



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

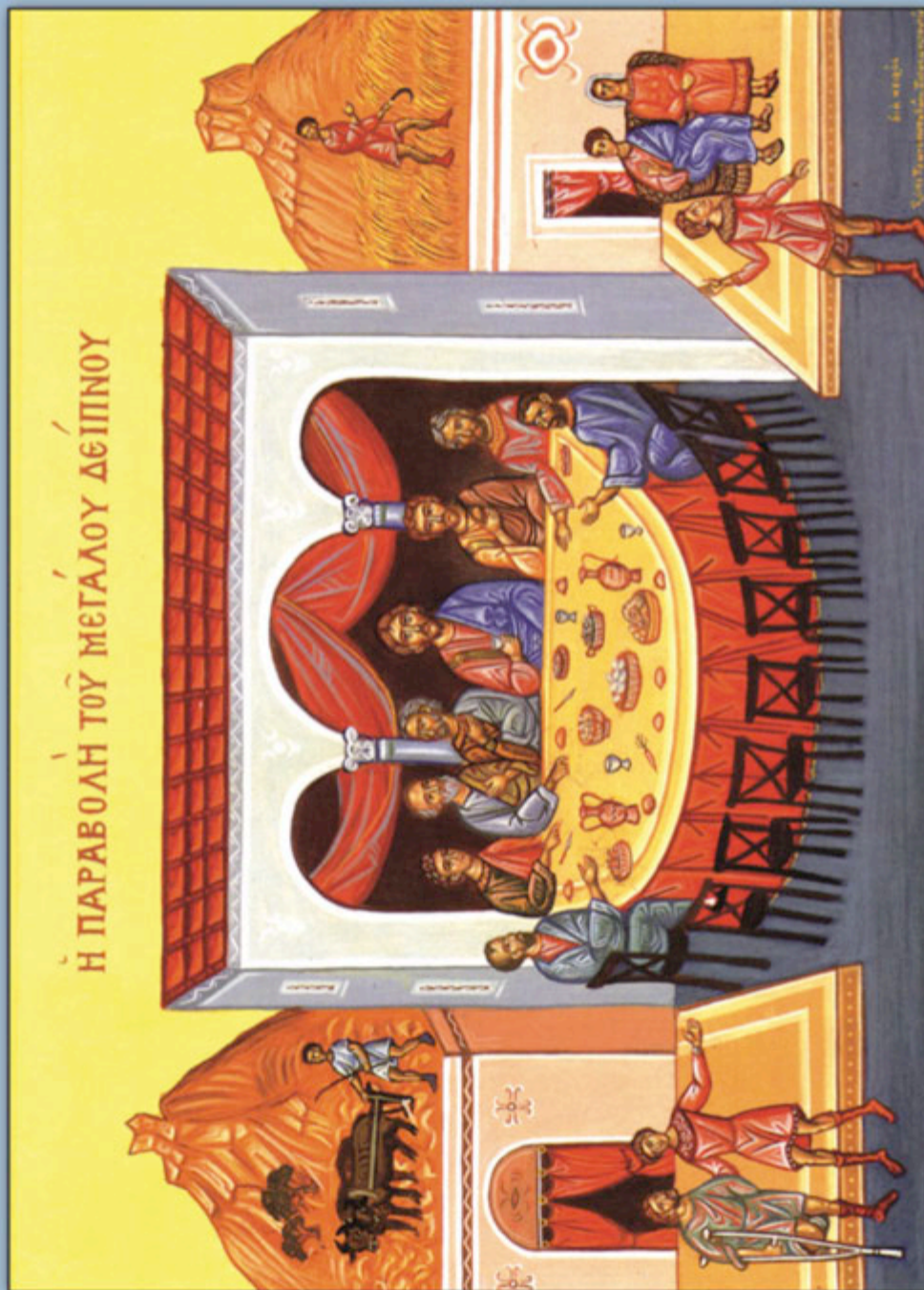
## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 12th, 2021

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Η ΠΑΡΑΒΟΛΗ ΤΟΥ ΜΕΓΑΛΟΥ ΔΕΙΠΝΟΥ



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast*

**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 Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος βαρύς.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 149.5,1**

