



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESEAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 30th, 2023
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

EIGHTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Christ Walking on Water

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode

Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people.

Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 1:10-17

Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11,1

Κύριος ἰσχύϊν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει.

Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.

The reading is from Πρὸς Κορινθίους α' 1:10-17

Ἀδελφοί, παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ᾗ ἐν ὑμῖν σχίσματα, ἥτε δὲ κατηρτισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοῷ καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ. Ἐδηλώθη γάρ μοι περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί μου, ὑπὸ τῶν Χλόης, ὅτι ἔριδες ἐν ὑμῖν εἰσιν. Λέγω δὲ τοῦτο, ὅτι ἕκαστος ὑμῶν λέγει, Ἐγὼ μὲν εἰμι Παύλου, Ἐγὼ δὲ Ἀπολλῶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Κηφᾶ, Ἐγὼ δὲ Χριστοῦ. Μεμέρισται ὁ Χριστός; Μὴ Παῦλος ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν, ἥ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου ἐβαπτίσθητε; Εὐχαριστῶ τῷ θεῷ ὅτι οὐδένα ὑμῶν ἐβάπτισα, εἰ μὴ Κρίσπον καὶ Γάϊον· ἵνα μὴ τις εἴπῃ ὅτι εἰς τὸ ἐμὸν ὄνομα ἐβάπτισα. Ἐβάπτισα δὲ καὶ τὸν Στεφανᾶ οἶκον· λοιπὸν οὐκ οἶδα εἴ τινα ἄλλον ἐβάπτισα. Οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλén με Χριστὸς βαπτίζειν, ἀλλ' εὐαγγελίζεσθαι· οὐκ ἐν σοφίᾳ λόγου, ἵνα μὴ κενωθῇ ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

The Gospel According to Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 14:14-22

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐξελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδε πολὺν ὄχλον, καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐθεράπευσε τοὺς ἀρρώστους αὐτῶν. ὥφιας δὲ γενομένης προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ἔρημός ἐστιν ὁ τόπος καὶ ἡ ὥρα ἤδη παρῆλθεν· ἀπόλυσον τοὺς ὄχλους, ἵνα ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὰς κώμας ἀγοράσωσιν ἑαυτοῖς βρώματα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐ χρειάν ἔχουσιν ἀπελθεῖν· δότε αὐτοῖς ὑμεῖς φαγεῖν. οἱ δὲ λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· οὐκ ἔχομεν ὧδε εἰ μὴ πέντε ἄρτους καὶ δύο ἰχθύας. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· φέρετέ μοι αὐτοὺς ὧδε. καὶ κελεύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἀνακλιθῆναι ἐπὶ τοὺς χόρτους, λαβὼν τοὺς πέντε ἄρτους καὶ τοὺς δύο ἰχθύας, ἀναβλέψας εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν εὐλόγησε, καὶ κλάσας ἔδωκε τοῖς μαθηταῖς τοὺς ἄρτους, οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ τοῖς ὄχλοις. καὶ ἔφαγον πάντες καὶ ἐχορτάσθησαν, καὶ ἦσαν τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων δώδεκα κοφίνους πλήρεις. οἱ δὲ ἐσθίοντες ἦσαν ἄνδρες ὥσει πεντακισχίλιοι χωρὶς γυναικῶν καὶ παιδίων. Καὶ εὐθέως ἠνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἕως οὗ ἀπολύσῃ τοὺς ὄχλους.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

Many thanks are extended to sooooo many faithful friends who extended their 'BIRTHDAY GREETINGS' to our beloved Pastor; father Eugene:

