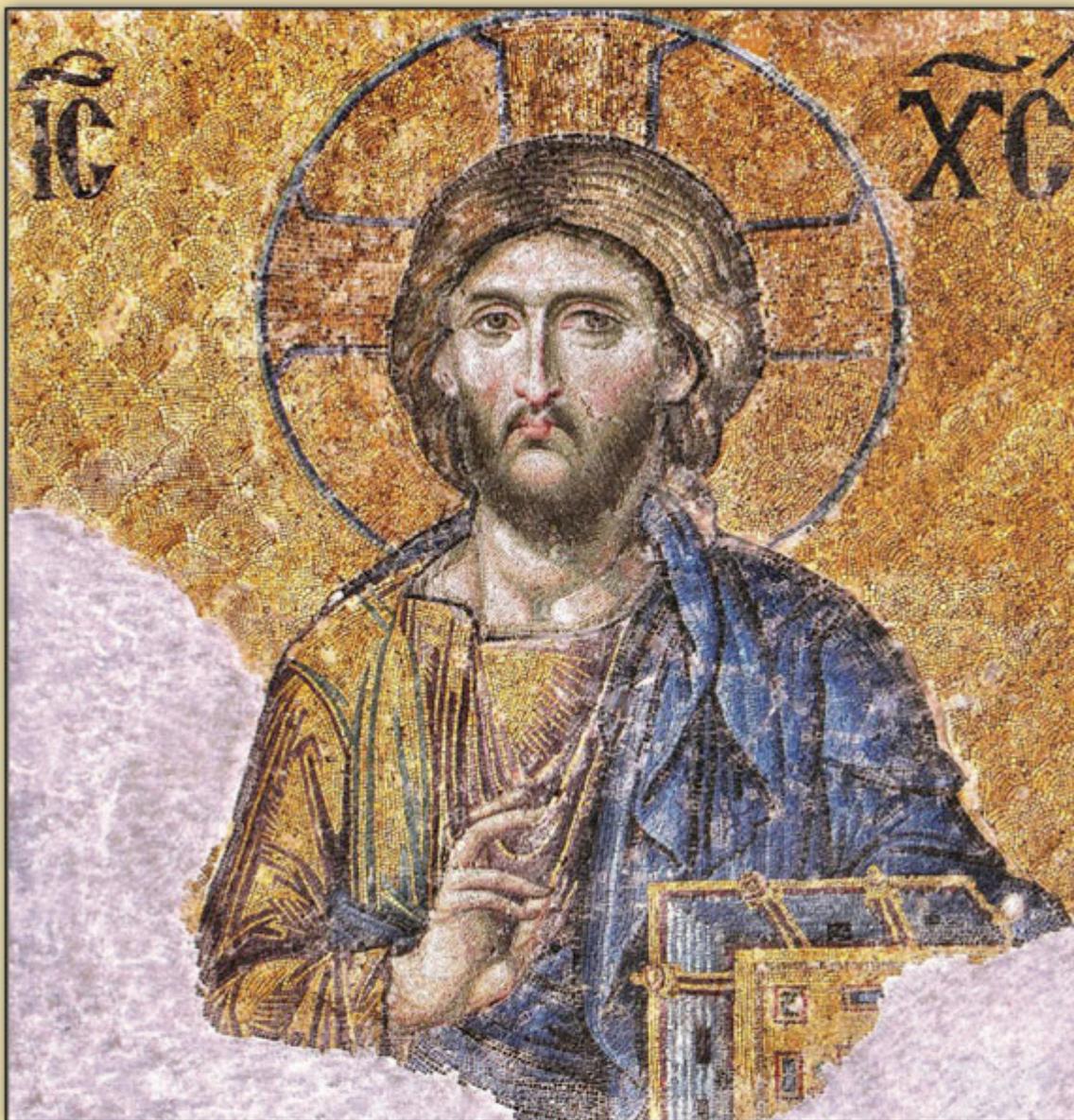




# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN January 9th, 2022  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY



*Christ the Teacher - Pantocrator of Hagia Sophia*

**Prokeimenon. Mode 1.**

**Psalm 32.22,1**

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'.**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1**

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:7-13 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβὰς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἀνέβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτός ἐστιν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Sunday after Epiphany

The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 4:12-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλῶν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ρηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλῶν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότειεῖδε φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀπέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρῦσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

TODAY: Artoklasia honoring Amalia Grigoryan by her loving parents and brother. Chronia Polla!