Καυχῆσονται ὅσοι ἐν δόξῃ

Στίχ. Ἄσατε τῷ Κυρίῳ ᾠσμα καινόν.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 5:8-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε - ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ - δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν εὐάρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε· τὰ γὰρ κρυφῇ γινόμενα ὑπ' αὐτῶν αἰσχρὸν ἐστὶν καὶ λέγειν. Τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἐστίν. Διὸ λέγει, "Ἐγείρε ὁ καθεύδων καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφαύσει σοι ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι, ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσιν. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίῳ.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 14:16-24 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἀνθρωπὸς τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δούλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δεῖπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μίδς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δούλος ἐκείνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δούλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δούλον· ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεται μου τοῦ δεῖπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσιν κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί

**TODAY:** We are observing the Pre-Feast of SAINT ELEUTHERIOS with an artoklasia by Eleutheria XENAKIS who never forgets her Patron Saint! Chronia Polla to you Eleutheria, your children and grandchildren too!

**CHURCHING: NEXT SUNDAY** we are pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother the new born second child of Michael and Dina (KELLY FRATANGELO). The new daughter will be named “SANTINA CHRISTON” NA SAS ZESE.

**SENIOR CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY** will be celebrated with a festive luncheon on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15th**, starting at 1:00 P.M. in ROSEHALL. All members are invited to attend and dine sumptuously on holiday fare and treats. **GREEK CHRISTMAS CAROLS** will be sung along with the traditional American and English ‘carols’. Sing a song of joy! Sweets, treats, and B I N G O will follow and the ‘pot’ is grande!

**PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE** is scheduled each month on the middle **WEDNESDAY EVE. 6:30 P.M.** Wednesday – December 13th, **THE CHRISTMAS AND ADVENT** theme will be applied. **COME and HEAR** all the things **YOU NEVER KNEW ABOUT THE NATIVITY MIRACLE** of the Sacred Incarnation. Scripture, revelation, testimony, healing and ‘ANNOINTING’ will take place as usual. A table of festive sweets will be served at the conclusion of the event at 8:00 P.M. If you have never attended come now. You are indeed welcome.

**TOY COLLECTION for CHRISTMAS:** 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 take 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 Rapt is family has generously commissioned the iconography in Thanksgiving.

**CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUNDAY:** is scheduled by our faculty and P.T.A. for December 19th. This will be **HIS ‘Christmas gift’** to you. **BE PRESENT. BE ACCEPTING. BE GRATEFUL.**

**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.

**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!**

**MEMORIALS: TODAY:** + **MICHAEL SEKAS** + **VASILIKI PALOYMPIS**  
+ **THEODORE** and + **JOAN PAVLOUNIS** + **DIONYSIOS GONATAS**  
**MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK:** + **ANNA XENAKIS** + **KONSTANTINOS PAPADERATSAKIS**





Last Sunday, December 05th, history was recorded at our parish with the august of 2 (two) national presidents of our fraternal societies. Supreme President of the AHEPA-The Honorable Jimmy Kokotas and the Grand President of the DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE-The Honorable Kathy Bizoukas hosted at the Demetra Chapter #33 Luncheon in Rosehall.







Dignitaries from the District, and local chapters were present at the on the dais. Once again our humble parish excels in hospitality and generosity. CONGRATULATIONS to President Efthymia Galitsatos and her sisters of Demetra Chapter #33!





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28510 - [imsaello@yahoo.gr](mailto:imsaello@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΗ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2430

Κυριακὴ ΙΑ' Λουκᾶ (Λκ. 14,16-24· Μθ. 22,14)  
12 Δεκεμβρίου 2021

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Μᾶς περιμένει τὸ οὐράνιο τραπέζι

Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο τῆς σημερινῆς ἡμέρας, ἀγαπητοί μου, Κυριακῆς τῶν Προπατόρων (Λουκ. 14,16-24· Μθ. 22,14), εἶνε **μία ἀπὸ τὶς ἀφθαστες παραβολὰς** ποὺ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Σὰς εἶνε γνωστὴ, τὴν ἐπαναλαμβάνω.

Ἕνας **εὐγενὴς νοικοκύρης** θέλησε νὰ τιμήσῃ τοὺς φίλους του καὶ ἀποφάσισε νὰ τοὺς παραθέσῃ **δεῖπνο**. Ἀγόρασε τὰ καλύτερα τρόφιμα καὶ ὑλικά, τὰ μαγεῖρεψε μὲ κάθε τέχνη καὶ ἔστρωσε τραπέζι σὲ μιὰ ἀπέραντη αἴθουσα. Ὅταν πλέον ὅλα ἦταν ἔτοιμα, ἔστειλε μὲ τὸ δοῦλο του **προσκλητήρια** σ' ἕνα ὠρισμένο κύκλο φίλων, ποὺ τοὺς θεωροῦσε ὡς τὸ στενότερο περιβάλλον του.

