



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 1st, 2023
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SECOND SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Christ Teaching the Apostles

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4

Psalm 75.11,1

Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.

Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 6:16-18; 7:1

Brethren, you are the temple of the living God; as God said, "I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore come out from them, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch nothing unclean; then I will welcome you, and I will be a father to you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty." Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, and make holiness perfect in the fear of God.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. δ'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 6:16-18, 7:1 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὑμεῖς ἐστε ναὸς Θεοῦ ζῶντος, καθὼς εἶπεν ὁ θεός ὅτι Ἐνοικήσω ἐν αὐτοῖς, καὶ ἐμπεριπατήσω· καὶ ἔσομαι αὐτῶν θεός, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔσονται μοι λαός. Διὸ, Ἐξέλθετε ἐκ μέσου αὐτῶν καὶ ἀφορίσθητε, λέγει κύριος, καὶ ἀκαθάρτου μὴ ἄπτεσθε· κἀγὼ εἰσδέξομαι ὑμᾶς, καὶ ἔσομαι ὑμῖν εἰς πατέρα, καὶ ὑμεῖς ἔσεσθέ μοι εἰς υἱοὺς καὶ θυγατέρας, λέγει κύριος παντοκράτωρ. Ταύτας οὖν ἔχοντες τὰς ἐπαγγελίας, ἀγαπητοί, καθαρίσωμεν ἑαυτοὺς ἀπὸ παντὸς μολυσμοῦ σαρκὸς καὶ πνεύματος, ἐπιτελοῦντες ἀγιωσύνην ἐν φόβῳ θεοῦ.

The Gospel According to Luke 6:31-36

he Lord said, "As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· καθὼς θέλετε ἵνα ποιῶσιν ὑμῖν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, ποιεῖτε αὐτοῖς ὁμοίως. καὶ εἰ ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας ὑμᾶς, ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστί; καὶ γὰρ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ τοὺς ἀγαπῶντας αὐτοὺς ἀγαπῶσι. καὶ ἐὰν ἀγαθοποιῇτε τοὺς ἀγαθοποιοῦντας ὑμᾶς, ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστί; καὶ γὰρ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ τὸ αὐτὸ ποιοῦσι. καὶ ἐὰν δανείζητε παρ' ὧν ἐλπίζετε ἀπολαβεῖν, ποία ὑμῖν χάρις ἐστί; καὶ γὰρ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἁμαρτωλοῖς δανείζουσιν ἵνα ἀπολάβωσι τὰ ἴσα. πλὴν ἀγαπᾶτε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ὑμῶν καὶ ἀγαθοποιεῖτε καὶ δανείζετε μηδὲν ἀπελπίζοντες, καὶ ἔσται ὁ μισθὸς ὑμῶν πολὺς, καὶ ἔσεσθε υἱοὶ ὑψίστου, ὅτι αὐτὸς χρηστός ἐστιν ἐπὶ τοὺς ἀχαρίστους καὶ πονηροὺς. Γίνεσθε οὖν οἰκτίρμονες, καθὼς καὶ ὁ πατὴρ ὑμῶν οἰκτίρμων ἐστί.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR: IS BEING HOSTED BY ANAVRITI SOCIETY. Please join us in Whitehall for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy.

Up – coming CHURCHING of a new born daughter ‘VIKTORIYA MEENA’ of Vijay and Yekaterina (Desyarnikova) KITSON is scheduled for Sunday October 01st. NA SAS ZESE!

TODAY ANAVRITIOTI SOCIETY: will honor our Parish with their Annual Observance in solemn dedication to the PANAYIA PHANEROMENI (Our Lady of the Sign) with a ARTOCLASIA, MEMORIAL TRIBUTE, and FELLOWSHIP RECEPTION open to all in WHITEHALL. JOIN US!

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: The October monthly AGIASMOS (Holy Water Blessing) usually offered on the FIRST of the MONTH , has been transferred to TUESDAY – OCTOBER 03rd at 11:00 A.M. His Eminence has called for a CLERGY MEETING on Monday the 2nd.

Nuptial Blessings are extended to Ms. Georgia Karalis who will be united in the Holy Sacrament of Marriage to Mr. Nicholas Tsolakis on Saturday, October 14th.

DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE: Grand celebration and anniversary of FOUNDERS DAY is scheduled for the ROSEHALL on Sunday, October 29th, 2023 at 12 NOON. Please support our Demetra Chapter on this 30th, Jubilee Event. Check the insert flyer for all the details. SEE YOU THERE?