RESOLUTIONS for the NEW YEAR 2022 ..... I'm going to register as a member and steward of my home parish of the THREE HIERARCHS once again as I always do! OR..... I'm going to register THIS YEAR since I was a bit negligent in my attendance, participation and rendering to the CHURCH Last year! OR....I'm going to register with the local parish and submit my stewardship support FOR THE FIRST TIME! In any case, you are most welcome to join in fellowship and support of the church that's always there for YOU, YES! YOU in your hour of joy and celebration, in your hour of spiritual renewal, in your hour of lament and in your hour of needed direction. GOD IS HERE BECAUSE YOU SUPPORT THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. Do you?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Under the civil direction of New York City, our LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY Luncheon that was scheduled for Sunday January 16th at Rosehall, Three Hierarchs Church, HAS BEEN MOVED TO A LATER CALENDAR DATE due to the Pandemic Covid 19 contagion.

NEW DATE: Please take note – SUNDAY, MAY 01st, ROSEHALL at 1:00 P.M.

This date is ONE WEEK AFTER PASCHA! Hence it will be a PASCHAL FEAST for everyone. Mark your calendar NOW!

ALTAR WINE is always most welcomed. Please see the Reverend Clergy for direction before you purchase any offering of wine.

We extend to all our Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian and Armenian faithful at Three Hierarchs a most blessed Christmas and Epiphany (12 days) of celebration on the 'OLD CALENDAR' (January 07th-19th) CHRIST IS BORN, GLORIFY HIM!

Congratulations to the newly elected Parish Council for the year term 2022-2024. All the candidates were elected under the supervision of the diligent ELECTION COMMITTEE to whom much gratitude is extended: GEORGIA STAMOS, DINA THEODOSAKIS and SUSAN JANNACE. Well done, good and faithful ladies!

HOME BLESSINGS will take place upon appointment through the church office. The clergy will always try to accommodate the family – OR BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT or OFFICE with the appropriate date and time convenient to all. Just call (718) 339-0280. We are most pleased to serve the people of God. BRING THE BLESSING OF HEALTH AND RESTORED HEALTH TO YOUR HOME IN 2022! Children enjoy seeing the clergy in the house and participate in blessing 'their' room.

FEAST of SAINT ANTHONY will be observed with traditional solemnity on Sunday JANUARY 16th-by anticipation. Artoklasies are most welcomed for the day!

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.

CALENDARS for 2022 ( GREEK/ENGLISH ) AND ( ENGLISH/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?

**MEMORIAL TODAY,** +JOHN GIANOPLUS, + SPYRIDOULA EUGENIS  
**NEXT WEEK JANUARY 16th,** + REV. FR. ANTHONY MORFESSIS  
**JANUARY 23rd:** + ANNA LIKES + FROSSO ADAMAKOS

# Apostolic Visit of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew



*Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at the Thyranoxia (Opening of the Doors) of Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine.*

His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew concluded a triumphant two-week Apostolic Visit to the United States on November 7, 2021 that included the Thyranoxia (Opening of the Doors) of Saint Nicholas Church and National Shrine, a meeting with President Biden, Ecumenical and Interfaith meetings in Washington and New York, the Investiture of 53 new Archons, numerous meeting with Orthodox faithful, Seminarians, Priests, Bishops and Metropolitans, and the celebration of his 30th Anniversary on the Throne of St. Andrew.