Πῆγε ὁ ἀπεσταλμένος ὡς ἀγγελιαφόρος στὰ σπίτια τῶν προσκεκλημένων, ἀλλὰ παραδόξως συνάντησε **ἀπροθυμία καὶ ἄρνησι**. «Ἐλάτε, εἶπε στὸν ἕνα, τὸ τραπέζι εἶνε ἔτοιμο. –Ὅχι, ἀπαντᾷ αὐτός. Πηγαίνει στὸν δεύτερο. –Ὅχι, τοῦ λέει κι αὐτός. Πηγαίνει στὸν τρίτο. –Ὅχι, ἀκοῦει ἐπίσης. Ὁ πρῶτος ἦταν μεγαλοκτηματίας καὶ εἶχε ὑπογράψει πρὸ ὀλίγου συμβόλαιο, μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο γινόταν κάτοχος μεγάλης ἐκτάσεως, τιμαριούχος. Ὁ δεύτερος ἦταν ζωέμπορος· ἀγόρασε βόδια καὶ ἔπρεπε νὰ τὰ δοκιμάσῃ προτοῦ νὰ καταβάλλῃ τὴν ἀξία τους. Καὶ ὁ τρίτος, πιὸ ἀδιάντροπος ἀπ' ὅλους, ἀναίσχυντος σὰν πῖθηκος, ἀπήντησε, ὅτι εἶνε νιόπαντρος καὶ δὲν μπορεῖ ν' ἀσχολῆται μ' αὐτὰ τὰ πράγματα. Ἔτσι «ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες» (Λουκ. 14,18). **Αὐτοί, κατὰ τὴν ἐξηγήσει τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων, εἰκονίζουν τοὺς μορφωμένους ἄρχοντες τῶν Ἰουδαίων.**

Ὁ κύριος, ποὺ πληροφορήθηκε τὴν ἐλεεινὴ αὐτὴ συμπεριφορὰ τῶν στενῶν φίλων του, παρὰ τὴν εὐγένειά του ἀγανάκτησε. Διατάζει, νὰ βγῇ ὁ δοῦλος του «**εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας** (=στὰ σοκάκια)» καὶ νὰ καλέσῃ καὶ ἄλλους πιὸ ἀπόμακρους. Πολλοί, παρέες - παρέες, ἄρχισαν νὰ καταφθάνουν στὴ μεγάλη αἴθουσα· ἀνάπηροι, κουτσοί, τυφλοί, καθυστε-

ρημένοι καὶ παραγκωνισμένοι. **Αὐτοὶ εἰκονίζουν τὸν ἀπλοϊκὸ Ἰουδαϊκὸ λαό.**

Ὑπῆρχε ὅμως ἀκόμη ἀρκετὸς χώρος καὶ γιὰ πολλοὺς ἄλλους. Καὶ διατάζει τὸ δοῦλο του νὰ βγῇ πάλι, γιὰ τρίτη φορὰ, σὲ δρόμους καὶ φράχτες, καὶ ὅποιους βρῇ νὰ τοὺς φέρῃ νὰ συμπληρώσουν τὸ κενὸ τῆς αἰθούσης. **Αὐτοὶ εἰκονίζουν τοὺς ἐθνικούς.**

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Αὕτῃ μὲ συντομία εἶνε ἡ παραβολή. Ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ εὐγενὴς νοικοκύρης; Δὲν εἶνε ἄλλος παρὰ ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Κύριος καὶ Θεός. Τί κάνει ὁ Κύριος; **Στρώνει τραπέζι**. Τί τραπέζι; Δύο εἰδῶν.

