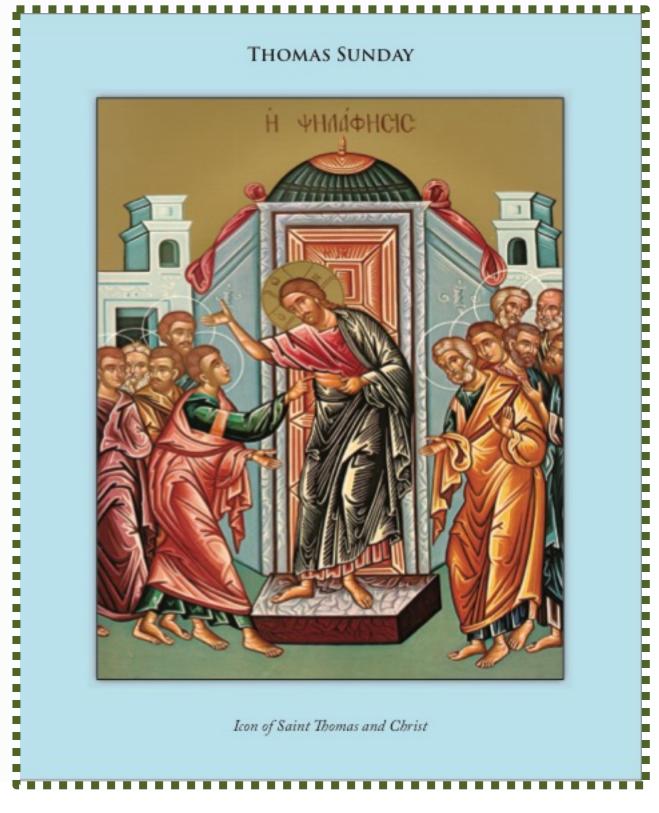


# Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

### SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas



1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206Tel: (718) - 339- 0280Web site:www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.orgE-mail : info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

#### Prokeimenon. Grave Mode Psalm 63.11,1

#### The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. Verse: Oh God, hear my cry.

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11

About that time, Herod the king laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He killed James the brother of John with the sword; and when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread. And when he had seized him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending after the Passover to bring him out to the people. So Peter was kept in prison; but earnest prayer for him was made to God by the Church. The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, "Wrap your mantle around you and follow me." And he went out and followed him; he did not know that what was done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened to them of its own accord, and they went out and passed on through one street; and immediately the angel left him. And Peter came to himself, and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

#### Προκείμενον. Ήχος βαρύς

#### ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 63.11,1 Εὐφρανθήσεται δίκαιος ἐν Κυρίω. Στίχ. Εἰσάκουσον, ὁ Θεός, τῆς φωνῆς μου.

