

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 30th, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN



*Icon of the Ointment-Bearing Women*

**Prokeimenon. Mode 2 Psalm 117.14,18**

**The Lord is my strength and my song. Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.**

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

**Prokeimenon. Mode 2 ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18**

**Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος. Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.**

The reading is from Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 6:1-7

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἄρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἐπτά, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσομεν. Καὶ ἤρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλῆθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικάνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠῤῥαζαν, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 15:43-47, 16:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτής, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ᾔτησατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. Ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἤδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλαι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυρίωνος ἐδωρήσατο τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. Καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδόνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημείῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. Ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ Ἰωσὴ ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμῃ ἠγόρασαν ἄρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. Καὶ λίαν πρωτὶ τῆς μιᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. Καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· Τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; Καὶ ἀναβλέψασαι θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. Καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. Ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρηνὸν τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἡγέρθη, οὐκ ἔστιν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. Ἄλλ' ὑπάγετε εἰπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. Καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.



## GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

**Annual New York City GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY Parade:** will be celebrated TODAY, 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. Seats are available **FREE FOR ALL**.

**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.

**Senior Citizen Club:** will visit the NEW NATIONAL SHRINE at the WORLD TRADE CENTER (Ground Zero). They will pilgrimage to the SAINT NICHOLAS SHRINE CHURCH, on WEDNESDAY, MAY 03<sup>rd</sup>, from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. The reserved chartered bus will depart from the Church at 10 A.M. with an estimated return by 2:00 P.M. Club Members are reserved seating with \$10.00 donation. Non- members are requested to donate \$20.00 for their seat on the bus. All expenditures defray the cost of the bus. A special prayer service will be conducted by the clergy. Upon return to the church premises, coffee and sweets will be served in ROSEHALL for everyone. Please call the church office to reserve your seat.

**Churching of a new born daughter to the Church ‘SPYRIDOULA APHRODITE’** first born child of Gus and Angela Vellios is scheduled for next Sunday May 07<sup>th</sup>. NA SAS ZESE!

**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.

**T.H.Y.** sponsored the ‘MYROPHORES’ who graced our Holy Friday evening LAMENTATION SERVICE and the SOLEMN STREET PROCESSION. We thank the young maidens who graced and beautified our service with their youthful reverence and innocence. We anticipate more ladies to volunteer next year!

We also acknowledge our faithful BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 ‘GOLDEN GREEKS’ who also participated in the services and the street procession on Good Friday. Their precision and devotion was most exemplary to the elder generation present.

His Grace BISHOP DEMETRIOS of Mokissos ( Saint Photios Shrine – Saint Augustine Florida ) also extends greetings to the entire Parish for the love and respect they displayed during His Grace’s visit during Holy Week.

