

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 2nd , 2023
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SAINT MARY OF EGYPT



Icon of Saints Zozimos and Mary of Egypt

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 Hebrews 9:11-14

BRETHREN, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 9:11-14 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστὸς δὲ παραγενόμενος ἀρχιερεὺς τῶν μελλόντων ἀγαθῶν, διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ τελειοτέρας σκηνῆς, οὐ χειροποιήτου, τοῦτ' ἔστιν, οὐ ταύτης τῆς κτίσεως, οὐδὲ δι' αἵματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων, διὰ δὲ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος εἰσῆλθεν ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ ἅγια, αἰωνίαν λύτρωσιν εὐράμενος. Εἰ γὰρ τὸ αἷμα ταύρων καὶ τράγων, καὶ σποδὸς δαμάλεως ραντίζουσα τοὺς κεκοινωμένους, ἀγιάζει πρὸς τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα, πόσῳ μᾶλλον τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὃς διὰ πνεύματος αἰωνίου ἑαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν ἁμωμον τῷ θεῷ, καθαριεὶ τὴν συνείδησιν ὑμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν ἔργων, εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν θεῷ ζῶντι;

The Gospel According to Mark 10:32-45

At that time, Jesus took his twelve disciples, and he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς δώδεκα μαθητάς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἤρξατο αὐτοῖς λέγειν τὰ μέλλοντα αὐτῷ συμβαίνειν, ὅτι ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδοθήσεται τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσι καὶ γραμματεῦσι, καὶ κατακρινούσιν αὐτὸν θανάτῳ καὶ παραδώσουσιν αὐτὸν τοῖς ἔθνεσι, καὶ ἐμπαΐξουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ μαστιγώσουσιν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπτύσουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται. Καὶ προσπορεύονται αὐτῷ Ἰάκωβος καὶ Ἰωάννης υἱοὶ Ζεβεδαίου λέγοντες· διδάσκαλε, θέλομεν ἵνα ὁ ἐὰν αἰτήσωμεν ποιήσης ἡμῖν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τί θέλετε ποιῆσαί με ὑμῖν; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δὸς ἡμῖν ἵνα εἷς ἐκ δεξιῶν σου καὶ εἷς ἐξ ἐυωνύμων σου καθίσωμεν ἐν τῇ δόξῃ σου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐκ οἴδατε τί αἰτεῖσθε. δύνασθε πιεῖν τὸ ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ πίνω, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθῆναι; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δυνάμεθα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τὸ μὲν ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ πίνω πίεσθε, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθήσεσθε· τὸ δὲ καθίσαι ἐκ δεξιῶν μου καὶ ἐξ ἐυωνύμων οὐκ ἔστιν ἐμὸν δοῦναι, ἀλλ' οἷς ἡτοίμασται. Καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ δέκα ἤρξαντο ἀγανακτεῖν περὶ Ἰακώβου καὶ Ἰωάννου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτοὺς λέγει αὐτοῖς· οἴδατε ὅτι οἱ δοκοῦντες ἄρχειν τῶν ἐθνῶν κατακυριεύουσιν αὐτῶν καὶ οἱ μεγάλοι αὐτῶν κατεξουσιάζουσιν αὐτῶν· οὐχ οὕτω δὲ ἔσται ἐν ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ὃς ἐὰν θέλη γενέσθαι μέγας ἐν ὑμῖν, ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος, καὶ ὃς ἐὰν θέλη ὑμῶν γενέσθαι πρῶτος, ἔσται πάντων δοῦλος· καὶ γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἦλθε διακονηθῆναι, ἀλλὰ διακονῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ λύτρον ἀντὶ πολλῶν.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Coffee fellowship today in WHITEHALL is being offered by the family of +SOPHIE ARNIOTES in loving memory and is being served by the YOUTH CLUB T.H.Y.

TODAY is the Feast Day of SAINT MARY OF EGYPT.

