

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN July 9th, 2023 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of Christ Healing the Gadarenes

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Prokeimenon. Mode 4 Psalm 103.24,1

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom. Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

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

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but it is not enlightened. For, being ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law, that every one who has faith may be justified. Moses writes that the man who practices the righteousness which is based on the law shall live by it. But the righteousness based on faith says, Do not say in your heart, "Who will ascend into heaven?" (that is, to bring Christ down) or "Who will descend into the abyss?" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach); because, if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος δ'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1 Ώς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας. Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχή μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πρὸς 'Ρωμαίους 10:1-10 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Άδελφοί, ἡ μὲν εὐδοκία τῆς ἐμῆς καρδίας καὶ ἡ δέησις ἡ πρὸς τὸν θεὸν ὑπὲρ τοῦ Ἰσραήλ ἐστιν εἰς σωτηρίαν. Μαρτυρῶ γὰρ αὐτοῖς ὅτι ζῆλον θεοῦ ἔχουσιν, ἀλλ' οὐ κατ' ἐπίγνωσιν. ἀγνοοῦντες γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεοῦ δικαιοσύνην, καὶ τὴν ἰδίαν δικαιοσύνην ζητοῦντες στῆσαι, τῆ δικαιοσύνη τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ὑπετάγησαν. Τέλος γὰρ νόμου Χριστὸς εἰς δικαιοσύνην παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι. Μωϋσῆς γὰρ γράφει τὴν δικαιοσύνην τὴν ἐκ τοῦ νόμου, ὅτι ὁ ποιἡσας αὐτὰ ἄνθρωπος ζήσεται ἐν αὐτοῖς. Ἡ δὲ ἐκ πίστεως δικαιοσύνη οὕτως λέγει, Μὴ εἴπῃς ἐν τῆ καρδία σου, Τίς ἀναβήσεται εἰς τὸν οὐρανόν; - τοῦτ' ἔστιν Χριστὸν καταγαγεῖν - ἤ, Τίς καταβήσεται εἰς τὴν ἄβυσσον; - τοῦτ' ἔστιν Χριστὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναγαγεῖν. ἀλλὰ τί λέγει; Ἐγγύς σου τὸ ῥῆμά ἐστιν, ἐν τῷ στόματί σου καὶ ἐν τῆ καρδία σου· τοῦτ' ἔστιν τὸ ῥῆμα τῆς πίστεως ὁ κηρύσσομεν· ὅτι ἐὰν ὁμολογήσης ἐν τῷ στόματί σου κύριον Ἰησοῦν, καὶ πιστεύσης ἐν τῆ καρδία σου ὅτι ὁ θεὸς αὐτὸν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν, σωθήση· καρδία γὰρ πιστεύεται εἰς δικαιοσύνην, στόματι δὲ ὁμολογεῖται εἰς σωτηρίαν.

Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 8:28-34, 9:1 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

