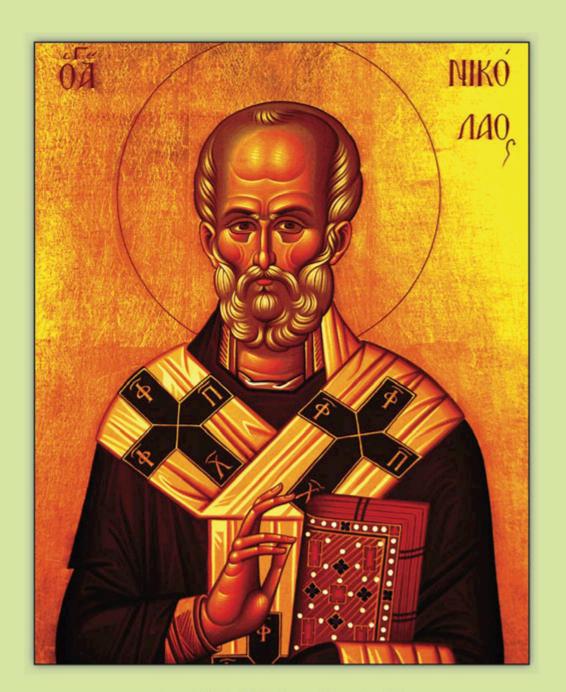


Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 5th, 2021 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

TENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

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Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 149.5,1 The saints shall rejoice in glory. Verse: Sing to the Lord a new song.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2

Brethren, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, selfcontrol; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us have no self-conceit, no provoking of one another, no envy of one another. Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Look to yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

> **Προκείμενον. Ήχος βαρύς. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 149.5,1** Καυχήσονται ὄσιοι ἐν δόξῃ Στίχ. Ἄσατε τῷ Κυρίῳ ἦσμα καινόν.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 5:22-26, 6:1-2 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Άδελφοί, ὁ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματός ἐστιν ἀγάπη, χαρά, εἰρήνη, μακροθυμία, χρηστότης, ἀγαθωσύνη, πίστις, πραότης, ἐγκράτεια· κατὰ τῶν τοιούτων οὐκ ἔστιν νόμος. Οἱ δὲ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὴν σάρκα ἐσταύρωσαν σὺν τοῖς παθήμασιν καὶ ταῖς ἐπιθυμίαις. Εἰ ζῶμεν πνεύματι, πνεύματι καὶ στοιχῶμεν. Μὴ γινώμεθα κενόδοξοι, ἀλλήλους προκαλούμενοι, ἀλλήλοις φθονοῦντες. Ἀδελφοί, ἐὰν καὶ προληφθậ ἄνθρωπος ἕν τινι παραπτώματι, ὑμεῖς οἱ πνευματικοὶ καταρτίζετε τὸν τοιοῦτον ἐν πνεύματι πραότητος, σκοπῶν σεαυτόν μὴ καὶ σὺ πειρασθậς. Ἀλλήλων τὰ βάρη βαστάζετε, καὶ οὕτως ἀναπληρώσατε τὸν νόμον τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

<u>Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 13:10-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα</u>

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, [°]Ην δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιậ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἕτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῆ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῆ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἕλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἑξ ἡμέραι εἰσιν ἐν αἰς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῆ ἡμέρα τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραὰμ οὖσαν, ἢν ἕδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἕτη, οὐκ ἕδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῆ ἡμέρα τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατῃσχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὅχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἑνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

TODAY: The HOLY ORDER of THREE HIERARCHS will offer an ARTOKLASIA for all living members of the "ORDER" for their continued health and salvation. The Thomson-Gikas family also honor their son (Nicholas) with the traditional artoklasia

TOY COLLECTIN for CHRISMAS: Please see the centerfold. Each year we are MOST successful in this 'anonymous' drive to bring joy to the little ones. Any gift item for either gender (boy or girl---or for both) may be left at the feet of the Holy Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary – anonymously! Please 1. DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT (we must determine what it is and for which gender and age group. 2. Please DO NOT ATTACH ANY CARD for acknowledgement. ALL GIFTS COME FROM SAINT NICHOLAS (SANTA CLAUS). Please 3. Give some attention to 'arts and crafts ' for 8 year olds and older. Educational toys or crafts from infancy onward are THE BEST!! Thank you for your interest and outreach.