#### Πράξεις Άποστόλων 12:1-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Κατ' ἐκεῖνον τὸν καιρὸν ἐπέβαλεν 'Ηρψδης ὁ βασιλεὺς τὰς χεῖρας κακῶσαί τινας τῶν ἀπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας. Ἀνεῖλε δὲ 'lάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν 'lωάννου μαχαίρα. Καὶ ἰδών ὅτι ἀρεστόν ἐστι τοῖς 'lουδαίοις, προσέθετο συλλαβεῖν καὶ Πέτρονἡσαν δὲ al ἡμἑραι τῶν ἀζύμων· ὅν καὶ πιάσας ἔθετο εἰς φυλακήν, παραδοὺς τέσσαρσι τετραδίοις στρατιωτῶν φυλάσσειν αὐτόν, βουλόμενος μετὰ τὸ Πάσχα ἀναγαγεῖν αὐτὸν τῷ λαῷ. Ὁ μὲν οὖν Πέτρος ἐτηρεῖτο ἐν τῆ φυλακῆ· προσευχὴ δὲ ἦν ἐκτενὴς γινομένη ὑπὸ τῆς ἐκκλησίας πρὸς τὸν Θεὸν ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ. "Ότε δὲ ἔμελλεν αὐτὸν προάγειν ὁ 'Ηρψδης, τῆ νυκτὶ ἐκείνῃ ἦν ὁ Πέτρος κοιμώμενος μεταξὺ δύο στρατιωτῶν δεδεμένος ἀλύσεσι δυσί, φύλακές τε πρὸ τῆς θύρας ἐτήρουν τὴν φυλακήν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου ἐπέστη καὶ φῶς ἔλαμψεν ἐν τῷ οἰκήματι· πατάξας δὲ τὴν πλευρὰν τοῦ Πέτρου ἤγειρεν αὐτὸν λέγων· ἀνάστα ἐν τάχει. καὶ ἐξέπεσον αὐτοῦ al ἀλύσεις ἐκ τῶν χειρῶν εἶπέ τε ὁ Ἄγγελος πρὸς αὐτόν· περίζωσαι καὶ ὑπόδησαι τὰ σανδάλιά σου. Ἐποίησε δὲ οὕτω· καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· περιβαλοῦ τὸ ἰμάτιόν σου καὶ ἀκολούθει μοι. Καὶ ἑξελθών ἡκολούθει αὐτῷ, καὶ οὐκ ἤδει ὅτι ἀληθές ἐστι τὸ γινόμενον διὰ τοῦ ἀγγέλου, ἑδόκει δὲ ὅραμα βλέπειν. Διελθόντες δὲ πρώτην φυλακὴν καὶ δευτέραν ἦλθον ἐπὶ τὴν πύλην τὴν σιδηρᾶν τὴν φέρουσαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν, ἤτις αὐτομάτη ἡνοίχθη αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἑξελθόντες προῆλθον ῥύμην μίαν· καὶ εὐθέως ἀπέστη ὁ Ἄγγελος ἀμ τοῦ. Καὶ ὁ Πέτρος γενόμενος ἐν ἑαυτῷ εἶπε· νῦν οἶδα ἀληθῶς ὅτι ἐξαπέστειλε Κύριος τὸν Ἅγγελον αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐξείλετό με ἐκ χειρὸς 'Ηρψδου καὶ πάσης τῆς προσδοκίας τοῦ λαοῦ τῶν 'lουδαίων.

### Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 20:19-31 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

Οὕσης ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρα ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιῷ τῶν σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ συνηγμένοι διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστῃ εἰς τὸ μέσον, καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Eἰpἡνῃ 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· Eἰpἡνῃ ὑμῖν, καθὡς ἀπέσταλκέ με ὁ πατήρ, κἀγὡ πέμπω ὑμᾶς. Καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησε καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· Λάβετε Πνεῦμα Ἄγιον. Ἄν τινων ἀφῆτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας, ἀφιένται αὐτοῖς, ἄν τινων κρατῆτε, κεκράτηνται. Θωμᾶς δἑ, εἶς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν Ἰησοῦς· ἐλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί Ἐωρἀκαμεν τὸν Κύριον. Ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσὶν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἤλων, καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἤλων, καὶ βάλω τὴν χεῖρἁ μου εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὑ μὴ πιστεύσω. Καὶ μεθ' ἡμέρας ὀκτὼ πάλιν ἦσαν ἔσω οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ Θωμᾶς μετ' αὐτῶν. Ἐρχεται ὁ Ἰησοῦς τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων, καὶ ἕστῃ εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ εἶπεν· Eἰpἡνῃ ὑμῖν. Εἶτα λέγει τῷ Θωμᾶ· φέρε τὸν δἀκτυλόν σου ῷδε, καὶ ἴδε τὰς χεῖράς μου. καὶ φέρε τὴν χεῖρά σου καὶ βάλε εἰς τὴν πλευράν μου, καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος ἀλλὰ πιστός. Καὶ ἀπεκρίθῃ ὁ Θωμᾶς, καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου. Λέγει αὐτῷ ὅ'ησοῦς· Ὅτι ἑώρακάς με πεπίστευκας, μακάριοι οἱ μὴ δόντες, καὶ πιστεύσαντες. Πολλὰ μὲν οὖν καὶ ἄλλα σημεῖα ἑποίησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἑωπιον τῶν μαθητῶν αὐτοῦ, ἁ οἰνε ἕστιν γεγραμμένα ἐν τῷ βιβλίῳ τούτῳ· ταῦτα δὲ γέγραπται ἴνα πιστεύσητε ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐστιν ὁ Χριστὸς ὁ υἰὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἴνα πιστεύοντες, ζωἡν ἔχητε ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ.