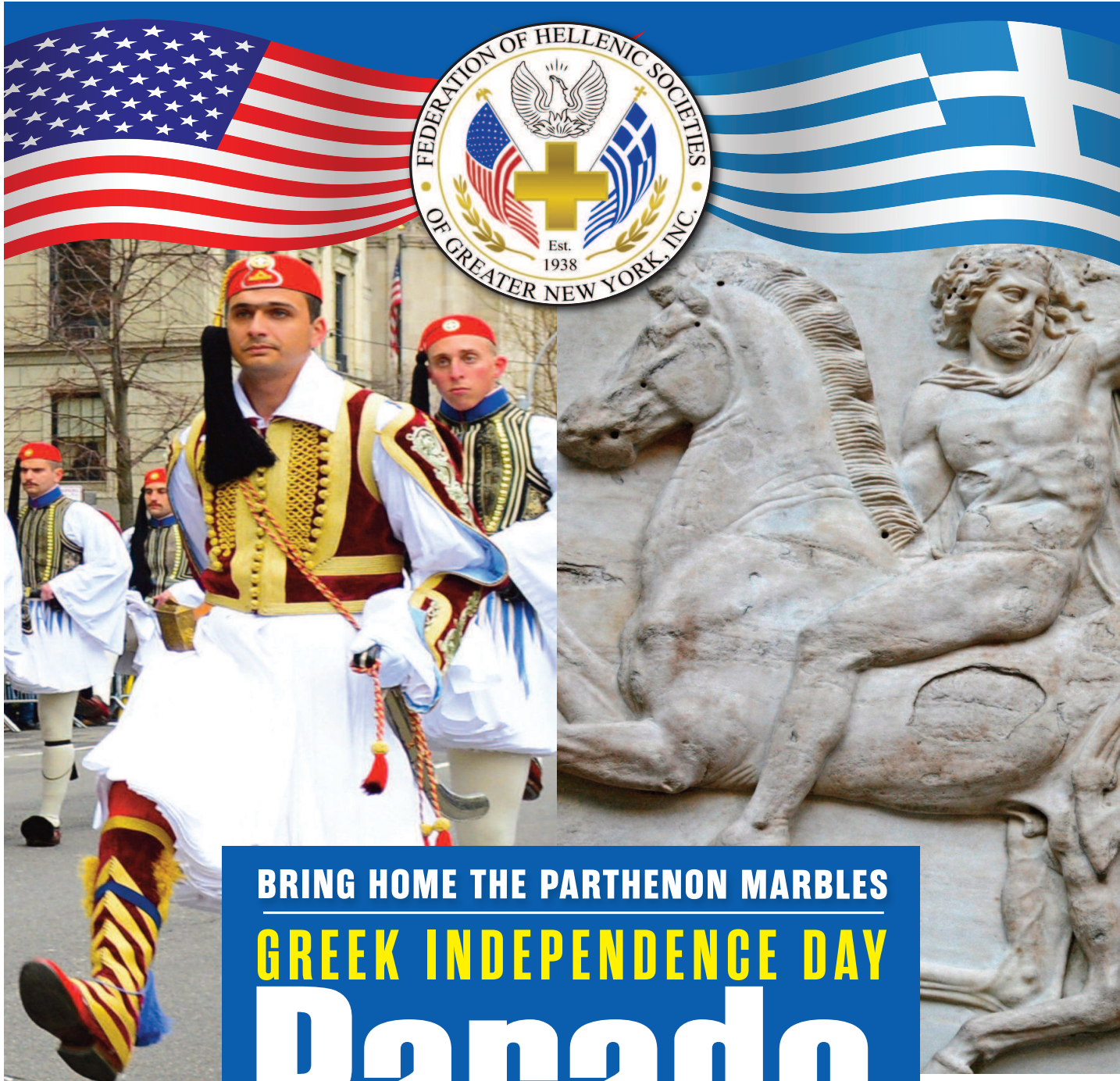
**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:** PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 P.M.

**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>,

**MEMORIALS TODAY:**  
**MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK**

+ Past Parish Council PRESIDENT + GUS SAVAROS + GEORGE MAILLIS  
+ DIMITRIOS KAFKIAS





BRING HOME THE PARTHENON MARBLES

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

# Parade

202<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Greek War of Independence of 1821

## CELEBRATING GREEK INDEPENDENCE

**SUNDAY April 30th 2023, 1:30pm**

5th Avenue New York City - 64th to 79th Street



FEDERATION OF HELLENIC SOCIETIES OF GREATER NEW YORK

STATHAKION CENTER 22-51 29th Street, Astoria NY 11105

Tel: (718) 204-6500 Email: [nyhellenicsocieties@gmail.com](mailto:nyhellenicsocieties@gmail.com) - Twitter @FederationNY





2023



## BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL

JUNE

9th, 10th & 11th  
16th, 17th & 18th

*MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS!!*

**THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH**

1724 AVENUE P, BROOKLYN, NY 11229



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@THREEHIERARCHSFESTIVAL





# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Καινοβατικὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23893-28510 - [ima@iof.gr](mailto:ima@iof.gr)

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΚΑ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 1070	Κυριακὴ τῶν Μυροφόρων (Μάρκ. 15,43 - 16,8) 30 Ἀπριλίου 2023 (2004)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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## Μυροφόρες τῶν ἡμερῶν μας

« Ὑπάγετε εἰπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προ-  
άγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε » (Μάρκ. 16,7)

**Ἀ**κούγεται καὶ θ' ἀκούγεται, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὁχι μόνον σήμερα, ἀλλὰ καὶ αὔριο καὶ μεθαύριο καὶ πάντα μέχρι συντελείας τῶν αἰώνων τὸ χαρμόσυνο ἄγγελμα **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»**.

