



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

## THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN May 1st, 2022

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

### SUNDAY OF SAINT THOMAS



*Icon of Christ and Saint Thomas*

**Prokeimenon. Mode 4.**  
**Psalm 146.5;134.3**

**Great is our Lord, and great is his power.**  
**Verse: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.**

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 5:12-20

In those days, many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high honor. And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women, so that they even carried out the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and pallets, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. But the high priest rose up and all who were with him, that is, the party of the Sadducees, and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out and said, "Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this Life."

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος δ'.**  
**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 146.5;134.3**

**Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ ἰσχύς αὐτοῦ.**  
**Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθός.**

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 5:12-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, διὰ δὲ τῶν χειρῶν τῶν ἀποστόλων ἐγένετο β σημεῖα καὶ τέρατα ἐν τῷ λαῷ πολλά· καὶ ἦσαν ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἅπαντες ἐν τῇ στοᾷ Σολομῶντος. Τῶν δὲ λοιπῶν οὐδεὶς ἐτόλμα κολλᾶσθαι αὐτοῖς, ἀλλ' ἐμεγάλυνεν αὐτοὺς ὁ λαός· μᾶλλον δὲ προσετίθεντο πιστεύοντες τῷ κυρίῳ, πλήθη ἀνδρῶν τε καὶ γυναικῶν· ὥστε κατὰ τὰς πλατείας ἐκφέρειν τοὺς ἀσθενεῖς, καὶ τιθέναι ἐπὶ κλινῶν καὶ κραββάτων, ἵνα ἐρχομένου Πέτρου κἂν ἡ σκιά ἐπισκιάσῃ τινὶ αὐτῶν. Συνήρχετο δὲ καὶ τὸ πλῆθος τῶν περὶ πόλεων εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, φέροντες ἀσθενεῖς καὶ ὀχλουμένους ὑπὸ πνευμάτων ἀκαθάρτων, οἵτινες ἐθεραπεύοντο ἅπαντες. Ἀναστὰς δὲ ὁ ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ πάντες οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ - ἡ οὐσα αἵρεσις τῶν Σαδδουκαίων - ἐπλήσθησαν ζήλου, καὶ ἐπέβαλον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἔθεντο αὐτοὺς ἐν τηρήσει δημοσίᾳ. Ἄγγελος δὲ κυρίου διὰ τῆς νυκτὸς ἤνοιξεν τὰς θύρας τῆς φυλακῆς, ἐξαγαγὼν τε αὐτοὺς εἶπεν, Πορεύεσθε, καὶ σταθέντες λαλεῖτε ἐν τῷ ἱερῷ τῷ λαῷ πάντα τὰ ῥήματα τῆς ζωῆς ταύτης.

**Thomas Sunday**

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 20:19-31 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them: "Peace be with you." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him: "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them: "Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe." Eight days later, his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, but Jesus came and stood among them, and said: "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side; do not be faithless, but believing." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in his name.

Οὐσης ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιᾷ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ. Ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον. Εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, καὶ γὰρ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον· ἃν τινῶν ἀφῆτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφίενται αὐτοῖς, ἃν τινῶν κρατῆτε, κεκράτηνται. Θωμᾶς δὲ εἰς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς. Ἐλέγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί· Ἐωράκαμεν τὸν Κύριον. Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλῃ τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων, καὶ βάλῃ τὴν χεῖρά μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτὼ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. Ἐρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν. Εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾷ· Φέρε τὸν δάκτυλόν σου ὧδε καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου, καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευράν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος, ἀλλὰ πιστός. Καὶ ἀπεκρίθη Θωμᾶς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. Λέγει αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Ὅτι ἐώρακάς με, πεπίστευκας· μακάριοι οἱ μὴ ἰδόντες καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἐποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐνώπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἃ οὐκ ἔστι γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἵνα πιστεῦσητε ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ἐστὶν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἵνα πιστεύοντες ζωὴν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

**CHRISTOS ANESTI! CHRIST IS RISEN! ALITHOS ANESTI ! TRULY HE IS RISEN !**

**TODAY:** Our Three Hierarchs Ladies Philoptochos Society will host their **ANNUAL LUNCHEON** in Rosehall directly after Divine Liturgy 1:00 – 5:00 P.M. Please refer to the flyer enclosed for all details. What a superb opportunity to salute your friends and fellow congregants with the Paschal greeting **CHRISTOS ANESTI!**

**TOMORROW:** Monday, May 02nd, we shall offer the **POST-PASCHAL AGIASMOS AT 11:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.** This water may be consumed, sprinkled at the doorway to the home and indeed on your automobile for blessing, security and safety. It may also be brought to the cemetery on **MOTHER'S DAY** to honor the women in the family that have 'fallen asleep in the Lord'. Pour the blessed and sacred waters in a cruciform style over the tomb of the deceased.