Daughters of Penelope DEMETRA CHAPTER #33 will host and serve the COFFEE FELLOWSHIP today in Whitehall. Please join us after the Divine Liturgy for refreshments.

GRACIE MANSION the City's House under the auspices of the Honorable ERIC ADAMS, Mayor of New York City will host the HELLENIC HERITAGE HONORS event on THURSDAY – April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00 - 8:00 P.M. The Chairperson of this Annual Observance hailing Greek-Americans of excellence is our Pastor Father Eugene. The 2023 Honorees from our Parish are Gregory Mitchell, and Mary Ann Kolidas. The auspicious celebration is by invitation of His Honor the Mayor. Our Parish leadership and our Boy Scout Troop Color Guard are among the invited. CONGRATULATIONS to our two nominees!

TODAY: is the joint feast of Saint George and Saint Thomas the Apostle. We extend to all Georges, Georgias, and Thomas' CHRONIA POLLA!

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE will commence once again NEXT SUNDAY – APRIL 30<sup>th</sup> . Among those remembered are Past Parish Council PRESIDENT + GUS SAVAROS, and + GEORGE MAILLIS

Annual New York City GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY Parade: will be celebrated NEXT SUNDAY, April 30<sup>th</sup>, on FIFTH AVENUE COMMENCING AT 1:00 P.M. from 62<sup>nd</sup> Street to 79<sup>th</sup> Street – thus passing the Archdiocesan Headquarters on (79<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.) A SCHOOL BUS has been secured to take our delegation to the parade venue at 1:30 P.M. with an approximate return to the church by 6:00 P.M. Our Parish council, Boy Scout Troop, Philoptochos Society and students with the P.T.A. will represent our community.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: the blessing of Holy Water for the Month of May will be offered on Monday – MAY 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 A.M. to 11:30 A.M. Bottles of Holy Water are always available for home, automobile, office or cemetery visit. Ask and you shall receive.

Philoptochos Ladies had their NOMINATIONS for OFFICE for the next two year term last Wednesday-April 19<sup>th</sup> in ROSEHALL. The Election to PHILOPTOCHOS OFFICE will be held on SUNDAY:MAY 07<sup>th</sup>, at the General Meeting 1:00 P.M. All members of the 'SOCIETY' are eligible to take office upon nomination. Best Wishes to our Ladies!

WOMAN of the YEAR 2023 committee will meet on Monday, May 08<sup>th</sup> in Room 104 (SCHOOL OFFICE) AT 7:00 P.M. for the selection by ballot for this coveted award and honor. 19 Ladies representing various organizations, philanthropies, fraternal organizations, youth groups and school outreach will participate in the selection. The entire project is overseen by the clergy. WHO WILL IT BE IN 2023? The honoree will be given tribute on Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>. (MOTHER'S DAY) at the Divine Liturgy 12 noon. The entire procedure is held in secret to surprise the woman of choice.

Our community florists are also to be highlighted for their donations of altar flowers for Holy Week and the Resurrection service, AVE 'J' FLORIST Louis Vellios and sons, HENRY'S florist, Peter Giannopoulos and Family, BEN'S FLORIST, Frank Eugenis (Photios) ELTINGVILLE FLORIST, Steve Ballaro and family, MADISON FLORISTS, Vasilios Giannopoulos, PLAZA FLORIST, Nick Vellios, MARINE FLORIST, Tsentzelis Brothers, IRENE'S FLORIST, Jimmy Vellios, CHURCH AVENUE FLORIST, Nick Vellios, The Church proper was splendiferous! It truly was the 'Garden of Eden' ...and we were there!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 P.M. BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL – Two three day week-ends Friday, Saturday, Sunday JUNE 9<sup>TH</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, AND 11<sup>TH</sup>

JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup>,







· Έγενόμην έν Πνεύματι έν τῆ Κυριακῆ ἡμέρα καὶ ῆκουσα φωνὴν ὁπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος » (Ἀπ. 1,10) Το Ματιάτλολ του Κουτίστο Γρατικό Τσο Μοτό Νέον Αύνοττίου Οιορίστο - 51 ΟΙ ΔΙΟΡΙΝΑ - του 2250/2510 - Ισο Φοθινόσο τ

 properties on the standard in the standard when we have standard and a standard and			
Περίοδος Δ΄ - "Ετος ΚΑ΄	Κυριακή τοῦ Θωμᾶ (Ἰωάν. 20,19-31)	Συντάκτης (†) ἑπίσκο πος	
ώρινα - ἁριθμ. φύλλου 1068°	23 Ἀπριλίου 2023 (2004)	Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης	

## "Ελα στὴν ἐκκλησία

Υπάρχει, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὴν ἐκκλησία ἕνα ἱερὸ βιβλίο ποὺ ὀνομάζεται Πεντηκοστάριο. Ἀπ' αὐτὸ διαβάζει ἡ Ἐκκλησία πενήντα μέρες' ἀπὸ τὴ νύχτα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως ἕως τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς (ἑπτὰ ἑβδομάδες, πενήντα μέρες)' τὸ ἀνοίγουμε καὶ διαβάζουμε τὰ ὡραῖα ποιήματα, τὰ ὁλόγλυκα τραγούδια, ποὺ εἶνε φτειαγμένα γιὰ τὴ δόξα τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποὺ ἀναστήθηκε.

Άπὸ τὸ Πεντηκοστάριο θὰ μιλήσω κ' ἐγώ σήμερα. Ἡ Κυριακὴ αὐτὴ εἶνε ἀφιερωμένη σ' ἔναν ἀπόστολο τοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὸ Θωμᾶ. Τὸ ἱστορικὸ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ποιό εἶνε;

Οί δώδεκα ἀπόστολοι ἦταν κοντὰ στὸ Χριστὸ ὅπως οἱ μαθηταὶ κοντὰ στὸ δάσκαλο, ὅπως τὰ παιδιὰ κοντὰ στὴ μάνα, ὅπως τ' ἀρνάκια κοντὰ στὴν προβατίνα. Άλλ\* ὅταν ἔπιασαν τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ τὸν ἔφεραν στὰ δικαστήρια τοῦ Άννα καὶ Καϊάφα καὶ στὸν Πιλᾶτο φωνάζοντας «Σταύρωσον σταύρωσον αὐτόν» (λωκ. 23.21), τότε οἱ ἀπόστολοι φοβήθηκαν - τὸ λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο (10.20,19) τούς έπιασε φόβος καὶ τρόμος. Έποχὴ τρομοκρατίας (ποὺ θά 'ρθῃ καὶ στὴν πατρίδα μας ή ήρθε κιόλας. Σὰν σκυλιὰ θὰ σκοτώνωνται στὸ δρόμο – θυμηθῆτε τὸ λόνο μου· θὰ πληρώσουμε ἀκριβὰ τὴν ἀθεία μας καὶ τὴν ἀπιστία μας). Ήταν λοιπὸν ἐποχὴ τρομοκρατίας τῶν Ἐβραίων. Κ' οἱ ἀπόστολοι; Ἔγιναν λαγοί. Όπως ό λαγὸς κρύβεται στοὺς θάμνους, ἕτσι οἱ ἕντεκα ἀπόστολοι κρύφτηκαν σ' ἕνα σπίτι, ἕκλεισαν πόρτες καὶ παράθυρα, κ° ἕμεναν ἐκεῖ,