SAINT JUDE THADDEAUS: A magnificent hand painted Byzantine icon of the blessed APOSTLE has been commissioned and completed for the veneration of the faithful at THREE HIERARCHS. the sacred icon will be available from December 12th, through December 19th, for petition and supplication, viewed on the solea of the church proper. Consecration of the icon will tke place with anointing ritual after the(OCTAVE) eight day period of sanctification. Saint Jude Hospital for Children is most famous and recognizable. HE IS THE PATRON SAINT of HOPELESS CASES! Miracles have been wrought in his name interceding with JESUS. Join us in this special tribute and life-changing experience. The Raptis family have generously commissioned the iconography in Thanksgiving.

SACRED STORY of SAINT JUDE will be revealed and related on Sunday – December 19th. This will be HIS 'Christmas gift' to you. BE PRESENT. BE ACCEPTING. BE GRATEFUL.

Pastor's Name Day Observance: Being baptized NICHOLAS as an infant, he was later (at age 25) to be tonsured a monk with the given name EUGENIOS (Eugene) by the Hierarch and Abbot + THEODOSIOS of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Father Eugene celebrates the full OCTAVE from December 6th, through December 13th, thus honoring both saintly patrons. Join with us on December 12th, for a special artoklasia.

FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS (December 06th) will be observed with solemnity by gracious anticipation today. We welcome an artoklasia for the feast day celebration. Chronia Polla to all named Nicholas, Nicole, Nicolletta, Saint Nicholas is the Patron of children, widows, sailors and mariners.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS for new term of two years (2022-2024) will take place on Sunday, December 19th, in the School Office from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Only registered stewards having submitted their annual obligation to the church will be able to vote. Hopefully you are a steward!

CHRISTMAS CARD APPEAL: Have you registered your name and family in the 'community triptych card' which will be forwarded to 1,000 families and friends of Three Hierarchs with your NATIVITY GREETINGS? For \$20. your name is inscribed. Go to the Church office and register TODAY!

TOYS FOR TOTS APPEAL is once again in full swing----- see centerfold for details.

TODAY: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 05TH, DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE LUNCHEON at 1:00 P.M. The Demetra Chapter #33 at Three Hierarchs Church will host a magnificent event and superb dining in ROSEHALL directly after the Divine Liturgy. Among the honored guests will be The Grande President of the National Organization, The Honorable Kathy Bizoukas of Indianapolis, Indiana and the Honorable Grande Secretary Marianthi Treppiedi from Spokane Washington State. The A.H.E.P.A. Supreme President, The Honorable Jimmy Kokotas will be present. The donation for this memorable event is \$35. (THIRTY-FIVE DOLLARS) per seat with a sumptuous meal with all the trimmings.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES: will host their Annual Christmas Dinner-Party in WHITEHALL on Thursday evening, December 09th, beginning at 5:30 P.M. It is the annual observance of festive dining OPEN TO ALL as guests of the community. COME! EAT! DRINK! CELEBRATE! DANCE AND REJOICE FOR THE LORD IS BORN! Please join us as OUR HONORED GUEST. Bring your spouse, friend, neighbor or co-worker. To reserve your seats: CALL/ MARY PLESSIAS 718-232-1177

UP-COMING MEMORIALS:	DECEMBER 12th,	+ MICHAEL SEKAS	+ VASILIKI PALOYMBIS
	DECEMBER 19th,	+ ANNA XENAKIS	
	DECEMBER 26th,	+ BESSIE TRIANTAFYLOU	

Daughters of Penelope Demetra Chapter #33



Meet & Greet Luncheon



Kathy Bizoukas and Grand Secretary & District #6 Liaison

Marianthi Treppiedi

Sunday - December 5th, 2021 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, Rosehall 1724 Avenue P, Brooklyn, New York 11229 718-339 - 0280





Roast Lemon Chicken (with all the trimings) Wine, soda sweets and coffee \$35.00 Per Person raffle prizes for all .



