλοντος αἰῶνος· ἀμήν**» (Ἐφ. 1:12). Μ' αὐτὴ τὴν πίστι νὰ ζοῦμε, ἀδελφοί μου. Νὰ ζοῦμε μὲ τὴν πίστι, ὅτι **εἴμαστε θνητοὶ θνητοὶ** ὅμως ὅχι ὅπως τὸ ἐννοοῦν οἱ χιλισταί, ἀλλὰ θνητοὶ προωρισμένοι νὰ **ζήσουμε σ' ἕνα κόσμον ἀφάνταστα ὠραῖο**, ἀπείρως ὠραιότερο ἀπὸ τὸν παρόντα σημερινό.

Αὐτὰ νὰ σκεπτόμαστε. Καὶ νὰ εὐχώμαστε στὸ Θεό, νὰ παραδώσουμε ἐν μετανοίᾳ καὶ ἐξομολογήσει τὶς ψυχές μας στὸν Κύριον τῶν ὅλων· ἀμήν.

(f) **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

Jesus the Lord of Life

How do you respond to the misfortunes of others? In a number of places the gospel records that Jesus was "moved to the depths of His heart." Our English word "compassion" is a weak translation of the Hebrew word for "sympathy." Why was Jesus so moved on this occasion? Jesus not only grieved the untimely death of a youth, but he showed the depth of his concern for a woman who lost not only a husband, but an only child as well.

The scriptures make clear that God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (e.g., Ezekiel 33:11); God desires life, not death. Jesus not only had compassion, He also had power – the ability to restore life and make whole again. Jesus, however, incurred grave

risk by approaching the bier, since contact with a dead body made one ritually impure. His touch not only restored life but brought freedom and wholeness to soul as well as body.

This miracle is reminiscent of the prophet Elisha who raised another mother's son (see 2 Kings 4:18-37). Jesus claimed as His own one whom death had seized as its prey. By His word of power He restored life for a young man marked for death. Jesus is Lord not only of the living but of the dead as well. Jesus triumphed over the grave and He promises that because He lives, we also shall live in Him (John 14:19). Do you trust in the Lord's power to give life and hope in the face of misfortune and despair?

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)**

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