Άλλὰ ξαφνικὰ oi λαγοi αὐτοi ἔγιναν λιοντάpia. Πῶς; Ποιός τοὺς μετέβαλε; Ποιό γεγονὸς τοὺς ἄλλαξε καὶ βγῆκαν ἔξω στὶς κοινωνίες καὶ κήρυξαν παντοῦ; Ἡ δύναμις τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ποιά δύναμις; Ὅτι ἀναστήθηκε ὁ Χριστός. Ναί, εἶνε βέβαιο ὅτι ἀναστήθηκε μὴν ἔχετε καμμιά ἀμφιβολία. Ὅσο εἶνε βέβαιο ὅτι ὑπάρχουν ἅστρα καὶ σελήνη καὶ ῆλιος, τόσο εἶνε βέβαιο ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἀνάστασις, ὅτι ἀναστήθηκε ὁ Χριστός. Αὐτὸ μετέβαλε τοὺς ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἡ ἀλλαγή τους εἶνε ἀπόδειξις τῆς Ἀναστάσεως.

Εἶνε βέβαιο ὅτι ἀναστήθηκε ὁ Χριστός, διότι παρουσιάστηκε. Τὴν Κυριακὴ τοῦ Πάσχα ἑμφανίστηκε μπροστὰ στοὺς μαθητάς. Πῶς; «Τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων»(ἐἀ 20,19. Γελᾶνε οἰ ἅπιστοι ἅμα τ' ἀκούσουν. Ἄκου 'κεῖ παραμύθια, λένε κλειστὸ τὸ σπίτι, καὶ παρουσιάστηκε ὁ Χριστός μὰ εἶνε ποτὲ δυνατόν;...

Άπαντοῦμε. Στὸ σχολεῖο μᾶς λέγανε τὸ αἶνιγμα· «Κλειδώνω τὸ σππάκι μου κι ὁ κλέφτης εἶνε μέσα». Ποιός εἶνε ὁ «κλέφτης»; μᾶς ρωτοῦσε ὁ ὁ ἀσκαλος. Ὁ ῆλιος. Νά λοιπὸν ὅτι «κεκλεισμένων τῶν θυρῶν» ἔχεις τὸν ῆλιο μέσα. Θέλεις ἄλλο παράδειγμα; Κλειστὸ ἔχεις τὸ σπίτι σου, κι ὅμως ἀπὸ τὸ ῥαδιόφωνο ἀκοῦς φωνὲς ποὺ ἔρχονται ἀπὸ μακρινοὺς ῥαδιοσταθμούς. Πῶς ἔρχονται; Ἄλλο παράδειγμα· ἀνοίγεις τὴν τηλεόρασι καὶ βλέπεις εἰκόνες. Πῶς ἔρχονται; Ἐὰν λοιπὸν ὁ ῆλιος καὶ τὰ ἑρτζιανὰ κύματα ἔχουν τὴ δύναμι νὰ μπαίνουν στὸ σπίτι «κεκλεισμένων τῶν θυρῶν», πόσο μᾶλλον Αὐτὸς ποὺ ἕκανε τὸν ῆλιο καὶ τὸν ἀέρα:

«Κεκλεισμένων τῶν θυρῶν» λοιπὸν παρουσιάστηκε ὁ Χριστός. Καὶ «ἐχάρησαν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν Κύριον» ἐἑ 200. Κ' ἐκεῖνος ῦψωσε τὰ τρυπημένα ẵγιά του χέρια, τοὺ ς εὐλόγησε, καὶ τοὺς εἶπε μιὰ λέξι γλυκυτάτη· «Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν»(ἐἀ2019.21) ὡ λέξι προσφιλής, ποὺ ὅλος ὁ κόσμος τὴ ζητάει, ἀλλὰ δὲν ἔρχεται ὅιότι φύγαμε ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό! Καὶ μετὰ τὸ «Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν» τοὺς εἶπε κάτι ἄλλο, ποὺ πρέπει πολὺ νὰ τὸ προσέξουμε· «Σᾶς δίνω τὴν ἑξουσία νὰ συγχωρῆτε ἀμαρτίες» (ἐἀ 202). Εἶσαι Χριστιανός; συναισθάνεσαι τὴν ἁμαρτωλότητά σου; Πρέπει νὰ πῷς ὁπωσδήποτε στὸν ἱερέα, στὸν πνευματικὸ πατέρα, ν' ἀνοἰξῃς τὴν καρδιά σου, νὰ πῆς τ' ἁμαρτήματά σου, μικρὰ - μεγάΆπὸ τὴ σύναξι ὅμως ἐκείνη τῶν μαθητῶν ἕλειπε ὁ Θωμᾶς. Φοβήθηκε ἄραγε περισσότερο καὶ πῆγε νὰ κρυφτῆ κάπου ἀλλοῦ ἀσφαλέστερα; Ποιός ξέρει; Τοῦ ἔλεγαν ῦ στερα οἰ ἄλλοι μαθηταί<sup>,</sup> –Τί ἕχασες, Θωμᾶ! –Τί ἕχασα; –« Ἐωράκαμεν τὸν Κύριον», εἶδαμε τὸν Κύριο ξἱ 2025). –Ἐγώ, λέει, ἂν δὲν δῶ μὲ τὰ μάτια μου καὶ δὲν ἀκούσω μὲ τ' αὐτιά μου, δὲν πιστεύω θέλω νὰ βάλω τὸ δάχτυλό μου στὶς πληγές, καὶ τότε θὰ πιστέψω... Εἶπε ὅ,τι λένε σήμερα οἱ ἄπιστοι· Θέλουμε νὰ δοῦμε...

Ψέματα λένε. Γιατὶ ὑπάρχουν πολλὰ πράγματα, ποὺ δὲν τὰ βλέπουμε κι ὄμως τὰ πιστεύουμε. Τὸ Μέγα Ἀλέξανδρο παραδείγματος χάριν ποιός τὸν εἶδε ἀπὸ τὴ σύγχρονη γενεά; Κανένας. Τὸν εἶδαν ὅμως κάποιοι ὅταν ζοῦσε· κ' ἑμεῖς τὸν παραδεχόμαστε, γιατὶ μᾶς βεβαιώνουν έκεϊνοι. Παραδέχεσαι, λοιπόν, δτι ύπάρχει Άλέξανδρος, μολονότι δὲν τὸν εἶδες. Άλλο παράδειγμα· πιστεύεις, ὅτι ὑπάρχει Αὐστραλία. Άλλὰ ποιός πῆγε στὴν Αὐστραλία: Έλάχιστοι οἱ ἄλλοι δὲν τὴν εἶδαν μὲ τὰ μάτια τους. Πιστεύουν δμως καὶ παραδέχονται, ὅτι ύπάρχει Αύστραλία, δίνοντας έμπιστοσύνη σ' αύτούς πού τὴν εἶδαν. Ύπάρχουν λοιπὸν πράγματα πού τὰ παραδέχεσαι χωρὶς νὰ τὰ δῆς. "Έτσι ἕπρεπε νὰ κάνῃ κι ὁ Θωμᾶς, νὰ τοὐς πιστέψη· διότι οἱ ἀπόστολοι δὲν ἦταν ψεῦτες. άλλὰ άληθινοὶ ἄνθρωποι. Ἄλλωστε τὰ ἐννέα δέκατα (9/10) τῶν γνώσεών μας εἶνε διὰ τῆς πίστεως. Ποιός ἀπὸ μᾶς εἶδε τὴ γέννησί του; Κανείς. Πιστεύουμε δμως αὐτὸ ποὐ μᾶς λένε, δτι αύτὸς εἶνε ὁ πατέρας κι αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ μάνα μας, ὅτι εἴμαστε παιδὶ τοῦ τάδε καὶ τῆς τάδε. Διότι ἂν θελήσουμε νὰ ποῦμε «Θέλω γιὰ ὅλα νὰ δῶ μὲ τὰ μάτια μου καὶ ν' ἀκούσω μὲ τ' αὐτιά μου», τότε πάει, καταρρέει δλο τὸ σύστημα ὄχι μόνο τῆς θρησκείας, ἀλλὰ καὶ τῆς γνώσεως κ\* ἑπιστήμης.