R.S.V.P. Effie Galiatsatos P.D.G. Chapter President Tel-718-627-0967 email- esgaliatsatos@gmail.com Roula Apostalou, Chapter Recording Secretary h. 718-777-26678 Cell: 917 -619-7974





«Έγενόμην έν Πνεύματι έν τῆ Κυριακῆ ἡμέρα καὶ ἦκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10) Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γεναικεία Τερὸ Νονὴ Ἀγίου Αέγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23650-28610 –imasflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Έτος ΛΗ' Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλλου 2428 Κυριακή Ι' Λουκά (Λουκ. 13,10-17) 5 Δεκεμβρίου 2021 Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Τί κακὸ ὁ φθόνος!

Ακούσατε, άγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο [Α λακ. 13,19-17]. Διηγεῖται ἕνα θαῦμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ σὲ μιὰ δυστυχισμένη γυναῖκα. Ποιά ἦταν ἡ δυστυχία της; Ἐνῷ χαρακτηριστικὸ κάθε ἀνθρώπου εἶνε ἡ ὀρθία στάσι, αὐτὴ ἡ ταλαίπωρη ἦταν συνεχῶς σκυμμένη στὴ γῆ· τὸ κορμί της ἦταν σὰν μιὰ βέργα ποὺ τὴ λύγισαν· καὶ τὸ κεφάλι της σχεδὸν ἄγγιζε κάτω τὸ χῶμα. Βλέποντάς την ἀπὸ μακριά, θὰ φαινόταν σὰν ἕνα ζῷο ποὺ βαδίζει μὲ τὰ τέσσερα.

Ποιά ήταν ή άσθένειά της; Άν τὴν ἐξέταζε σήμερα ἕνας γιατρός, θά 'λεγε ὅτι ἔχει σπονδυλίτιδα. Μὰ ὁ ἀνώτατος γιατρός, ὁ γιατρὸς τῶν σωμάτων καὶ τῶν ψυχῶν, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, ἔκανε ἄλλη διάγνωσι· ἡ αἰτία τῆς ἀσθενείας της, εἶπε, ἦταν κάτι ὅχι φυσικὸ ἀλλὰ ὑπερφυσικό. Μπορεῖ κανεὶς σήμερα ἀκούγοντάς το νὰ γελάσῃ, ἀλλὰ ἡ διάγνωσις αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ μόνη ὀρθή. Λέει λοιπὸν ὁ Κύριος, ὅτι ὁ αἴτιος τῆς ἀσθενείας της ἦταν ὁ σατανᾶς βλἔὰ Ἐἰθ. Ναί, ὁ σατανᾶς εἶχε ἐπιδράσει πάνω στὸ κορμί της καὶ τὸ ἕκαμψε τόσο πολύ.

Παρ' όλα αὐτὰ ἡ σακάτισσα αὐτὴ στὸ βάθος τῆς ψυχῆς της ἕκλεινε ἕνα μεγαλεῖο, ποὺ δὲν τὸ συναντặς σήμερα σὲ ἀνθρώπους ὑγιεῖς ποὺ περπατούν όρθοί. Ποιό τὸ μεγαλείο της; Στὴν κατάστασι πού ήταν, θά 'πρεπε νὰ μένη στὸ σπιτάκι της, νὰ μὴ βγαίνη ἕξω, ὅπου κακομαθημένα παιδιά, άμα δοῦν κανένα καμπούρη ή κουτσό, τὸν κοροϊδεύουν - Σεῖς, παιδιά μου, ποτέ μὴ γελάσετε γιὰ ἐλάττωμα ἢ ἀναπηρία όποιουδήποτε συνανθρώπου μας! Η γυναίκα λοιπόν αὐτή, ποὺ μὲ τόση βία περπατοῦσε σάν τη χελώνα, έβγαινε άπὸ τὸ σπίτι της γιὰ νὰ πάη – ποῦ; Ντροπή μας! αὐτὴ θὰ μᾶς ἐλέγξῃ έν ήμέρα Κρίσεως. Αὐτὴ πήγαινε στὴ συναγωγή, στὴν ἐκκλησιά της νὰ ποῦμε· ὅ,τι εἶνε γιὰ μᾶς ἡ ἐκκλησιά, εἶνε γιὰ τὸν Τοῦρκο τὸ τζαμί και για τον Έβραιο ή συναγωγή.