THREE HIERARCHS PARISH COUNCIL, FR. VASYL SHAK and the UKRAINIAN COMMUNITY, FR. MYSTISLAV and the RUSSIAN COMMUNITY, ATHINEOS FAMILY, JOANNA VASSILAS, BEZUGLY FAMILY, ROBERT MALFI and ANGEL, TEIMURAZ and FAMILY, ANGIE VLAHOS and FAMILY, YEKATERINA and PAVEL, PAMELA KELLY and DINA FRATANGELO. STELLA OBERLE, IRENA STELLMACH, GORDON and LARISA HEISER, GEORGIA BOUZAKIS and FAMILY, GEORGE, ANN and CHRIS ANNIS, STEPHANIE CARAVOLOS FAMILY, SANDY VALLAS FAMILY, MARIA and NICK NOTARO, ALIOTTA BAKERY, YIASOU RESTAURANT, FR. GUY MASSIE, FR. GERASIMOS and STELLA MAKRIS, MARIA HALKIAS and MINAS, MADISON FLORIST and GIANNOPOULOS FAMILY, T.L.I.G. MEMBERS, PHILOPHOCHOS SOCIETY, EFFIE GALIATSATOS, PATRA ATHANASAKOS, MARCIA JACOBS U.A., F.X. ROUKE and ODHRAN BRANLEY, GREGORY MITCHELL and FAMILY, ANTHONY and MARIA FISHER, JULIE, GEORGE and JOANNA KORKOFIGAS, NADEZHDA and ALEXANDER, SOPHIA, FLORA, THEODOSIA, TATIANA, ROMANIAN SOPHIA, DAMIAN VAGANOV and OLEG, IRINA and LARISA NIKANDROV, SUSAN and DENO CHRISTAKOS, NICHOLAS and KATHERINE MITCHELL, OLENA ROMAN and VICTORIA SHAK. CONNIE IOANNIDES, NICHOLAS and VALENTINA SITNYCKI, RON and HELEN McCORMISKEY, BOYS and IRENE et al..... hope we haven't forgotten anyone!/
IT WAS INDEED A GREAT CELEBRATION.

Devotions of August:	TUESDAY	AUGUST 01,	AGIASMOS (Holy Water Blessing)	11:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.
	TUESDAY	AUGUST 01,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
	THURSDAY	AUGUST 03,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.
	SUNDAY	AUGUST 06	TRANSFIGURATION (grapes blessed)	12:00 Noon
	MONDAY	AUGUST 07,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
	WEDNESDAY	AUGUST 09,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
	FRIDAY	AUGUST 11,	Paraklesis (Supplications)	7:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
	TUESDAY	AUGUST 15,	ASSUMPTION (Repose) of the Virgin Mary	10:00 A.M.

Artoklasies are most welcomed. Veneration of the EPITAPHION from August 01-15th,

ARTOKLASIA: Honoring St. Panteleimon by the Korkofigas Family

GRAPES are needed and requested for the FEAST of HOLY TRANSFIGURATION (Sunday – AUGUST 06TH , 12 Noon. Please communicate with the Church Office if you will be donating grapes for the feast and distribution

Marigold flower blossoms are the traditional bloom offered to the THEOTOKOS, hence it is named 'mary's gold' marigold. Pick some from your home garden and place them at the 'epitaphion' of the Mother of God!

SPECIAL NOTICE: we are in need of sacramental wine (Commanderia, Mavrodaphne, Kagor) please see the clergy to secure a bottle or two or a full case. Not every wine is appropriate for sacramental use- see the clergy.

ON VACATION TRIP? We always remind our faithful while on vacation traveling in the U.S.A. or abroad – consult with Father Eugene for the closest church and Greek Orthodox community that may be in your vicinity. Always greet the clergy and announce where you come from and extend greeting from THREE HIERARCHS and FATHER EUGENE. You would be surprised to learn how well known our 'parish' is in the global map of faithful Orthodox communities. Going abroad? We can supply you with the nearest Greek Orthodox Church..... anywhere! Don't miss the opportunity to evangelize in the most remote places.

NEXT SUNDAY: AUGUST 06th, HOLY TRANSFIGURATION LITURGY and the blessing of the first crushing of the 'grapes' Chronia Polla to all named SOTIRI or SOTIRIA, SALVATORE, SAVIOUR!