Άλλὰ ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ ἀγαποῦσε τὸ Θωμᾶ, συγκατέβη καὶ πῆγε πάλι. Τὴν ἄλλη βδομάδα, κεκλεισμένων πάλι τῶν θυρῶν, νά τος πάλι μπροστά τους. Καὶ κάλεσε τὸ Θωμᾶ· - Ἐλα κοντὰ καὶ βάλε τὸ δάχτυλο στὰ χέρια μου καὶ τὸ χέρι στὴν πλευρά μου, «καὶ μὴ γίνου ἄπιστος, ἀλλὰ πιστός». Τότε ὁ Θωμᾶς φώναξε· --«Ὁ Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου» (ἐἱ ལῦ ལ). Ἐτσι ὁ Θωμᾶς τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ ὑμολόγησε, ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς ἀναστήθηκε πράγματι ἐκ νεκρῶν. Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τοῦ εἶπε· -Θωμᾶ, πίστεψες γιατὶ εἶδες· ἀλλ' ἐγώ μακαρίζω ἐκείνους πού πιστεύουν χωρίς νὰ μὲ δοῦν προσωπικῶς. Μεταξύ αὐτῶν –μέσα στοὺς αἰῶνες– εἴμαστε καὶ ὅλοι ἑμεῖς, ποὺ δὲν εἴδαμε τὸ Χριστὸ μὲ τὰ μάτια τὰ σαρκικὰ ὅπως ὁ Θωμᾶς, ἀλλὰ τὸν βλέπουμε μὲ τὰ μάτια τῆς ψυχῆς καὶ τὸν ἀκολουθοῦμε.

#### ...

Άπ' δσα διδάσκει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, ἕνα θέλω νὰ προσέξετε, ἀδελφοί μου. Ότι ὁ Θωμᾶς ἕλειψε ἀπὸ τὴ σύναξι. Ἡταν κακὸ αὐτό, γιατὶ παρὰ λίγο νὰ γίνῃ ἄπιστος. Καὶ σὰν τὸ Θωμᾶ μοιάζουν οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τοῦ αἰῶνος μας ποὺ λείπουν ἀπὸ τὴν ἱερὰ συντροφιά, δηλαδἡ τὴν ἐκκλησία. Στὴν Ἐκκλησία εἶνε ὁ Χριστὸς ἀοράτως. Γιατί ἀπουσιάζεις σὰν τὸ Θωμᾶ; γιατί φεύγεις; Χτυποῦν οἱ καμπάνες. Τί είνε οἱ καμπάνες; Σάλπιγγες. Τί σάλπιγγες; Σάλπιγγες ἀγγέλων. Τί φωνάζουν; –Ἐλᾶτε, ἄντρες γυναῖκες παιδιά, στὴν ἐκκλησία! Ἐλα μιὰ φορὰ τὴ βδομάδα νὰ πῆς ἕνα «Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός», νὰ πῆς ἕνα «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», νὰ πῆς ἕνα «εὐχαριστῶ». Μὴν εἴμαστε ἀχάριστοι.