**Πρῶτον ὑλικό.** Ὁ,τι, ἀδελφοί μου, ἔρχεται στὸ τραπέζι σας κάθε φορὰ ποὺ κάθεστε νὰ φάτε, εἴτε νερὸ δροσερὸ εἴτε κρασί εἴτε ψάρι εἴτε κρέας εἴτε φρούτα εἴτε ὅ,τι ἄλλο, ὅλα εἶνε δῶρα τοῦ Κυρίου. Σὲ κανένα ἄλλο πλανήτη τοῦ σύμπαντος δὲν ὑπάρχουν τ' ἀγαθὰ αὐτά, ποὺ τόσο **ἀχάριστα** καθόμαστε καὶ τρώμε. Τὸ πουλάκι στὴν πηγὴ πίνει μιὰ στάλα νερὸ καὶ ὑψώνει τὸ κεφαλάκι του στὸν οὐρανὸ σὰν νὰ λέῃ, Σ' εὐχαριστῶ, Θεέ μου· ἐμεῖς τὴ μπουκιά ἔχουμε στὸ στόμα καὶ τὸ Θεὸ βλαστημάμε. Ὑπάρχει πιὸ ἄθλιο ὢν ἀπὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο; Ἥθελα νὰ ἔβαζα τὸ βλάστημο σ' ἕνα πύραυλο καὶ νὰ τὸν στείλῃ στὴ σελήνη, ἐκεῖ ποὺ δὲν ὑπάρχει οὔτε ὀξυγόνο οὔτε νερὸ οὔτε ἀχλάδι οὔτε μήλο οὔτε ἄλλα ἀγαθὰ, ἀλλὰ ξεραύλα καὶ ψῦχος, γιὰ νὰ ἐκτιμῆσῃ τὸ τραπέζι ποὺ τοῦ στρώνει ἐδῶ ὁ Θεὸς κάθε μέρα.

Ἀλλὰ τὸ ὑλικὸ αὐτὸ τραπέζι, ποὺ τὸ στρώνει γιὰ ὅλους ἀνεξαίρετως, εἶνε εἰκόνα μιᾶς ἄλλης τροφῆς. Ὑπάρχει καὶ ἕνα **τραπέζι πνευματικό**. Στὴν ἐκκλησίᾳ τὴν ὥρα τῆς θείας λειτουργίας –ἂν πιστεύετε– ῥίξτε ἕνα βλέμμα μέσα στὸ ἅγιο βῆμα· ἐκεῖ εἶνε ἡ τράπεζα ἡ πνευματική. Ἐπὶ τῆς **ἁγίας τραπέζης** ὑπάρχει ὁ ἄρτος ὁ πανάγιος καὶ ὁ οἶνος ὁ καθαγιασμένος.

Τί εἶνε αὐτά; **Πιστεύεις;** Οἱ πρόγονοί μας, οἱ πατέρες καὶ μανάδες ποὺ γέννησαν τοὺς



ἥρωες τοῦ '21 καὶ τοῦ '12, δὲν εἶχαν ραδιόφωνα καὶ τηλεοράσεις καὶ τηλέφωνα, ἀλλὰ εἶχαν πίστι γιγάντια. Οἱ ἀγράμματες ἐκεῖνες γιαγιάδες ἔπαιρναν στὴν ἀγκαλιά τὰ μικρὰ παιδιά καὶ τὰ πῆγαιναν στὸν παπᾶ μπροστὰ στὶς εἰκόνες. Δὲν εἶχαν σπουδᾶσει θεολογία, μὰ ἦταν πιστές· πίστευαν ὅτι ἐκεῖνο τὸ ψίχουλο κ' ἐκεῖνη ἡ σταλαγματιά ποὺ εἶνε μέσα στὸ ἀγιο ποτήριο ἀξίζει παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα τὰ πετράδια τῆς γῆς κι ὅλα τὰ ἀστρα τ' οὐρανοῦ.

Ἄν τὸ πιστεύετε κ' ἐσεῖς, τώρα ποὺ ἔρχονται οἱ γιορτές, **πλησιάστε νὰ κοινωνήσετε** ὅπως κοινωνοῦσαν οἱ ὑπερασπισταὶ τοῦ Ἀρκαδίου, τοῦ Σουλίου, τοῦ Μεσολογγίου, τῆς Ἀγκύρας, τοῦ ἀλβανικοῦ μετώπου. Διαφορετικά, καὶ οἱ ἑορτές αὐτές θὰ εἶνε μόνο μία γαστρονομικὴ εὐωχία, χωρὶς τὴν οὐσία καὶ πεμπουσία τῆς ἁγίας μας Ὁρθοδοξίας.

