



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN June 11th, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY OF ALL SAINTS



Icon of All Saints

Prokeimenon. Mode 4
Psalm 67.35,26
God is wonderful among his saints.
Verse: Bless God in the congregations.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2

brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ'
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 67.35,26
Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς Ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ.
Στίχ. Ἐν Ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν.

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:33-40, 12:1-2 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

ἰδελφοί, οἱ Ἅγιοι πάντες διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, φράξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, γενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων. Ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν. Ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν. ἄλλοι δὲ μπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς. ἔλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν λόγῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον. περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι - ὅτι οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος - ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες, μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως, οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα ἡμεῖς χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν. Τοιγαροῦν καὶ ἡμεῖς, τοσοῦτον ἔχοντες περικείμενον ἡμῖν νέφος μαρτύρων, ὄγκον υποθέμενοι πάντα καὶ τὴν εὐπερίστατον ἁμαρτίαν, δι' ὑπομονῆς τρέχωμεν τὸν προκείμενον ἡμῖν ἀγῶνα, ἀφορῶντες εἰς τὸν τῆς πίστεως ἀρχηγὸν καὶ τελειωτὴν Ἰησοῦν.

The Gospel According to Matthew 10:32-33; 37-38; 19:27-30

The Lord said to his disciples, "Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me." Then Peter said in reply, "Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first."

ἔειπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς. Πᾶς οὖν ὅστις ὁμολογήσει ἐν ἐμοὶ ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὁμολογήσω καὶ ἐγὼ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. ὅστις δ' ἂν ἀρνήσῃται με ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἀρνήσομαι αὐτὸν καὶ ἐγὼ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. Ὁ φιλῶν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμέ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁ φιλῶν υἱὸν ἢ θυγατέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμέ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁ οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου, οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος. Τότε ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ. Ἰδοὺ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμεν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς. ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὑμεῖς οἱ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι, ἐν τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ, ὅταν καθίσῃ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους κρίνοντες τὰς δώδεκα φυλὰς οὗ Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ πᾶς ὁς ἀφήκεν οἰκίαν ἢ ἀδελφούς ἢ ἀδελφὰς ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ γυναῖκα ἢ τέκνα ἢ ἀγροὺς ἕνεκεν οὗ ὀνόματός μου, ἑκατονταπλασίονα λήψεται καὶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσει. Πολλοὶ δὲ ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

VISITING MISSIONARY: Our dear and respected friend of Three Hierarchs Parish, REV. FR. JUVENALY will be the celebrant at Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 18th. Father Juvenaly has been serving the extraordinary efforts of the ORTHODOX CHURCH of GUATEMALA which is under the auspices of the Metropolis of Mexico. He is being invited to continue his missionary efforts in BRAZIL very soon. Since this is the National Observance of 'FATHER'S DAY' he will be preaching about the success and growth of the Orthodox Christian faith in GUATEMALA. He will also share the afternoon under the BIG TENT of the final day of our Brooklyn, Greek Festival.

Condolences are expressed to our sister parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Nicholas on the recent passing of Father Thomas Zain's mother of blessed memory + LORRAINE. A trisagion memorial tribute will be offered on the 40th day - SUNDAY-JUNE 18TH.

BARBECUE' TIME is at hand: Please join us for the end of the season Plaza Barbecues open to one and all in the community parish. It's FREE AND OPEN TO ALL.

CUB SCOUT TROOP B-B-Q Monday evening JUNE 19th, at 6:00 P.M.

Children are encouraged to attend and have dinner!

A.H.E.P.A.

B-B-Q Monday evening JUNE 26th, at 6:00 P.M.

The PLAZA will host everyone FREE as guests of the

CONEY ISLAND CHAPTER #200. Lots of food, fun, drinks!

SENIOR CLUB: Will be setting up the 'FLEA MARKET' for the Grecian Festival. Do you have articles worthy of the 'flea market sales? Bring it down to be priced, ticketed, and hopefully sold! Georgia Stamos and crew are in charge. WE DO NEED HANDS TO HELP.