The spiritual leader of the world's Eastern Orthodox Christians gave his formal blessing at a ceremonial door opening Tuesday, November 2 at the impressive shrine that has replaced a small parish church destroyed during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City.

Tuesday's ceremony also marked the 30th anniversary of his Enthronement as Ecumenical Patriarch, the longest reign of any patriarch on record.

"We stand here today on this hallowed ground at the World Trade Center, where the world changed in a cruel and terrible moment 20 years ago," he said. "This sacred ground of the American experience is where the Orthodox Christian faith will take the lead in manifesting to the world that good is mightier than evil, that there is life beyond death and that love will always triumph over hate."

His All Holiness arrived in the United States on Oct. 23 for a busy itinerary that included a White House visit with President Joe Biden, meeting with Secretary of State Tony Blinken, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and other government officials.



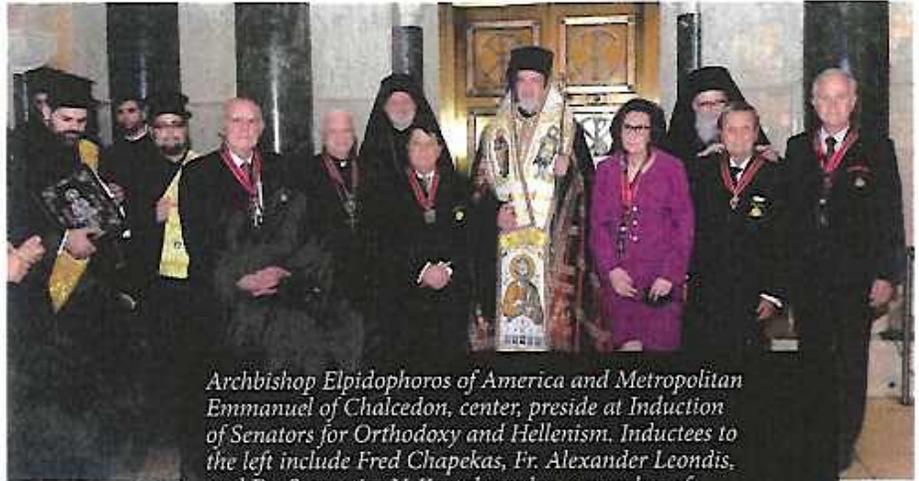
*Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew at Blessing with Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon (left) and Archbishop Elpidophoros (right) inside sanctuary of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine. To the right of the Archbishop are Dennis Mehiel and Michael Psaros, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Friends of St. Nicholas. Both are members of Leadership 100. Psaros serves on the Board of Trustees.*

# Inaugural Class of Senators for Orthodoxy and Hellenism Inducted

His Eminence Elder Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon presided over the Pan-Orthodox Liturgy at Saint Sophia Cathedral in Washington, DC on October 24, 2021, inducting the Inaugural class of Senators for Orthodoxy and Hellenism.

During the service, His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, who instituted the Senators in 2020, stated: “Your Eminence, these devout men and women before You today are stewards of varying ministries within the Church. But all have produced ‘hundredfold’ through their harvests of leadership. They bow their heads to receive Your blessing for them to continue their service to this Eparchy and to the Great Church of Christ. As they serve in a capacity as ex-officio members of the Archdiocesan Council, their counsel and guidance are invaluable. We humbly ask that You bestow upon them your archpaternal benediction, so that in good health and spiritual prosperity, they may continue to minister to the Body of Christ.”

Archbishop Elpidophoros has created the special advisory body, called, “Senators for Orthodoxy and Hellenism” to bring both mentorship for the new generation, with their energy, innovative ideas and creative thinking, and the steadfastness of the senior generation. The aim of this prestigious Senate will be to advise the Archbishop, the Holy Eparchial Synod and the Archdiocesan Council on various matters concerning the Archdiocese and its continued sound operation for the betterment of our Church and the welfare of its plenitude, especially with the commencement of the monumental task of drafting a new Charter that will meet the ever-growing modern day pastoral needs of the devout faithful, and propel our Church in America into its next historic and illustrious centenary chapter.



*Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and Metropolitan Emmanuel of Chalcedon, center, preside at Induction of Senators for Orthodoxy and Hellenism. Inductees to the left include Fred Chapekas, Fr. Alexander Leondis, and Dr. Stamatios V. Kartalopoulos, a member of Leadership 100. Inductees to the right include Paulette Poulos, Executive Director of Leadership 100, Constantine Caras, Chairman Emeritus of Leadership 100, and Andy Manatos, longtime member of Leadership 100.*

Those appointed by the Archbishop as Senators of Hellenism and Orthodoxy follow. The list will be added to in the future.

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mr. Clifford Argue            | Rev. Fr. James Moulketis       |
| Rev. Fr. John Bakas           | Mr. Louis Nicozisis            |
| Mrs. Lily Bentas              | Rev. Fr. Dean Paleologos       |
| Mr. Constantine Caras         | Presvytera Cynthia Paleologos  |
| Rev. Fr. Peter Chamberas      | Dr. Vicki Pappas               |
| Mr. Fred Chapekis             | Mr. John Payiavlas             |
| Rev. Fr. Paul Costopoulos     | Ms. Paulette Poulos            |
| Rev. Fr. Athanasios Demos     | Rev. Fr. George Poulos         |
| Rev. Fr. George Dragas        | Dr. Louis Roussalis            |
| Mrs. Evangeline Gouletas      | Rev. Fr. Sarantos Serviou      |
| Rev. Fr. Alexander Karloutsos | Rev. Fr. Constantine Sitaras   |
| Dr. Stamatios Kartalopoulos   | Mrs. Aphrodite Skeadas         |
| Rev. Fr. Stephen Kyriacou     | Rev. Fr. Robert Stephanopoulos |
| Rev. Fr. Alexander Leondis    | Rev. Fr. Dennis Strouzas       |
| Mr. Andrew Manatos            | Mr. Nikiforos Valaskantjis     |
| Mr. George Marcus             | Rev. Fr. Alexander Veronis     |
| Mr. John Metaxas              |                                |



# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γενναϊκία Ἰερὴ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αἰγυουσίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28510 – [imaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΘ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2438	Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὰ Φῶτα (Ἐφ. 4,7-13) 9 Ἰανουαρίου 2022	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυουσίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Ἡ ποικιλία τῶν χαρισμάτων ἔργο τῆς Θείας Προνοίας

«*Ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ... πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ*» (Ἐφ. 4,7,12)

**Φ**οβερὸ νόσημα τῆς ψυχῆς, ἀγαπητοί μου, **ὁ φθόνος! Πῶς ἐκδηλώνεται;** Πολλοί, δὲν δοῦν στὸν ἄλλο προτερήματα ἢ πλεονεκτήματα, χαρίσματα ποὺ αὐτοὶ δὲν ἔχουν ἢ ἐὰν ἔχουν τὰ ἔχουν σὲ μικρότερο βαθμὸ, **λυποῦνται** δὲν μποροῦν ν' ἀναγνωρίσουν ἀνωτερότητα, νὰ παραδεχτοῦν τὴν ὑπεροχὴ καὶ τὰ προσόντα του, νὰ τὸν συγχαροῦν, νὰ τὸν καμαρώσουν μὲ ἀδελφικὴ ἀπλότητα.

Καὶ εἶνε φοβερὸ τὸ νόσημα αὐτό, γιατί καταστρέφει τὴν ἀγάπη, παγώνει τὴν κοινωνία, ἀνακόπτει κάθε συνεργασία καὶ πρόοδο, χωρίζει ἀδέρφια, ματαιώνει καὶ καταστρέφει ἔργα μεγάλα, ματώνει πολλές φορές τὴ γῆ μὲ τὸ αἷμα ἀθῶων.

