



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 31st, 2022
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Healing Two Blind Men

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2.

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 15:1-7

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. β'.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

Πρὸς Ῥωμαίους 15:1-7 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὀφείλομεν δὲ ἡμεῖς οἱ δυνατοὶ τὰ ἀσθενήματα τῶν ἀδυνάτων βαστάζειν, καὶ μὴ ἑαυτοῖς ἀρέσκειν. Ἐκαστος ἡμῶν τῷ πλησίον ἀρεσκέτω εἰς τὸ ἀγαθὸν πρὸς οἰκοδομήν. Καὶ γὰρ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτῷ ἤρεσεν, ἀλλὰ, καθὼς γέγραπται, Οἱ ὀνειδισμοὶ τῶν ὀνειδίζοντων σε ἐπέπεσον ἐπ' ἐμέ. Ὅσα γὰρ προεγράφη, εἰς τὴν ἡμετέραν διδασκαλίαν προεγράφη, ἵνα διὰ τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ διὰ τῆς παρακλήσεως τῶν γραφῶν τὴν ἐλπίδα ἔχωμεν. Ὁ δὲ θεὸς τῆς ὑπομονῆς καὶ τῆς παρακλήσεως δόξη ὑμῖν τὸ αὐτὸ φρονεῖν ἐν ἀλλήλοις κατὰ Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν· ἵνα ὁμοθυμαδὸν ἐν ἐνὶ στόματι δοξάζητε τὸν θεὸν καὶ πατέρα τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ προσλαμβάνεσθε ἀλλήλους, καθὼς καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς προσελάβετο ὑμᾶς, εἰς δόξαν θεοῦ.

The Gospel According to Matthew 9:27-35

At that time, as Jesus passed by, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." But they went away and spread his fame through all that district. As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 9:27-35 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παράγοντι ἐκεῖθεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ δύο τυφλοὶ κράζοντες καὶ λέγοντες· ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, υἱὲ Δαυῖδ. ἐλθόντι δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν προσήλθον αὐτῷ οἱ τυφλοὶ, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· πιστεύετε ὅτι δύναμαι τοῦτο ποιῆσαι; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· ναί, Κύριε. τότε ἥψατο τῶν ὀφθαλμῶν αὐτῶν λέγων· κατὰ τὴν πίστιν ὑμῶν γεννηθήτω ὑμῖν. καὶ ἀνέφχθησαν αὐτῶν οἱ ὀφθαλμοί· καὶ ἐνεβριμήσατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· ὁρᾶτε μηδεὶς γινωσκέτω. οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες διεφήμισαν αὐτὸν ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ γῇ ἐκείνῃ. Αὐτῶν δὲ ἐξερχομένων ἰδοὺ προσήνεγκαν αὐτῷ ἄνθρωπον κωφὸν δαιμονιζόμενον· καὶ ἐκβληθέντος τοῦ δαιμονίου ἐλάλησεν ὁ κωφός, καὶ ἐθαύμασαν οἱ ὄχλοι λέγοντες ὅτι οὐδέποτε ἐφάνη οὕτως ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ. οἱ δὲ Φαρισαῖοι ἔλεγον· ἐν τῷ ἄρχοντι τῶν δαιμονίων ἐκβάλλει τὰ δαιμόνια. Καὶ περιήγεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς πόλεις πάσας καὶ τὰς κώμας διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ λαῷ.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

FATHER EUGENE was honored by His Eminence the Archbishop at the **CLERGY-LAITY CONGRESS** earlier this month as an **ARCHDIOCESAN CENTENNIAL HONOREE**. By direction of the Patriarch of Constantinople, Father Eugene was announced as **ARCHIMANDRITE** of the **ECUMENICAL THRONE**!

A Centennial honoree is a person who has contributed significantly to the life of the Archdiocese: who has served with distinction and in the front lines; who has given true stewardship of time, talent, and treasure to the Archdiocese: and who is the true Icon of a faithful member of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

TODAY: we are pleased to offer an **ARTOKLASIA** from the **KORKOFIGAS FAMILY** in tribute to Saint Panteleimon, the Patron Saint of Physicians. May the Lord extend His healing presence to one and all everywhere.