ARCH – EPISCOPAL VISITATION: Our Parish will be graced with the visitation and con-celebration at the 12:30 Divine Liturgy on Sunday AUGUST 13TH, by : HIS BEATITUDE METROPOLITAN ANTHONY and HIS EMINANCE ARCHBISHOP DANIEL of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of America.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

JUS' DROPPED IN
TO WISH U A
BIRTHDAY
FULL OF
HAPPIES !

HAPPY
Birthday





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 – imaafl@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2571	Κυριακὴ Η' Ματθαίου (Ματθ. 14,14-22) 30 Ἰουλίου 2023	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ἡ εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ

Δὲν ζῇ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἀγαπητοί μου, χωρὶς τὴν θρησκεία. Ὅπως τὸ ψάρι σπαρταρᾷ ἔξω ἀπ' τὸ νερό, ἔτσι καὶ ἡ **ψυχὴ μας ἀγωνιᾷ μακριὰ ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό.**

Πολλὲς εἶνε οἱ θρησκεῖες, παλιὲς καὶ νέες. Ἀλλ' ἐὰν ρωτήσετε, **ποιὰ ἀπ' ὅλες εἶνε ἡ ἀληθινή,** καὶ οἱ πέτρες ποὺ πατάτε θὰ σᾶς ἀπαντήσουν· ἡ μόνη ζωντανὴ θρησκεία εἶνε **ἡ δική μας.** Γιατί; Διότι δὲν τὴν ἐφτείαξε ἄνθρωπος, ὅπως τὶς ἄλλες, ἀλλὰ τὴν φύτεψε ὁ Θεός. Αὐτὸς ποὺ ἔστησε τὴν Ἐκκλησίαν, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, δὲν εἶνε ἀπλῶς ἓνας ἄνθρωπος, ἓνας σοφός, ἓνας ῥήτορας, ἓνας κοινωνιολόγος· **ὁ Χριστός μας εἶνε Θεός.** –Θεός; Ναί, Θεός! Τὸ φωνάζει ἡ ἀγία του διδασκαλία, ποὺ σὰν αὐτὴν ἄλλη δὲν ἀκούστηκε στὴ γῆ· τὸ φωνάζει ἡ ἀγία του ζωὴ, ποὺ δὲν παρουσιάζει τὴν παραμικρὴ σκιά, ἴχνος ἁμαρτίας· τὸ φωνάζουν τὰ ἔργα του, τὰ θαύματά του. Πόσα θαύματα; Ἀμέτρητα. Ἄν μπορῇ κανεὶς νὰ μετρήσῃ τὴν ἄμμο τῆς θαλάσσης καὶ τὰ ἄστρα τ' οὐρανοῦ, τότε μπορεῖ νὰ μετρήσῃ καὶ τὰ **θαύματα** ποὺ ἔκανε, κάνει καὶ θὰ κάνῃ μέχρι συντελείας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

Ἔνα ἀπὸ τὰ πολλὰ θαύματά του εἶνε καὶ αὐτὸ ποὺ διηγεῖται τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Ματθ. 14,14-22). Τὸ ἀκούσατε; Τί λέει;

Λέει, ὅτι **μιά πόλις,** ἓνα πλῆθος 15 - 20 χιλιάδων λαοῦ, **μία μέρα ἄδειασε.** Δὲν ἔμεινε μέσα οὔτε ἓνας. Δρόμοι καὶ πλατεῖες ἐρήμωσαν· οἱ ἄντρες ἔκλεισαν τὰ μαγαζιά, οἱ γυναῖκες ἄφησαν τὰ νοικοκυριά, **μανάδες** πῆραν τὰ μωρὰ στὴν ἀγκαλιά, μικρὰ παιδιὰ, νέοι καὶ γέροι ἀσπρομάλληδες, ὅλος ὁ κόσμος, ἔφυγε ἀπὸ τὴν πόλι. Καὶ ποῦ πῆγαν; σὲ γλέντια, σὲ κέντρα διασκεδάσεως, χορούς; Ὁχι. Ποῦ πῆγαν λοιπόν; Βγῆκαν ἔξω καὶ βάδισαν μὲ τὰ πόδια χιλιόμετρα. Τί ζητοῦσαν; χρυσάφι, ἀσὴμι; Κάτι ἀνώτερο ἀπὸ αὐτά· **ζητοῦσαν τὸ Χριστό.**