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Τὸ νόσημα αὐτό, ἀδελφοί μου, ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος ὡς ἄριστος ψυχίατρος διέκρινε ὅτι ὑπῆρχε στὶς καρδιὰς μερικῶν Χριστιανῶν –στὴν Κόρινθο περισσότερο, στὴν Ἐφεσο λιγώτερο– καὶ μὲ τὶς θεόπνευστες συμβουλές του σπεύδει νὰ τὸ θεραπεύσῃ, νὰ τὸ ξερριζώσῃ. Ὡς φάρμακο κατὰ τῆς ψυχικῆς αὐτῆς νόσου ὁ ἀπόστολος ὑποδεικνύει τὴν **χριστιανικὴ θεώρησι** τῶν ἀνθρωπίνων πραγμάτων· ὅτι, δηλαδή, τὰ διάφορα χαρίσματα, ποὺ βλέπουν οἱ Χριστιανοὶ στοὺς ἀδελφούς τους, δὲν εἶνε δικά τους, ἰδιοκτησία τους· δὲν ἀγοράστηκαν ἀπ' αὐτούς, τοὺς δόθηκαν ὄχι ὡς ἀμοιβὴ τῆς ἀξίας τους καὶ τῶν ἀρετῶν τους, ἀλλὰ χορηγήθηκαν μὲ σοφία καὶ δικαιοσύνη ἀπὸ τὸν Χριστό· **εἶνε δωρεὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ**. Καὶ δόθηκαν **μὲ τὸ σκοπὸ** νὰ βοηθηθῇ ἡ κοινωνία, γιὰ νὰ ζήσῃ τὸ σῶμα, **νὰ ἐξυπηρετηθῇ τὸ σύνολο**, τὸ πλήρωμα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας.

Αὐτὸ τὸ νόσημα ἔχουν τὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀποστόλου ποὺ ἀκοῦμε στὸ σημερινὸ ἀνάγνωσμα· «*Ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέ-*

*τρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ... Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκε τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφήτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ*» (Ἐφ. 4,7,11-12), δηλαδή· **στὸν καθένα ἀπὸ μᾶς δόθηκε ἡ χάρις στὸ μέτρο** ποὺ ἤθελε ὁ δωρεοδότης Χριστός... Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωσε ἄλλοι μὲν νὰ ἔναι ἀπόστολοι, ἄλλοι νὰ ἔναι προφῆτες, ἄλλοι νὰ ἔναι εὐαγγελισταί, καὶ ἄλλοι νὰ ἔναι ποιμένες καὶ διδασκαλοὶ, γιὰ νὰ ὠφελοῦνται καὶ τελειοποιῦνται οἱ πιστοὶ μὲ τὸν ἁγιασμὸ τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ, δηλαδή τῆς Ἐκκλησίας του.

Ὅστε, σύμφωνα μὲ τὴ διδασκαλία τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου, ἂν ὑπάρχουν εἶτε μέσα στὴν Ἐκκλησία εἶτε μέσα στὴν κοινωνία ἄτομα ποὺ διακρίνονται γιὰ ἰδιαίτερα χαρίσματα (π.χ. γιὰ εὐφυΐα, σύνεσι, διάκρισι, δύναμι, εὐφράδεια, ῥητορεία κ.λπ.), αὐτοὶ εἶνε ὑπηρεταὶ τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τοῦ λαοῦ· ἔργο τους εἶνε **νὰ θέσουν τὰ χαρίσματά τους στὴ διάθεσι τοῦ συνόλου**, νὰ ἐξυπηρετηθῇ τὸ κοινὸ καλὸ. Θέλετε μερικὰ παραδείγματα χαρισμάτων;