TOMORROW: Monday **AUGUST 01st**, is the **BLESSING OF WATER** for the Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Water will commence at **11:00 – 11:30 A.M.** **PLEASE COME AND SHARE THIS SPECIAL BLESSING HONORING THE THEOTOKOS.**

Birthday Celebration for Father Eugene last Sunday was a major success filling **WHITEHALL** with parishioners enjoying, Italian Casava Cake, Ice Cream, Soda, and much more. Balloons filled the air with singing and laughter. Special gratitude is expressed to the **PARISH COUNCIL**, **Philoptochos Society**, **Daughters Of Penelope**, and **TEIMURAZ**, George and Ann Annis, Joanna Vassilas, Robert Malfi, John and Frances Eugenis, Bezugly family, Jimmy Vlahos, Bill and Julia Demakakos, **IRENA**, Fr, Shak and family, **ALIOTTA BAKERY**, Maria Notaro and Son, and so many others! Raptis family....**ANGIE Vlahos family** and Fr. Gefasimos

PARAKLESIS THIS WEEK: Wednesday, August 03rd. 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Friday, August 05th. 7:00 – 8:00 P.M

Commemoration forms for names for health, life and recovery are in the **NARTHEX**
Please return the envelope at the beginning of the service for proper dispensation.

The **AUGUST SCHEDULE** of **SERVICES** for the Feast of the **KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU** has been posted and mailed to all stewards. If you did **NOT** get your copy, you may secure one at the church business office upon request. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE** of the days and times of each sacred service.

U.P.K. SCHOOL CLASSES closed for the summer recess on Monday, June 20th. The facility will commence the new academic year in **SEPTEMBER**. Register your 3 and 4 year olds now. The full day program is **FREE** from the **CITY OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION**. **FREE!** We wish the administration, staff and faculty a healthful, joyous and most safe summer recess. The school will re-open in September after **LABOR DAY!** **REGISTER and SAVE YOUR PLACE NOW.**

NEW BAPTISMAL FONT: After almost a century of baptisms, we will retire the original 'FONT' to be used as a side altar. A **NEW BYZANTINE STYLE BAPTISMAL FONT** has been graciously donated to the Church by **JOHN and CHRISTINE CHARITIS** in loving memory of their faithfully departed brethren + **JOANNA** and + **VICTORIA CHARITIS AND + FRANK (Stavros) and EVELYN (Evelpi) CHARITIS**. The dedicatory ceremony will be observed on **SUNDAY – AUGUST 14th**, at the Divine Liturgy. Holy water from the new font will be distributed to all in attendance.

MEMORIAL TODAY: + Demetrios Alexiou



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THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



FR. EUGENE'S MESSAGE

AUGUST 2022

PEACE IS NOT ELUSIVE

*"My love shall never leave you,
nor my covenant of peace be shaken...." Isaiah 54"10*

On a global level and expanse we are inundated through the hysterical news media of violence abounding among nations, schools, marketplaces, houses of worship and places of family leisure. Is there no place safe? Certainly there is no place "sacred"! In naivety we wonder about the "peace" that God promises to His people and whose evidence is but illusory. Almighty God has tasked us to seek and employ peace in our deliberations, decisions and activities. Nothing less suffices to satisfy the Will of God. This is not impossible at all. The evidences of God's love and peace in our midst is realized by the priority that YOU ARE ..in His eyes.

The Prophet Isaiah sounded a clarion call to the Hebrews in their Babylonian exile of debased tyranny. The Temple is destroyed, as is their holy city of peace (IERO-SALEM). All has become a wasteland in ruins with a people dispersed like the wind-blown chaff of the seed. Isaiah as other messengers of God before him gave dire warnings to the chosen people of their wretched idolatrous behavior, injustices, and apostasy. In exile, removed from all that is considered familiar and legacy, the masses seek consolation, comfort and hope. The covenant which the Lord graciously surrendered to them as His chosen ones is now broken as a blasphemous desecration. The promise of unquestionable peace, protection and favor seems no more than a 'fantasy' at best. Same among us share this despair with childlike wonderment surrounded in unrest, violence and unparalleled beligerance.