Γιατὶ **ὁ Χριστὸς** εἶχε φύγει ἀπὸ τὴν πόλι καὶ πῆγε στὴν ἐρημίαν, γιὰ νὰ κάνῃ προσευχή. Τέλος τὸν βρῆκαν. Καὶ ὅπως χαίρεται ἓνας διψασμένος ὅταν βρίσκῃ μιὰ πηγὴ, ἔτσι κι αὐτοὶ **χάρηκαν** ποὺ εἶδαν τὸ Χριστό. Ὁ Χριστὸς ὁμῶς βλέποντάς τους λυπήθηκε, **λέει** τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, **γιατὶ αὐτὸ τὸ πλῆθος ἦταν ἐγκαταλελειμμένο ἀπὸ τοὺς ἡγέτες του, ἔμοιαζε σὰν κοπάδι χωρὶς τσοπάνο.**

Στὸν ἐγκαταλελειμμένο ἐκεῖνο λαὸ ὁ Χριστὸς ἔδειξε ὅλη τὴν ἀγάπη καὶ στοργή του. Ὁχι μόνο **θεράπευσε** ὅλους τοὺς ἀρρώστους, ἀλλὰ καὶ τοὺς **δίδαξε** τὰ λόγια τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ ἦταν τόσο ζωντανὸς ὁ λόγος του, ὥστε πέρασαν οἱ ὥρες, ἔγινε μεσημέρι, κι αὐτοὶ δὲν κουράστηκαν νὰ τὸν ἀκούνε. Πήγαινε πιά νὰ βασιλέψῃ ὁ ἥλιος καὶ οἱ μαθηταὶ - οἱ ἀπόστολοι πλησίασαν καὶ εἶπαν· –Κύριε, ὁ τόπος ἐδῶ εἶνε ἔρημος, δὲν ὑπάρχουν οὔτε φοῦρνοι οὔτε ἐστιατόρια· ποῦ θὰ πᾶρῃ αὐτὸς ὁ κόσμος; τί θὰ φᾶνε τόσα στόματα; Ὁ Χριστὸς τοὺς λέει· –Δὲν εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ πᾶνε πουθενά· θὰ μένουν ἐδῶ, καὶ δώστε τοὺς ἐσεῖς νὰ φᾶνε. –Ἐμεῖς, Διδάσκαλε, δὲν ἔχουμε μαζί μας παρά μόνο πέντε κριθαρένια ψωμιά καὶ δυὸ ψάρια. Μὰ αὐτὰ τί νὰ κάνουν σὲ τόσο κόσμος; δὲν φτάνουν γιὰ νὰ πάρῃ καθένας ἀπ' αὐτοὺς οὔτε ἓνα ψίχουλο.

Τότε ὁ Χριστὸς μας εἶπε καὶ ἔφεραν μπροστά του τὰ ψωμιά καὶ τὰ ψάρια. **Τὰ εὐλόγησε, ἄρχισε νὰ τεμαχίζῃ** καὶ νὰ δίνει μὲ τὰ χέρια του στοὺς μαθητάς, οἱ μαθηταὶ πάλι μετέδιδαν στὸν κόσμον, καὶ πάνων σ' αὐτὴ τὴν διαδικασίαν τ' ἀγαθὰ αὐξάνονταν, αὐγάτιζαν τόσο πολὺ, ὥστε ἀπὸ τὰ 5 ἐκεῖνα ψωμιά καὶ τὰ 2 ψάρια ἔφαγαν πέντε χιλιάδες ἄντρες **«χωρὶς γυναικῶν καὶ παιδίων»** (ἐ.ἀ. 14,21)! Καὶ ἐπειδὴ οἱ γυναῖκες καὶ τὰ παιδιὰ κατὰ κανόνα εἶνε διπλάσια, ἄρα μ' αὐτὰ ἔφαγε καὶ χόρτασε μιὰ ὀλόκληρη Πτολεμαῖδα.