GREEK SCHOOL GRADUATION: is scheduled for presentations, and diplomas at the Divine Liturgy on Sunday JUNE 11TH, at 12 Noon. A festive lunch and celebration cake will be hosted by the P.T.A. on the PLAZA under the BIG TENT. Congratulations to all of our students in GREEK SCHOOL A CONEY ISLAND amusement ride field day at DENO'S WONDER WHEEL PARK and dinner to follow on the boardwalk will be hosted on TUESDAY- JUNE 13TH, for the students, siblings and parents. THANK YOU DENNIS VOUDERIS and FAMILY for extending this hospitality each year to our school, students, faculty and P.T.A.

A.H.E.P.A. GOLF TOURNAMENT is scheduled for Friday, June 16th. Please see the insert flyer for all details. Three Hierarchs Parish participates each year! It's male fun, male bonding, and male exercising! GOOD FOR THE SOUL.

GRATITUDE is expressed to everyone in the community that is helping and sharing in the 'labor of love' for the BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL. Parish Council, AHEPA, PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES, T.H.Y. KIDS, BOY SCOUTS and GIRL SCOUTS, ALTAR BOYS, CHOIR MEMBERS, DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE and the myriad of volunteers from the pews..... and our Reverend Clergy always supportive!

GOLDEN GREEK TROOP #531 : celebrated their Annual Court of Awards last week with a astounding tribute to the young lads who achieved meritorious badges and medals for their accomplishments through scouting. We are proud to announce that two (2) of these youngsters are on their journey to EAGLE SCOUT dignity and rank. We have close to 100 EAGLES on the roll of honor!!!

FATHER'S DAY is scheduled for NEXT SUNDAY – June 18th. Have you considered bringing DAD, PAPOU, HUSBAND, SON and BROTHER to the Greek Festival that Sunday Morning and TREAT THEM---YES, TREAT THEM to a day without fuss. The grilling of souvlaki gyros, potatoes, pastitsio, moussaka, Greek horiati salata and COLD BEER just to start the feast.....then there are the sweets - LOUKOUMADES. This will be FATHER'S DAY he will never forget and it's on you!

BROOKLYN GREEK FESTIVAL – Two three day week-ends

Friday, Saturday, Sunday JUNE 9TH, 10TH, AND 11TH / JUNE 16TH, 17TH, 18TH,

MEMORIALS TODAY: + NICHOLAS SIRAKOULIS 40 days observance.
+ ELIZABETH DINAS 1 Year Observance

NEXT SUNDAY: + LORRAINE ZAIN 40 days observance. (Fr. TOM ZAIN'S mother,)



Three Hierarchs, Brooklyn

Adult Honoree: Stella Anastasakos Oberle

Stella (Stavroula Anastasakos) was born on January 2, 1940 in Queens, New York. Growing up in Brooklyn New York, she married Thomas J. Oberle in 1962 and has 6 children, Katherine, Mary, Patricia, Thomas, Diana, and Jennifer. She became active in 1968, with the Three Hierarchs Parochial School Nursery and Kindergarten classes making the graduation outfits for all the students. As a Girl Scout Leader for 14 years, she inspired many young ladies by her virtue faith and volunteerism. As a member of the Parish Council, she demonstrated constant perseverance. As President of the Greek School P.T.A. her Hellenism was pronounced and a stellar example to young and old. Banners and costumes were designed and sewn for the school and Greek Independence New York Parade being used to this day. Food and supplies were constantly collected and distributed to charities after hurricane Sandy. She secured permits for children to learn sports such as tennis through her community efforts. Flyers, newsletters, for all service, youth, school and fraternal organizations were produced by her artistic talent. She is the creator of the Three Hierarchs Web site and prepares the Sunday Bulletin for our church members every week enjoyed by hundreds of faithful. The same Sunday Bulletin is sent to the homes by email for those who are unable to attend services. Her determined efforts to surrender her talents to God's service in ministering to the Lord's people is an inspiration and an epiphany to all.