Preparedness is what the Divine Will calls for. You and I are called to invest in the promises of God to a faithful people. Promises that are broken are betrayals of trust. We've all experienced this in our lifetime. Do not betray your trust in the Lord for PEACE in your life. God does choose to work with us and through us in our efforts towards peace of mind and life. Each time we opt for forgiveness instead of revenge or retaliation we are opting for peace. We can create a just world, a happy environment and a peaceful co-existence with God and our fellow man. Let's promote peace wherever there is evidence or semblance of discord, be it, at home, work, relationship or soul searching. Let's all invest in God's promise of peace and apply it to all ...at all times and under all circumstances. He will tolerate no less! Keep the 'promise' and foster peace.

Kalo Dekapentavgousto,

V. Rev. Eugene N. Pappas
Archimandrite, of the Ecumenical Throne



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AUGUST 2022

Aug. 01	Monday	Holy Water Blessing (AGIASMOS)	11:00AM - 11:30 AM
Aug. 03,	Wednesday,	PARAKLESIS to the Virgin Mary	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Aug. 05,	Friday,	PARAKLESIS to the Virgin Mary	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Aug 06,	Saturday,	Divine Liturgy of TRANSFIGURATION	10:00 AM-11:30AM
		Holy Metamorphosis, Blessing of the grapes	11:00 AM
Aug. 07,	Sunday,	Divine Liturgy of Dometios of Persia	10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Aug. 09,	Tuesday,	PARAKLESIS to the Virgin Mary	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Aug. 11,	Friday,	PARAKLESIS to the Virgin Mary	7:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Aug. 14,	Sunday,	Prophet Micah, Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Aug. 15,	Monday,	Divine Liturgy KOIMISIS THEOTOKOU	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
		Artoclasies are most welcome - Names to be read	
Aug. 21,	Sunday,	Judah the Thaddeus, Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM-11:30 AM
Aug. 27,	Saturday,	Divine Liturgy SAINT PHANOURIOS	10:00 AM-11:30 AM
		Blessing of the Phanouro-pites (cakes)	
Aug. 28,	Sunday,	Laurence Martyr, Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΙΕΡΩΝ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΩΝ ΑΥΓΟΥΣΤΟΣ 2022

Αυγ. 1,	Δευτέρα,	Αγιασμός, Ακολουθία,	11:00 ΠΜ - 11:30 ΠΜ
Αυγ. 3,	Τετάρτη,	Παράκληση στην Θεοτόκο,	7:00 ΜΜ - 8:00 ΜΜ
Αυγ. 5,	Παρασκευή	Παράκληση στην Θεοτόκο	7:00 ΜΜ - 8:00 ΜΜ
Αυγ. 6,	Σάββατο,	Η ΜΕΤΑΜΟΡΦΩΣΗ ΤΟΥ ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ,	10:00-11:30 ΠΜ
		Θεία Λειτουργία & Ευλογία Σταφυλιών	
Αυγ. 7,	Κυριακή,	Δομετίου Οσίου, Θ. Λειτουργία	10:00 - 11:30 ΠΜ
Αυγ. 9,	Δευτέρα,	Παράκληση στην Θεοτόκο,	7:00 ΜΜ - 8:00 ΜΜ
Αυγ. 11,	Πέμπτη,	Παράκληση στη Θεοτόκο,	7:00 ΜΜ-8:00 ΜΜ
Αυγ. 14,	Κυριακή,	Μιχαίου Προφήτου Θ. Λειτουργία	10:00 - 11:30 ΠΜ
Αυγ. 15,	Δευτέρα	Η ΚΟΙΜΗΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΥ	10:00 - 11:30 ΠΜ
		Αρτοκλασίες και ονόματα προς μνημόνευση	
Αυγ. 21	Κυριακή,	Ιούδα του Θαδδαίου, Θ. Λειτουργία	10:00 - 11:30 ΠΜ
Αυγ. 27,	Σάββατο,	Αγίου Φανουρίου, Θεία Λειτουργία	10:00 - 11:30 ΠΜ
		Θα ευλογηθούν Φανουρόπιτες	
Αυγ. 28,	Κυριακή,	Λαυρεντίου Μάρτυρος, Θ. Λειτουργία	10:00 - 11:30 ΠΜ



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 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – imassflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΛΘ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2492	Κυριακὴ Ζ' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 9,27-35) 31 Ἰουλίου 2022	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Πνευματικὰ τυφλοί, κουφοί, ἄλαλοι

Θὰ ἔπρεπε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὁ γέροντας ἐγὼ ἐπίσκοπος νὰ παύσω νὰ ὁμιλῶ. Ἀλλὰ θὰ τολμήσω νὰ κάνω ἓνα μικρὸ κήρυγμα.