Αὐτὰ λέει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο.

—Μπα! θὰ πῇ κάποιος τεντυμπόης, ἄκου ἐκεῖ τώρα! **Αὐτὰ ἦταν «τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ».** Δὲν πιστεύουμε στὰ παραμύθια τῶν παπᾶδων....

“Ὁχι, ὄχι! Αὐτὰ δὲν εἶνε παραμύθια, εἶνε γεγονότα. **Τὸ θαῦμα** αὐτὸ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου **ἐπα-
ναλαμβάνεται καὶ σήμερα.** Ἀνθρωπε τυφλέ, ποὺ ὁ Θεὸς σοῦ ὅσως μάτια ἀλλὰ σὺ δὲν τ’ ἀνοίγεις νὰ δῇς! ἔλα νὰ σὲ πᾶω στὰ **χωράφια**. Τί κάνει ἐκεῖ ὁ **γεωργός;** Σπέρνει σπόρο. Κά-
θε κουκκὶ ποὺ σπέρνει τὸ θάβει μέσ’ στὴ γῆ·
κι ἀπὸ ἐκεῖνο τὸ **σπόρο**, καλομπόκι ἢ σιτάρι,
βγαίνει ἓνα στάχυ. Καὶ τὸ στάχυ ἐπάνω του ἔ-
χει — πόσα σφυριά παρακαλῶ; ἄλλο ἔχει 30,
ἄλλο ἔχει 60, ἄλλο ἔχει 100. Ἡ Γραφή λέει, ὅ-
τι στὴ χώρα τῶν ἀσεβῶν καὶ ἁμαρτωλῶν, τῶν
ἀπίστων, τῶν πόρνων καὶ τῶν μοιχῶν, θὰ πέ-
ση χαλάζι (πρβλ. π.χ. Ἡσ. 30,30. 1εζ. 38,22), καὶ δὲν θὰ μείνῃ
τίποτα. **Θὰ σπέρνουν καὶ δὲν θὰ θερίζουν, για-
τὶ δὲν ἔχουν εὐλογία.** Ὅταν ὅμως ἔχῃς εὐλο-
γία, τὸ ἓνα πολλαπλασιάζεται. Σὲ ῥωτῶ· πῶς
τὸ 1 κουκκὶ γίνεται 100; πῶς σπέρνεις λίγα
σακκιά σπόρο στὸ χωράφι καὶ ἀπὸ αὐτὰ γεμί-
ζεις ἔπειτα μιὰ ἀποθήκη; πῶς; Σ’ αὐτὸ ἡ ἐπι-
στήμη δὲν μπορεῖ ν’ ἀπαντήσῃ. “Ὅλοι οἱ ἐπι-
στήμονες, ὅλοι οἱ γεωπόνοι, νὰ μαζευτοῦν,
ἓνα σφυρὶ καλαμπόκι δὲν μποροῦν νὰ κάνουν.
Ποιὸς τὸ ἔκανε; Ἀπιστοὶ, πηγαίνετε στοὺς
ὀπωρῶνες τῆς Ἐδέσσης, ποὺ τὰ κλαδιά λυγί-
ζουν ἀπὸ τὰ ῥοδάκινα, χιλιάδες τόννοι, καὶ δὲν
ἔχουμε χέρια νὰ τὰ μαζέψουμε. Ἀν τὰ δέντρα
αὐτὰ εἶχαν φωνή, οἱ ῥοδακινιές, οἱ μηλιές, οἱ
ἀχλαδιές, τὸ καθένα θὰ σᾶς ἔλεγε· Κάποτε ἦ-
μουν ἓνας σπόρος, σὰν σπόρος ἔπεσα στὴ γῆ
κι ἀπὸ τὸ σπόρο βγῆκα ἐγὼ ἡ μηλιά, ἡ ῥοδα-
κινιά, ἡ ἀχλαδιά. Κι ἀπὸ τότε εἶμαι εἴκοσι χρό-
νια στὸ χωράφι καὶ ἔχω βγάλει δέκα χιλιάδες
τόννους ῥοδάκινα, μῆλα, ἀχλάδια. Νάτο τὸ
εὐαγγέλιο! Κάθε μέρα γίνεται τὸ θαῦμα. Εὐ-
λογεῖ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ λίγα καὶ γίνονται πολλὰ.