**SENIOR CLUB:** will meet as usual on Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 P.M. in **ROSEHALL**. The joy and happiness of 'womanhood and motherhood' will be observed with all in attendance. **BINGO**, sweets and treats for everyone.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:** is to be observed throughout the **NATION** on Thursday, May 05th. Our parish of course will participate since there is **NEVER A DAY** that prayer is not invoked and submitted to the Lord all year long. Doors of the church as per usual will be open to everyone **ORTHODOX** or **OTHERWISE** to invoke and intone a supplication to **GOD** from 11:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. We have much to be grateful for, and still more to implore the Lord's intervention to cease the conflict in Ukraine and Russia and to bring a solution to the Covid Pandemic once and for all.

**WEST POINT INVITATION:** to our Pastor Father Eugene to offer the invocation and solemn commemoration for those serving in the **HOMELAND SECURITY AGENCY**. The prestigious event will take place on Friday, May 06th, at **NOON** in the United States Military Academy. Recall that we have a second year cadet at the **ACADEMY** – Alex Jolia who was President of our Altar Society throughout his high school years. **GOD BLESS THOSE WHO SERVE!**

**MOTHERS DAY OBSERVANCE** will take place **NEXT SUNDAY**, as we honor the women in our life that have given us formation, direction and inspiration. Flowers will be distributed to each lady in the congregation in loving tribute.

**DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE:** Chapter #33 (Demetra) will host their annual '**SECRET SISTER DINNER**' on Wednesday, , evening 7:00 P.M. **MAY 11**, at **PERRY'S RESTAURANT**.

**AGIASMOS FOR MAY:** will be offered on Monday-May 02 at 11:00-11:30 A.M. Come and enjoy the festivity and receive the Paschal waters of renewal, restoration and resurrection. **HE LIVES! and...HE WILL COME AGAIN ! Alleluja!**

**GRATITUDE** is expressed to all our parochial florists for the magnificence of their decorative expertise and generosity to the Church this **HOLY WEEK**. **EUCCHARISTO! AVENUE 'J', MADISON, HENRY'S, BEN'S, PLAZA, MARINE, IRENE'S, ELTINGVILLE, MODERN FLORISTS.**

**SPECIAL THANKS** to our Psaltai ( **CHANTORS**) Leonidas Koutsouflakis and Konstantinos Skordelis for their rendering the Byzantine hymnology of Holy Week. We also offer gratitude to the many ladies and gentlemen who prepared the **THOUSANDS** of Palm crosses and **CRIMSON RED EGGS** distributed to the faithful. We also acknowledge the linen sheets offered for the burial of the Christ by many families. Donations of olive oil, wine, and aromatics and rose water were graciously submitted for the sacred rites.

**ANNOUNCING: PLEASE TAKE NOTE!** This year's **BI-CENTENNIAL GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY NEW YORK CITY 5th Avenue PARADE** is scheduled for **SUNDAY – JUNE 05th**. Mark our calendars from now. We wish to have a large contingent to represent our **PARISH** at the Parade route. Men, women, and children of all ages are invited to join in the festive celebration of 200 years of **INDEPENDENCE** from the tyranny of the **OTTOMAN EMPIRE**.

**MEMORIAL COMMEMORATIONS :** begin again on Mother's Day May 08th. St. John Evangelist  
+ **JENNIFER MELLAS** + **PANAGIOTA VIRIS** + **MARY RIGAS** + **VLADIMIR RIJUC**





Holy Thursday Evening Service, offered the narration of the 'passion of the Lord' with the reading of the 12 gospel messages. The highlight of spiritual ecstasy was the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ (the awaited Messiah). The mystery of the event touched every heart as tears flowed in adoration of HIS willful sacrifice for YOU, and ALL THE WORLD !





