



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 26th, 2021

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY JOSEPH THE BETROTHED, DAVID THE KING, JAMES THE BROTHER



Icon of the Visit of the Magi

Prokeimenon. Mode 4. Psalm 67.35,26

God is wonderful among his saints. Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 67.35,26

Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ. Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 1:11-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἠκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφὴν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτὴς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δ' ἐεὐδόκησεν ὁ θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἱστορῆσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δ' ἐ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

Sunday after Nativity

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 2:13-23 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

When the wise men departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaos reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Ἀναχωρησάντων δὲ αὐτῶν ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνείλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὁρίοις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾷ ἠκούσθη, θρήνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁδυρμὸς πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεῦει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἔλθων κατέκνησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

Senior Club Christmas Party was held in Rose-hall last week to the abounding joy and satisfaction of EVERYONE! It was an ADVENT LENTEN DINNER cooked and served by the ladies of the club. The buffet table was 'groaning' with the application of so many varieties of a VEGAN-DELIGHT. NO MEAT WAS SERVED! Music, songs, cards, laughter and full bellies made sure the event was a success. THANK YOU ALL!

Gratitude is expressed to all the florists of the parish who donated and decorated the church inside and outside for the Happy Holy Days of Christmas and Epiphany. We also wish to express our gratitude to Deno and Susan Christakos who each year present the church Christmas Tree! Eucharisto to Henry's Florist, PETER GIANNOPOULOS, Steve Ballaro and CHRISTOS Vellios of Ellingville Florist, Billy Giannopoulos of Madison Florist, Tsintselis Brothers of Marine Florist, Vellios Clan of Avenue 'J' Florist, Frank Eugenis of Ben's Florist, Jimmy Vellios of Irene's Florist, Nick Vellios of Plaza Florist.

TOY Collection: one again this year was a success through the anonymous and loving generosity of our parishioners. The items for children from infancy to teens were gender and age appropriate. GRACIAS! EUCHARISTO! MERCI! DANKE! SPASIBA! THANKS! Santa will be so happy with the help he received from the 'elves' at Three Hierarchs.

Father Eugene expresses his personal acknowledgment to the Parish Council Fraternal, Cultural, and Philanthropic organizations and clubs that extended their greetings and gifts to him at holiday time. The Russian Ukrainian and Georgian Communities of Faithful are also greeted with appreciation for their generosity to the Pastor. WE ARE ONE FAMILY IN CHRIST, WITH ONE LORD, ONE FAITH and ONE HOPE.

Special greetings are extended to STELLA OBERLE, the editor, creator, and lay-out advisor for our weekly bulletin that cannot be surpassed by any other faith based community. We get so many compliments on our THREE HIERARCHS WEEKLY BULLETIN from visitors and out of towners! I guess we take it for granted... it's OURS. Thank you STELLA and STAFF.

Please take note of the EPIPHANY SCHEDULE:

UP-COMING SERVICES:

Saturday	January 01st,	SAINT BASIL DAY Liturgy Circumcision of the Lord	10:30 – 12:00 noon
Sunday	January 02nd,	Saint Sylvester Liturgy	10:30 – 12:00 noon
Wednesday	January 05th,	Minor EPIPHANY blessing of Water Liturgy	10:30 - 12:00 noon
Thursday	January 06th,	EPIPHANY DAY LITURGY Major Agiasmos	10:30 - 12:00 noon
Friday	January 07th,	Saint John the Baptist	10:30 – 12:00 noon
Sunday	January 09th,	Saint Efstratios	10:30 – 12:00 noon

Holy water for the blessing of homes, cars, cemeteries, businesses and consumption will be available at each Divine Liturgy at all services listed above. You may request as many bottles you wish for distribution to loved ones at home.

CALENDARS for 2022 (GREEK/ENGLISH) AND (RUSSIAN) were mailed to all registered stewards of the parish. If you are a member please request a calendar from the OFFICE if not delivered. We are most grateful to Eddie Sparacio of DAHILL/LITRAS FUNERAL HOME who generously donates and mails the bi-lingual calendars to each home. This is indeed a great service to the entire community. GOT YOURS?