Τὸ **θαῦμα** λοιπὸν δὲν ἦταν μόνο στὴν ἐπο-
χὴ τοῦ Χριστοῦ· **γίνεται καὶ σήμερα,** καὶ ὅσοι
ἔχουν μάτια βλέπουν, ὅσοι ἔχουν αὐτιά ἀκοῦ-
νε, κι ὅσοι ἔχουν καρδιὲς αἰσθάνονται. Μόνο
οἱ τυφλοὶ, οἱ κουφοὶ καὶ ἀναίσθητοι δὲν αἰ-
σθάνονται τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ.

“Ἀπιστε, ἐξακολουθεῖς λοιπὸν νὰ εἰρωνεύ-
εσαι καὶ νὰ λές, Αὐτὰ ἦταν «τῷ καιρῷ ἐκεί-
νῳ»;” Ἐ, τότε θὰ μοῦ ἐπιτρέψῃς νὰ ἀναφέρω
ἓνα θαῦμα ἀπὸ τὴν προσωπικὴ μου ζωὴ. Τὸ
1942 - ’43, στὰ φοβερὰ χρόνια τῆς Κατοχῆς
ποὺ οἱ μπόττες τῶν Γερμανῶν χτυποῦσαν στὰ
καλντερίμια, ἦμουν νεαρὸς ἱεροκλήρυκα στὴν
Κοζάνη. Τρόμος καὶ φόβος βασίλευε, ἐπικρα-

τοῦσε ἀνέχεια καὶ πείνα· λέγαμε τὸ ψωμὶ ψω-
μάκι. Τότε φτειάσαμε ἓνα **σουσσίτιο.** Μὲ πόσα
πιᾶτα ἀρχίσαμε; Εἴκοσι (20). Αὐτὰ σιγὰ - σιγὰ
αὐξάνονταν καὶ τέλος πόσα φτάσαμε; Ὅχτῳ
χιλιάδες (8.000) πιᾶτα! Εἴχαμε σιτάρια, καλα-
μπόκια, ἀποθήκες; Τίποτα. Εὐλόγησε ὁ Θεός,
φώτισε Ἐκεῖνος, καὶ ὁ εὐσεβὴς λαὸς ἔδωσε
μὲ τὴν καρδιά του, ἄλλοι ἀπὸ τὸ ὑστέρημα,
ἄλλοι ἀπὸ τὸ πλεόνασμα· ἔτσι λειτούργησε ἡ
ἐστία καὶ σώθηκαν ψυχές.

Δὲν εἶνε ἓνα, δὲν εἶνε δυό, δὲν εἶνε τρία τὰ
θαύματα ποὺ κάνει ὁ Χριστὸς μας. Νὰ σᾶς πῶ
ἄλλο ἓνα καὶ τελειῶνω. Ἦμουν κάποτε στὴ
Θεσσαλονίκη. Περπατοῦσα στὸ δρόμο πρῶτῃ -
πρῶτῃ καὶ βλέπω ἓνα καροτσάκι φορτωμένο
λαχανικά. Τό ’σερνε ἓνα γεροντάκι στὰ σο-
κάκια, πουλοῦσε ντομάτες, ἀγγούρια, ἀχλά-
δια..., καὶ ὁ φτωχὸς ἐκεῖνος ἄνθρωπος εἶχε
γράψει μὲ κόκκινα γράμματα μιὰ ἐπιγραφή
ποὺ ἔλεγε «**Ἐχει ὁ Θεός**». Μοῦ ’κανε ἐντύ-
πωσι, τὸν πλησίασα καὶ τοῦ λέω· —Πῶς τὸ ἔ-
γραψες αὐτὸ «Ἐχει ὁ Θεός»; —“Ἄ, λέει, εἶμαι
Πόντιος· ὁ πατέρας μου, ἡ μάνα μου, οἱ παπ-
ποῦδες μου πίστευαν στὸ Θεό. Ἦρθαμε ἐδῶ
γδυτοί. Ἀγόρασα τὸ καροτσάκι καὶ πουλῶ κά-
θε μέρα ὅ,τι μπορῶ. Ἐχω γυναῖκα, ἑφτά παι-
διά, πατέρα καὶ μάνα. Εἴκοσι χρόνια ζῶ μ’
αὐτὸ τὸν τρόπο, καὶ ὁ Θεὸς δὲν μὲ στέρησε
τὰ ἀναγκαῖα. Γι’ αὐτὸ ἔγραψα «Ἐχει ὁ Θεός».