The INAUGURAL 'SERVANT LEADERSHIP AWARDS BANQUET' of the Holy Archdiocese was hosted this past Tuesday-June 06th , at the Greentree Country Club, of New Rochelle, New York. Attracting over 700 guests the spectacular event was graced by the Three Hierarchs Parish Honoree STELLA ANASTASAKOS OBERLE. This pictorial review highlights our 'STELLA' Parish Council, staff and clergy at the ceremony. Three Hierarchs was one of the GRAND BENEFACTORS of this 'first of it's kind' recognition of the lay leadership volunteers in our Archdiocesan parishes. Stella is stellar! AXIA! AXIA! AXIA!



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κανναβιακή Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2560	Κυριακὴ Ἁγίων Πάντων (Α' Ματθαίου) 11 Ἰουνίου 2023	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Εἴμαστε νᾶνοι μπροστὰ σὲ γίγαντες

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ἑορτὴ καὶ πα-
νήγυρις σὲ ὅλη τὴν Ὁρθόδοξο Ἐκκλησί-
α μας. Σήμερα, πρώτη Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὴν Πεν-
τηκοστή, εἶνε ἡ **ἐορτὴ τῶν ἁγίων Πάντων**.

• **Ποιοί εἶνε** οἱ ἅγιοι, ποὺ ἐορτάζει τώρα ἡ Ἐκ-
κλησία μας; Εἶνε γνωστοὶ καὶ ἀγνωστοί.

Γνωστοί εἶνε αὐτοὶ ποὺ ἔχουμε τὰ ὀνόματά
τους καὶ τοὺς τιμοῦμε σὲ ὠρισμένη ἡμερομη-
νία τοῦ ἔτους. Τὸ Μάιο π.χ. στὶς 21 τοῦ μηνὸς
ἐορτάζουμε τοὺς ἁγίους Κωνσταντῖνο καὶ
Ἑλένη. Τὸν Ἰούνιο ἐορτάζουμε τοὺς ἁγίους
ἀποστόλους, τοὺς κορυφαίους Πέτρο καὶ
Παύλου στὶς 29 τοῦ μηνὸς καὶ τοὺς Δώδεκα
στὶς 30. Τὸν Ἰούλιο ἐορτάζουμε τὴν ἁγία Πα-
ρασκευὴ στὶς 26 καὶ τὸν ἅγιο Παντελεήμονα
στὶς 27 τοῦ μηνὸς. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε γνωστοί.

Ἄλλ' ἐκτὸς αὐτῶν ὑπάρχουν καὶ οἱ **ἀγνω-
στοί** ἅγιοι. Γιὰ νὰ σὰς δώσω μιὰ ἰδέα τί θὰ πῇ
ἀγνωστος ἅγιος, σὰς ὑπενθυμίζω τί συμβαίνει
στοὺς πολέμους. Ὅταν γίνεται πόλεμος πέ-
φτουν νεκροί. Τὰ ὀνόματα τῶν ἡρώων ποὺ εἶ-
νε γνωστὰ χαράζονται μὲ χρυσὰ γράμματα σὲ
μαρμάρινες πλάκες καὶ μένουν στὰ μνημεῖα
τῶν πεσόντων κάθε τόπου. Ἀλλὰ στὸν πόλεμο
δὲν εἶνε ὅλοι οἱ πεσόντες γνωστοί· ὑπάρχουν
καὶ πολλοὶ ποὺ ἔπεσαν εἴτε σὲ πεδία μάχης,
εἴτε σὲ χαράδρες, γκρεμούς ἢ ἄλλα δυσπρό-
σιτα σημεῖα, ἄλλοι ποὺ ἐξαφανίστηκαν μέσα
στὴ φωτιά τῆς μάχης. Κάτι παρόμοιο λοιπὸν
ἔχουμε καὶ στὴν Ἐκκλησίᾳ. Ἐκτὸς τῶν γνω-
στῶν ἁγίων ὑπάρχουν καὶ ἀγνωστοί. Καὶ ὅπως
ἡ πατρίδα ἔχει μνημεῖο τοῦ Ἀγνώστου Στρα-
τιώτου, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας ὥρισε τὴ ση-
μερινὴ ἑορτὴ τῶν ἁγίων Πάντων πρὸς τιμὴν
καὶ τῶν ἀγνώστων ἡρώων τῆς πίστεώς μας.