**Τράπεζα εἶνε ἡ θεία λειτουργία.** Ἀπ' τὸ «*Εὐλογημένη ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Πατρὸς...*» μέχρι τὸ «*Δι' εὐχῶν...*» παρατίθεται συμπόσιο πνευματικό, ἀσυγκρίτως ἀνώτερο ἀπὸ ἐκεῖνα τῶν ἀρχαίων προγόνων μας ποὺ ἐκθειάζει ὁ Πλάτων. Κάθε λέξι, κάθε κίνησι, καθεὶ ποὺ τελεῖται στὴν ἐκκλησία, εἶνε μία πανδαισία πνευματική.

Τράπεζα λοιπόν. Καὶ **οἱ ἄνθρωποι πῶς διατίθενται; Προσέρχονται;** Στὶς ἐνορίες τῶν χωριῶν καὶ τῶν πόλεων μας, σύμφωνα μὲ μιὰ στατιστικὴ ποὺ ἔγινε, οὔτε δύο τοῖς ἑκατὸ (2%) δὲν ἐκκλησιάζονται. Ἄν ἐκκλησιάζονταν ὅλοι, θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ γκρεμίσουμε αὐτές τὶς ἐκκλησίες καὶ νὰ χτίσουμε πολὺ μεγαλύτερες. Τώρα οἱ πλεῖστοι κάνουν τὴν ἐμφάνισί τους μόνο σὲ μεγάλες ἐορτές. Αὐτοὺς τοὺς χριστουγεννιάτικους καὶ πασχαλιάτικους ἐγὼ τοὺς ὀνομάζω **χριστιανοὺς - κομῆτες**· γιατί ὅπως οἱ κομῆτες σπανίως παρουσιάζονται στὸν οὐρανό, ἔτσι κι αὐτοὶ σπανίως ἐμφανίζονται στὸ ναό.

Καὶ ἂν τολμήσης νὰ ἐκφράσης ἀπορία, **σοὺ ἀπαντοῦν** μὲ γλώσσα αὐθαδεῖας, ἱταμότητος, ἀναισχυντίας καὶ ἀχαριστίας, ὅπως ἐκεῖνοι οἱ προσκεκλημένοι τοῦ στενοῦ περιβάλλοντος. Μὰ **δὲν σὲ ἔχει ἀνάγκη ὁ Χριστὸς** νὰ ἔρθῃς ἐσὺ στὴν ἐκκλησία. Λάθος κάνεις, κύριε.

Κι ἂν ἐμεῖς πάψουμε νὰ ἐκκλησιαζώμαστε, **ὕπάρχουν πληθὸς πιστοὶ ποὺ λατρεύουν τὸ Χριστό**, στὸν κόσμο αὐτὸν τῆς ὕλης καὶ τῶν πυρὰύλων. Ποῦ θέλετε νὰ πᾶμε; Στὴ **Ῥωσία**; Κ' ἐκεῖ (στὴ Μόσχα, στὸ Στάλινγκραντ, στὰ Οὐράλια ὄρη), καὶ σὲ καιρὸ διωγμοῦ ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀθέτους, ἡ ἀδάμαστη ῥωσικὴ ψυχὴ τρέχει στοὺς ναοὺς· καὶ κλαῖνε ὅταν περνοῦν τὰ ἄγια, ἐνῶ ἐμεῖς κοιτᾶμε τὰ ρολόγια πότε θὰ σχολάσουμε. Στὴν **Ἀφρική**; ἐκεῖ ὁ Κύπρου Μακάριος τὸ

Μάρτιο τοῦ 1971 βάπτισε 5.000 ἰθαγενεῖς! Νὰ πᾶμε στὴν **Τουρκία**; Ὡ Μικρὰ Ἀσία καὶ Πόντε, λίκνον τῆς ἀτιμῆτου Ὁρθοδοξίας μας! Τὸ 1922 βέβαια διώχθηκαν ἀπὸ 'κεῖ 2.000.000 Ἕλληνες, καταργήθηκαν 4.000 ἐκκλησίες καὶ 80 μητροπόλεις· ἐν τούτοις κ' ἐκεῖ, στὴν καρδιά τῆς Τουρκίας, ὑπάρχουν Χριστιανοί· εἶνε οἱ λεγόμενοι **κρυπτοχριστιανοί**. Ἐνας τέτοιος μοῦ ἦρθε πέρυσι ἀπὸ τὴ Σαμψούντα, ζήτησε νὰ τὸν βαπτίσω κ' ἔκλαιγα μαζί του. Νὰ πᾶμε στὸ **Βόρειο Πόλο**; Κ' ἐκεῖ οἱ Ἑσκιμῶι στὶς παγωμένες καλύβες τους, χωρὶς καλοριφέρ, λατρεύουν τὸ Χριστό κ' ἔχουν κανδήλα ποὺ καίει ὄχι μὲ λάδι ἐλιδᾶς ἀλλὰ μὲ λίπος φάλαινας.