The beauty of all Egypt, Mary comes to Jerusalem with a myriad of pilgrims. She did not miss any of the celebration Hebrew or pagan that was entertaining and pleasurable. Mary joined a group of Christians whose solemnity she considered strange. Far from the pagan orgies she was accustomed to participate, she joined a quiet procession to the Holy Sepulchre (TOMB of CHRIST). At the entrance of the church, Mary was 'held back' by an unseen power. Fear entered her heart for the first time. Her conversion to Christ her penance and atonement of sins followed. She entered a convent of nuns on the banks of the River Jordan. Known as the 'PENITENT SAINT' in the sixth century she is an example of deliverance from sin. For 40 years in the desert monastery her beauty of soul redeemed, marked her comfort and inspiration to others.

TOMORROW: MONDAY-APRIL 03rd the PASCHAL SEASON HOLY WATER will be blessed at 11:00 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. Please arrive early to receive the water.

Services this Week:	Monday, April 03 rd ,	HOLY WATER BLESSING	11:00 – 11:45
	Wednesday, April 05 th ,	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	12:00 NOON
	Saturday, April 08 th ,	Saint Lazarus Liturgy	10:00 0-A.M.

PALM WEAVERS are needed to volunteer to prepare the woven crosses distributed on **SUNDAY of PALMS (APRIL 09th)**. The volunteers will use their nimble fingers to construct the approximately 5,000 (FIVE THOUSAND CROSSES) requested and joyously distributed at the conclusion of the Divine liturgy. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER**

THE DATES ARE:	MONDAY –	APRIL 03 rd ,	11 A.M.
	TUESDAY -	APRIL 04 th ,	11 A.M.
	WEDNESDAY-	APRIL 05 th ,	11 A.M.

ALTAR ESSENTIALS: are needed – sacramental wine, fragrant incense, carbon coals, prophora, linen sheets..

PASCHAL GREETING CARD: Have you registered your name for the **CHRISTOS ANESTI GREETING DOUBLE ICON CARD** which will be forwarded for Pascha to 1,000 homes of the community. Fill out the form with your \$20.00 (TWENTY DOLLAR DONATION) TODAY! COME TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AND REGISTER. We will look for your name!

PLEASE NOTE: The Blessing of HOLY WATER (AGIASMOS) is observed and celebrated every **FIRST OF THE MONTH!** The service is from 11:00 A.M. to 11:45 A.M. Only when the first (1st.) of the month is a **SUNDAY**—the blessing transfers to **MONDAY MORNING**. Please mark your calendars accordingly.

PALM SUNDAY FISH DINNER (COD-BAKALAO) will be served in **WHITEHALL** after the **DIVINE LITURGY** Sunday -April 09th. Please refer to the centerfold for all the particulars on this traditional meal presentation. **IT'S TRADITION!**

ALTAR FLOWERS: Potted Easter plants will be available for display on the sanctuary steps for all of **HOLY WEEK** April 09th – 16th) Please refer to the centerfold to secure your thanksgiving or memorial tribute **BY NAME**,

MEMORIALS TODAY: + PANAGOS (PETER) DIAMANTIS + SOPHIE ARNIOTES

Please take note that this is the **LAST Sunday for MEMORIAL Commemorations** until after Pascha resuming on Sunday – **APRIL 30th**.

Senior Club Newsletter April - May 2023



Wednesday April 05th,



PALM WEAVERS GATHERING in ROSE-HALL 11:A.M.
Learn the folk art of Cross Weaving!
from 11:00 A.M.
Light Lenten Luncheon 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday April 12th,



HOLY WEDNESDAY (NO MEETING)
Sacrament of Euchelaion ANOINTING)
5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

Wednesday April 19th,



PASCHAL LUNCHEON ! CHRISTOS ANESTI !
Hot Easter Meal with all the traditional
trimmings: red eggs, tsourekis, sweets,
singing hymns and lighting the "CANDLE".
REJOICE! HE IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD!

Wednesday April 26th,



Regular meeting with BINGO,
Buffet of luncheon treats and Paschal
sweets with coffee. TOMORROW - we are
invited to GRACIE MANSION by MAYOR ERIC
ADAMS for Hellenic Heritage Honors 6-8 PM
Did you reserve a seat for the 'bus'?