At that time, when Jesus came to the country of the Gergesenes, two demoniacs met him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce that no one would pass that way. And behold, they cried out, "What have you to do with us, O Son of God? Have you come here to torment us before the time?" Now a herd of many swine was feeding at some distance from them. And the demons begged him, "If you cast us out, send us away into the herd of swine." And he said to them, "Go." So they came out and went into the swine; and behold, the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and perished in the waters. The herdsmen fled, and going into the city they told everything, and what had happened to the demoniacs. And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus; and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their neighborhood. And getting into a boat he crossed over and came to his own city.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντος τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τὸ πέραν εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γεργεσηνῶν ὑπήντησαν αὐτῷ δύο δαιμονιζόμενοι ἐκ τῶν μνημείων ἐξερχόμενοι, χαλεποὶ λίαν, ὥστε μὴ ἰσχύειν τινὰ παρελθεῖν διὰ τῆς ὁδοῦ ἐκείνης. καὶ ἰδοὺ ἔκραξαν λέγοντες· τί ἡμῖν καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ; ἦλθες ὧδε πρὸ καιροῦ βασανίσαι ἡμᾶς; ἦν δὲ μακρὰν ἀπὰ αὐτῶν ἀγέλη χοίρων πολλῶν βοσκομένη. οἱ δὲ δαίμονες παρεκάλουν αὐτὸν λέγοντες· εἰ ἐκβάλλεις ἡμᾶς, ἐπίτρεψον ἡμῖν ἀπελθεῖν εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ὑπάγετε. οἱ δὲ ἐξελθόντες ἀπῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἀγέλην τῶν χοίρων· καὶ ἰδοὺ ὥρμησε πᾶσα ἡ ἀγέλη τῶν χοίρων κατὰ τοῦ κρημνοῦ εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν καὶ ἀπέθανον ἐν τοῖς ὕδασιν. οἱ δὲ βόσκοντες ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἀπήγγειλαν πάντα καὶ τὰ τῶν δαιμονιζομένων. καὶ ἰδοὺ πᾶσα ἡ πόλις ἐξῆλθεν εἰς συνάντησιν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν παρεκάλεσαν ὅπως μεταβῆ ἀπὸ τῶν ὁρίων αὐτῶν. Καὶ ἑμβὰς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν.



CUB SCOUT TROOP of Three Hierarchs Church celebrated their awards and honors ceremonies recently with a barbecue for all guests. The young boys from 5 years of age through 10 were heralded with medals trophies, certificates and badges for achievements in scouting. This energetic young group of lads will eventually join the ranks of the #531 Golden Greek Troop of BOY SCOUTS at Three Hierarchs Church. We now number close to 100 EAGLE SCOUTS inducted through the TROOP and BROOKLYN SCOUTING COMMISSION. What an honor for the parish and the young men!

GREEK SCHOOL STUDENTS enjoyed an afternoon at DENO'S WONDER WHEEL PARK in Coney Island and a hot dog dinner at TOM'S OF CONEY ISLAND. Many students were unable to attend due to inclement weather forecasting but the P.T.A. was there to carry-on. Many thanks are extended to the VOUDERIS FAMILY and the amusement ride park and to JIMMY KOKOTAS the proprietor of TOM'S on the BOARDWALK for their hospitality generosity and encouragement. They are great supporters of HELLENISM and ORTHODOXY.

NUPTIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations are extended to MR. THOMAS TSATSIS first born son of Gregory and Laura (VARDAKIS) Tsatsis who will be united in Holy Matrimony to MS. AMANDA STANZIONE on Saturday, July 15th. The solemnity will be in Portland, Connecticut. KALA STEPHANA!

PRAYER and HEALING service: offered each month is scheduled for WEDNESDAY – JULY 19TH from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. Each month this encounter brings you to anointing, healing, prayers, homily, exegesis, and witnessing of the faith. The intimacy of the fellowship is enjoyed by all. We welcome everyone and anyone (members and visitors to the parish) to share our table of renewal. Refreshments are always served at 8:00 P.M. COME! SEE! LEARN! It's good!

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!!!? Is there a birthday, anniversary, graduation, new birth, engagement or wedding you may wish to joyously share with GOD and MAN.... Do it through an 'ARTOKLASIA' in honor of that individual. Bring them to church on Sunday, and then 'surprise' them as their name is called out to come forward for the special blessing of the five loaves, wine and oil. It's a moment caught in time that will be forever cherished.

FAIR WARNING: Mark your calendar..... it's coming...... Sunday – July 23rd..... YOU KNOW!

SCOUTING TROOP PREPARES: for the ANNUAL CAMPING SOJORN. Each year we are pleased to send many young boys to 'summer camp' for two weeks. This wonderous nature experience assists the young men in achievements towards their 'EAGLE' accomplishment. The period extends from Saturday – July 22nd through August 06th. Are your lads (sons' grandsons) members of the Parish Scouting Program? Take advantage of this enjoyable program making boys into men through Hellenism, Orthodoxy and Nature!

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.