UP-COMING MEMORIAL: Sunday , January 9th, +JOHN GIANOPLUS, + SPYRIDOULA EUGENIS



Consecration of the Holy and Sacred ICON of SAINT JUDE TRADDEUS took place last Sunday (December 19th.) with a solemn procession of chanters, acolytes and clergy intoning the apolytikion of the APOSTLE JUDE. The anointing of the icon was done publically for the congregation to appreciate the wonders of this 'saint of impossible causes'. The Efstathios and Sylvia Raptis family were acknowledged in gratitude for their generosity in commissioning the hand painted Byzantine Icon and its framing as a donation to the Parish.

HE DOES ANSWER PRAYERS WITH MIRACLES!

HAVE YOU HEARD OF SAINT JUDE'S CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL?





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 03 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23650-26510 - info@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΑ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1127

Κυρ. μετὰ τὴν Χριστοῦ Γέννησιν (Μθ. 2,13-23)
26 Δεκεμβρίου 2021 (2004)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Νεώτεροι Ἡρώδες

Τὸ διάστημα αὐτὸ τοῦ Δωδεκαημέρου, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἔχουμε **συνεχῶς ἑορτές**. Στὶς 25 Δεκεμβρίου ἑορτάσαμε τὴ Γέννησι τοῦ Κυρίου, στὶς 26 (σήμερα) τὴν Σύναξι τῆς Θεοτόκου, στὶς 27 (αὔριο) τὴ μνήμη τοῦ πρωτομάρτυρος Στεφάνου. Καὶ στὶς 29 Δεκεμβρίου ἑορτάζουμε τὴ μνήμη τῶν 14.000 νηπίων ποὺ ἐσφαγίασε ὁ Ἡρώδης. Γιὰ τὸ γεγονὸς αὐτὸ θέλω νὰ σὰς μιλήσω.

Ὁ Κύριός μας, ὡς Θεὸς ποῦ ἦταν,μποροῦσε νὰ ἔρθῃ καὶ νὰ ἐμφανισθῇ στὸν κόσμον σὲ ἡλικία ὠριμῇ. Μὴ σὰς φαίνεται αὐτὸ παράξενο; ἂν ὁ πρῶτος ἄνθρωπος, ὁ Ἀδὰμ, ἐμφανίσθηκε σὲ μεγάλη ἡλικία, πολὺ περισσότερο ὁ Χριστός, ποῦ ἐπλάσε τὸν Ἀδὰμ,μποροῦσε νὰ ἐμφανισθῇ σὲ ὅποια ἡλικία ἤθελε. Ἐν τούτοις γεννήθηκε ὡς βρέφος. Γεννήθηκε ὡς βρέφος, γιὰ νὰ τιμῇ τὰ βρέφη. Ποιὸς φανταζόταν, ὅτι ἐκεῖνο τὸ βρέφος εἶνε ὁ παγκόσμιος βασιλεὺς!

Ἀφανὴς ἦταν ἡ γέννησι τοῦ Χριστοῦ στοὺς μεγάλους. Σὲ λίγη ἀπόστασι ἀπὸ τὴ Βηθλεὲμ ἦταν τὰ ἀνάκτορα τοῦ Ἡρώδης. Τί θὰ ἔκαναν ἄραγε ἐκεῖνη τὴ νύχτα στὸ παλάτι; Θὰ γλεντοῦσαν, θὰ διασκέδαζαν; καμμιά ἰδέα τοῦ μεγάλου μυστηρίου δὲν εἶχαν. **Ἀνάξιος ὁ Ἡρώδης** νὰ μάθῃ τὴν εἶδησι, ἔκανε τότε τὸ πρῶτο ...ρεβεγιόν (ὅπως πολλοὶ σήμερα κάνουν Χριστούγεννα χωρὶς Χριστό). Ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν εἰδοποίησε τὸν Ἡρώδη καὶ τοὺς ἄλλους μεγάλους· εἰδοποίησε τοὺς βοσκούς, τοὺς μικροὺς καὶ καταφρονημένους. Κ' ἐνῶ δὲν ἀντελήφθη τὴν θεία Γέννησι ὁ Ἡρώδης ποῦ ἦταν τόσο κοντά, τὸ γεγονὸς ἀποκαλύφθηκε σὲ ἄλλες ἐκλεκτὲς ψυχὲς ποῦ κατοικοῦσαν πολὺ μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὴν ἁγία γῆ. Ἐγνώρισε τὸ μυστήριον στοὺς μάγους τῆς Περσίας, ποῦ ἦταν ἐπιστήμονες ἀστρονόμοι, μεγάλες διάνοιες. Αὐτοὶ εἶδαν στὸν οὐρανὸ τὸ λαμπρὸ ἀστέρι, φόρτωσαν τὶς καμήλες δῶρα, περπάτησαν μέρες καὶ νύχτες, καὶ τέλος ἤρθαν καὶ προσκύνησαν τὸν Κύριο στὴ Βηθλεὲμ.