Ἡ ἀνάστασις τοῦ Κυρίου εἶνε ἓνα γεγονὸς πού μαρτυρεῖται ἀπὸ μυριάδες φωνές καὶ ἔχει τὶς μεγαλύτερες ἀποδείξεις. Ἀνέστη ὁ Κύριος· τὸ φωνάζουν ἄνθρωποι, ἄγγελοι καὶ ἀρχάγγελοι, τὸ φωνάζουν καὶ οἱ νεκροὶ πού ἀναστήθηκαν ἀπὸ τὰ μνήματα καὶ **«ἐνεφανίσθησαν πολλοὶς»** (Μαθ. 27,53). Τὸ φωνάζει τώρα καὶ ἡ ἀνοιξίς, τὰ ποταμάκια πού τρέχουν, τὸ χορτάρι πού ἀναστήθηκε ἀπὸ τὰ σπλάχνα τῆς γῆς καὶ ἔστρωσε τὴν ἐπιφάνειά της μὲ τάπητα, τὰ ἀρνάκια πού παίζουν, τὰ πουλιά πού κελαῖδουν, ὅλα. Τὴν περίοδο αὐτὴ, ὅταν ἐορτάζεται ὁ ἁγίος Γεώργιος, ἀκούγεται ἓνα δοξαστικὸ πού λέει· **«Ἀνέτειλε τὸ ἔαρ (δηλαδὴ ἡ ἀνοιξίς), δεῦτε εὐωχηθῶμεν· ἐξέλαμψεν ἡ ἀνάστασις Χριστοῦ, δεῦτε εὐφρανθῶμεν...»**. Ποιὸ ἄλλο γεγονὸς ἔχει τόσες **ἀποδείξεις**; Κάποιος σοφός, πού ἀμφέβαλλε στὴν ἀρχὴ ὅπως ὁ Θωμᾶς, πῆρε τὰ εὐαγγέλια, τὰ κοσκίνισε, καὶ στὸ τέλος εἶπε· Δὲν βρῆκα ἄλλο γεγονὸς πού νὰ μαρτυρῆται τόσο πολὺ· ὅποιος δὲν πιστεύει στὴν ἀνάστασι τοῦ Χριστοῦ, αὐτὸς εἶνε γιὰ τὸ φρενοκομεῖο... Διότι κανένα γεγονὸς δὲν βεβαιώνεται ὅπως αὐτό. Καὶ πράγματι· ἐάν αὐτὸς πού λέει ὅτι «δὲν ὑπάρχει Θεός» εἶνε «ἄφρων» (Μαθ. 13,1), ἄφρων εἶνε κι αὐτὸς πού θὰ ἰσχυρισθῇ ὅτι δὲν ἀνέστη ὁ Κύριος.

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Σὰς κάνω τώρα ἓνα ἐρώτημα· **Ποιὰ αὐτὰ στὸν κόσμον ἀξιώθηκαν ν' ἀκούσουν πρῶτα τὸ «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»;** Τὸ ἄκουσαν αὐτοὶ πού κάθονται στὰ παλάτια, οἱ βασιλεῖς καὶ οἱ στρατηλάται; Τὸ ἄκουσαν οἱ σοφοὶ καὶ οἱ ἐπιστήμονες; Τὸ ἄκουσαν οἱ ἰσχυροὶ τῆς ἡμέρας; Τὸ ἄκουσαν οἱ ἀπόστολοι, ὁ Ἰωάννης ὁ Πέτρος

καὶ οἱ ἄλλοι; Ὁχι, ἀδελφοί μου. Τὸ **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»** πρῶτη φορὰ τὸ ἄκουσαν **γυναῖκες**, καὶ δὲν νομίζω νὰ ὑπάρχη γι' αὐτὲς πιὸ μεγάλη **πμῆ**. Ὅπως τὰ Χριστοῦγεννα βοσκοὶ ἄκουσαν πρῶτοι ἀπ' ὅλους ὅτι γεννήθηκε ὁ Σωτὴρ τοῦ κόσμου, ἔτσι τὸ Πάσχα γυναῖκες ἄκουσαν πρῶτες ὅτι ἀνέστη ὁ Κύριος.

**Γιατί αὐτὴ ἡ προτίμησις;** θὰ πῇτε. Ὁ Κύριος δὲν εἶνε ἄδικος καὶ μεροληπτικός. Ὅ,τι κάνει τὸ κάνει μὲ δικαιοσύνη. Ἄν οἱ γυναῖκες ἄκουσαν πρῶτες τὸ **«Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»**, τὸ ἄκουσαν γιὰ τὸ **ἄξιζαν**. Αὐτὲς, οἱ μυροφόρες πού ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα (ἡ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ, ἡ Μαρία τοῦ Κλωπᾶ, ἡ Σαλώμη καὶ οἱ ἄλλες), εἶχαν τὴν κορυφαία ἀρετὴ, τὴ βασιλισσα τῶν ἀρετῶν, τὴν **ἀγάπην**.

Οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ φαρισαῖοι, γιὰ νὰ φανοῦν τάχα πιὸ ἅγιοι, πρόσθεσαν κι ἄλλες ἐντολές -δὲν τοὺς ἔφταναν οἱ δέκα-, μικρὲς καὶ μεγάλες. Ἔτσι τὶς 10 ἐντολές τὶς ἔκαναν - πόσες νομίζετε; 655! Δὲν μπορεῖτε νὰ φανταστῆτε, πόσο δέσανε τὶς ψυχές μὲ τέτοιες ἐντολές (ὅπως συμβαίνει πολλὲς φορὲς κ' ἐμεῖς οἱ παπᾶδες, ὅταν δὲν γνωρίζουμε καλὰ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, νὰ δένουμε τὶς ψυχές παρομοίως). Ἐπειδὴ λοιπὸν ἦταν τόσο πολλὲς οἱ ἐντολές, γι' αὐτὸ κάποτε ρώτησαν τὸ Χριστό· **«Ποιὰ ἀπ' ὅλες εἶνε ἡ πιὸ μεγάλη»;** Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τί εἶπε· **Ἡ πιὸ μεγάλη, ἡ αἰώνια ἐντολή, στὴν ὁποία συνοψίζεται ὅλο τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, εἶνε ἡ ἀγάπη· ἀγάπη στὸ Θεὸ καὶ ἀγάπη στὸν πλησίον. «Ἀγαπήσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ καρδίᾳ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ψυχῇ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ διανοίᾳ σου... ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίόν σου ὡς σεαυτόν»** (Μαθ. 22,36-39; Μάρκ. 12,29-31). Αὐτὸ εἶπε ὁ Κύριος. Καὶ αὐτὸ εἶχαν οἱ μυροφόρες στὴν καρδιά τους, τὴν ἀγάπην. Ὁχι ἀγάπη συναισθηματικὴ, ἀτροφικὴ, ἐκφυλὴ, ἀλλὰ ἀγάπη οὐρανομήκη, θεία.



Ἡ ἀγάπη τίς ἔκανε ν' ἀκολουθοῦν πιστὰ τὸ Χριστὸ ἀπὸ χωριὸ σὲ χωριὸ κι ἀπὸ ράχη σὲ ράχη. Ἦταν πιστὲς μαθητρίες του· δὲν ἤθελαν νὰ χάσουν οὔτε ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ μαθήματα τοῦ γλυκυτάτου ραββί. Καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη τους ἦταν ἐμπρακτὴ· ἀνοιξαν τὰ βαλάντια καὶ τίς περιουσίες τους (μερικὲς ἀπ' αὐτὲς ἦταν πλούσιες) καὶ ἔδιναν γενναῖες **εἰσφορές**, γιὰ νὰ συντηρηθῇ ἡ ομάδα τῶν ἀποστόλων. Ἡ ἀγάπη αὐτὴ τίς ἔκανε νὰ εἶνε παρούσες ἀκόμη καὶ στίς δυσκολώτερες στιγμὲς τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ἀντιθέσει μὲ τοὺς μαθητάς. Ὁ Ἰωὺδας τὸν προδίδει, ὁ Πέτρος τὸν ἀρνεῖται, οἱ ἄλλοι φεύγουν καὶ τὸν ἐγκαταλείπουν· κοντὰ του μένουν οἱ γυναῖκες. Αὐτὲς κάτω ἀπὸ τὸ σταυρὸ ἀξιώθηκαν ν' ἀκούσουν τὰ τελευταῖα λόγια του. Αὐτὲς τέλος, μαζί μὲ τὸν Ἰωσήφ καὶ τὸ Νικόδημο, τοῦ προσέφεραν τίς τελευταῖες τιμὲς καὶ **κήδευσαν τὸ σῶμα του**. Καὶ μόνο αὐτό; Αὐτὲς τὴ νύχτα τοῦ Σαββάτου δὲν κοιμήθηκαν. Ἀψηφώντας τοὺς στρατιῶτες τοῦ Πιλάτου προχωροῦν. Τὴ νύχτα ἐκεῖνη, πού δὲν ξεμύτιζε οὔτε ὁ Πέτρος, οἱ μυροφόρες γυναῖκες πέρασαν τὴν ἔρημη πόλι καὶ τίς φρουρές, βγήκαν ἔξω κ' ἔφθασαν στὸ μνήμα, γιὰ νὰ **μυρώσουν** καὶ νὰ προσκυνήσουν τὸ ἀχραντὸ σῶμα τοῦ Κυρίου. Κ' ἐπειτα ῥωτᾷς, γιατί αὐτὲς πρῶτες ἀξιώθηκαν ν' ἀκούσουν ἀπὸ τὸ στόμα τοῦ ἀγγέλου τὸ «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη»; Αὐτὸ ἦταν ἐπαθλο τῆς ἀρετῆς των.