25th Year Opening Anniversary of the 'RADIO MINISTRY of Father Eugene's MATTERS of CONSCIENCE BROADCASTS each Saturday afternoon prime-time 1-2:00 P.M. on COSMOS RADIO W.N.Y.E. 91.5 FM. This stellar programming includes relative subjects involving medicine, education, religion, politics, legislation, morals and ethics facing the 'globe'. The program is now cosmic (global) through the inter-net links. DO YOU LISTEN IN?

WINE DONATIONS for the altar are requested. Please see the clergy if interested. Donations of a bottle or a case are always welcomed. Father Eugene will give direction to specific wine used.

MEMORIAL: JULY 16th, + REV. FR. POLYCARPOS RAMEAS









«Έγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῆ Κυριακῆ ἡμέρα καὶ ῆκουσα φωνὴν ὀπίσω μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Έκδίδεται άπό την Κοινοβιακή Γυναικεία Ίερα Μονή Άγίου Αύγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΑΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 -imaafio Byshoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ΄ - "Έτος Μ΄ Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλλου 2567 Κυριακή Ε΄ Έπιστολῶν (Ῥωμ. 10,1-10) 9 Ἰουλίου 2023 Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Θέλεις νὰ σωθῆς; πίστεψε στὸ Χριστό!

« Έὰν ὁμολογήσης ἐν τῷ στόματί σου Κύριον Ἰησοῦν, καὶ πιστεύσης ἐν τῆ καρδία σου ὅτι ὁ Θεὸς αὐτὸν ἤγειρεν ἐκ νεκρῶν, σωθήση» (Ῥωμ 10,9)

Πόσο διαφέρει, ἀδελφοί μου, πόσο ὑπερέχει ὁ Χριστιανισμὸς ἀπὸ ὅλες τὶς διάφορες θρησκεῖες μποροῦμε εὔκολα νὰ τὸ δοῦμε, ἐὰν λάβουμε ὑπ' ὄψιν ποιά μέσα ὑποδεικνύουν ἐκεῖνες στὸν ἀμαρτωλὸ ἄνθρωπο γιὰ νὰ λάβη ἄφεσι τῶν ἀμαρτιῶν του, καὶ ποιό τρόπο τοῦ ὑποδεικνύει ὁ γνήσιος Χριστιανισμός, ἡ 'Όρθόδοξος Έκκλησία, ἡ ἀγία μας πίστι. Γιατὶ εἴνε πανθομολογούμενο, ὅτι ὁ κάθε θνητὸς αἰσθάνεται νὰ τὸν πιέζη ἡ ἀμαρτία.

Οἱ πρὸ Χριστοῦ καὶ μετὰ Χριστὸν θρησκεῖες στὸν άμαρτωλό, ποὺ άναστενάζει κάτω άπὸ τὸ βάρος τῆς ἐνοχῆς καὶ ζητάει τὴ λύτρωσι τῆς ψυχῆς του, λένε: Γιὰ νὰ λυτρωθῆς, ἄνθρωπε, γιὰ νὰ συγχωρηθοῦν οἱ ἄμαρτίες σου, γιὰ νὰ συμφιλιωθῆς μὲ τὸ Θεὸ -ποὺ τά 'χεις χαλάσει μαζί του-, πρέπει νὰ τηρήσης ὅλες τὶς διατάξεις μας πρέπει νὰ προσφέρης στὸ θεὸ ἥ τοὺς θεούς σου θυσία τὰ πιὸ ἐκλεκτὰ ἀπὸ τὰ ζῶα σου ἢ τοὺς πιὸ ἀγαπητοὺς ἀπὸ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους σου: ἢ πρέπει νὰ περπατήσης γυμνὸς γιὰ νὰ φτάσης στὸν τάδε «ἶερὸ» ποταμὸ κ' έκεῖ νὰ λουστῆς στὰ νερά του, ἢ νὰ πᾶς πεζὸς στὸ τάδε «ἰερὸ» προσκύνημα γιὰ νὰ ἐξιλεωθῆς: πρέπει..., πρέπει... Τέτοια βαρειά φορτία, τέτοιες ἀπαιτήσεις φόρτωναν καὶ φορτώνουν στούς δύστυχους άμαρτωλούς οἱ θρησκεῖες.