✓ Εἶνε λοιπὸν **ῥήτορες** καὶ ἔχουν τὴ δύναμι νὰ συναρπάζουν μὲ τὸ λόγο τους τὰ πλήθη; Ἔχουν ὑποχρέωσι νὰ χρησιμοποιήσουν τὸ ῥητορικὸ τους χάρισμα μὲ τέτοιο τρόπο, ὥστε νὰ κεντρίσουν τὸ ἐνδιαφέρον τῶν ἀνθρώπων γιὰ τὰ ὄντως ὑψηλὰ καὶ ὠραῖα. Ἀλλοίμονο ἂν σιωπήσουν! ἂν κλείσουν τὸ στόμα τους, τότε θὰ ἔχη ἐφαρμογὴ σ' αὐτούς τὸ «*Οὐαὶ μοί ἐστιν ἐὰν μὴ εὐαγγελίζωμαι*» (Ἐφ. 3,18), ἀλλοίμονό μου δηλαδή ἐὰν δὲν εὐαγγελίζωμαι, ἐὰν δὲν κηρύττω τὴν καλὴ ἀγγελία ὅτι ἡ σωτηρία τοῦ κόσμου εἶνε μόνο ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Καὶ ἀντιθέτως· ἀλλοίμονο καὶ τρὶς ἀλλοίμονο, ἐὰν ἀνοίξουν μὲν τὸ στόμα τους,

τὸ ἀνοίξουν ὁμως γιὰ νὰ ἐξάψουν πάθη, γιὰ νὰ χωρίσουν ἀνθρώπους, γιὰ νὰ δημιουργήσουν σχίσματα, αἰρέσεις, κοινωνικές ἀνατροπές. Τὸ χάρισμα τῆς ῥητορείας τοὺς δόθηκε **ὄχι γιὰ νὰ γκρεμίζουν ἀλλὰ γιὰ νὰ οἰκοδομοῦν** «εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ», ὅπως ἀκούσαμε σήμερα [Ἐφ. 4,12].

✓ Ἄλλο παράδειγμα. Εἶνε **εὐφυσεῖς**; ἔχουν τὸ χάρισμα νὰ βρίσκουν εὐκόλα λύσι καὶ στὰ πιὸ δύσκολα προβλήματα, νὰ βλέπουν φῶς ἐκεῖ ὅπου οἱ ἄλλοι ἔχουν σκοτάδι; Ἐχουν λοιπὸν ἱερὰ ὑποχρέωσι νὰ χρησιμοποιήσουν τὴν εὐφυΐα τους γιὰ τὸ καλὸ τῶν ἀδελφῶν τους, γιὰ τὴν ἀξιοποίησι τῶν ἀγαθῶν τῆς θείας δημιουργίας· πρὸς τὸ ἀγαθό, ὄχι πρὸς τὸ κακό· **γιὰ νὰ λύσουν τὰ μπλεγμένα ὄχι νὰ μπλέξουν τὰ ἀπλᾶ**. Διαφορετικά, ἡ εὐφυΐα τους γίνεται πονηρία καὶ προκαλεῖ μεγάλα δεινά.

✓ Κι ἄλλο ἓνα παράδειγμα. Εἶνε **συνετοί**; ἔχουν τὸ χάρισμα ν' ἀντιλαμβάνονται σωστά, νὰ κρίνουν εὐστοχα τὰ διάφορα πρόσωπα, πράγματα καὶ γεγονότα; Τότε τὸ ἱερὸ καθήκον τους εἶνε, νὰ γίνουν ὁδηγοὶ τῶν ἀπείρων, ἀφελῶν καὶ ἄθῳων ἀδελφῶν τους, ποὺ κινδυνεύουν νὰ πέσουν σὲ «λάκκου» τῶν μυριῶν πονηρῶν ἐχθρῶν τους, νὰ προσοῦν καὶ προλαμβάνουν ἠθικὲς καταστροφές.