Πῶς νὰ μιλήσω; Νὰ μιλήσω ἀπλᾶ; δὲν θὰ ἱκανοποιηθοῦν οἱ κάπως μορφωμένοι· νὰ μιλήσω λίγο ὑψηλότερα; δὲν θὰ μὲ καταλάβουν οἱ ἀπλοῖκοί. Θὰ προσπαθῶ νὰ συμβιβάσω τὶς δύο ἀπαιτήσεις. Παρακαλῶ τὸ Θεό, νὰ μοῦ δώσῃ φῶτισι καὶ δύναμι νὰ κηρύξω, καὶ σ' ἐσᾶς νὰ δώσῃ προθυμία ἀκροάσεως.

Δύο θαύματα διηγεῖται τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Ματθ. 9,27-35).

Τὸ ἓνα θαῦμα. Καθὼς ὁ Χριστὸς περπατοῦσε, ἀκούει μιὰ φωνὴ σπαρακτική· «Ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς, υἱὲ Δαυὶδ» Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ τοῦ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησέ μας (βλ. ἑ.ἀ. 9,27). Αὐτὸ τὸ «ἐλέησέ μας» τὸ λέμε κ' ἐμεῖς· στὴν θεία Λειτουργία ἀπὸ τὸ «Εὐλόγημένη ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ Πατρὸς...» μέχρι τὸ «Δι' εὐχῶν...» –μετρήστε– πενήντα φορές λέμε τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον»· ἀλλὰ ψυχρά. Ἡ φωνὴ αὐτὴ ὅμως ἔβγαίνει σὰν φωτιά. Ποιὸς φώναζε; Δυὸ δυστυχισμένοι. Ἦταν τυφλοί· εἶχαν χάσει τὸ φῶς τους, ζοῦσαν στὸ σκοτάδι. Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς, ποῦ εἶνε ὡκεανὸς ἀγάπης, ἐλέους καὶ οἰκτιρμῶν, γυρίζει καὶ τοὺς λέει· **Πιστεύετε**, ὅτι μπορῶ ἐγὼ νὰ σᾶς κάνω καλά; **Ναί, Κύριε**, ἀπαντοῦν. Τότε ὁ Χριστὸς –ἄς μὴν πιστεύουν οἱ ἄπιστοι, δικαίωμά τους· ἐμεῖς πιστεύουμε– μὲ τὰ δάχτυλά του ἄγγιξε τὰ μάτια τους λέγοντας· «Ὅπως πιστεύετε, ἔτσι νὰ γίνη σ' ἐσᾶς. Κι ἀμέσως **τὰ μάτια τους ἄνοιξαν!** Μὲ ὅση εὐκολία ἐμεῖς πατοῦμε ἓνα κουμπὶ κι ἀνάβει φῶς, μὲ τόση κι ἀκόμη μεγαλύτερη ὁ Κύριος τοὺς χάρισε τὸ φῶς. Καὶ ἐνῶ τοὺς εἶπε αὐστηρὰ νὰ μὴν τὸ ποῦν σὲ κανένα, αὐτοὶ βγήκαν καὶ τὸν διαφήμισαν παντοῦ τριγύρω.

Αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ ἓνα θαῦμα· **τὸ δεύτερο** ποιό εἶνε. Τὴν ἴδια ὥρα φέρνουν μπροστά του ἓναν ἄλλο δυστυχισμένο. Αὐτὸς ἦταν κουφὸς καὶ ἄλαλος ἀπὸ ἐνέργεια δαιμονίου, ποῦ τοῦ εἶχε

ἀφαιρέσει τὴν ἀκοὴ καὶ τὴ λαλίᾳ. Ὁ Χριστὸς ἀμέσως τὸν θεράπευσε· ὁ κουφὸς **ἤκουσε** καὶ ὁ ἄλαλος **μίλησε**. Αὐτὰ εἶνε τὰ δύο θαύματα.