We were honored and privileged to have as visiting guest HIS GRACE + DEMETRIOS, BISHOP of MOKISSOS (Saint Augustine, Florida) to officiate at all Good Friday services. Represented here is the EPITAPHIOS consecration, as well as the blessing of 'paschal baskets' for the Russian, Ukrainian and Georgian faithful on Holy Saturday. Father Vasili Sshak is assisting the ceremony





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Καννοβιακὴ Γενναϊκία Ἰερὸν Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 03 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28510 - [imaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΘ'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2470

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Κάθε Χριστιανὸς νὰ εἶνε μάρτυρας

«Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες..., λέγει Κύριος ὁ Θεός» (Ἠσ. 43,10)

Ένα πρόσωπο πού ἀγαπᾶμε, ἀδελφοί μου, δὲν τὸ προσφωνοῦμε μὲ ἕνα χαρακτηρισμὸ - ἕνα ὄνομα· ἐκδηλώνουμε τὴν ἀγάπη μας ὄχι μονολεκτικὰ ἀλλὰ μὲ πολλὰ ὀνόματα καὶ ἐπίθετα. Ἡ μάνα π.χ. πού ἀγαπᾷ τὸ παιδί - τὸ σπλάγχνο της, ἐνῶ τὸ κρατᾷ στὴν ἀγκαλιὰ καὶ τὸ βυζαίνει μὲ τὸ ἄδολο γάλα, τοῦ λέει χίλια δυὸ χαϊδευτικὰ ὀνόματα («φῶς μου», «μάτια μου», «χρυσό μου» καὶ ἄλλα) πού ξέρεي ἢ γλῶσσα τῆς μάνας, ὅσο ἀγράμματη κι ἂν εἶνε.

Ἄλλ' ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὴ φυσικὴ μάνα ὑπάρχει καὶ μιὰ ἄλλη μάνα, πνευματικὴ - ὑπερφυσικὴ, πού μᾶς ἀγαπᾷ περισσότερο κι ἀπὸ τὴ φυσικὴ μας μάνα· καὶ αὕτὴ εἶνε ἡ Ἐκκλησία. Αὕτὴ εἶνε ἡ μάνα μας, ἰδιαίτερος ἡμῶν τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἀλλὰ καὶ ὅλων τῶν ὀρθοδόξων. Μᾶς παίρνει ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγκαλιὰ τῆς μάνας, μᾶς βαπτίζει στὴν ἱερὰ κολυμβήθρα, μᾶς στεφανώνει στὸ γάμο, μᾶς συνοδεύει διὰ βίου, κι ὅταν πιά ἀφήνουμε τὸ μάταιο τοῦτο κόσμος, μᾶς ἀποχαιρετᾷ στὸν τάφο ῥίχνοντας λίγο χῶμα καὶ λέγοντας «Γῆ εἰ καὶ εἰς γῆν ἀπελευσῇ» (Γεν. 3,19).

Ἡ μάνα Ἐκκλησία, λοιπόν, ἔχει παιδιά. Καὶ ὑπάρχουν παιδιά κακά, χριστιανοὶ δηλαδὴ ἀπειθεῖς, πού δὲν θέλουν νὰ τὴν ἀκούσουν - καὶ παρ' ὅλο πού τὴν λυποῦν αὕτὴ δὲν παύει νὰ τοὺς ἀγαπᾷ. Ἀλλὰ ἔχει καὶ παιδιά ὑπάκουα, γιὰ τὰ ὁποῖα χαίρεται, πιστὰ παιδιά πού ὅταν ἀκούσουν τὸ «Τάδε λέγει Κύριος...» ὑπακούουν πάντοτε στὴ φωνὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Αὐτοί, τ' ἀγαπημένα παιδιά τῆς Ἐκκλησίας, εἶνε οἱ ἅγιοι, τοὺς ὁποῖους τιμᾷ τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς μνήμης τους καὶ ψάλλει ὕμνους.

Ἔτσι καὶ σήμερα, πού ἐορτάζουμε τὴ μνήμη τοῦ ἁγίου Γεωργίου. Μὰ χρειάζεται κάτι νὰ γίνη ὥστε οἱ πιστοὶ νὰ κατανοοῦν τὰ ὑπέροχα αὐτὰ τραγούδια, πού συνέθεσαν ἱεροὶ ὕμνογράφοι.