Διὰ τῆς ποικιλίας λοιπὸν τῶν χαρισμάτων ἐξυπηρετεῖται ἡ Ἐκκλησία, ἡ κοινωνία, ἡ ἀνθρωπότης. Ἡ Θεία Πρόνοια διένειμε τὰ χαρίσματα μὲ τέτοια σοφία, ὥστε νὰ πραγματοποιοῦνται τὰ σχέδιά Της ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς. Μὲ τὸν πλοῦτο τῶν χαρισμάτων οἰκοδομεῖται ἡ Ἐκκλησία, σφύζεται τὸ πλήρωμά της, εὐεργετεῖται ὅλος ὁ κόσμος. Καὶ αὐτὸ συμβαίνει πάντοτε, ἀκαταπαύστως διὰ μέσου ὄλων τῶν αἰώνων. Μπορεῖ νὰ ἔρχονται κάποτε ἡμέρες δύσκολες, ἀνικμες, περίοδοι πνευματικῆς ξηρασίας· ἀλλὰ καὶ τότε δὲν λείπουν τελείως τὰ χαρίσματα. Τέτοια περίοδος ἦταν π.χ. γιὰ τὸ γένος μας ἡ τουρκοκρατία· ἀλλὰ καὶ τότε δὲν ἔλειψαν πατέρες καὶ διδάσκαλοι, ὅπως οἱ ἅγιοι Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός, Εὐγένιος ὁ Αἰτωλός, Νικόδημος Ἀγιορείτης, Μακάριος Νοταρᾶς νεομάρτυρες καὶ θαυματουργοί.

Ἐκεῖνοι ὁμως ποὺ ἔλαβαν τὰ διάφορα χαρίσματα δὲν πρέπει νὰ ἐπαναπαύωνται καὶ νὰ ἐναβρύνωνται, νὰ καμαρώνουν αὐτάρεσκα, γιὰ τὰ προσόντα τους. Ἀντιθέτως, πρέπει νὰ νιώθουν ὅτι εἶνε ὑπόλογοι καὶ θὰ λογοδοτήσουν μιὰ μέρα γι' αὐτὰ ἐνώπιον τοῦ Κυρίου. Ἐχουν εὐθύνες μεγάλες γιὰ τὰ δῶρα μὲ ὁποῖα προικίστηκαν. Ὁ Κύριος θὰ ζητήσῃ ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς ἔργα ἀνάλογα τῶν χαρισμάτων ποὺ τοὺς

ἐμπιστεύθηκε· θὰ ζητήσῃ λίγα ἀπὸ ἐκείνους ποὺ ἔλαβαν λίγα, καὶ πολλὰ ἀπὸ ἐκείνους ποὺ ἔλαβαν πολλὰ. Αὐτὰ λέει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο.

Σύμφωνα μὲ τὴ γνωστὴ **παραβολὴ τῶν ταλάντων** [Μτθ 25,14-30], ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος ποὺ ἔλαβε τὰ πέντε τάλαντα ἐργάσθηκε καὶ τὰ διπλασίασε, τὰ ἔκανε δέκα· ἐπίσης τὰ διπλασίασε ἐκεῖνος ποὺ ἔλαβε τὰ δύο καὶ τὰ ἔκανε τέσσερα· αὐτοὶ ἐπαινέθηκαν καὶ ἀμείφθηκαν· ἐνῶ ὁ ἄλλος, ὁ πονηρὸς καὶ ἀμελής δοῦλος, ὁ ὁποῖος δὲν ἐργάσθηκε, αὐτὸς τιμωρήθηκε. Μὲ τὴν παραβολὴ αὐτὴ ὁ Κύριος διδάσκει, ὅτι ὁποῖος ἔλαβε χαρίσματα πρέπει νὰ καταβάλῃ καὶ κόπους, νὰ ἐργασθῇ μὲ ζῆλο γιὰ τὸ ἀγαθό, καὶ μὲ τὰ χαρίσματά του ν' ἀνταποκριθῇ στὴν προσδοκία τοῦ Θεοῦ· νὰ βοηθήσῃ τὸν πλησίον καὶ νὰ δοξάσῃ τὸν Κύριο.