Οἱ ἀγνωστοὶ ἅγιοι δὲν εἶνε λίγοι **εἶνε πε-
ρισσότεροι ἀπὸ τοὺς γνωστούς**. Εἶνε ἄντρες
καὶ γυναῖκες, γέροι καὶ νέοι, μικρὰ παιδιά καὶ
νήπια στὴν ἀγκαλιὰ τῶν μανάδων· εἶνε Ἕλλη-
νες (Μικρασιάτες, Πόντιοι, Ρουμελιῶτες, Μο-

ραῖτες, Ἡπειρώτες, Μακεδόνες, Θρακιῶτες,
νησιῶτες, Κρητικοί, Κύπριοι), ἀλλὰ καὶ πολλοὶ
ξένοι (Τοῦρκοι, Βούλγαροι, Σέρβοι, Ἀλβανοί,
Ρουμᾶνοι, Ῥῶσοι, Εὐρωπαῖοι, Ἀμερικανοί, Ἀ-
φρικανοί, Ἀσιᾶτες...) ἀπ' ὅλο τὸν κόσμο. Ἵσως
καὶ τὴν ὥρα αὐτὴ ποὺ μιᾶμε κάποιος σὲ ἔνα
ἀπίθανο σημεῖο τῆς γῆς προστίθεται στοὺς ἁ-
γίους καὶ ἐμεῖς δὲν θὰ μάθουμε ποτέ τὸ ὄνο-
μά του. Τὰ ὀνόματα ὅλων τὰ γνωρίζει ἀκρι-
βῶς μόνο ὁ Θεός.

Ὅλοι αὐτοὶ λοιπὸν οἱ ἀγνωστοὶ **ἐνώνονται**
τώρα μὲ τοὺς γνωστοὺς καὶ συνεορτάζουν μα-
ζί τους στὴ σημερινὴ ἑορτὴ τῶν ἁγίων Πάν-
των, ποὺ θεσπίστηκε πρὸς τιμὴν ὅλων ἀνεξ-
αιρέτως τῶν ἁγίων, **γνωστῶν καὶ ἀγνώστων**.

• **Πῶς ἐγιναν ἅγιοι** ὅλοι αὐτοί; Διότι δὲν ἦταν
ἅγιοι ἐξ ἀρχῆς. Κανένας δὲν γεννιέται ἅγιος.
Ἀμαρτωλοὶ γεννηθήκαμε ὅλοι. **Τί ἔκαναν** αὐ-
τοὶ καὶ ἁγίασαν; Ἐκαναν ὅ,τι λέει τὸ σημερι-
νὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Μαθ. 10,33-38· 19,27-30). Δηλαδή:

• **Ἀγάπησαν** τὸ Χριστὸ πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα καὶ
ἀπ' ὅλους καὶ τὸν ἀκολούθησαν (βλ. εἰς 10,37-38).

• **Ἀγωνίστηκαν** καὶ νίκησαν τοὺς τρεῖς μεγά-
λους ἐχθρούς· τὸν παλαιὸ **ἐαυτό** μας, τὸν κακὸ
κόσμο τῆς ἁμαρτίας, καὶ τὸν πονηρὸ **διάβολο**.

• **Ὁμολόγησαν** πίστι στὸ Χριστὸ (βλ. εἰς 10,32-33).

• **Θυσίασαν** τὰ πάντα καὶ τὴ ζωὴ τους ἀκό-
μη γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπη του (βλ. εἰς 19,27).