Τί λέει σήμερα ἡ Ἐκκλησία; τί ὕμνους, ἐπαίνους, λουλούδια καὶ στεφάνια πλέκει γιὰ νὰ τιμήσῃ τὸν ἅγιο Γεώργιο; Νά μερικὰ μόνο. Εἰσαι, λέει, ἅγιε Γεώργιε, στρατιώτης Χριστοῦ • γενναῖος ἐν μάρτυσιν • θεῖος ἀριστεύς • ἀθλοφόρος • τροπαιοφόρος • χρυσὸς κεκαθαρμένος ἐπταπλασίως • ἀστήρ πολύφωτος • ἥλιος λάμπων ἐν τῷ στερεώματι • μαργαρίτης πολύτιμος • λίθος αὐγάζων • υἱὸς ἡμέρας • ὑπέρμαχος

τῶν πιστῶν ἐν κινδύνοις • δίκαιος γεωργὸς τῆς Τριάδος (ἐπ. α' λη). Μαζὶ μὲ τὰ χελιδόνια, πού ἔρχονται τὴν ἀνοιξὶ καὶ φέρνουν χαρὰ, ἔρχεται καὶ ὁ ἅγιος Γεώργιος μὲ τὴν Ἀνάστασι τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ μὲ ἄνθη ποιήσεως σὰν αὐτά.

Ἀπ' ὅλα ὅσα λένε οἱ ὕμνοι καὶ τὰ ἀναγνώσματα τῆς σημερινῆς ἐορτῆς, διαλέγω ἕνα μόνο. Θέλω μὲ ἀπλὰ λόγια νὰ σᾶς ἐξηγήσω ἕνα χωρίο τοῦ προφήτου Ἠσαΐου ἀπὸ τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα τοῦ ἐσπερινοῦ (Ἠ. Ἠ. 43,14). Τ' ἀκούμε, μὰ δὲν τὸ συγκρατοῦμε. Ἄν δώσῃ ὁ Θεὸς καὶ γίνῃ οἰκουμενικὴ σύνοδος, ἀξίζει ἐκεῖ νὰ ἐξετασθῇ, πῶς μποροῦν οἱ πιστοὶ νὰ βοηθηθοῦν στὴν κατανόησι ὅσων λέγονται στὴ λατρεία μας, γιὰ τὴν ὥρα ἐλάχιστα ὠφελοῦνται ἀπὸ μία τυπικὴ παρακολούθησι τῶν ἀκολουθιῶν.

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Τί λέει λοιπόν, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὁ προφήτης Ἠσαΐας; Μᾶς μεταφέρει τὸ λόγο τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ μᾶς δίνει ἐντολή· «Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες» (Ἠ. 43,12) • νὰ γίνουμε μάρτυρες τοῦ Κυρίου. Πῶς τὸ ἐννοεῖ αὐτό; Εἶνε «χοντρὸ νόμισμα» καὶ πρέπει νὰ τὸ κάνουμε λιανὰ, νὰ τὸ καταλάβετε ὅλοι. Μὲ ποῖο τρόπο νὰ γίνουμε μάρτυρες;

Ὑπάρχουν στὸ σημερινὸ κόσμος ἄνθρωποι πού ἀγνοοῦν τελείως τὴ θρησκεία μας. Μπορεῖ νὰ πῆγαν στὸ γυμνάσιο ἢ καὶ στὸ πανεπιστήμιο, νὰ πῆγαν στὸ ἐξωτερικὸ, νὰ μάθανε γλῶσσες, νὰ ἔχουν διπλώματα καὶ μεγάλα ἀξιώματα στὸ κράτος· ἀπὸ τὴν πίστι μας δμως δὲν γνωρίζουν γρῶ, τίποτα! Ἐνα παιδί τοῦ δημοτικοῦ, πού ἀκούει ἀπὸ τὸ κατηχητικὸ τὰ λόγια τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ξέρει περισσότερα ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ ἀγνοοῦντες.

Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ αὐτοὺς ὑπάρχουν ἄλλοι χειρότεροι. Αὐτοί, σὰν τὸ δράκοντα πού σκότωσε ὁ ἅγιος Γεώργιος, σκορπᾶνε φαρμάκι ἐναντίον τῆς θρησκείας· σὲ καφφενεῖα, σαλόνια, δρόμους καὶ πλατεῖες, αὐτοκίνητα καὶ αὐλὲς σχολείων, παντοῦ, δὲν κάνουν τίποτε ἄλλο παρὰ νὰ ἀκονοῦν τὴ γλῶσσα καὶ νὰ καταφέρωνται κατὰ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας· ὅτι τάχα ἡ Χριστιανικὴ πίστι ἦταν γιὰ τοὺς περασμένους αἰῶνες, γιὰ παλαιούς καιροὺς, γιὰ γριεὲς καὶ γέροντες, ἀλλὰ τώρα εἶνε ἐμπόδιο στὴν πρόοδο, στὴν ἐπιστήμη, στὶς νέες ιδέες· καὶ ἂ-