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**Τὸ συμπέρασμα**, ἀδελφοί μου, ποῖο εἶνε; **Λάβαμε χαρίσματα; Μὴ καυχώμεθα**. Ὑπηρετεῖται τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ τῆς κοινωνίας εἴμαστε. Ὁ Κύριος περιμένει διπλασιασμὸ τῶν ταλάντων μας. Νὰ φοβηθοῦμε γιὰ τίς εὐθύνες καὶ νὰ ἐργασθοῦμε μὲ προθυμία. Σύμφωνα μὲ τὸ σημερινὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, νὰ προσέξουμε νὰ μὴ ὑστερήσουμε «εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ» [Ἐφ. 4,12].

**Βλέπουμε σὲ ἄλλους χαρίσματα; Μὴ φθονοῦμε**. Νὰ σκεφτοῦμε καὶ τίς εὐθύνες τους. **Ἄλλοίμονό τους** ἂν χρησιμοποιήσουν τὰ χαρίσματα γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτὸ τους καὶ μόνο, γιὰ νὰ πλουτίσουν, νὰ καλοπεράσουν καὶ νὰ δοξαστοῦν αὐτοὶ καὶ οἱ οἰκογένειές τους. Ἄλλοίμονό τους ἂν ξεχάσουν ὅτι ἔχουν ὀρισθῇ ἀπὸ τὴν Θεία Πρόνοια νὰ εἶνε ἐργάτες τοῦ ἀμπελώνος, ὁδηγοὶ τυφλῶν, φῶτα τοῦ κόσμου, ἀλάτι τῆς κοινωνίας.

**Γι' αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἔχουν χαρίσματα καὶ δὲν τὰ χρησιμοποιοῦν** πρὸς εὐεργεσίαν τοῦ πλησίον καὶ τῆς κοινωνίας καὶ πρὸς δόξαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἂς παρακαλέσουμε τὸν Κύριο ν' ἀνοίξῃ τὰ μάτια τῆς ψυχῆς τους, ν' ἀντιληφθοῦν πόσο μεγάλη εὐθύνη ὑπέχουν ἐνώπιον τοῦ Κριτοῦ γιὰ τὴν ἀμέλεια, τὴν ἀργία, τὴ φθορὰ καὶ τὴν κατάχρησι τῶν χαρισμάτων ποὺ τοὺς ἔδωσε ὁ Θεὸς πρὸς σωτηρίαν ψυχῶν.

**Καὶ ὅλοι** νὰ μὴ λησμονοῦμε τὰ σημερινὰ λόγια τοῦ ἀποστόλου Παύλου ποὺ ἐξηγήσαμε· «*Ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν*» –σὲ ὅλους μας ἀνεξαιρέτως– «*ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ... πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ*» [Ἐφ. 4,12].

(†) **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 2022 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 True Light of Revelation to the Gentiles*

The Evangelist commemorates in this passage [today's Gospel] the prophet's words: "Beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." In what darkness? Certainly in the profound error of ignorance. What great light did they see? The light concerning which it is written: "He was the true light that illumines everyone who comes into this world." This was the light about which the just man Simeon in the Gospel declared, "A light of revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel." That light had arisen according to what David had announced, saying a light has arisen in the darkness to the upright of heart." Also, Isaiah demonstrated that light about to come for the enlightenment of the

Church when he said, "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you." Concerning that light also Daniel noted, "It reveals the profound and hidden things, knowing those things which are in darkness and the light is with it," that is, the Son with the Father, for even as the Father is light, so too is the Son light. And David also speaks in the psalm: "In your light shall we see light," for the Father is seen in the Son, as the Lord tells us in the Gospel: "Who sees me, sees the Father." From the true light, indeed, the true light proceeded, and from the invisible the visible. "He is the image of the invisible God," as the apostle notes.

*St. Chromatius*

**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)