Έκεῖ λοιπὸν τὴν εἶδε καὶ ὁ Χριστός. Ἡ σακάτισσα αὐτὴ πῆγε ἐκεῖ γιὰ νὰ ἐκτελέσῃ τὴν ἐντολή τοῦ ἐκκλησιασμοῦ, νὰ τηρήση τὸ Σάββατο. Σὰν νὰ τὴ βλέπω. Αὐτή, ὅπως εἶπα, θὰ μᾶς δικάσῃ. Ἐμεῖς ἀντὶ τοῦ Σαββάτου ἔχουμε τὴν Κυριακή, τὴν ἡμέρα Κυρίου ποὺ ὁ Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν. Ἄν οἱ Ἐβραῖοι μιὰ φορὰ πήγαιναν –καὶ πηγαίνουν– στὴ συναγωγή, πόσο μᾶλλον ἐμεῖς; Ἄν βρεθῆτε τέτοια μέρα στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, θὰ ὅῆτε ὅτι δὲν κυκλοφοροῦν στοὺς ὅρόμους· ὅλοι εἶνε στὶς συναγωγές, στὶς χάβρες. Δὲν συμφωνῶ μὲ τὴν πίστι τους, διαπιστώνω ὅμως τὴ θρησκευτικότητά τους.

Τὸ Σάββατο λοιπὸν ἡ συγκύπτουσα ἦταν στὴν «ἐκκλησιά» της. Κ' ἐμεῖς τὴν Κυριακή; τί κάνουμε; Νὰ μετρήσω ἐδῶ τοὺς ἐκκλησιαζομένους; Ἐλάχιστοι! Τὸν βλέπεις ἐκεῖνον ἐκεῖ τὸ μαντράχαλο; δὲν ἔρχεται Κυριακὴ στὴν ἐκκλησιά. Ἐρχεται μόνο λίγο τὴ Λαμπρή, ν' ἀκούσῃ τὸ «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη», κι ἀμέσως φεύγει· θὰ ξανάρθῃ μόνο σὲ γάμο ἢ σὲ κηδεία. Μὰ κάποτε, ὅταν κι ὁ ἴδιος πεθάνῃ, θὰ τὸν σηκώσουν τέσσερις νὰ τὸν φέρουν στὴν ἑκκλησιά. Δὲν εἶνε ὅμως αὐτὸ Χριστιανισμός, Ἐκκλησία.

Ήρθε Κυριακή, χτύπησαν τὰ σήμαντρα; "Οπως ὁ στρατιώτης, ὅταν χτυπήσῃ ἐγερτήριο σηκώνεται καὶ δίνει τὸ παρών, ὅπως ὁ μαθητής, ὅταν χτυπάῃ τὸ κουδούνι τρέχει στὴν αἴθουσα, ἔτσι κι ὁ Χριστιανός: χτύπησε καμπάνα; λαχτάρα στὴν καρδιὰ καὶ φτερὰ στὰ πόδια νὰ 'ρθῇ στὴν ἑκκλησιά, νὰ πῇ ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ, ἕνα «Ίλάσθητί μοι τῷ ἀμαρτωλῷ» (ἐἰ Ἐἰξιῦ.