Κι αὐτὴ ἀκόμα ἡ ἀνώτερη ἀπ' ὅλες τὶς θρησκεῖες, ἡ μόνη τότε ἀληθινὴ ἀνάμεσα στὶς πρὸ Χριστοῦ θρησκεῖες, ἡ Ἰουδαϊκή, στήριζε τὴ σωτηρία ἐπάνω στὴν τήρησι τῶν πολυπλόκων διατάξεων τοῦ Μωσαϊκοῦ Νόμου, ἀφοῦ ὥριζε ὅτι «ὁ ποιήσας αὐτὰ ἄνθρωπος (=ἐκεῖνος, ποὺ θὰ τηρήση καὶ θὰ ἐφαρμόση κατὰ γράμμα ὅλα αὐτὰ ποὺ διατάζει ὁ Νόμος, αὐτὸς ὁ ἄνθρωπος) ζήσεται ἐν αὐτοῖς» (λείτ. 185 = Τυμ 10,5 [ο), 3/2]. Ἦταν ὅμως δυνατὸν νὰ τὰ τηρήση κάποιος ἐκεῖνα ὅλα ἀνεξαιρέτως; Δὲν θὰ ὑπέπιπτε καὶ σὲ κάποια παράβασι; καὶ ἐν τοι-

αύτη περιπτώσει δὲν θὰ ἔχανε τὴν σωτηρία του; Χωρὶς ἀμφιβολία ναί.

Δύσκολα λοιπόν πράγματα, ἀδύνατα κατορθώματα καὶ ἐν πολλοῖς ἀνόητα ἐπιτάγματα ἀπαιτοῦσαν οἱ ἀρχαῖες θρησκεῖες ἀπὸ τὸν ἁμαρτωλὸ γιὰ νὰ πετύχη ὁ ταλαίπωρος τὴν ἀπαλλαγὴ ἀπὸ τὰ ἀμαρτήματά του.

Ό Χριστιανισμός όμως ἔδειξε στὸν ἄνθρωπο μία ἄλλη ὁδό, εὔκολη μέν, ἀλλὰ καὶ «ἀσφαλῆ καὶ βεβαίαν»(ឝμ.६), καὶ ἐγγυημένη, διὰ τῆς ὁποίας κάθε ψυχὴ βρίσκει ὅ,τι δὲν μποροῦν νὰ πετύχουν οἱ ἄλλοι σέρνοντας τὰ ἀσήκωτα φορτία τῶν θρησκειῶν τους.

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀπὸ τὴν ἀρχή του τὴν ἡμέρα τῆς Πεντηκοστῆς ἀπευθύνθηκε, συνεχίζει διὰ μέσου τῶν αἰώνων νὰ σαλπίζη, καὶ θὰ συνεχίζη μέχρι τῆς συντελείας τοῦ κόσμου ν' ἀπευθύνεται σὲ κάθε ἀμαρτωλὴ ψυχὴ ποὺ ποθεῖ εἰλικρινὰ τὴν σωτηρία της καὶ τῆς λέει καθαρά·