Ἐζησαν σὲ συνθήκες ποὺ ἡ πίστι τοῦ Χρι-
στοῦ κατεδιώκετο, ἀπαγορευόταν νὰ κάνουν
τὸ σταυρὸ τους καὶ νὰ πᾶνε στὴν ἐκκλησίᾳ.
Καὶ μόνο τὸ ὄνομα Χριστιανὸς ἔφτανε γιὰ νὰ
τοὺς ἐνοχοποιήσῃ. Τώρα δὲν στοιχίζει τίποτα,
εὐκόλα ὅλοι λέμε, Εἰμαι Χριστιανός. Τότε ὁ-
ποιος τὸ ἄλεγε τὸν ἐπιαναν καὶ τὸν ὑπέβαλ-
λαν σὲ μαρτύρια, ποὺ φρίττει κανεὶς κι ἀνα-
τριχιάζει ὅταν τὰ διαβάξῃ. Μία εἰκόνα τους μᾶς
δίνει ὁ σημερινὸς ἀπόστολος (βλ. Εβρ. 11,33-12,2). Τί
μαρτύρια φοβερά! Ἐμεῖς ἔνα δόντι βγάζουμε
καὶ πονᾶμε· γιὰ σκεφθῆτε τί ἔκαναν στοὺς μάρ-
τυρες τῶν διωγμῶν! Τοὺς ξερρίζωναν τὰ δόν-

τια, τούς έκοβαν τ' αὐτιά ἢ τίς μύτες, τούς ἔβγαζαν τὰ μάτια, τούς σοῦβλιζαν, τούς ἔγδερναν ζωντανούς, τούς ἔρριχναν ἀπὸ γκρεμούς στο χάος, τούς βύθιζαν μέ πέτρα στο λαιμὸ στά νερά ὅπως στο Βόσπορο ἢ στη λίμνη τῶν Ἰωαννίνων ὁ Ἀλῆ πασᾶς ἄλλους τούς ἔρριχναν σέ φωτιές, σέ καμίνια ἢ παγωμένες λίμνες, καὶ ἄλλους σέ πεινασμένα θηρία, ἢ τούς ἀλειφαν μέ πίσσα καὶ τούς ἔκαιγαν ζωντανούς. Μερικὲς φορές οἱ διώκτες, γιὰ νὰ τούς κάμψουν, ἔβαζαν τούς γονεῖς ἢ τὴ γυναῖκα καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ τους νὰ τούς ἐκλιπαροῦν· Ἀμὰν λυπήσου κ' ἐμὰς, μὴν ἐπιμένεις, φτάνει ὡς ἐδῶ!... Κ' ἐκεῖνοι τί ἀπαντοῦσαν· Σὰς ἀγαπῶ, κ' ἐσένα καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ μας, ἀλλὰ παραπάνω ἀπὸ σὰς ἀγαπῶ τὸ Χριστό. Τί ὕψος! Γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Χριστοῦ τὰ ὑπέφεραν ὅλα αὐτὰ οἱ ἅγιοι Πάντες, γιὰ νὰ κρατήσουν τὴν πίστι τους.

Αὐτοὶ ἦταν, ἀγαπητοὶ μου, οἱ ἅγιοι ποὺ ἐορτάζουν σήμερα. Ἄν τώρα ἐμεῖς συγκριθοῦμε μαζί τους καὶ ζυγιστοῦμε μέ τὰ ζῦγια αὐτά, ὅλοι μας, κληρικοὶ καὶ λαϊκοί, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, **εἴμαστε νῶοι ἀπέναντι σὲ γίγαντες καὶ τῖπνες**. Αὐτοὶ ἔδωσαν καὶ τὴ ζωὴ τους· ἐμεῖς τί θυσιάζουμε γιὰ τὴν πίστι καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη στο Χριστό; Αὐτοὶ εἶνε λιοντάρια, ἐμεῖς λαγοί.