ρα –μία φωνή ακούγεται– Πρέπει ν' αφήσουμε τη θρησκεία και ν' αγκαλιάσουμε άλλες ιδέες και συστήματα, που θα μās φέρουν, λέει, ευημερία. Υπάρχουν λοιπόν αγνοούντες, υπάρχουν και **συκοφάντες** της αγίας μας Έκκλησίας. Και όπως, όταν ακούς τόν άλλο να συκοφαντῇ τὴ μάνα σου, ἀνεβαίνει τὸ αἷμα σου στὸ κεφάλι, ἔτσι κ' ἐμεῖς, όταν ακοῦμε νὰ δυσφημοῦν τὴν Ἐκκλησία καὶ τὰ ὄργανά της, δὲν μπορεῖ παρὰ νὰ αἰσθανώμαστε ὀργή καὶ ἀγανάκτησι.

Υπάρχουν τέλος καὶ ἄλλοι, ἀκόμη χειρότεροι, οἱ **βλάσφημοι**. Αὐτοὶ ὄχι ἀπλῶς συκοφαντοῦν καὶ διαβάλλουν, ἀλλὰ ἀνοίγουν τὰ βρωμερά τους χεῖλη καὶ βλαστημοῦν τὰ θεῖα.

Τέτοιοι εἶνε ὁ κόσμος. Λοιπὸν **τί πρέπει νὰ γίνῃ**; ὅσοι ἀγνοοῦν νὰ μένουν στὴν ἀγνοιά τους; ὅσοι συκοφαντοῦν νὰ συνεχίσουν νὰ διαβάλλουν; καὶ ὅσοι βλαστημοῦν νὰ μένουν ἀνενόχλητοι νὰ χύνουν τὸ δηλητήριό; Ὅχι, ἀδελφοί μου. **Χρειάζεται ἀντίδρασις**. Πρέπει οἱ ἀγνοοῦντες νὰ διδαχθοῦν, οἱ συκοφάντες νὰ ἀποστατωθοῦν, οἱ βλάσφημοι νὰ φράξουν τὰ στόματά τους. **Πῶς θὰ γίνῃ αὐτό**; μὲ μαχαίρια καὶ σπαθιά, μὲ πιστόλια καὶ κανόνια; Ὅχι βέβαια. Τέτοια πράγματα, «ὄπλα σαρκικά» (β' Κορ. 10,4) καὶ ὄπλα πολεμικά, οἱ Χριστιανοὶ δὲν ἔχουμε· δὲν ἀσκοῦμε βία ὅπως ἀσκεῖ τὸ κράτος.

Τὸ λέω αὐτό, γιατί συχνά μὲ κατηγοροῦν διὰ πιέζω. Ἐγὼ ὅμως δὲν διαθέτω κανένα πολεμικὸ καὶ φονικὸ ὄπλο, οὔτε σουγιὰ δὲν ἔχω ἐπάνω μου. Κανένα δὲν βιάζω, μόνο δείχνω τὸ δρόμο τῆς ἀληθείας καὶ **χρησιμοποιοῦ ἀπλῶς τὸν λόγο**. Ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἀκριβῶς ὁ λόγος εἶνε ἐκεῖνος ποὺ τοὺς στενοχωρεῖ. Καὶ τί δὲν θὰ 'διναν γιὰ νὰ κλείσῃ τὸ στόμα μου καὶ νὰ μὴ μιλάω – σὲ καιρὸ ἀθείας, πλάνης καὶ ἀπιστίας!