Wednesday May 03rd,



BUS TRIP TO NATIONAL SHRINE SAINT NICHOLAS
CHURCH at World Trade Center - Manhattan.
departure time to be announced.
This is a late morning, noon trip returning by
2:00 P.M. for a bit of B I N G O.

Wednesday May 10th,

REGULAR MEETING AT ROSE-HALL 1:00 P.M.
Light refreshments, coffee and sweets
B I N G O



Wednesday May 17th,



MOTHERS' DAY OBSERVANCE
Chocolates, sweets, cakes, coffee and
poetry for mothers ! B I N G O

Wednesday May 24th,



MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE ALL ALL WHO HAVE
'fallen asleep in the Lord'
Father Eugene will intone the prayers.
Light lunch refreshments, coffee and cake.
TOMORROW (May 25th)
is the FEAST of the ASCENSION (ANALYSIS)
This is MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

Wednesday May 31st,

Party-time

FINAL MEETING FOR THE SEASON!
Party time at the club. FRANKS and BEANS,
POTATO SALAD, COLE SLAW, PICKLES and
a variety of desserts, fruits and candies.

A REMINDER: Some of our very regular members have been neglectful of dues that keep our 'CLUB' operating from one week to another. half the year is passed Please submit your 'offering' soon.....

Georgia Stamos

Demetri Bouroutis

Co-Presidents who wish everyone a happy, healthful and safe summer.



THREE HIERARCHS PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

APRIL 9th, WHITEHALL
Three Hierarchs Church
1724 Ave P
Brooklyn, NY

MENU

FASOULADA & SPLIT PEA SOUP

SALAD

BAKALIARO & SKORDALIA

ROASTED LEMON POTATOES

SPANAKORIZO

COFFEE or TEA

FRESH FRUIT & LENTEN SWEETS

ADULTS: \$30:00 CHILDREN: \$15.00

RESERVE SEATS Call:

**Harry Lambrakis 646-644-0234
or Church Office 718-339-0280**





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κανναβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@ygho.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2547	Κυριακὴ Ε' Νηστειῶν (Μάρκ. 10,32-45) 2 Ἀπριλίου 2023	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντζώτης
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Ἐγερτήριο ἐν ὄψει τοῦ Πάσχα

« Ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα... » (Μάρκ. 10,33)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε Πέμπτη Κυριακῇ τῶν Νηστειῶν· εἶνε ἀκόμη μνήμη τῆς ὁσίας Μαρίας τῆς Αἰγυπτίας, ποὺ 47 ὁλόκληρα χρόνια ἔζησε μὲ αὐστηρὴ ἀσκησι πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου καὶ εἶχε πνευματικὸ πατέρα τὸν ἅγιο Ζωσιμᾶ, στὸν ὁποῖον ἀφησε τὴν ἐντολὴ «Θάψε, ἄββα Ζωσιμᾶ, τὸ λείψανό τῆς ταπεινῆς Μαρίας» (Σοφρον. 1α, Βασ. Μαρ. Αἰγ., λη' Ρ.Γ. 877, 374α).

Σήμερα ἐπίσης εἶνε τὸ προοίμιο τῶν σεπτῶν παθῶν τοῦ Κυρίου, τὸ προανάκρουσμα τῆς Μεγάλης Ἑβδομάδος, καθὼς ἀκοῦμε «Ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα...» (Μάρκ. 10,33). Ἐμπρός, λέει, νὰ πᾶμε στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα.

—Μά, θὰ πῇ κανεὶς, ἐγὼ εἶμαι φτωχός, δὲν ἔχω λεφτά οὔτε γιὰ εἰσιτήριο ἐντὸς τῆς πόλεως· πῶς νὰ πᾶω στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα;

Μπορεῖ κάποιος νὰ 'νε πλούσιος καὶ νὰ πᾶη στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, καὶ ὁμως νὰ εἶνε μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα· κ' ἐσύ μπορεῖ νὰ 'σαι φτωχάκι χωρὶς φράγκο στὴν τσέπη, καὶ ὁμως νὰ βρεθῇς πολὺ κοντὰ στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα· νὰ ἔχῃς κάνει τὴν καρδιά σου Ἱεροσόλυμα.