Γνωρίζουμε ἀπὸ τὸ σχολεῖο, ὅτι ἔχουμε πέντε αἰσθήσεις. Ὅλες σπουδαῖες, ἀλλὰ σπουδαιότερη εἶνε ἡ **ὄρασις**· μὲ τὰ μάτια κυρίως λαμβάνουμε γνῶσι τοῦ ἐξωτερικοῦ κόσμου. Τί εἶνε τὸ **μάτι**; **μία τέλεια φωτογραφικὴ μηχανή**. Καὶ ὅπως γιὰ τὴ φωτογραφικὴ μηχανὴ ξέρουμε ὅτι κάποιος τεχνίτης τὴν κατασκεύασε, ἔτσι καὶ τὰ μάτια νὰ εἴμαστε βέβαιοι ὅτι τὰ δημιούργησε ὁ Θεός. Φτάνει καὶ ἓνα μάτι, νὰ εἶνα μάτι, νὰ μᾶς δείξῃ ὅτι ὑπάρχει Θεός!

Μία αἰσθησις λοιπὸν ἡ ὄρασις· ἡ ἄλλη ἐπίσης σπουδαία αἰσθησις εἶνε ἡ **ἀκοή**. Τί εἶνε τὸ **αὐτί**; **ἓνα ῥαντάρ**. Ἐπάνω στὸ Βίτσι ὑπάρχει ῥαντάρ, ἓνα μεγάλο τεχνικὸ αὐτί, ποῦ ἐὰν –μὴ γένοιτο– ἐχθρικά ἀεροπλάνα περάσουν τὰ σύνορα, αὐτὸ ἀμέσως εἰδοποιεῖ! Λάβετε τὰ μέτρα σας! Δὲν εἶνε τίποτα ὅμως τὸ ῥαντάρ αὐτὸ μπροστὰ στὸ αὐτί ποῦ ἔχουμε ἐμεῖς. Ἐὰν πῇ κάποιος ὅτι τὸ ῥαντάρ ἔστι μόνον τοῦ φύτρωσε ἐκεῖ στὴν κορυφὴ τοῦ Βιτσιῦ, θὰ ποῦμε ὅτι τρελλάθηκε. Κι αὐτὸ τὸ ἄλλο τέλειο ῥαντάρ, τὸ αὐτί στὸ ἀνθρώπινο σῶμα, ποιὸς τὸ ἔφτιαξε; Γι' αὐτὸ νὰ εἴμαστε εὐγνώμονες στὸ Θεὸ διότι βλέπουμε καὶ ἀκούμε. Ἕνας δικός μας ποιητής, ὁ Ἰωάννης Πολέμης, λέει·

«Ὅταν τριγύρω βλέπω τῆς φύσεως τὰ κάλλη,
τὸν ἥλιο, τὴ σελήνη, τ' ἄστρα τὰ φωτεινά,
τὴ θάλασσα, π' ἀφρίζει κι' ἀπλώνεται μεγάλη,
τοὺς ποταμούς, τὰ δένδρα, τοὺς κάμπους, τὰ βουνά,
καὶ τ' ἄνθη ποῦ στολίζουν ἀγροὺς καὶ μονοπάτια,
Σ' εὐχαριστῶ, Θεέ μου, ποῦ μοῦ 'δωκες τὰ μάτια».
Ἀλλοίμονο ἐὰν δὲν πῇς ἓνα εὐχαριστῶ.

«Κι' ὅταν ἀκούω τὸ φλοῖσβο στὴ ἡσυχία ἀμμουδιά,
κι' ὅταν ἀκούω στὸ δάσος τὸ ζηλεμένο ἀηδόνι,
κι' ὅταν ἀκούω τ' ἀγέρι στοῦ δένδρου τὰ κλαδιά,
κι' ὅταν ἀκούω ἀκόμη τοὺς στεναγμούς τοῦ γκιόνι
καὶ τὴ φωνὴ τοῦ γρύλου στὴ σκοτεινὴ νυχτιά,
Σ' εὐχαριστῶ, Θεέ μου, ποῦ μοῦ 'δωκες τ' αὐτιά».