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Αὐτῶν τῶν γυναικῶν ἐορτάζουμε σήμερα τὴν ἱερὰ μνήμη. Καὶ κοντὰ σ' αὐτὲς τὸ μυαλὸ πηγαίνει καὶ σ' ὅλες **ἐκεῖνες πού συνεχίζουν σήμερα τὸ ρόλο** τῶν μυροφόρων. Ναί, ἀδελφοί, ποιὸς μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ ἀμφισβητήσει; Ἐάν στὴν ἐποχὴ μας ὑπάρχουν γυναῖκες πού λησμόνησαν τὴν ὑψηλὴ ἀποστολὴ τους καὶ μὲ σκανδαλώδη λόγια καὶ προκλητικὰ ἔργα σπρώχνουν τοὺς ἀντρες στὴν κόλασι, ὑπάρχουν ὅμως ἀπὸ τὸ ἄλλο μέρος κ' ἐκεῖνες πού ἀπέχουν ἀπὸ κοσμικότητες (χοροὺς, πάρτυ, χαρτοπαίγνια...), καὶ κρατοῦν τίς ἱερὲς παραδόσεις. Μπορεῖ τὰ ὀνόματά τους νὰ μὴν ἀκούγονται στὰ μέσα δημοσιότητας, εἶνε ὅμως γραμμένα στίς καρδιές.

Θά ἔπρεπε νὰ ἔχω χρόνο νὰ ξετυλίξω μπροστά σας ὄχι κινηματογραφικὲς ταινίες Πομπηίας καὶ Βαβυλῶνος, μὲ πόρνες τῆς Ἀποκαλύψεως καὶ γυναῖκα τῆς ἐσχάτης παρακμῆς, ἀλλὰ δύο ἄλλες ταινίες· μία γιὰ τίς μυροφόρες ἐκεῖνες τοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ μιὰ ἄλλη γιὰ τίς σημερινὲς μυροφόρες τῆς πίστεως. **Ποιὲς εἶνε αὐτές;** 4 - 5 θ' ἀναφέρω, καὶ τελειώνω.

- Μία εἶνε ἡ φτωχὴ ἐκεῖνη **κόρη**, πού μὲ τὴ

βελόνα τῆς κεντᾶ τὴ νύχτα γιὰ νὰ ζήσει τὸν ἀνάπηρο πατέρα της· νὰ μιὰ νέα μυροφόρος.

- Μία **σύζυγος** στοργικὴ, πού κάνει ὑπομονὴ καὶ κατορθώνει μὲ τὴν ἀγάπη της νὰ μαλακώσῃ τὴν καρδιὰ τοῦ ἀνδρός, καὶ τέλος τὸ λύκο νὰ τὸν κἀνῃ ἀρνί, νὰ μιὰ ἄλλη μυροφόρος.

- Μία **χήρα**, πού ἔμεινε μόνη μὲ 4 - 5 παιδιὰ, κ' ἔζησε τιμὰ ζωῆς, κ' ἐγίνε καθαρίστρια καὶ ὑπέμεινε τὰ πάντα, νὰ μιὰ νέα μυροφόρος.

- Πηγαίνετε καὶ στὰ νοσοκομεῖα· θὰ δῆτε ἐκεῖ κοπέλλες ἀγνές. Μποροῦσαν κι αὐτὲς νὰ κάνουν οἰκογένεια. Οἱ κοπέλλες αὐτές, μὲ τὴ λευκὴ στολή, σκύβουν σὰν ἀγγελοὶ πάνω ἀπὸ τὰ κρεβάτια τῶν πονεμένων, νέες **ἀδελφές**, νέες μυροφόρες, σκορποῦν μέσα στὸν κόσμον τοῦ πόνου τὰ μύρα τῆς ἀγάπης των.