Πονηρὸς ὅμως ὁ Ἡρώδης. Ὅταν προηγουμένως ἔμαθε πὼς ἤρθαν στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα οἱ μάγοι, τοὺς κάλεσε καὶ κρύβοντας τὸ σκοπὸ τοῦ τοῦς εἶπε, μόλις βροῦν τὸ νέο βασιλεῖα νὰ τὸν εἰδοποιήσουν νὰ πάῃ κι αὐτὸς νὰ τὸν προσκυνήσῃ. Ἀλλὰ οἱ μάγοι εἰδοποιήθηκαν νὰ φύγουν χωρὶς νὰ περάσουν ἀπὸ τὸν Ἡρώδη. Κι αὐτὸς, ὅταν κατάλαβε πὼς τὸν γέλασαν, «**ἐθυμώθη λίαν**», θύμωσε πολὺ (Μαθ. 2,15).

Ἦταν **ἀνόητος**. Φοβήθηκε πὼς θὰ χάσῃ τὴ βασιλεία; Ἦταν ὅμως ἤδη τότε γέρος· μέχρι νὰ μεγαλώσῃ ὁ νεογέννητος Χριστός, νὰ γίνῃ εἴκοσι χρονῶν, αὐτὸς θὰ πέθαινε, θὰ ἐλειωναν καὶ τὰ κόκκαλά του. Ἀνόητος ἐπίσης, γιὰ τὴ βασιλεία τοῦ Χριστοῦ δὲν εἶνε ὅπως οἱ ἄλλες ποῦ στηρίζονται στὴ βία καὶ τὰ ὄπλα. Ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Χριστοῦ δὲν ἔχει βία. Ὁ θρόνος τῆς εἶνε στὶς καρδιές, εἶνε βασιλεία αἰώνιος τῆς ὁποίας «**οὐκ ἔσται τέλος**» (1 Κορ. 1,39 Σλβ. τίτ.).

Ὁ Ἡρώδης, μοχθηρὴ ψυχὴ, ἐπνίξε μὲ τὰ χέρια του τὴν πρώτη του γυναῖκα, σκότωσε τὸν κουνιάδου του καὶ πολλοὺς ἄλλους, σκότωσε ἀκόμη καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ του, γιὰ νὰ μὴν τοῦ παρουσιάζουν τὴν ἐξουσίαν. Γι' αὐτὸ ἦταν **λαομίσσητος**.

Ἀλλὰ τώρα ἔφτασε στὸ μεγαλύτερο ἐγκλημα. Ἐγίνε **σφαγεὺς 14.000 νηπίων**, πιστεύοντας ὅτι μέσα σ' αὐτὰ θὰ εἶνε καὶ ὁ Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου. Ἀπέτυχε ὅμως τὸ σχέδιό του. Ἐνας ἄγγελος εἰδοποίησε τοὺς μάγους νὰ φύγουν ἀπὸ ἄλλο δρόμο στὴν πατρίδα τους, κ' ἕνας ἄλλος τὸν δίκαιο Ἰωσήφ νὰ φύγῃ στὴν Αἴγυπτον. Ἔτσι ὁ Χριστὸς ἔγινε ὁ πρῶτος πρόσφυγας.