Τὸ λέμε ἐμεῖς αὐτὸ τὸ εὐχαριστῶ, ἡ **εἵμα-
στε ἀχάριστοι**; Ἡ θεία Λειτουργία λέει· Σ' εὐ-
χαριστοῦμε, οὐράνιε Πατέρα, «**ὕπὲρ πάντων**»,
γιὰ ὅλες τὶς **εὐεργεσίες** σου, ὑλικές καὶ πνευ-
ματικές, **φανερές καὶ ἀφανεῖς** (βλ. εὐχ. ἀγ. ἑναφ.).

Προχωροῦμε τώρα. Μὲ τίς πέντε αἰσθήσεις
λαμβάνουμε μιὰ ἰδέα τοῦ φυσικοῦ καὶ ὁρατοῦ
κόσμου. Γεννᾶται τὸ ἐρώτημα· ἐκτὸς τοῦ κό-
σμου αὐτοῦ **δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλος κόσμος**; Οἱ ὑ-
λισταὶ λένε· Ὑλὴ καὶ μόνο ὕλη ὑπάρχει. Δὲν
εἶνε ἔτσι. Ἡ πραγματικότης, ἡ παρατήρησις,
ἡ ἔρευνα, ἡ μελέτη, ὠδήγησαν σοφοὺς **ἐπι-
στήμονες καὶ συγγραφεῖς** στὴν πεποίθησιν ὅτι
**ὑπάρχει καὶ ἄλλος κόσμος, ἀόρατος, ὁ κό-
σμος τοῦ Θεοῦ**· οἱ ἅγιοι, οἱ ἄγγελοι, οἱ δαίμο-
νος, ἡ κόλασις, ὁ παράδεισος, ἡ αἰώνιος ζωή.

✓ Παιδιὰ στὸ σχολεῖο μαθαίναμε γιὰ τὸ **Ἐνύ-
πνιον τοῦ Σκιπίωνος** (Somnium Scipionis). Σ' αὐτὸ ὁ πε-
ρίφημος Κικέρων λέει, ὅτι ὁ Σκιπίων εἶδε τὴν
εὐτυχισμένη μετὰ θάνατον ζωή, διαπιστώνει
πόσο μικρὴ εἶνε αὐτὴ ἡ Γῆ μέσα στὸ σύμπαν
καὶ συμπεραίνει, ὅτι ἀξίζει κανεὶς νὰ περιφρο-
νῇ τὴ ματαιότητά τῶν γηίνων καὶ νὰ στραφῇ
στὴν οὐράνια δόξα· πετάει πάνω ἀπὸ τὸν φυ-
σικὸν κόσμον καὶ βλέπει τὸν ἀόρατον κόσμον.

✓ Δὲν σοῦ φτάνει ὁ Κικέρων; διάβασε ἔργα
τοῦ Πλάτωνος· τὸν **Κρίτωνα**, τὸν **Εὐθύφωνα**,
τὸν **Φαῖδωνα**, τὴν **Ἀπολογία**. Νὰ δῇς τίς τε-
λευταῖες ἡμέρες καὶ ὥρες τοῦ Σωκράτους,
τότε ποῦ ἡ ψυχὴ του παίρνει φτερά μεγάλα
καὶ πετάει στὸν ἄλλο κόσμον.