- Τί νὰ ποῦμε τώρα, ποιὸς ὕμνος, ποιὸ τραγούδι, ποιὸς ποιητὴς, ποιὸς ζωγράφος θὰ μπορέσῃ νὰ ζωγραφίσῃ τὴ **μάννα**, τὴ γλυκειὰ μάννα, πού ἀπὸ μικρὰ μᾶς πῆρε καὶ μᾶς ἀνέστησε; Ἡ μνήμη της θὰ εἶνε αἰώνια.

Νὰ λοιπὸν πού **ὑπάρχουν καὶ σήμερα** μυροφόρες. Γι' αὐτὸ τελειώνοντας ἀφήνω τοὺς ἀντρες καὶ στρέφω τὸ λόγο πρὸς τίς γυναῖκες·

**Χριστιανὲς γυναῖκες, κρατῆστε τὴν πίστι**, κλείστε μὲ βουλοκέρι τ' αὐτιά σας στὴν ἀπιστία. Ἑλληνίδες, κρατῆστε ἀκοίμητη τὴν κανδήλα τῆς ὀρθοδόξου πίστεως. Μὴ ἀκολουθεῖτε τὸ συρμό, τὰ ξόανα τῆς μόδας· βαδίστε σταθερές καὶ ἀπτόητες. Τότε ἐσεῖς, μανάδες, ἀδελφές, δασκάλες, νοσοκόμες, ἐσεῖς θὰ εἴστε τὰ μύρα, τὰ ἀνθη, τὸ ἔαρ. Ἄς μὴ γράφουν οἱ ἐφημερίδες γιὰ σᾶς, ἄς μὴ στήνουν σὲ πλατεῖες τὸ ἀγαλμά σας· τὸ ὄνομά σας εἶνε γραμμένο στοὺς οὐρανούς. Ναί, ἀδελφοί μου, αὕτῃ εἶνε ἡ δόξα τῶν μυροφόρων.

Τὸ προφητικὸ βιβλίον τῆς Ἀποκαλύψεως λέει, ὅτι ἔρχεται ἡ ἡρθε κιόλας ὁ ἀντίχριστος, ὅτι ἔρχεται ὁ Ἀρμαγεδών (α 16:16). Τότε θὰ κοσκινιστῇ ἡ γῆ, θὰ διωχθοῦν οἱ Χριστιανοί, θὰ ἀδειάσουν οἱ ἐκκλησίες... Τότε, ὅταν θὰ πέφτουν ἀπὸ ψηλὰ οἱ φιάλες τῆς θείας ὀργῆς, τότε, κι ἂν ἐμεῖς οἱ ἀντρες (βάζω καὶ τὸν ἐαυτό μου), γίνουμε πάλι Ἰουδες καὶ σταυρώσουμε πάλι τὸ Χριστό, ἐγὼ λέω ὅτι ἡ καρδιὰ τῆς γυναῖκας πού ἀγαπᾷ τὸ Χριστὸ **δὲν θ' ἀλλάξῃ**. Διότι γυναῖκα δὲν πρόδωσε καὶ δὲν σταύρωσε τὸ Χριστό.

Γυναῖκες, **μείνετε πάντα κοντὰ στὸν Κύριο**, γιὰ νὰ ἔχετε τὴν εὐλογία καὶ τὴ δόξα στὴ βασιλεία τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας· ὦν, παῖδες, ὕμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· 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 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.

*Following the Risen Lord in All Things*

Christ has redeemed us by giving Himself as our ransom; He is the price paid for every soul, and by redeeming us from death and giving us immortality He has made us His own. So now that we belong to the Lord we must follow His will in all things, not living for ourselves anymore but only for Him who has purchased us with His life. We are no longer autonomous but belong to the One who has bought us, and we must be ruled by His will. As long as death had power over us we were ruled by sin, but now that we belong to the Lord of life we must give our allegiance to our new Master. Sin must never again make us disobey Him, for that would bring us once more under the domination of the evil one and of death.

We feel bound to Christ when we know that He is, as Paul tells us, both victim and priest, that He was actually offered for us as our paschal sacrifice, and that He Himself was the priest

who made this offering to God. He gave himself up, says Paul, as a sacrifice to us. Those who realize that Christ gave himself up and became our Passover will in their turn offer themselves to God as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable. They will become spiritual oblations. Refusing to conform to the standards of the world, they will change their whole outlook so as to know the will of God, what is good, pleasing to Him, and best in every way ...

While our minds remain subject to our lower nature we are at enmity with God and refuse to obey His law ... Meditating on Christ's offering of His own blood in atonement for our sins should teach us to imitate Him and to make atonement for our own sins, mortifying our bodies in order to purify our souls.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa*

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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)**

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.

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