Πῶς γίνεται αὐτό; Δώστε λίγη προσοχή στὴν ἐρμηνεία τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου (βλ. Μάρκ. 10,34).

« Ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα », λέει ὁ Κύριος. Στὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα βλέπουμε, ἀγαπητοί μου, δυὸ ἀντίθετα πράγματα· διαφορετικὰ σκέπτεται ὁ Χριστός, καὶ διαφορετικὰ οἱ ἀπόστολοι μαθηταὶ του. Γιατί αὐτὴ ἡ διαφορά; Δὲν θὰ ἔπρεπε οἱ μαθηταί, μὲ τὸ νοῦ καθαρισμένο ἀπὸ ἐσφαλμένες ἀντιλήψεις, νὰ ἔχουν λογισμοὺς ὑψηλοὺς, αἰσθήματα μεγάλα ποὺ ἐμπνέει ἡ διδασκαλία τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Καὶ ὁμως δὲν συναισθάνονται τί σημαίνει ὅτι τώρα ὁ Χριστὸς ἀνεβαίνει στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα.

Ἀνέβηκε καὶ ἄλλοτε· ὅταν ἦταν δώδεκα ἐτῶν, τότε ποὺ ἡ Παναγία τὸν ἔφερε καὶ προσκύνησε στὸ Ναὸ τοῦ Σολομώντος (βλ. Λουκ. 2,42 κ.ε.). Πολλές φορές ἀνέβηκε στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, ἀλλὰ τώρα εἶνε ἡ τελευταία φορὰ· ἄρχισε ἡ πορεία τοῦ θανάτου. Γνωρίζει λεπτομερῶς τί θὰ συμβῇ μέσα στὴν ἀγία πόλι. Ἐμεῖς οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν γνωρίζουμε οὔτε τί θὰ συμβῇ σήμερα, ἂν θὰ φτάσουμε τὸ βράδυ στὸ σπιτί μας·

ἀλλὰ ὁ Κύριος ὡς Θεὸς γνωρίζει ὅλο τὸ μέλλον. Προφητεύει λοιπὸν καὶ λέει στοὺς μαθητὰς ὅτι Στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα ποὺ πᾶμε θὰ μὲ πιάσουν, θὰ μὲ σύρουν ἀπὸ κριτήριο σὲ κριτήριο, θὰ μὲ καταδικάσουν, θὰ μὲ ἐμπαΐξουν, θὰ μὲ μαστιγώσουν, θὰ μὲ φτύσουν, θὰ μὲ σταυρώσουν, ἀλλὰ σὲ τρεῖς ἡμέρες θὰ ἀναστηθῶ. Αὐτὰ λέει· καὶ τ' ἀκοῦνε οἱ μαθηταί.

Ἀκούγοντας αὐτὰ τί ἔπρεπε νὰ νιώσουν; Δὲν θὰ ἔπρεπε νὰ συμπονέσουν, νὰ δείξουν συμπάθεια στὸν Διδάσκαλο ποὺ βαδίζει πρὸς τὸ μαρτύριο; Καὶ ὁμως δὲν κατάλαβαν, δὲν αἰσθάνθηκαν τὸν πόνο τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Σὲ μιὰ στιγμή μάλιστα, ἐνῶ ὁ ἐκεῖνος τοὺς μιλοῦσε γιὰ ἀγκάθινο στεφάνι καὶ καρφιά, οἱ δυὸ πιὸ ἀγαπημένοι μαθηταί του, ὁ Ἰωάννης καὶ ὁ Ἰάκωβος, πλησιάζουν καὶ τὶ τοῦ ζητᾶνε· Κύριε, λέει, νὰ μᾶς κἀνὴς ὑπουργοὺς καὶ νὰ μᾶς δώσῃς τὰ ἰσχυρότερα ὑπουργεῖα. Ναί, αὐτὸ τὸ νόημα ἔχουν σὲ σημερινὴ γλῶσσα τὰ λόγια τους «Δός ἡμῖν ἵνα εἰς ἐκ δεξιῶν σου καὶ εἰς ἐξ εὐωνύμων σου καθίσωμεν ἐν τῇ δόξῃ σου» (Μάρκ. 10,37). Εἶχαν κι αὐτοὶ τὴν ἐσφαλμένη ἰδέα περὶ παγκοσμίου κυριαρχίας τῆς ἐβραϊκῆς φυλῆς· νόμιζαν, ὅτι ἦρθε ἡ ὥρα ποὺ ὁ Χριστὸς θὰ πᾶη στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, θὰ γκρεμίσι τοὺς Ῥωμαίους κατακτητὰς, θὰ γίνῃ βασιλεὺς σὰν τοὺς ἄλλους, κι αὐτοὶ δίπλα του θὰ καταλάβουν τὰ ὕψιστα ἀξιώματα!...