Έπανέρχομαι. Είδε λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστὸς τὴ σακάτισσα μέσα στὴ συναγωγή. Αὐτὴ δὲν φανταζόταν ποτὲ ὅτι τὴν ἡμέρα ἐκείνη θά 'νε ἐκεῖ ὁ 'ἰησοῦς, ὁ Υίὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ Θεός. Ἀλλὰ ὁ Κύριος ἦρθε γι' αὐτήν! Ἀπὸ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν ἀνθρώπων ποὺ ἦταν τότε στὴ συναγωγή, μία, μόνο αὐτή, πῆρε χάρι! "Όπως καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς· μπορεῖ νὰ γεμίζῃ ἡ ἐκκλησιά, ἀλλὰ δὲν παίρνουν ὅλοι τὴ χάρι καὶ τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Ό παντοδύναμος Κύριος σπλαχνίστηκε τὴν πονεμένη γυναϊκα καὶ τὴν ἔκανε καλά. Πῶς; Μὲ ἔνα λόγο, μιὰ ἀπόφασί του· «Γυναίκα, εἶσαι ἐλεύθερη ἀπὸ τὴν ἀσθένειἁ σου», λύθηκες πιὰ ἀπ' τὰ δεσμὰ τοῦ διαβόλου (μι ἐἰ ἰ೩ἰ). "Άγγιξε πάνω της μὲ τ' ἀμόλυντα χέρια του, τὰ χέρια ποὺ τὴ Μεγάλη Παρασκευὴ θὰ καρφώνονταν στὸ σταυρό, κι ἀμέσως –ὥ θαῦμασὰν νὰ τὴν διαπέρασε ῥεῦμα, τινάχτηκε πάνω, ἀνωρθώθηκε· τὴν εἶδαν νὰ ὑψώνῃ τὸ κεφάλι καὶ νὰ βλέπῃ ψηλά! "Όλοι χάρηκαν γιὰ ὅλα τὰ θαυμαστὰ ἕργα ποὺ ἕκανε ὁ Ἱησοῦς.

Τί εἶπα, «ὅλοι χάρηκαν»; Λάθος ἕκανα. Χάρηκαν ὅλοι ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ ἕναν. Αὐτὸς κιτρίνισε ἀπ' τὸ κακό του σὰν τὰ φύλλα τοῦ φθινοπώρου. Ἀντὶ νὰ πῇ «Χριστέ, σ' εὐχαριστοῦμε ποὺ ἦρθες κ' ἕκανες τὸ θαῦμα σου», εἶπε λόγια πικρά' Ἀκοῦς ἐκεῖ, λέει' ἐπιτρέπεται μέρα Σάββατο νά 'ρχεστε καὶ νὰ θεραπεύεστε!...

Ποιός ήταν αυτός; Ο άρχισυνάγωγος! "Ω τὸν ὑποκριτή! "Αν ὑπάρχη μιὰ μέρα ποὺ κατ" έξοχὴν ταιριάζει νὰ κάνη ὁ ἄνθρωπος τὸ καλό, είνε ή ήμέρα μιας έορτῆς καὶ μάλιστα ή ήμέρα τῆς Κυριακῆς. Καὶ ὁ Κύριός μας τί ἕκανε; Τὸν κοίταξε αὐστηρὰ καὶ τὸν ἀποστόμωσε. Τί είν' αὐτὰ ποὺ λές, ἄνθρωπέ μου; τοῦ είπε· γιατί γίνεσαι ὑποκριτής; καθένας σας τὸ Σάββατο δὲν λύνει ἀπ' τὸ παχνὶ τὸ βόδι ἢ τὸ γαϊδουράκι του καὶ τὸ πάει στὸ νερὸ καὶ τὸ ποτίζει; κι αὐτὴ λοιπὸν ἡ γυναίκα, ποὺ ὁ σατανᾶς τὴν εἶχε δεμένη δεκαοχτὼ τώρα χρόνια, δὲν έπρεπε νὰ λυθή ἀπ' αὐτὰ τὰ βαρειὰ δεσμὰ τῆς ἀσθενείας της τὴν ἡμέρα τοῦ Σαββάτου; Άλλος είνε ὁ λόγος ποὺ μιλᾶς καὶ φέρεσαι έτσι, όχι ό σεβασμός τάχα τοῦ Σαββάτου. Μὴν κρύβεσαι: γι' αύτὸ σὲ εἶπα ὑποκριτή.