**Πῶς λοιπὸν νὰ φιμώσουμε τοὺς βλασφήμους**, ν' ἀποστομώσουμε τοὺς συκοφάντες (π.χ. τοὺς αἰρετικούς λατίνους, ποὺ διαβάλλουν τὴν Ὁρθόδοξία), νὰ διαφωτίσουμε αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἀγνοοῦν; **Ἰδοὺ ἡ ἀπάντησις**· «**Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες**». Ὁ κάθε Χριστιανὸς ἢ Χριστιανὴ δὲν ἀρκεῖ μόνο νὰ 'νε πιστοί, νὰ ἐρχώμαστε στὴν ἐκκλησίαν, ν' ἀνάβουμε κερί, νὰ προσκυνᾶμε τίς εἰκόνες· πρέπει καὶ ν' ἀνοίγουμε τὸ στόμα. Στὴ Μικρὰ Ἀσία ὑπῆρχαν οἱ **κρυπτοχριστιανοί**· μέσ' στὰ σπίτια τους ἦταν Χριστιανοί, ἀλλὰ ἔξω ἦταν Τοῦρκοι· ἡ γλῶσσα τους τούρκικη, ἡ καρδιά τους Χριστιανή. Μὰ ἔτσι μās θέλει ὁ Χριστός; Ἐκεῖνος θέλει καὶ ἡ καρδιά καὶ ἡ γλῶσσα νὰ εἶνε χριστιανική· **νὰ μὴ μένουμε μουγγοί**, νὰ χρησιμοποιοῦμε τὴ γλῶσσα ἄλλοτε νὰ διαφωτίσουμε, ἄλλοτε νὰ ἐλέγξουμε, ἄλλοτε νὰ στηλιτεύσουμε· νὰ μπῇ τέλος πάντων μιά εὐπρέπεια στὶς συναναστροφές μας.

«**Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες**». Γιὰ νὰ γίνῃ κανεὶς μάρτυς, νὰ ὁμολογήσῃ τὸ Χριστό, δὲν εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ 'νε κληρικὸς ἢ θεολόγος· **κάθε Χριστιανὸς πρέπει νὰ εἶνε μάρτυρας**. Δηλαδή· νὰ πῇ τὴν ἀλήθεια γιὰ τὸ Χριστό, νὰ μὴν κρύψῃ τὸ θησαυρὸ τῆς πίστεως κατὰ τὸ «**Ἐπίστευσα, διό ἐλάλησα**» (Ῥώμ. 10,1 = β' Κορ. 4,13).

**Ἀπαιτεῖται ὁμως ἡρωισμός**. Διότι ὁ κόσμος εἶνε ἐχθρικός. Ἐνα παράδειγμα. Στὰ χρόνια τῆς Κατοχῆς, ποὺ βρεθήκαμε στὴν Κοζάνη, ἐπιαναν ἀθῶους καὶ τοὺς ἐκλείναν στὴ φυλακή. Ἡ ἀθωότητά τους ὁμως ἔπρεπε ν' ἀποδειχθῇ δικαστικῶς, καὶ τὰ δικαστήρια δὲν ἦταν ἐλληνικά· ἦταν γερμανικά, ἰταλικά, βουλγάρικα· καὶ ὁποῖος τολμοῦσε νὰ τοὺς υπερασπιστῇ, ἐκτελεῖτο κι αὐτός. Οἱ γυναῖκες τους ἔτρεχαν νύχτα στὰ καλντερίμια μὲ τὰ φανάρια καὶ παρακαλοῦσαν· –Μάρτυρες ζητᾶμε! δέσποτα – παπούλη, ὁ ἄντρας μου χάνεται... Οὔτε ἀδερφὸς μάρτυρας οὔτε δικηγόρος γιὰ υπεράσπισι ἐρχόταν· κ' ἔτσι πολλοὺς τοὺς ἔφαγε τὸ μαῦρο χῶμα. Γιατὶ δὲν ὑπῆρχε ἡρωισμός.

Ὅπως λοιπὸν σὲ τέτοιες ἐποχές εἶνε δύσκολο νὰ μῇς μάρτυρας ὑπὲρ τοῦ ἀθῶου, ἔτσι καὶ στὴ ζωὴ τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ὑπῆρξαν ἐποχές διωγμῶν, ποὺ τὸ αἷμα τῶν μαρτύρων ἔτρεχε ποτάμι. Τώρα εὐκολὰ δηλώνει κανεὶς **Χριστιανός**. Κουράστηκαν τὰ χέρια τῶν ἀστυνόμων νὰ γράφουν στὶς ταυτότητες «χριστιανὸς ὀρθόδοξος». Δὲν στοιχίζει τίποτα. Μὰ τότε, στὴν ἐποχὴ τοῦ ἀγίου Γεωργίου καὶ τῶν ἄλλων μαρτύρων, **στοίχιζε**· ἔλεγες «Εἰμαι Χριστιανός», καὶ **πάει τὸ κεφάλι σου!**