Ποιὸς δὲν ἀπορεῖ ὅταν ἀκούῃ τέτοια λόγια, ποιὸς δὲν «ἀγανακτεῖ»; (βλ. εἰς. 1,4). Τί λύπη θὰ αἰσθάνθηκε ὁ Χριστὸς τὴν ὥρα ἐκείνη! Ἀντὶ γὰρ ἓνα δάκρυ στὰ μάτια τους, δυὸ μαθηταί του ἐκείνη τὴν ὥρα ζητοῦσαν κοσμικὰ μεγαλεῖα. Κοντὰ στὸ Χριστὸ ἦταν, μὰ πόση ἀπόστασι τοὺς χωρίζε! Γι' αὐτὸ εἶπα, ὅτι μπορεῖ νὰ πᾶη κανεὶς τοπικῶς στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, ψυχικὰ ὁμως νὰ βρίσκεται πολὺ μακριὰ.

Καμμιὰ λοιπὸν ἐπαφὴ δὲν ὑπῆρχε τὴ στιγμή αὐτὴ μετὰ τῶν δυὸ μαθητῶν καὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἐπρεπε νὰ ῥθῇ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον· ἀνοίξῃ τὴς καρδιές τους, γιὰ νὰ καταλάβουν τί εἶνε ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ τί εἶνε ἡ βασιλεία του.

Ἀπορεῖ κανεὶς γιὰ τοὺς μαθητὰς. Μὰ ἐγὼ

ἀπορώ γὰ καὶ ἄλλο· ἀπορώ γὰ ὅλους ἐμᾶς. Ἐκεῖνοι, λέμε, τρία χρονάκια κοντὰ στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ γρὺ δὲν κατάλαβαν ἀπὸ τὸ μυστήριό του. Κ' ἐμεῖς; Πόσα χρόνια ἐρχόμαστε στὴν Ἐκκλησία, στὸ σχολεῖο τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Ἄλλος ἐρ-
χεται ὅσα χρόνια ἔχει στὴν πλάτη του, καὶ ἄλ-
λος 3, 4, 10, 20, 30, 50 χρόνια –ἀσπρισαν τὰ
μαλλιά μας–, μερικοὶ ἔχουν 60 χρόνια μαθη-
ταί. Πῆτε μου, σὰς παρακαλῶ ἐν ὀνόματι Κυ-
ρίου, τί πήραμε ἀπ' ὅλα αὐτὰ ποὺ ἀκούμε κά-
θε Κυριακὴ στὴν ἐκκλησία ὅλο τὸ χρόνο; τί ὠ-
φεληθήκαμε, ποιά προκοπὴ κάναμε; Ἐρείς
πῶς μοιάζουμε; εἴμαστε σὰν ἐκεῖνο τὸ μαθη-
τὴ ποὺ πάει σχολεῖο μὰ δὲν προχωρεῖ, δὲν εἶ-
νε εἰς θέσιν νὰ μάθῃ. **Καθυστερημένοι μαθη-
ταὶ εἴμαστε κ' ἐμεῖς.** Ἀπορεῖτε γιὰ τοὺς μαθη-
τὰς τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπορώ ἐγὼ πολὺ περισσό-
τερο γιὰ τοὺς σημερινούς Χριστιανούς. Ὅπως
μπαίνουμε, ἔτσι βγαίνουμε· μαῦροι μπαίνου-
με, μαῦροι βγαίνουμε. Γιατί; Εἶνε μεγάλο θέ-
μα αὐτό. Ἐάν κάθε Κυριακὴ καὶ παίρναμε, θὰ
ἤμασταν ὅλοι ὄχι ἄνθρωποι, ὄχι Χριστιανοί, ἀλ-
λὰ ἄγγελοι μὲ φτερά καὶ θὰ πετούσαμε στὸν
οὐρανό· ὅπως ἡ Μαρία ἡ Αἰγυπτία, ποὺ μιά φο-
ρὰ μπήκε στὴν ἐκκλησία, ἓνα λόγο μόνο ἀκου-
σε, καὶ συγκλονίστηκε. Ἐμεῖς μπαίνουμε μέ-
σα, καὶ ἄλλος μιλάει, ἄλλος βγάζει τὸ ρολοὶ του,
ἄλλος χασμουριέται... Κατὰ μάλλον παρά εὐ-
λογία παίρνουμε ἔτσι ὅπως ἐκκλησιαζόμαστε.