Καὶ ἐνῷ ὁ Χριστὸς ἕλεγε αὐτά, ὅλος ὁ λαὸς συμφωνοῦσε καὶ χαιρόταν.

Άς σταματήσω ἐδῶ, ἀδελφοί μου. Ἀλλὰ πρὶν τελειώσω θὰ ἦθελα νὰ κοιτάξουμε ἐκείνη τὴ μαύρη ψυχή, πού, ἐνῷ ὅλοι χαίρονταν κι ἀγάλλονταν, αὐτὸς κιτρίνισε ἀπ' τὸ κακό του.

Τί ἦταν αὐτός; Δὲν ἦταν τυχαῖος· ἦταν τὸ πιὸ ἐπίσημο πρόσωπο τῆς περιοχῆς. Ἡταν ἀρχισυνάγωγος, εἶχε τὰ κλειδιὰ τῆς συναγωγῆς, θρησκευτικὸς ἄρχοντας τοῦ τόπου. Καὶ αὐτὸς στενοχωρήθηκε. Γιατί; τί εἶχε μέσα του;

Τί εἶχε! διάβολο εἶχε, ἕναν ἀπὸ τοὺς πιὸ φοβεροὺς διαβόλους. Εἶχε –μία λέξι– φθόνο! Ὁ φθόνος εἶνε ἕνα ἀπὸ τὰ πιὸ ἐπικίνδυνα πάθη, ἕνα ἀπὸ τὰ φοβερώτερα δαιμόνια, ποὺ ὑπάρχουν καὶ δροῦν παντοῦ, ἀλλὰ ἰδιαιτέρως ἐνδημοῦν στὴν ἀγαπητή μας πατρίδα. Δὲν ἔχω τώρα τὸν καιρὸ νὰ σᾶς δείξω τί ἕχει προκαλέσει ἀπὸ τὴν ὁμηρικὴ ἐποχὴ μέχρι σήμερα. Ό φθόνος χωρίζει ἀντρόγυνα, βάζει ἀδέρφια νὰ μαλώνουν, διαλύει κοινότητες, καταστρέφει ἕθνη. "Αν ἕλειπε ὁ φθόνος, ἡ ζήλεια, ἡ πατρίδα μας σήμερα θὰ ἦταν πολὺ μεγάλη. Μᾶς ἕφαγε καὶ μᾶς τρώει αὐτὴ ἡ κακία. Δὲν μποροῦμε νὰ παραδεχτοῦμε τὴν ἀνωτερότητα τοῦ ἅλλου. Ἡ γυναίκα ζηλεύει τὴ γειτόνισσα, ὁ ἄντρας τὸ συνάδελφο, ὁ καταστηματάρχης τὸν ἀπέναντι, ὁ τεχνήτης τὸν ὁμότεχνο.

Γιὰ νὰ δῆτε πόσο κακὸ εἶνε ὁ φθόνος, θέλω νὰ σᾶς πῶ ἕνα ἀνέκδοτο, ποὺ βρῆκα σ' ἕνα παλιὸ βιβλίο καὶ μοῦ ἕκανε ἐντύπωσι.