«**Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες**». Σήμερα βέβαια δὲν κόβουν κεφάλια. Ἀλλὰ καὶ **σ' αὐτὴ τῇ μοντέρνῃ ἐποχῇ** ἀπαιτεῖται ἡρωισμός. Τολμαεὶ κάποιος σὲ λεωφορεῖο, σιδηρόδρομο, ἀεροπλάνο νὰ κἀνῃ τὸ σταυρὸ του; Μόλις τὸν δοῦν γελᾶνε. Καὶ στὴ γενιὰ αὐτῇ τῶν εὐδαιμονιστῶν, τῶν μηδενιστῶν, ἔχει ἀξία νὰ ὁμολογήῃ τὴν πίστι σου στὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

«**Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες**». Εἶνε ἐντολὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ **νὰ μαρτυρήσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς**. Ὅχι διὰ τοῦ αἵματος, τοῦλάχιστον διὰ τοῦ στόματος. Στὸ σπῆτι, στὸ σχολεῖο, στὸ στρατό, στὶς δημόσιες ὑπηρεσίες, παντοῦ ὅπου βρισκόμαστε, νὰ μὴ ντρεπώμαστε νὰ ὁμολογοῦμε. Καταντήσαμε σὲ τέτοια φοβία τὰ παιδιὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, «οἱ υἱοὶ τῆς ἡμέρας» (β' Θεσ. 2,15), ὥστε ντρεπόμαστε νὰ κάνουμε καὶ τὸ σταυρὸ μας.

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«**Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες**». Μάρτυρες ἔγιναν ἀναρίθμητοι ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, γέροντες καὶ παιδιὰ. Μπροστὰ στὸν τύραννο ἔλεγαν· Κ' ἐμεῖς εἴμαστε Χριστιανοί! καὶ τοὺς θέρριζαν ὅπως τὸ δρεπάνι τὰ στάχυα. Ἐκατομμύρια μάρτυρες κάθε ἡλικίας καὶ τάξεως. Καὶ μεταξὺ αὐτῶν λάμπει σὰν ἥλιος ὁ **ἅγιος Γεώργιος ὁ μεγαλομάρτυς**.

Ἄς τὸν παρακαλέσουμε, ἀδελφοί μου, ὅσοι τιμοῦμε τὴ μνήμη του, **νὰ δώσῃ καὶ σ' ἐμᾶς θάρρος**, νὰ ὁμολογήσουμε στὴ γενεά μας τὸ Χριστό· νὰ τὸν μαρτυρήσουμε μὲ τὰ λόγια, μὲ τὴ ζωὴ καὶ τὸ παράδειγμά μας, κι ἂν ἔρθῃ ὥρα –δὲν τὸ ξέρουμε– καὶ μὲ τὸ **αἷμα** μας ἀκόμα νὰ ὑπογράψουμε τὴν ὁμολογία τῆς ὀρθῆς πίστεως, τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας, λέγοντας κ' ἐμεῖς, ὅτι «Εἴμαστε Χριστιανοί», ὥστε νὰ ἐκτελέσουμε τὴν ἐντολὴ τοῦ προφήτου Ἠσαΐου «**Γίνεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες**».

(†) **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 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 Good News Within Our Heart*

Once, a famous violinist came out on the stage and made the unfortunate discovery that there was something wrong with his violin. He looked for a second and then saw that it was not his famous and valuable one. He felt paralyzed for a moment, then turned to his audience and told them, "Ladies and gentlemen: I will show you that the music is not in the instrument but in the heart."

He played as he had never played before and the music poured forth until the audience was overcome with enthusiasm and the applause almost lifted the roof off the building. Indeed, the man had revealed to them that the music was not in the machine but in his own heart.

Today, the joy of the Resurrection is still

within our hearts. And, we must take to heart the words that Our Lord spoke to His disciples when He appeared to them after His resurrection: "As the Father sent Me, so I send you ..." (John 20:21) Indeed, the Lord Himself sends us, like the apostles, to proclaim to the world that "He is risen!"

We proclaim Our Lord's resurrection not just in hymns and inspired songs, but by the very manner in which we live our lives. "Get rid of all bitterness, all anger, harsh words, slander and malice of every kind," says Saint Paul. "In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate and forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ!" (Ephesians 4:32) May the joy of the resurrection remain within our hearts every day of the year!

**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)