Ποιά εἶνε ἡ αἰτία; τί φταίει ἄραγε; **Ἄς ζητή-
σουμε νὰ ῥθῃ Πνεῦμα ἅγιο νὰ μᾶς φωτίσῃ,** νὰ
καταλάβουμε τὸν προορισμό μας· νὰ νιώσου-
με πόσο ἀδικοῦμε τὸν ἑαυτό μας μὲ τὴν ἀμέ-
λεια, πόσο ἀφήνουμε τὸν καιρὸ νὰ φεύγῃ ἐνῶ ὁ
Χριστὸς σαλπίζει «*Ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνουμεν...*» ἰδοὺ,
ἐμπρός, **προετοιμάστε τὸν ἑαυτό σας!** Ἐνῶ ὁ
Κύριος μᾶς καλεῖ σὲ ἄλλη ζωὴ, ἀνώτερη ἀπὸ
τὴ ζωὴ τῶν αἰσθήσεων, τὴ ζωὴ τῶν κτηνῶν, ἐνῶ
μᾶς ὁδηγεῖ σὲ μιὰ οὐράνια ζωὴ, ἐμεῖς ἐξακο-
λουθοῦμε μὲ ἀναίδεια νὰ δείχνουμε ἀδιαφο-
ρία γιὰ τὰ πνευματικὰ καὶ αἰώνια. Κουροῦνες
μπαίνουμε στὴν ἐκκλησία, καὶ κουροῦνες μέ-
νουμε. Ἄν πᾶτε στοὺς προτεστάντες ἢ στοὺς
φράγκους, ὅλοι τοὺς ἐκεῖ εἶνε συγκεντρωμέ-
νοι· κ' ἐμεῖς, ποὺ ἔχουμε τὴν πιὸ ὠραία λα-
τρεία, τὴ μόνη ζωντανὴ θρησκεία, δὲν τὴν ζοῦ-
με. Δὲν πιστεύουν οἱ κληρικοὶ, δὲν πιστεύουν
οἱ ψαλτάδες, δὲν πιστεύουν οἱ ἐπίτροποι – νὰ
λέμε ὡμὴ τὴν ἀλήθεια. Καὶ θὰ μᾶς κλείσῃ ὁ
Θεὸς τίς ἐκκλησίες, γιατί δὲν ἐκτιμοῦμε τὴν
δωρεά του. Μπορεῖ στὰ λόγια μου νὰ εἶμαι
σκληρός, ἀλλὰ εἶμαι ἀληθινός.