Τὸν βλέπεις τὸν ἄλλο, περνάει ἔξω ἀπὸ ἐκκλησίᾳ ἢ μπαίνει σὲ αὐτοκίνητο, τραῖνο, ἀεροπλάνο, ἢ κάθεται στο τραπέζι μέ ἄλλους, καὶ δὲν κάνει τὸ σταυρὸ του· ντρέπεται. Ἀκοῦς τὸ στόμα του ἀπ' τὸ πρῶο μέχρι τὸ βράδυ σὰν πολυβόλο νὰ μιλάει γιὰ ὅλα τὰ θέματα· γιὰ γυναῖκες, γιὰ ἔρωτες, γιὰ πολιτική, γιὰ λεφτά, γιὰ ἀθλητικά, γιὰ τὰ πάντα, ἀλλὰ ἓνα λόγο γιὰ τὸ Χριστό δὲν λέει. Ἡ, ἂν ἀκουστῇ ἢ λέει Χριστός, θ' ἀκουστῇ δυστυχῶς ὡς βλαστήμα. **Ὁμολογία** πίστεως λοιπὸν δὲν ὑπάρχει. **Ἀγάπη** στο Χριστό δὲν ὑπάρχει. Οἱ ἄνθρωποι ἄλλα ἀγαποῦν. Σ' ἓνα νησί τῶν Κυκλάδων κάποιος εἶχε ἓνα ἀγοράκι ποὺ τὸ λέγανε Δημήτρη, ἀλλ' ὅταν πῆγε ἓνας ἱεροκῆρυκας ἐκεῖ καὶ κήρυξε ἐπὶ τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ εἶπε, ὅτι Παραπάνω ἀπὸ τὸ παιδί μας καὶ τὴ γυναῖκα μας πρέπει ν' ἀγαποῦμε τὸ Χριστό, αὐτὸς χλεῦασε· Ἄκου ἐκεῖ, λέει, ν' ἀγαποῦμε τὸ Χριστό παραπάνω ἀπὸ τὸ παιδί μας! ὅσο ἔχω ἐγὼ τὸ νυχάκι τοῦ Δημήτρη, δὲν ἔχω τὸ Χριστό... Φρικτὸς λόγος. Καὶ αὐτὸς μὲν τὸ εἶπε μέ τὸ στόμα, πολλοὶ ἄλλοι ὁμως τὸ λένε μέ τὴν καρδιά.

Ν' ἀγαπᾷς, ὅλο ἀγάπη νὰ εἶσαι. Ν' ἀγαπᾷς τὰ δέντρα, τοῦ λουλουδία, τὰ ζῶα, τὰ πουλιά· ν' ἀγαπᾷς τὸν πατέρα καὶ τὴ μάνα, τ' ἀδέρφια καὶ τοὺς φίλους, τὴ γυναῖκα καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ

σου· ἀλλὰ **στην κορυφὴ τῆς πυραμίδος, νὰ εἶνε ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστός**. Τό 'χης αὐτό; Εἶσαι Χριστιανός. Δὲν τό 'χης; Δὲν εἶσαι.

Ὁ Χριστὸς θέλει, ἂν βρεθοῦμε **σὲ σύγκρουσι καθηκόντων**, νὰ προτιμοῦμε τὸ ἀνώτερο.

Παράδειγμα. Ἦρθε στὴ μητρόπολι μιὰ γυναῖκα νέα καὶ ἔκλαιγε·

—Ὁ ἄντρας μου μέ διώχνει. Ἐχω δυὸ παιδιὰ, εἶμαι ἔγκυος στο τρίτο καὶ μοῦ λέει· «Θὰ πᾶς στο γιαιτρὸ νὰ τὸ ρίξης. Ἐάν δὲν κάνης ἔκτρωσι, νὰ φύγης ἀπ' τὸ σπίτι. Τί νὰ κάνω, πάτερ; Μπρὸς γκρεμὸς-πίσω ρεῦμα. Ἐάν δὲν τὸ κάνω, μέ διώχνει· ἔάν τὸ κάνω, σκέπτομαι τὸ ἁμάρτημα (καὶ δὲν ὑπάρχει, ὄντως, χειρότερο ἀπ' αὐτό).

—Ἀκουσε, τῆς λέω· ἂν πιστεύης στο Θεό, νὰ μὴν κάνης ἔκτρωσι.

—Μὰ θὰ μέ διώξῃ ὁ ἄντρας μου.

—Χωρὶς ἄντρα ζῆς, χωρὶς Θεό δὲν ζῆς.

Μὲ ἄκουσε ἡ γυναῖκα. Κάλεσα καὶ τὸν σύζυγο. Ἦταν ἄθεος, δὲν ἠθελε ν' ἀκούσῃ.