Άδελφὴ ψυχή! Θέλεις νὰ σωθῆς: Δὲν εἶνε άνάγκη νὰ διασχίσης πελάγη καὶ νὰ ὑπερπηδήσης βουνά, δὲν εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ μαστιγώσης καὶ νὰ χαράξης τὸ σῶμα σου ἢ νὰ θυσιάσης τὰ βρέφη σου, δὲν εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ λουστής σὲ «ἶεροὺς» ποταμοὺς καὶ νὰ ὑποβληθής σὲ καθάρσεις ἐξωτερικές. "Όχι. Γιὰ ν' άπαλλαγής ἀπὸ τὴν ἐνοχή, γιὰ ν' ἀποσείσης άπὸ πάνω σου τὸ βαρὺ φορτίο τῶν άμαρτιῶν σου, ένα μόνο είνε άναγκαῖο πρῶτα μὲ τὴν καρδιά σου νὰ πιστέψης θερμὰ στὸν Ίησοῦν Χριστόν! Πίστεψε, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ Σωτήρας σου. Γιατί αὐτὸς ἀνέλαβε νὰ ἐκτελέση ὅ,τι γιὰ σένα ήταν δύσκολο καὶ ἀκατόρθωτο. Αὐτὸς κατέβασε τὸν Οὐρανὸ στὴ Γῆ, καὶ ἀνύψωσε τὴ Γῆ μέχρι τὸ Οὐρανό. Καὶ αὐτὸ τὸ κατώρθωσε διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ του, τῆς Θυσίας καὶ τοῦ θανάτου του στὸ Γολγοθᾶ, διὰ τῆς τριημέρου Άναστάσεώς του καὶ διὰ τῆς Άναλήψεώς του στοὺς Οὐρανούς.

"Εὰν λοιπὸν πιστέψης θερμὰ μὲ τὴν καρδιά σου καὶ κατόπιν όμολογήσης μὲ τὰ χείλη σου, ὅτι ὁ Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς εἶνε ὁ Σωτήρας καὶ Λυτρωτής μας, τότε θὰ σωθῆς. Βλέπεις; ἡ σωτηρία μας εἶνε στὰ χέρια μας εἶνε κοντά σου, πολὺ κοντά σου. Πόσο κοντά σου; Εἶνε –ὅπως ἀκοῦμε σήμερα – «ἐν τῷ στόματί σου καὶ ἐν τῆ καρδία σου» (Δυτ 30.14 = Put. 108).

Τὸ θεῖο καὶ πολύτιμο αὐτὸ μάθημα, τὰ χρυσα τοῦτα λόγια ποὺ δὲν ὑπάρχει ζυγαριὰ νὰ τὰ ζυγίσουμε, μᾶς παραδίδει σήμερα, ἀδελφοί μου, στὸ ἀνάγνωσμα τῆς ἡμέρας ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος (β. Ρωμίλ) 140. Αὐτὰ ἦταν γραμμένα ῆδη στὴν Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη καὶ ἀπὸ κεῖ ὁ μέγας Παῦλος τὰ παίρνει καὶ τὰ ἐπαναλαμβάνει στοὺς πιστούς. Γιὰ ἐμᾶς τὰ λέει ἐκεῖνος καὶ γιὰ ἐμᾶς τὰ διαβάζει ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας. Θὰ τὰ ἀκούσουμε ἄραγε; θὰ τὰ ἐπωφεληθοῦμε; θὰ τὰ ἐγκολπωθοῦμε; θ' ἀναφωνήσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς μαζὶ μὲ ὅλους τοὺς λυτρωμένους «Ό Κύριός μου καὶ ὁ Θεός μου» (μ. 2028);