Archbisop Elpidophoros’ Patronal Name-day Dinner is announced for SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH. In New York City. Further details will follow shortly.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW: on the evening of Friday, October 20th, through the all night vigil to Saturday, October 21st the Oil Streaming Tearful ICON of PANAGIA KARDIOTISSA will arrive at Three Hierarch Church. Her last appearance was over six years ago during the Lenten observance of the Holy Salutations to the Theotokos. Thousand of faithful from various churches creeds, races and ethnic groupings flooded the church all night long for an anointing and veneration of the miraculous healing presence of the Virgin Mother of God. Many clergymen heard confessions all through the night in preparation for the morning Divine Liturgy and reception of the EUCHARIST. Further details of the visitation, schedule of services and anointing will be forthcoming as the date approaches. This wonder working healing icon comes to us from Taylor, Pennsylvania where it is continually visible for reverence and prayer. NOW, she comes to US: WE ARE INDEED GRATEFUL!

GREEK SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS are commencing. Please consider enrolling your child or grand-child in the program which fosters Hellenic scholarship learning language, history, religion and culture of GREECE. IT IS THEIR HERITAGE and LEGACY! It’s certainly worth the effort. KALES SPOUDES !

SENIOR CLUB CALENDAR: is printed for all to participate any Wednesday afternoon at 1 P.M.

**MEMORIALS TODAY, + PARASKEVAS (PERRY) KOKOTAS, + DIONYSIOS (DENNIS) GONATAS
+ ANAVRITI SOCIETY DECEASED MEMBERS, + SPYRIDOULA VELLIOS,
+ BARBARA VELLIOS + LOUIS & ANTONIA VELLIOS +MARY LEKAS
+ LEONIDAS GIANNOPOULOS**

Up- Comings Memorials: SUNDAY , OCTOBER 08TH, +ANTHONY JANNACE + MARITSA KONSTAS

Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!





Senior Club Newsletter September - October 2023



Wednesday September 20th, 1:00 P.M.

Opening HOME- COMING
B.I.N.G.O.
Sweets, treats, and more sweets!
Coffee, tea and soft drinks.

Wednesday September 27th, 1:00 P.M.



ORGANIZATIONAL DAY- join in the
planning of the autumn season
events, trips, field days!
B.I.N.G.O.
Autumn cakes and buns sweets
Coffee and soft drinks

Wednesday October 04th, 1:00 P.M.



Wine and Cheese Festival!
Tasting of the fruit of the vine
and a variety of cheeses and dips.
B.I.N.G.O.
Coffee, tea and MORE WINE!



Wednesday October 11th, 1:00 P.M.



COLUMBUS DAY TRIBUTE
Italian cookies, biscotti
coffee tea, soda
B.I.N.G.O.

Wednesday October 18th, 1:00 P.M.



Light a Candle



PANAGIA KARDIOTISSA Tale of
miracle working anointing.
Distribution of the 'VISITING'
ICON on this Friday evening!

Lecture by Fr. Eugene
Sweets, treats, coffee.
B.I.N.G.O.

Wednesday October 25th, 1:00 P.M.



OXI-DAY Observance 1940!
Flag waving, patriotic hymns
BLUE and WHITE colors of the day.
Grecian farmers luncheon,
Hearty soup, horiati salata,
Psomi tou fourno, and WINE!
B. I. N.G.O.

We are indeed pleased to welcome so many back to the 'table' in ROSEHALL. Some of our members have taken ill and we pray for their recovery and happiness. Always remember that if the weather proves inclement, telephone the church to verify the meeting is scheduled.....winter is around the corner with snow and ice.



Georgia Stamos
Co-President



Demetri Bouroutis
o-President





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἐπὶ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυνακίᾳ Τερὰ Μονὴ Χείρου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-23610 – info@ymho.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2586	Κυριακὴ Β' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 6,31-36) 1 Ὀκτωβρίου 2023	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Πῶς ὀφείλουν νὰ ζοῦν οἱ Χριστιανοὶ

«...Καὶ ἔσσεσθε υἱοὶ Ὑψίστου» (Λουκ. 6,35)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο ἦταν ἀπὸ τὸ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἐκείνου πού, ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ εὐαγγελιστὴς καὶ συγγραφεύς, ἦταν καὶ ζωγράφος. Ζωγραφίζει λοιπὸν μίᾳ ἰδανικῇ πολιτείᾳ, στὴν ὁποία μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ πολιτογραφηθοῦμε καὶ νὰ ζήσουμε.