Τέτοια εἶνε ἡ κατάστασι, σατανική. Σ' αὐτὰ τὰ χρόνια ζοῦμε. **Ψεύπκος χριστιανισμὸς ἐπικρατεῖ**. Καὶ βλέπεις μαζεύτηκαν στο Βερολῖνο προχθὲς πεντακόσες χιλιάδες Τοῦρκοι, γιὰ ἓνα δικό τους ζήτημα, καὶ φώναζαν στοὺς δρόμους μέ ταμπέλλες ποὺ ἔγραφαν· Πεθαίνουμε γιὰ τὸν Ἀλλάχ! Ποιὸς τὸ λέει ἐδῶ αὐτὸ γιὰ τὸ Χριστό; Κανείς. Ἐρχόμαστε σὴν ἐκκλησίᾳ, ἀνάβουμε τὰ κεριά μας, προσκυνοῦμε τίς εἰκόνες, κάνουμε τὸν ψευτοχριστιανό, ἀλλὰ μέσα μας δὲν ἔχουμε τὴ φωτιά αὐτῇ, τὴν ἁγία φωτιά, τὸν ἱερὸ ἐνθουσιασμό, τὴν ἀπόφασι, τὴν ὁμολογία τῆς πίστεως, τὴν αὐταπάρνησι, αὐτὰ ποὺ ἀκοῦμε σήμερα νὰ ζητῇ ὁ Χριστός.

Σὲ τέτοια χρόνια ζοῦμε. Ὁ σατανᾶς μισεῖ τὴν πίστι μας. Ἄν εἶχε δικαίωμα ἐδῶ σὴν Ἑλλάδα, θὰ ἔσφαζε ὅλους τοὺς παπᾶδες καὶ ὅλους τοὺς δεσποτάδες καὶ θὰ γκρέμιζε ὅλες τίς ἐκκλησιές. Τρίζει τὰ δόντια, δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ κάνῃ. Αὐτὸ ὁμως ποὺ δὲν κάνει σήμερα, γιὰτὶ ἔχουμε ἀκόμη κάποια ἐλευθερία, θὰ γίνῃ αὐριο. Σφαγὴ μεγάλη θὰ γίνῃ. **Ποιὸς θὰ ὁμολογήσῃ Χριστόν; Μέσ' στοὺς χίλιους ἓνας!** Προφητεύω. Ὅποιος ὁμολογήσῃ τὸ Χριστό, θὰ ἔχῃ μαρτύριο, θὰ ὑποστῇ μαρτύριο, ἀλλὰ αὐτὸς θὰ εἶνε μακάριος καὶ ἅγιος ἀμοιβῆς. Ὅσο ἀξίζει ἓνα διαμάντι δὲν ἀξίζει ἓνα βουνὸ ὀλόκληρο, ἔτσι καὶ ὅσο ἀξίζει ἓνας πραγματικὸς Χριστιανός, μιμητῆς τῶν ἁγίων, δὲν ἀξίζει ὁ κόσμος ὅλος.

Εἴθε ὁ Θεὸς διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῶν ἁγίων Πάντων νὰ εἶνε μαζί σας.

(†) **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.

All Saints

God is wonderful in his saints. He will give strength and power to his people. Consider the meaning of these prophetic words and try to understand them. The psalm says that God gives strength and power to all his people, for with God there is no partiality; nevertheless it is only in his saints that he fills us with wonder.

The Church of Christ honors even after their death those who have lived a truly godly life. Every day of the year it commemorates the saints who departed hence on that day, leaving this mortal life. It sets the life of each of them before us for our benefit, and also shows us how each died, whether they fell asleep in peace or ended their lives in martyrdom. On this day, however, the Church gathers them all together and sends up a common hymn in their honor.

My brothers and sisters, let us too honor the saints of God. How shall we honor them? By imitating them, by purifying ourselves from every stain of body and spirit and by ceasing to sin until, by this abstinence, we are brought to a sanctity like theirs. On these festival days at least let us offer God bodies and souls that are acceptable to him, so that we too, by the prayers of the saints, may gain a share in their glory and eternal bliss. May we all attain to this by the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with his eternal Father and the most holy, good, and life-giving Spirit belongs glory now and always and for endless ages. Amen.

From a sermon by St. Gregory of Palamas

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