Ἀδέρφια μου, σᾶς μιλῶ μὲ πόνο. Μεγάλο
πράγμα εἶνε ἡ πίστι στὸ Θεό, μεγάλο πρᾶγμα
ἡ θρησκεία, ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας· μεγάλο πρᾶγμα
εἶνε νὰ ἔχῃς τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ. **Ἐχεις
τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ;** Ἰδοὺ τὸ μεγάλο ἐρώ-
τημα. Ἀν ἔχῃς τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ, χῶμα
θὰ πιάνης — μάλαμα θὰ γίνεται. Τὸ ἐπαναλαμ-
βάνω· ἔχεις τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ; χῶμα θὰ
πιάνης — μάλαμα θὰ γίνεται.

**Ἀν ὅμως δὲν ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θε-
οῦ,** τότε καὶ οἱ πέτρες ποὺ πατοῦμε θὰ γίνουν
φίδια νὰ μᾶς φᾶνε. Μιὰ μέρα ὄχι χαλάζι ποὺ
πέφτει καὶ ῥημάζει τὰ καπνά, ὄχι πλημμύρες,
ὄχι σεισμοὶ καὶ κεραυνοὶ καὶ ἀστροπελέκια, ἀλ-
λὰ πρέπει ν’ ἀνοίξῃ ἡ γῆ νὰ μᾶς καταπιῇ ὅλους,
γιατὶ εἴμαστε ἀνάξια παιδιὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ
τῆς Ἑλλάδος, ἀνάξιοι νὰ λεγώμαστε Χριστια-
νοί. Φωνάζω, κηρύττω, παρακαλῶ· τὰ λόγια αὐ-
τά, ποὺ σᾶς εἶπα, νὰ τὰ πῆτε καὶ σὲ ἄλλους·
καὶ ν’ ἀξιωθοῦμε **νὰ ζήσουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ
Χριστοῦ μας,** διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας
Θεοτόκου καὶ πάντων τῶν ἁγίων· 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.

Trust in Prayer

A man sat in his luxurious hotel room and dialed room service. He marveled at the fact that at the other end of the telephone line was an individual waiting to respond to his every need. All he had to do was ask.

Many people believe that prayer is supposed to work the same way. For them, God is at the receiving end of their prayers and is expected to grant every prayer requested. "And why shouldn't it be?" they might ask. "Doesn't God want me to get this new job?" "Doesn't God want my marriage to work?" "Doesn't God want my surgery to be successful?" After all, don't we read in the Scriptures, "Ask and you shall receive?"

The answer is, yes – God always wants what is best for us, and every prayer is answered. But, not every prayer is answered as we expect it to be. In order to be able to accept God's answers

to our prayers, especially the unanticipated answers, we need to exercise patience, trust and openness to God's will and His wisdom.

We see Saint Peter exercise this kind of trust in God in today's Gospel lesson. While the disciples' boat was being storm-tossed on the sea, Jesus came walking on water toward them. Then, Jesus issued a most unexpected command to Peter. "Come," Jesus said and Peter actually began walking on water toward Him! It was only when Peter took his eyes away from Jesus and focused again on the perilous storm around him that he began to sink. The same is true for us. When we trust God, He will lead us to safety. When we take our eyes away from Him, we become overwhelmed by the storms of life.

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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

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](#))