"Όταν τὸ κήρυγμα αὐτὸ ἀκούστηκε γιὰ πρώτη φορά στά Ίεροσόλυμα, πολλοί τότε Ίσραηλίτες, πλήθη μεγάλα, ἄρχισαν νὰ τὸ έγκολπώνωνται, δπως διαβάζουμε στὶς Πράξεις τῶν ἀποστόλων ∰. 2#44. Γιὰ παράδειγμα, **μετὰ ἀπὸ** τὴ θαυμαστὴ θεραπεία στὸ ναὸ τοῦ Σολομῶντος **ένὸς έκ γενετῆς** *«χωλοῦ»* **Π**ώξ 32), ένὸς άναπήρου δηλαδή ποὺ ὅλοι μαρτυροῦσαν ὅτι γεννήθηκε κουτσός, μαζεύτηκε κόσμος γύρω από τὸν θεραπευμένο καὶ οἶ απόστολοι μὲ τὸ στόμα τοῦ Πέτρου κήρυξαν τὸν Ἰησοῦ Χριστό. Ὁ λαὸς δὲν ἄκουσε τότε ἐκεῖ λόγια κολακευτικά: ὁ Πέτρος τοὺς θύμισε έλεγκτικά τὸ ἔγκλημα τοῦ Γολγοθᾶ. Ἐνῷ ὁ Πιλᾶτος, εἶπε, ήθελε νὰ άθωώση τὸν Ἰησοῦ, ἐσεῖς τοῦ ζητήσατε καὶ τὸν θανάτωσε. Ξέρω ὅτι τὸ κάνατε άπὸ ἄγνοια. Τώρα λοιπὸν μετανοῆστε καὶ ἀφῆστε τὰ πονηρὰ ἔργα σας. Προτοῦ ὅμως νὰ τελειώση τὰ λόγια του ὁ Πέτρος, ἔρχονται οἱ ἱερεῖς μὲ τὸ στρατηγὸ τοῦ ναοῦ, ἐνωχλημένοι άπὸ τὸ κήρυγμα ὑπὲρ τοῦ Χριστοῦ, συλλαμβάνουν τοὺς ἀποστόλους καὶ τοὺς φυλακίζουν. Τὴν ἄλλη μέρα τοὺς στήνουν κατηγορουμένους νὰ τοὺς δικάσουν. Άλλὰ κ' ἐκεῖ ὁ Πέτρος, μὲ τὴ δύναμι τοῦ ἀγίου Πνεύματος, κηρύττει, φωνάζει ένώπιον το ῦ "Άννα καὶ τοῦ Καϊάφα καὶ ὅλων τῶν φαρισαίων. Καὶ τί εἶπε: Ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, λέει, «οὐκ ἔστιν ἐν ἄλλφ οὐδενὶ ἡ σωτηρία (δὲν ὑπάρχει κανένας ἄλλος ποὺ μπορεϊ νὰ μᾶς σώση) * οὐδὲ γὰρ ὄνομά έστιν ἔτερον ύπό τὸν οὐρανὸν τὸ δεδομένον ἐν άνθρώποις ἐν ῷ δεῖ σωθῆναι ήμᾶς» (δὲν ἔχουμε ἄλλον παρὰ μόνο «ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ τοῦ Ναζωραίου», μόνο τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἔχουμε γιὰ νὰ σωθοῦμε (ἐλ. ἐίζι□). Προσέξατε τί εἶπε; Σαλπίζει δηλαδὴ τὴν ἴδια μεγάλη ἀλήθεια ποὺ ἀκοῦμε σήμερα καὶ ἀπὸ τὸν ἀπόστολο Παῦλο.

Τὸ νὰ σωθῆ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ἀδελφοί μου, εἶνε ὅπως βλέπουμε εὕκολο, πολὺ εὕκολο. Τί χρειάζεται μόνο ἡ καρδιά του νὰ τὸ πιστέψη καὶ τὸ στόμα του νὰ τὸ ὁμολογήση. Γιατί λοιπὸν ἐμεῖς δὲν τὸ κάνουμε; γιατί δὲν νιώθουμε αὐτὸ ποὺ ἔζησαν ἄλλοι καὶ σώθηκαν, ἀλλὰ μένουμε ψυχροὶ καὶ ἀδιάφοροι; οὕτε ἡ καρδιά μας πιστεύει, οὕτε τὰ χείλη μας ὁμολογοῦν τὴ μεγάλη αὐτὴ ἀλήθεια. Τί ἔχουμε πάθει;