✓ Περισσότερο ὁμως ἀπὸ τὰ ἀνθρώπινα αὐ-
τὰ ἔργα ἐγὼ συνιστῶ ν' ἀνοίξετε τὴν **Καινὴ
Διαθήκη**, στὴν πρὸς Κορινθίους Δευτέρα ἐπι-
στολή, κεφάλαιο δωδέκατο. Ἐκεῖ θὰ δῇτε τὸν
ἀπόστολο Παῦλον νὰ πετᾷ, νὰ φτάνῃ μέχρι
«**τρίτου οὐρανοῦ**». Δὲν εἶνε πλάσμα καὶ φαν-
τασία, δὲν εἶνε ὄνειρο καὶ φιλοσοφικὸς στοχα-
σμός· εἶνε ἡ πραγματικότης. Ἐκεῖ στὸν κόσμον
ἐκεῖνον εἶδε καὶ ἀκουσε πράγματα «**ἀ οὐκ ἐξὸν
ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι**», ποῦ ἄνθρωπος δὲν μπο-
ρεῖ νὰ τὰ πῇ (β' Κορ. 12,4). Τέτοια μεγαλεῖα! Ὅσο
εἴσαι βέβαιος ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἡλιος, γῆ, ἀστέρες
καὶ γαλαξίες, τόσο κι ἀκόμη περισσότερο νὰ
πιστεύῃς, ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἄλλη ζωὴ τὴν ὁποία λα-
χταροῦμε. «**Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ὥδε μένουσαν πόλιν,
ἀλλὰ τὴν μέλλουσαν ἐπιζητοῦμεν**» (Ἑβρ. 13,14). Νὰ
σὲ τί διαφέρουμε οἱ Χριστιανοὶ ἀπὸ τοὺς μαρ-
ξιστάς· ἐκεῖνοι λένε ὕλη, ἐμεῖς λέμε πνεῦμα!
καὶ ὅτι ὁλόκληρο τὸ ὁρατὸ τοῦτο σύμπαν εἶ-
νε μικρὸ μπροστὰ στὸ ἀόρατο ἐκεῖνο σύμπαν
τοῦ πνευματικοῦ κόσμου.

Λοιπόν, προχωρῶ ἀκόμη. Ἐὰν τὸν φυσικὸν
κόσμον τὸν αἰσθανώμαστε μὲ τίς πέντε αἰσθή-

σεις, πῶς θὰ αἰσθανθοῦμε ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἀόρα-
τος κόσμος; Ὑπάρχει μιὰ ἄλλη αἴσθησις. Ὡς ἡ
ἄλλη αἴσθησις! Μέσ' στοὺς χίλιους ἕνας τὴν
ἔχει – μακάριος αὐτός. Τὴν ὀνομάζουν **ἐκτη
αἴσθησις**, καὶ κατ' αὐτὴν διαφέρει ὁ ἄνθρωπος
ἀπὸ τὰ ζῶα, ποὺ πέντε αἰσθήσεις ἔχουν κι αὐτά
(μερικὰ μάλιστα νικοῦν τὸν ἄνθρωπον στὶς αἰ-
σθήσεις· ὁ ἀετὸς βλέπει πιὸ μακριά, ὁ σκύλος
ἀκούει πιὸ καθαρά, κ.τ.λ.).

Ἐκεῖνο ποὺ κάνει τὸν ἄνθρωπον νὰ ὑπερέ-
χῃ εἶνε ὁ νοῦς. Ὅχι ὁ ὁποιοσδήποτε νοῦς,
ἀλλ' ἐκεῖνος ποὺ φωτίζεται ἀπὸ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ
ἅγιο καὶ φτάνει στὴν πίστι. Ἡ **πίστις** ὀπλίζει τὸ
νοῦ καὶ τότε ὁ ἄνθρωπος ἀνέρχεται στὰ οὐ-
ράνια, βλέπει τὰ ἀόρατα, ἀγγίζει τὰ ἀψαυστα.

Τὸν 4ο αἰῶνα ζοῦσε τὴν Ἀλεξάνδρεια ὁ Δί-
δυμος ὁ τυφλός, διδάσκαλος τῆς κατηχητικῆς
σχολῆς. Ὅταν τὸν συνάντησε ὁ μέγας Ἀντώ-
νιος τοῦ εἶπε· Σὲ μακαρίζω· στερήθηκες μὲν τὰ
σωματικά μάτια, ἔχεις ὁμως μάτια πνευματικά,
ἔχεις πίστι, καὶ βλέπεις ὅσα ἄλλοι δὲν βλέπουν.