Θυμωμένος ὁ Ἡρώδης διέταξε στρατιωτικὰ ἀποσπάσματα νὰ θερίσουν τὴν περιοχὴ τῆς Βηθλεὲμ. Ὅπως ἡ ἀλεπού μπαίνει στὰ κοττέσια, ὅπως ὁ λύκος ὁρμᾷ στὰ μαντριά, ἔτσι οἱ στρατιῶτες ἐμπαιναν στὰ σπιτία. Ἀρπάζαν τὰ βρέφη ἀπὸ τὶς ἀγκαλιὲς τῶν μανάδων, ποῦ θρηνοῦσαν, καὶ τὰ ἐσφαζαν μπροστὰ τους.

—**Ἄδικος ὁ Θεός!** θὰ πῇ κάποιος αὐθάδης.

Δέν ἔστελνε ἕνα ἀστροπελέκι νὰ κάψῃ τὸν Ἡρώδη καὶ τὸ στρατό του;...

Ἀπαντῶ. Τὰ παιδιὰ αὐτὰ εἶνε μακάρια. Κι ὅσοι γονεῖς εἶχατε παιδάκια καὶ πέθαναν μικρά, μὴν τὰ κλαῖτε. Νὰ κλαῖτε ἐκεῖνο τὸ γέρο, ποὺ ἔφαγε τὴν ἀμαρτία μὲ τὴν κουτάλα ἀμετανόητος καὶ θὰ κάνῃ βουτιά στὴν κόλασι.

—Μὰ τὰ 14.000 νήπια **ἔφυγαν ἀβάπτιστα**...

Ὅχι βαπτίστηκαν. Πῶς; Ὑπάρχουν δύο εἴδη βαπτίσματος· τὸ ἕνα στὸ νερὸ καὶ τὸ ἄλλο στὸ αἷμα. Τὰ νήπια τῆς Βηθλεὲμ βαπτίστηκαν στὴν κολυμβήθρα τοῦ αἵματος κ' εἶνε τώρα ἄγγελοι. Μακάρι νὰ ἦμασταν κ' ἐμεῖς ἀνάμεσα σ' αὐτά. Ἐγώ, ἀμαρτωλὸς ὅπως εἶμαι, ἐπιθυμοῦσα νὰ εἶμαι ἕνα ἀπὸ 'κεῖνα τὰ νήπια, ἀθῶος ν' ἀνεβῶ στὸν οὐρανό. Τώρα τί κάνουμε; Τὰ χρόνια περνοῦν καὶ φορτωνόμαστε νέα ἀμαρτήματα. Μακάρια λοιπὸν αὐτὰ τὰ παιδιὰ, οἱ μάρτυρες τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ποὺ μαζί μὲ τὸν πρωτομάρτυρα Στέφανο βρίσκονται στοὺς οὐρανούς.

Ὁ Ἡρώδης σκότωσε 14.000 παιδιὰ. Σταμάτησε ἄραγε τὸ ἐγκλημα τῆς παιδοκτονίας; Ὅχι δυστυχῶς. **Καὶ σήμερὰ ὑπάρχουν Ἡρώδες.** ● Ἀπὸ Κυπρίους πρόσφυγες τοῦ Ἀττίλα μάθαμε, ὅτι ὅταν οἱ Τοῦρκοι μπῆκαν στὴν Κύπρο σκότωσαν γέροντες, ἀτίμασαν γυναῖκες, ἔσφαξαν καὶ παιδιὰ. Σ' ἕνα χωριὸ σκότωσαν μὲ ὀπλοπολυβόλο ὁλόκληρη οἰκογένεια. Ὑστερὰ ἀπὸ τρεῖς μέρες ἀνοιξαν τὸ σπίτι καὶ βρῆκαν ζωντανὸ ἕνα μικρὸ παιδάκι. Πῶς ἐζησε; Τὸ ἐνστικτο τὸ ὥθησε νὰ πλησιάσῃ τὴ μάνα του, καὶ ἔγλειφε τὸ αἷμα ποὺ ἔτρεχε ἀπὸ τὴν πληγὴ τῆς. **Οἱ Τοῦρκοι εἶνε νέοι Ἡρώδες.** ● Ἀλλὰ πόσα παιδιὰ σκότωσαν αὐτοί; 50; 100; 200; 300;... Ἀκοῦστε τώρα ἕναν ἄλλο ἀριθμὸ καὶ θὰ φρίξετε. Κάθε χρόνο στὴν Ἑλλάδα σκοτώνουν 300.000 μικρὰ παιδιὰ! Ποιοὶ εἶνε οἱ φονιᾶδες τους; Εἶνε **γιατροί**, μὲ ἄσπρες μπλοῦζες, ἐλεεινοὶ ἐκμεταλλευταί. Εἶνε ὅμως καὶ **γονεῖς** ἀσπλαχνοί, ποὺ ὁδηγοῦν ἐκεῖ τὰ βρέφη τους. Δύο εἶνε τὰ μεγαλύτερα ἀμαρτήματά μας, ἡ βλασφημία καὶ οἱ **ἐκτρώσεις**.