Ἐρχεται πάλι τὸ Πάσχα. Πῶς θὰ τὸ ἐορτά-
σουμε; Τί εἶνε Πάσχα; **Χριστὸς στὴν καρδιά!**
Τὸν ἔχουμε μέσα μας; Ὁ Κύριος ἀνεβαίνει τε-
λευταία φορὰ στὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ **μᾶς καλεῖ**
σὲ ἓνα πνευματικὸ ἐγερτήριο. **Θὰ τ' ἀκούσουμε;**
Ἔερετε τί φοβάμαι ἀδέρφια μου; μήπως πά-
θουμε κ' ἐμεῖς ὅ,τι ἔπαθε στὴν ἀρχαία ἐποχὴ,
τὸν 4ο π.Χ. αἰῶνα, ἓνας τύραννος ὀλιγαρχι-

κὸς στὴ Θήβα ποὺ λεγόνταν **Ἀρχίας.** Αὐτὸς
τὸ 379 π.Χ., ὅπως γράφει ὁ Πλούταρχος, εἶχε
ἓνα καλὸ φίλο, ὁ ὁποῖος ἔμαθε, ὅτι οἱ ἀντίπα-
λοι τοῦ Ἀρχία μὲ τὸν Πελοπίδα ἐτοιμάζονται
νὰ πᾶνε νύχτα νὰ τὸν ἀνατρέψουν. Σὰν φίλος,
ἐνδιαφέρθηκε γι' αὐτόν. Γράφει ἓνα γράμμα,
τὸ σφραγίζει, τὸ δίνει σ' ἓναν **ὕπηρέτη** καὶ τοῦ
λέει· Τρέξε, παιδί μου, νὰ προλάβῃς· πῆγαι-
νε γρήγορα στὴ Θήβα, δός το αὐτὸ στὸν Ἀρ-
χία καὶ πές του νὰ τ' ἀνοίξῃ ἀμέσως. Ὁ ὕπη-
ρέτης φτάνει ἐγκαίρως ἐκεῖ, καὶ βίσκεϊ τὸν
Ἀρχία νὰ διασκεδάσῃ στὸ σπῖτι ἐνὸς φίλου
του. Δίνει τὸ γράμμα καὶ τοῦ λέει· –Αὐτὸ εἶνε
ἀπὸ τὸν φίλο σου καὶ μὲ διέταξε νὰ σοῦ πῶ ἐ-
πειγόντως, νὰ τ' ἀνοίξῃς ἀμέσως. Ὁ Ἀρχίας, ζα-
λισμένος ἀπὸ τὴ διασκέδασι, παίρνει τὸ γράμ-
μα καὶ τ' ἀφήνει σὲ μὴν ἄκρη λέγοντας τὴ φρά-
σι ποὺ ἔμεινε παροιμιώδης· –**Ἐς αὖριον τὰ
σπουδαῖα**» (=αὔριο τὰ ἐπείγοντα), αὖριο δη-
λαδὴ θ' ἀνοίξω τὸ γράμμα. Δὲν πέρασε ὁμως
πολλὴ ὥρα καὶ νᾶτοι οἱ συνωμότες· ἦρθαν μὲ
τὰ μαχαίρια καὶ τὸν ἐσφάξαν. Ὅταν κατόπιν ἀ-
νοίχθηκε ἡ ἐπιστολὴ ὅλοι ἔλεγαν· Τί ἀμέλεια,
τί βλακεία ἔκανε λέγοντας «Αὔριο τὰ σπου-
δαῖα»! Τὸ «αὖριο» δὲν ξημέρωσε γι' αὐτόν.

Μὲ καταλάβετε; **Στὴ θέσι τοῦ ὑπηρέτη εἶμαι
κ' ἐγὼ** αὕτῃ τὴν ὥρα, καθὼς καὶ ὅλοι οἱ κήρυ-
κες τοῦ θείου λόγου. Εἴμαστε ὑπηρέτες ἐνὸς
φίλου σας, ποὺ μᾶς στέλνει ἐπείγόντως νὰ σὰς
εἰδοποιήσουμε. Ποιὸς εἶνε ὁ φίλος σας; Ἐνας
εἶνε, δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλος στὸν κόσμος. Εἶνε ἐκεῖ-
νος ποὺ ἀγαπᾷ τὸν ἄνθρωπο καὶ θ' ἀκούσε-
τε τὰ βράδια τῆς Μεγάλης Τετάρτης (καὶ νῦν, ἀπο-
σπ. ὁρθ. Μ. Πέμπτ.) καὶ τῆς Μεγάλης Πέμπτης «*Ὑμεῖς
φίλοι μου ἐστε*» (Ἰω. 15, 14 & 15 ἀγγλ.). Ἐνας εἶνε ὁ ἀλη-
θινὸς φίλος μας, ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός· καὶ στέλ-
νει ἐμᾶς τοὺς ὑπηρέτες καὶ σὰς δώσουμε μίαν
σφραγισμένη ἐπιστολὴ ποὺ λέει· «*Ἰδοὺ ἀνα-
βαίνουμεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα*»· νά, «*ἐσχάτῃ ὥρᾳ
ἐστί*» (Ἰ. 10, 21 β). **Τελευταία ὥρα εἶνε.**