Οἱ πιστοὶ δὲν ἔχουν ἀνάγκη τὰ μέσα τῆς εὐμαρείας. Ἐγὼ πιστεύω, ὅτι ὁ **μεγάλος κίνδυνος** τοῦ κόσμου καὶ τῆς πατρίδος μας δὲν εἶνε ὁ κομμουνισμός – εἶνε κι αὐτός, ἀλλὰ **εἶνε ἡ εὐμάρεια**. Αὐτὴ ἀποτελεῖ τὸν τάφο τοῦ πολιτισμοῦ. Αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ κοπριά ποὺ ἐπάνω της βλαστάνουν οἱ μύκητες τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τὰ σαπρόφυτα τῆς ἀθείας.

Τὸν 17ο μὲ 18ο αἰῶνα κάποιος ἀπὸ τοὺς πατριάρχες τοῦ ἀθεϊστικοῦ διαφωτισμοῦ (ὁ Βολαῖρος 1694-1778) διακήρυττε, ὅτι μετὰ ἀπὸ ἑκατὸ χρόνια πάνω στὴ γῆ δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχῃ οὔτε ἓνας ποὺ νὰ πιστεῦῃ στὸν Ἑσταυρωμένο. Ἡ πρόβλεψί του δὲν ἐπαληθεύσε. Μὰ καὶ ἂν ἀκόμα συμβῇ νὰ ἐπαληθεύσῃ – πρᾶγμα ποὺ τὸ ἀποκλείει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Ματθ. 16,18. Λουκ. 1,33) – καὶ πάλι σὰς λέω, **ὅτι δὲν μᾶς ἔχει ἀνάγκη ὁ Χριστὸς**. Ἐπάνω **στὰ οὐράνια**, πέρα ἀπὸ τοὺς γαλαξίες καὶ τὰ ἀστρα καὶ τὸν Σεῖριο, ὑπάρχει, ναὶ ὑπάρχει, ἓνας ἄλλος κόσμος, ἄπειρα **πνεύματα ἁγίων ἀγγέλων καὶ δικαίων**, ποὺ τὸν λατρεύουν ἀπαύστως.

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«*Πᾶσα ἡ γῆ*» λοιπὸν καὶ «*πᾶσα πνοή*», ἀλλὰ καὶ «*οἱ οὐρανοὶ τῶν οὐρανῶν*» (Ψαλμ. 85,1· 130,8· 148,4) λατρεύουν τὸ Χριστό. Ἄν ἐσὺ δὲν θέλῃς, μὴν πατῆς στὴν ἐκκλησία. **Μόνος σου στερεῖς τὸν ἑαυτό σου ἀπὸ μιὰ οὐράνια εὐλογία.**

Αὐτὸ δείχνει ἓνα μικρὸ ἀνέκδοτο ἀπὸ τὸν βίο τοῦ **ἁγίου Σπυρίδωνος**. Πῆγε μιὰ μέρα ὁ ἁγιος σ' ἓνα ἀπόμερο ξεκκλήσι νὰ λειτουργήσῃ. Καὶ ὅταν ἀπὸ τὴν ὠραία πύλη εὐλογοῦσε λέγοντας «*Εἰρήνη πᾶσι*», ἀκούστηκε ἡ φωνὴ τῶν ἀγγέλων ποὺ τὸν ὑπηρετοῦσαν νὰ τοῦ ἀπαντᾷ· «*Καὶ τῷ πνεύματί σου*!» Γι' αὐτὸ στὸ ἀπολυτίκιο τοῦ ἁγίου ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας ψάλλει «*...Καὶ ἐν τῷ μέλει τὰς ἀγίας σου εὐχὰς ἀγγέλους ἔσχες σειλλειτουργοῦντάς σοι, ἱερώτατε*»· κι ὅταν ἀνέπεμπες τὶς ἁγίες εὐχές σου, **ἀγγέλους εἶχες νὰ συλλειτουργοῦν μαζί σου.**

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος**



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**

### *The Great Feast*

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

**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](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)