—Ἐσύ ὅμως δὲν ξέρεις τί **στοιχίζει ἕνα παιδί**. Ποῦ νὰ βροῦμε λεφτὰ νὰ τὸ μεγαλώσουμε;...

Ψεῦτες! Ἐχετε χρήματα γιὰ τσιγάρα, ποτὰ, πολυτέλειες, αὐτοκίνητα, ρεβεγιόν, θεάματα, δηλαδὴ γιὰ τὸ διάβολο· γιὰ τὰ παιδιὰ δὲν ἔχετε. Μὲ δλ' αὐτὰ ποὺ ξοδεύονται γιὰ περιττὰ πράγματα, θὰ μπορούσαν νὰ συντηρηθοῦν πλῆθος παιδιὰ. Καὶ τώρα ἡ Ἑλλάδα παιδιὰ δὲν ἔχει, γηροκομεῖο κατήντησε. Ἦρθε πρὶν δύο μῆνες στὸ γραφεῖο μου ἕνας **στρατηγὸς** καὶ τὸ ρώτησα πόσα παιδιὰ ἔχει. —Δύο, μοῦ ἀπαν-

τῶ. —Βρὲ στρατηγέ, τοῦ λέω, μὲ τόσο μισθό, μόνο δύο;... Ἦταν ταπεινός. —Μοῦ θυμίζεις τὴν ἀμαρτία μου, λέει, κι ἄρχισε νὰ κλαίῃ. —Γιατί κλαῖς, στρατηγέ; τὸν ρωτῶ. —Θυμήθηκα τὸν πατέρα μου, ἀπαντῶ. Εἶμαι ἀπὸ ἕνα χωριὸ τῆς Μάνης. Ὁ πατέρας μου φτωχός, σκάλιζε τὴ γῆ, κλάδευε ἀμπέλια, μάζευε ἐλιές, κ' ἔρριχνε τὰ δίχτυα στὸν Εὐρώτα νὰ πιάσῃ κανένα ψαράκι νὰ φάμε τὴν Κυριακή. Πόσα παιδιὰ, λέτε, γέννησε; —Ποῦ νὰ ξέρω, στρατηγέ μου; —Δεκαπέντε· κ' ἐγὼ εἶμαι ὁ τελευταῖος! —Πῶς ἐγίνε αὐτό; —**Πίστευε στὸ Μεγαλοδύναμο**, μοῦ ἀπαντῶ. Ὡ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ! Ποιὸς περίμενε, ὅτι τὸ τελευταῖο παιδί τοῦ ἀμπελουργοῦ Μανιάτη θὰ γινόταν στρατηγός; Βγῆκε καὶ ἕνα βιβλίο στὸ Παρίσι ποὺ ὑποστηρίζει μὲ ἐπιχειρήματα, ὅτι τὰ τελευταῖα παιδιὰ διακρίνονται, γίνονται ἐπιστήμονες, ἐφευρέτες, στρατηγοί, ναύαρχοι...

Μέσα στὰ πολλὰ παιδιὰ εἶνε ἡ εὐλογία. Ποῦ εἶνε τώρα οἱ **πολύτεκνοι**; Ἐξαφανίστηκαν...