Ένας βασιλιάς είχε στην αύλή του δύο ύπηρέτες. Τοὺς ἦξερε καλά ὁ ἕνας ἦταν φιλάργυρος, ό ἄλλος Φθογερός, ζηλιάρης, Μιά μέρα τοὺς καλεῖ. Ἐλᾶτε ἑδῶ, λέει. Θέλω νὰ σάς κάνω ένα δώρο, ὄ,τι μοῦ ζητήσετε. Ἀλλὰ νὰ ξέρετε· ἀπὸ ὅ,τι ζητήση ὁ πρῶτος (Φλουριά, σπίτια, κοπάδια, κτήματα κ.λπ.), στόν δεύτερο θὰ δώσω τὰ διπλάσια. Λοιπὸν σᾶς άκούω. Αύτοὶ ὅμως δὲν μιλοῦσαν, ἔγιναν μουγγοί. Κοιτάζονταν μεταξύ τους κ' ἕσπρωχνε ό ἕνας τὸν ἄλλο νὰ ζητήση πρῶτος. Ό βασιλιάς τοὺς ἔδωσε διορία, ἡ διορία πέρασε, βασίλευε ό ήλιος, μὰ κανείς τους δέν μιλοῦσε. Τότε ὁ βασιλιᾶς λέει στὸν Φθονερό -Σὲ διατάζω ἐσένα νὰ ζητήσης πρῶτος, ἀλλιῶς θὰ σοῦ κόψω τὸ κεφάλι. Αὐτὸς ζορίστηκε πολύ, θὰ προτιμοῦσε νὰ ἄνοιγε ὁ ἄδης. Τέλος άνοίγει τὸ στόμα του καὶ λέει -- Βασιλιᾶ, παρὰ νὰ μοῦ κόψης τὸ κεφάλι, σοῦ ζητάω νὰ μοῦ βγάλης τὸ ἕνα μάτι. Καταλάβατε; Νὰ βγάλη δηλαδή σ' αὐτὸν τὸ ἕνα μάτι, γιὰ νὰ βγοῦν τοῦ ἄλλου καὶ τὰ δυό! Νά τί είνε ὁ φθόνος.

Θυμηθήτε καὶ τὴ Μεγάλη Παρασκευή. Ποιός ἀνέβασε στὸ Γολγοθā καὶ σταύρωσε τὸ Χριστό; Ὁ φθόνος. Τὸ κατάλαβε ὁ Πιλᾶτος ὅταν εἶδε ἐκεῖνα τὰ λυσσασμένα θεριὰ νὰ φωνάζουν. Τί κακὸ σᾶς ἔκανε ὁ Ἰησοῦς; τοὺς ρωτοῦσε, κι αὐτοὶ δὲν εἶχαν νὰ ποῦν κάτι ποὺ νὰ ὅικαιολογῆ τὸ μῖσος τους. Καὶ γράφει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, ὅτι ὁ Πιλᾶτος, «ἦδει (ὅηλαδὴ ἐγνώριζε) ὅτι διὰ φθόνον παρέδωκαν αὐτόν» Μαθ. Ξ.18 Μρι 15:10. Τὸν φθόνησαν ἐκεῖνοι, γιατὶ ἕλαμπε σὰν ῆλιος, ὅπως τὸν φθόνησε σήμερα ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος.

Έπειδή όμως, άγαπητοί μου, κανείς μας δὲν εἶνε τελείως ἀπηλλαγμένος ἀπὸ τὸ Φθόνο, ποὺ πάντα κεντῷ καὶ τὴ δική μας καρδιά, ἂς παρακαλέσουμε τὸν Κύριο, ὅπως ἄγγιξε μὲ τὰ δάκτυλά του τὴ συγκύπτουσα, ν' ἀγγίξῃ καὶ τὶς ψυχές μας, νὰ μᾶς θεραπεύσῃ ἀπὸ τὸ κακὸ αὐτό, ὥστε νὰ γίνουμε ἄνθρωποι τοῦ Θεοῦ πρὸς δόξαν τῆς ἀγίας Τριάδος: ἀμήν.

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

Annyopystrodewstpdyn Builde, noù Eyres atek i, eoù Ay, Kawiyes & Ekdwitt (nakosi) Ayrestieu tek 7-12-1968 ni moul, yd yda núpe ritria. Kanoypedt ezi advratant 6-11-2021.

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, Christmation (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

The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the "hard facts" of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was

unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

<u>RADIO MINISTRY:</u> Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast <u>MATTERS OF</u> <u>CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 23rd YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM</u>, 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 <u>YOUR E-MAILING</u> address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org