Ὁ **ἄπιστος εἶνε τυφλός**. Τὸ εἶπε κάποτε ὁ
Χριστός· μάτια ἔχουν μὰ δὲν βλέπουν, αὐτιά
ἔχουν μὰ δὲν ἀκοῦνε (βλ. Μάρκ. 8,18). Αὐτὴ τὴν κα-
τάστασι περιέγραψαν ὁ Πλάτων στὸ *Σπήλαιον*
τοῦ καὶ ὁ Ντοστογιέφσκυ στὸ *Υπόγειόν* του.

Ἡ ἐποχὴ μας καυχήθηκε γιὰ τὰ πολλὰ τῆς
γράμματα... Ἐγὼ π.χ. γεννήθηκα σ' ἓνα νησάκι
τῶν Κυκλάδων, οἱ ὁποῖες τότε εἶχαν μόνο ἓνα
γυμνάσιο, τὸ Γυμνάσιον Σύρου, καὶ τώρα μαθαί-
νω ὅτι ἔχουν πενήντα γυμνάσια! Γέμισε ὁ κό-
σμος σχολεῖα. Καὶ ἡ Ἑλλάδα, ἐκεῖ ποῦ εἶχε ἓνα
πανεπιστήμιο, τώρα ἔχει δέκα! Φουρνιὲς πτυ-
χιούχων βγαίνουν. Δὲν κατηγορῶ τὴν ἐπιστημο-
νικὴ μὀρφωσι, συμβαίνει ὁμως μία ἐκτροπή. Ἡ
πολλὴ γνῶσις χωρὶς Θεό, **τὰ ἄθεα γράμματα**, ποῦ
εἶπε ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς, **εἶνε μεγάλη συμφορά**. Ὁ
κόσμος κινδυνεύει ὄχι ἀπὸ τὸ βοσκὸ καὶ τὸ γε-
ωργό, ἀλλ' ἀπὸ ἐπιστήμονες ποὺ θὰ πατήσουν
ἓνα κουμπὶ καὶ θὰ φέρουν τὴν καταστροφή. Ἐ-
νας Γερμανὸς συγγραφέας εἶπε· Ἰδοὺ ἐγώ, μὲ
τόσα φῶτα, τυφλὸς ὅπως καὶ πρῶτα. Μὰς τύ-
φλωσε ἡ φιλαργυρία, ἡ φιληδονία, ἡ φιλοδοξία,
ὁ ἐγωισμός, ἡ ἀπάτη, τὸ μῖσος. Μέσα στὸ σκο-
τάδι ἀδελφὸς σκοτώνει τὸν ἀδελφό, ὁ Κάιν
σκοτώνει τὸν Ἀβελ. Σήμερα, ποῦ ἀκούσαμε
αὐτὸ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, ἂς ποῦμε μιὰ προσευχή·

Κύριε, εἴμαστε τυφλοὶ, δὲς μας νὰ δοῦμε
τὸ φῶς σου! εἴμαστε κουφοί, δὲς μας ν' ἀκού-
σουμε τὴ φωνή σου! εἴμαστε ἀλαλοὶ, κάνε τὴ
γλῶσσα μας νὰ γίνῃ κιθάρα καὶ νὰ ψάλλῃ μέ-
ρα - νύχτα τὰ μεγαλεῖα σου· ἀμήν.

(†) **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

They Saw Because They Believed

At that point, two blind men follow the Lord as He was passing by. But if they could not see, how could the blind men know of the Lord's departure as well as His name? Moreover, they called him "Son of David" and asked to be made well. In the two blind men, the entire earlier pre-figuration is complete. The ruler's daughter seems to be from these people, namely, the Pharisees and John's disciples, who already made common cause in testing the Lord.

To these unknowing persons the law gave evidence as to the one from whom they sought a cure. It indicated to them that their Savior in the flesh was of the line of David. It also introduced light to the minds of those who

were blind from past sins. They could not see Christ but were told about Him.

The Lord showed them that faith should not be expected as a result of health but health should be expected because of faith. The blind men saw because they believed; they did not believe because they saw. From this we understand that what is requested must be predicated on faith and that faith must not be exercised because of what has been obtained. If they should believe, He offers them sight. And He charges the believers to be silent, for it was exclusively the task of the Apostles to preach.

St. Hilary of Poitiers

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.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