Θὰ μοῦ πῇ κάποιος· Ποιὸς σ' ἀκούει; δὲν πᾶ' νὰ φωνάζῃς... Κ' ἐσύ, ποῦ λὲς ἔτσι, δὲν ἀποκλείεται νὰ εἶσαι **ἐνοχος**. Ἄν κανεὶς εἶνε ἐνοχος, νὰ πᾶ νὰ βρῇ αὐστηρὸ πνευματικὸ, νὰ πῇ τὸ κρίμα του, καὶ ὅ,τι τοῦ πῇ ὁ πνευματικὸς νὰ τὸ κάνῃ. Ἀλλιῶς θὰ χαθῇ, θὰ κολαστῇ. Δὲν τὸν σφάζει τίποτε, ἂν δὲν μετανοήσῃ, κλαύσῃ καὶ πονέσῃ γιὰ νὰ βρῇ σωτηρία.

Ἀγαπητοί μου· ὅσοι δὲν ἀκούνε τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὰ σωτήρια, θὰ ἔχουν τὸ τέλος τοῦ Ἡρώδου. Ὁ Ἡρώδης ὕστερὰ ἀπὸ τὸ φόνο τῶν νηπίων ἐζησε μερικὰ χρόνια καὶ μετὰ ἀρρώστησε, ἔπεσε στὸ κρεβάτι. Κάλεσε γιατρούς· πῆρε φάρμακα, μὰ δὲν πέτυχε τίποτε. Σκουλήκιασε, βρώμισε, κανεὶς δὲν τὸν πλησίαζε, καὶ πέθανε μέσ' στὴν ἀκαθαρσία. Τέτοιο ἦταν **τὸ τέλος τοῦ Ἡρώδου**. Ἀλλὰ τέτοιο εἶνε καὶ τὸ τέλος ὅλων ὅσοι πᾶνε κόντρα στὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ· θὰ γίνουν στάχτη. Καὶ κόντρα μὲ τὸ Θεὸ πᾶνε ὅσοι σκοτώνουν τὰ ἀθῶα νήπια.

Τὰ ἀντρόγυνα αὐτὰ **ἂς μετανοήσουν** καὶ θὰ βροῦν ἔλεος. Γιατί ὅλους τοὺς συγχωρεῖ ὁ Θεός. Ἀλλὰ καὶ ὅλοι, ἀδελφοί μου, νὰ μετανοήσουμε. Καὶ **νὰ σκοτώσουμε τὸν Ἡρώδη!** Ὅλοι τὸν ἔχουμε μέσα μας. Ἡρώδης αἰμοβόρος καὶ ἀκάθαρτος, ποὺ τὸν ἔχουμε μέσα στὴν καρδιά μας, εἶνε ὁ **παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος**. Ἄς τὸν φονεύσουμε λοιπόν, γιὰ νὰ γεννηθῇ ὁ νέος ἄνθρωπος, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός· ὃν, παῖδες Ἑλλήνων, ὕμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· ἀμήν.

(†) **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 Lord Has Made His Salvation Known to the Whole World

The loving providence of God determined that in the last days He would aid the world, set on its course to destruction. He decreed that all nations should be saved in Christ. A promise had been made to the holy patriarch Abraham in regard to these nations. He was to have a countless progeny, born not from his body but from the seed of faith.

In the persons of the Magi let all people adore the Creator of the universe; let God be known, not in Judea only, but in the whole world. ... As Isaiah prophesied: the people of the Gentiles, who sat in darkness, have seen a great light, and for those who dwelt in the region of the shadow of death a light has dawned. He spoke of them to the Lord: The Gentiles, who do not know you, will invoke you, and the peoples, who knew you not, will take refuge in you. ...

This came to be fulfilled, as we know, from the time when the star beckoned the three wise men out of their distant country and led them to recognize and adore the King of heaven and earth. The obedience of the star calls us to imitate its humble service: to be servants, as best we can, of the grace that invites all men to find Christ.

Dear friends, you must have the same zeal to be of help to one another; then, in the kingdom of God, to which faith and good works are the way, you will shine as children of the light: through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with God the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

St. Leo the Great

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