Έπειδὴ ὄμως εἶνε τόσο εὔκολο ν' ἀπαλλαγοῦμε ἀπὸ τὴν ἐνοχὴ τῆς ἀμαρτίας κ' ἐν τούτοις δὲν τὸ κάνουμε, γι' αὐτὸ ἀκριβῶς θὰ μείνουμε ἀναπολόγητοι ἐν ἡμέρα Κρίσεως. Σὲ ὅσους δὲν πιστέψαμε μὲ τὴν καρδιά μας καὶ δὲν ώμολογήσαμε μὲ τὰ χείλη μας τὴν ἐν Χριστῶ σωτηρία, ὁ Κύριος θὰ δικαιοῦται νὰ μᾶς πή: "Εάν, παιδιά μου, σᾶς ζητοῦσα κάτι δύσκολο, νὰ κατορθώσετε κάτι ποὺ ὑπερβαίνει τὶς δυνάμεις σας, κάτι ποὺ γιὰ σᾶς εἶνε ἄφθαστο, θὰ μοῦ λέγατε -καὶ μὲ τὸ δίκιο σας- «Αὐτό, Κύριε, δὲν μποροῦμε νὰ τὸ φτάσουμε». Μὰ νά τώρα ποὺ έγὼ κρέμασα τὴν σωτηρία σας, τὴν άφεσι τῶν ἀμαρτημάτων σας, τὴν αἰώνια λύτρωσι τῆς ψυχῆς σας, ἀπὸ τὸ ἐλάχιστο τοῦτο· σᾶς ζήτησα νὰ πιστέψετε μὲ τὴν καρδιά σας σ' ἐμένα καὶ μόνο, καὶ αὐτὸ νὰ τὸ ὁμολογήσετε μὲ τὰ χείλη σας ἐνώπιον τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μου. Αύτὸ σᾶς ἦταν δύσκολο; Μὲ ὄσα ἔχω κάνει γιὰ σᾶς, δὲν πεισθήκατε ὅτι εἴμαι ἡ ἀλήθεια καὶ ή ζωή, τὸ φῶς καὶ ή εἰρήνη τοῦ κόσμου, ή έλπίδα τῶν ζώντων καὶ ἡ ἀνάστασι τῶν νεκρῶν: Καὶ ὄμως ἐσεῖς δὲν πιστέψατε καὶ δὲν ώμολογήσατε. Ή σωτηρία ήταν τόσο κοντά σας, σεῖς ὄμως τὴν ἀπωθήσατε. Ποιός φταίει:

Νά γιατί ὁ Κύριος στὸ τέλος εἴπε τὰ σπουδαῖα ἐκεῖνα λόγια, ποὺ πρέπει σοβαρὰ καὶ τακτικὰ νὰ τὰ μελετοῦμε: «Ὁ πιστεύσας καὶ βαπτισθείς σωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ ἀπιστήσας κατακριθήσεται» (Νέρκ 16/6). ᾿Ακοῦς; ἐὰν πιστέψης στὸ Χριστό, θὰ σωθῆς: ἐὰν ὅμως ἀπιστήσης σ' αὐτόν, θὰ καταδικαστῆς. Γιατὶ ἡ πίστι στὸ Χριστὸ εἴνε ἡ ζωή, ἐνῷ ἡ ἀπιστία σ' αὐτὸν εἴνε ὁ θάνατος τῆς ψυχῆς.

(†) 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.

Conquering Demons

The divine nature of the only begotten Son was already scorching the demons in unspeakable flames. Christ was shutting up the fiercest demons in blocked roads. He was undoing the devil's tyranny. "You have come before the time," they cried out. They knew from the Scriptures that Christ was going to come and would judge them. Treating the incarnation as if it had happened at the wrong time, they pleaded that he had come in an untimely way. This misrepresentation is not surprising. In their deceptiveness, they did not hesitate to say even this. Yet, although they know that vengeance is to fall upon them, they still say haughtily, "What have you to do with us?" They know that the final Judge in fact has a

score to settle with them, inasmuch as they had broken his commandments.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

Make an effort, then, to meet more frequently to celebrate God's Eucharist and to offer praise. For, when you meet frequently in the same place, the forces of Satan are overthrown, and his baneful influence is neutralized by the unanimity of your faith. Peace is a precious thing: it puts an end to every war waged by heavenly or earthly enemies.

St. Ignatius of Antioch

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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)