Ἐγὼ εὐχομαι, νὰ γιορτάσετε πολλὰ Πάσχα,
νὰ γεράσετε, νὰ γίνετε ἐκατὸ χρονῶν. Δὲν ξέ-
ρουμε ὁμως ἂν τὸ Πάσχα αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ τελευ-
ταῖο. Λοιπόν, ἀδέρφια μου, σὰς εἰδοποιῶ· «*Ἰ-
δοὺ ἀναβαίνουμεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα*». Ἐμπρός ὁ-
λοι, γυναῖκες - ἄντρες, μικροὶ - μεγάλοι! «*Ψυ-
χαὶ καθαφαὶ καὶ ἀρρυπῶτοις χεῖλεσι*» (Ἰβρ. Μ. Τπ.
ἱερ. 31 β), μὲ καρδιά ἁγία καὶ χέρια τίμια, μὲ μετά-
νοια, δάκρυα καὶ ἐξομολόγησι, μὲ συγγνώμη καὶ
ἔλεος, μὲ φωτιά στὴν καρδιά, Χριστιανοὶ ἀλη-
θινοὶ ὄχι ψεύτικοι, **νὰ πλησιάσουμε τὸ Χριστό.**

Ἄν τὰ κάνουμε αὐτά, σὰς κάνω συμβόλαιον·
τὸ Πάσχα τὸ φετινὸ θὰ ᾖν τὸ ὠραιότερο· θὰ
ᾖν Πάσχα μὲ ἀγάπη καὶ θεία κοινωνία, μὲ τὸ
Χριστό· ἡ καρδιά σας θὰ γίνῃ Ἰορδάνης καὶ
Ἱεροσόλυμα· καὶ ἀπὸ τὰ μικρὰ αὐτὰ Ἱεροσό-
λυμα θ' ἀνεβοῦμε «*εἰς τὴν ἄνω Ἱερουσαλήμ*»
(Μ. Δαντ, ἀν.), «*ὁπου ἡχος καθαρὸς*» ἁγίων, ἀγγέ-
λων καὶ ἀρχαγγέλων, ὑμνοῦντων «*ἀπαύστως*»
καὶ λεγόντων «*Κύριε, δόξα σοι*» (βλ. Μ. Τπ. 1, ἀν.).

(†) 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 2023 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

Whoever Wishes to be Great

Blessed is he who, dwelling amidst many people, does not turn towards the many, but directs his whole heart to God. Blessed is he who purchases Christ with all his belongings and has, as his only possession, the cross, which he raises on high. Blessed is he who, administering his legal possessions, extends God's hand to those who are in need ...

Blessed is he who, having authority over the people, by holy and great sacrifices brings Christ to earthly folk. Blessed is the one, who, being a child of the flock, a most perfect nursing, keeps the place of the heavenly Christ. Blessed is he who, by his pure mind's forceful movements, beholds the brilliance of the heavenly lights. Blessed is he who honors the Lord by much-toiling hands: and, for many people, this is the law of life. All these things fill up the heavenly receptacles in which are

stored the fruit of our souls, while every individual virtue leads to a different place. For many are the mansions pertaining to different lives.

Blessed is he, whom the mighty Spirit has shown to be poor in passions, whoever leads a life of repentance; who can never get his fill of celestial food; who, by kindness, becomes inheritor of great things; who, by bowels of mercy, draws down God's great compassion, being a friend of peace and pure in heart; who, for the sake of the renowned Christ, has endured many sufferings, and will find great honor. Keep to the way of these people, whichever you prefer.

St. Gregory the Theologian

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RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 25th 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)**

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