Δυστυχῶς πολὐ λίγοι ἐκκλησιάζονται. Οἱ άλλοι ποῦ εἶνε: Ἐμένα ρωτᾶτε: ἐσεῖς ξέρετε. Ό ἕνας κοιμάται σὰν τὸ ζῶο, ὁ ἄλλος πάει γιὰ κυνήγι, ό άλλος παίρνει τ' αὐτοκίνητο καὶ τρέχει στούς δρόμους. Ξέρεις τί άμαρτία εἶνε, νὰ εἶσαι στὸ κρεβάτι τὴν ὥρα ποὐ λειτουργεϊ ή ἑκκλησία; Ξέρεις τί ἁμαρτία εἶνε. νὰ χτυπᾶ ἡ καμπάνα κ' ἐσὐ νὰ παίρνης τὸ ὄπλο καὶ νὰ πηγαίνῃς γι' ἀγριογούρουνα; "Αν πάτε στὸ Ἰσραήλ, αὐτοὶ τηροῦν τὸ Σάββατο αύστηρά. Δέν κουνάει αύτοκίνητο, έκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸ αὐτοκίνητο τῆς ἀστυνομίας καὶ τοῦ γιατροῦ. Ἐδῶ; τὴν Κυριακὴ τὸ πρωὶ τὰ παιδιὰ καλοῦνται στὰ γυμναστήρια νὰ παίξουν φουτμπώλ. "Ηρθαν τὰ χρόνια γιὰ τὰ όποῖα ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμᾶς ὁ Αἰτωλὸς εἶχε πεῖ, ὅτι θ' ἀδειάσουν οί έκκλησιές καὶ θὰ γεμίσουν οἱ φυλακές. Καὶ γέμισαν. Ζοῦν ἔτσι, χωρὶς Θεό. Ἀλλὰ δὲν ἔχει νά ζημιωθή τίποτα ό Θεός·δὲν ἔχει ἀνάγκη άπὸ μᾶς. Ἐμεῖς θὰ ζημιωθοῦμε, ποὐ φεύγουμε άπὸ κοντά του. Διότι τί εἶνε ή Ἐκκλησία; Μαντρί εύλογημένο, πού άσφαλίζει τά πρόβατα. Πρόβατο ποὐ φεύγει ἀπὸ τὸ μαντρί, τὸ τρώει ό λύκος, καὶ Χριστιανὸς ποὐ φεύγει ἀπὸ τὴν Ἐκκλησία, θὰ τὸν φάῃ ὁ λύκος (οἱ aiρέσεις, ή άθεία, ή άπιστία...).

Κοντά στὸ Χριστὸ λοιπὸν ὅλοι! Παρακαλῶ κανείς νὰ μὴ ἀπουσιάζῃ, ἀλλὰ νὰ πυκνώσῃ ὁ ἐκκλησιασμός. Ναί, στὴν ἐκκλησία. Καὶ νὰ ἔχετε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, τοῦ ἀναστάντος Κυρίου· ἀμήν.

#### (†) ἑπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

Νιτοροητοφωνηρότη όρεξα, ή όπο δε έγκα στον έτνο Κοτρήσεως Θεοτάκου Θεορτούρου - Θερίνης τήν 214-1998 μά άλλο τίτεο. Κατοφριοφή και σύντρη σες 18-4-3004, έπον άπλοση 19-4-2020. 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.

#### Our Exodus, Our Passover

We have been released not from physical but from spiritual bondage. We have been freed not from earthly labor but from worldly defilement. Our flight has not been from Egyptian taskmasters, nor from a godless and savage tyrant who is nonetheless a human being like ourselves, but from wicked and unclean demons who urge us to sin and from their commander, who is Satan himself.

We have passed through the sea of this present life with its pleasures and idle distractions. We have eaten spiritual manna, the bread from heaven which gives life to the world. We have drunk water from the rock, for we have found our delight in the spiritual stream flowing from Christ. By the grace of holy baptism we have crossed the Jordan and entered the land promised to the saints and worthy of them, the land the Savior himself spoke of when He said: "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the land."

Therefore, in honor of a new happening a new hymn should be sung by the Lord's kingdom, that is, by those subject to Him and governed by Him. A hymn should be sung, worthy praise should be given, not only in the land of the Jews but from one end of the earth to the other; in other words, everywhere in the world. Of old God was known in Judaea and His name was great only in Israel, but now that we have been called by Christ to the knowledge of the truth and His glory fills all heaven and earth, fulfilling the prophecy of the Psalmist: "The whole earth shall be full of his glory."

St. Cyril of Alexandria For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit www.ecpubs.com

<u>RADIO MINISTRY:</u> Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast <u>MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE</u> <u>NOW IN ITS 25th YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM</u>, 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 (<u>Click live radio</u>)

> WEB SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit <u>YOUR E-MAILING</u> address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally. See :Website: <u>www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org</u>