Τὸ θέμα τῆς σημερινῆς περικοπῆς εἶνε, μὲ μίᾳ λέξει, ἡ **τελειότης**. Ὁ Χριστός, ὅπως ἀκοῦμε ἐδῶ, δὲν ζητάει νὰ γίνουμε «καλοὶ ἄνθρωποι»· ν' ἀγαποῦμε αὐτοὺς πού μᾶς ἀγαποῦν, νὰ βοηθοῦμε αὐτοὺς πού μᾶς βοηθοῦν, νὰ δανεῖζουμε σὲ δσους ἐπιστρέφουν τὰ δανεικά· αὐτὰ τὰ κάνουν καὶ ἄλλοι, ὅχι μόνο νομοταγεῖς πολῖτες ἀλλ' ἀκόμα καὶ κλέφτες καὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ κακοποιοί. Ὁ Χριστός ἐδῶ ζητάει κάτι ὑψηλότερο, κάτι πού ὑπερβαίνει τὰ μέτρα τῶν ἀρχαίων φιλοσόφων καὶ ἠθικολόγων, ἀλλ' ἀκόμη καὶ τὴν ἐντολὴν αὐτῆς τῆς Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης. Μᾶς καλεῖ ν' ἀνέλθουμε στὸ ἐπίπεδο τῆς Καινῆς Διαθήκης, νὰ γίνουμε **τέλειοι**.

Ἡ **τελειότης** εἶνε μίᾳ ὑψηλὴ κορυφή, πρὸς τὴν ὁποία πρέπει διαρκῶς νὰ τείνουμε. Ἄλλ' ὅσο καὶ ἂν προχωρήσουμε, ἡ τελειότης, ὅπως εἶπε ἕνας ἁγιος ἀσκητής, ὁ Ἰωάννης τῆς Κλίμακος, εἶνε **ἀτέλειστος**, δὲν ἔχει τέλος. Εἶνε ὕψος, Ἰμαλία, Ἄλπει, Ὀλυμπος. Ἀπαιτεῖται κόπος διαρκὴς καὶ μόχθος ἰσόβιος, γιὰ νὰ πλησιάσῃ κανεὶς ἐκεῖ ὅλο καὶ περισσότερο.

Ἡ τελειότης περιέχει πολλὰ στοιχεῖα· εἶνε στέμμα πού τὸ κοσμοῦν πολλὰ διαμάντια, **διάδημα** πού ὁποια κεφαλὴ θὰ τὸ δεχθῇ σημαίνει ὅτι τὴν στολίζουν **πληθὺς ἀρετές**· πίστι, ἐλπίδα, ἀγάπη· ταπεινὼς, πραότητα, ἐγκράτεια· θάρρος, παρρησία, ὁμολογία· παρθενία, ἀκτημοσύνη, ὑπακοή (γιὰ τοὺς μοναχοὺς)· ὁμόνοια, ἐνότητα, σύμνοια....

Ἐμεῖς τώρα ἐξετάζοντας τὸν ἑαυτό μας βλέπουμε ὅτι εἴμαστε ἀτελεῖς, πολὺ ἀτελεῖς· **ἀπέχουμε παρασάγγας** ἀπὸ τὴν κορυφὴ πού μᾶς δείχνει σήμερα ὁ Κύριος. Ἡ ἀτέλειά μας

ἀρχισε μὲ τὸ προπατορικὸ ἁμάρτημα, μὲ τὸ ὁποῖο ἤρθαμε στὸν κόσμον αὐτόν, καὶ ἔπειτα αὐξάνεται μὲ τὰ προσωπικὰ ἁμαρτήματα, στὰ ὁποῖα πέφτουμε οἰκαιοθελῶς.

Ἀτέλεια μᾶς δέρνηει, φρικτὴ ἀτέλεια. Ἀτέλεια στὴ ζωὴ, ἀγνοία τοῦ Θεοῦ, λήθη τοῦ θείου νόμου, ἀναισθησία, δευλία, συμβιβασμός, παραβάσεις, παραλείψεις, πτώσεις· **ἕνας κατήφορος ἡ ζωὴ μας**. Καὶ γεννᾶται ἐναγώνιο τὸ ἐρώτημα· ἔτσι θὰ πᾶμε μέχρι τέλους, ἔτσι θὰ λήξῃ ἡ ζωὴ αὐτή; Μὰ αὐτὸ εἶνε αὐτοκτονία. Δὲν ὑπάρχει λοιπὸν τρόπος ν' ἀντισταθοῦμε σ' αὐτὸ τὸν κατήφορο πρὶν βρεθοῦμε στὸ γκρεμό;

Στὴν ἀγωνία αὐτὴν ἀπαντᾷ σήμερα ὁ Κύριος μὲ τὰ λόγια τοῦ εὐαγγελίου (βλ. [Λουκ. 6,35](#)).

«Ὅπως θέλετε», λέει ὁ Χριστός, «νὰ κάνουν σ' ἐοῶς οἱ ἄλλοι, ἔτσι νὰ κάνετε κ' ἐσεῖς σ' αὐτούς» (βλ. [ἐλ. 6,35](#)). Λέει ἐδῶ κάτι πού εἶνε **φυτεμένο καὶ γραμμένο στὶς καρδιὰς ὁλων** τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Αὐτό, παιδ λιανά, σημαίνει: Ποιὸς ἀπὸ μᾶς θέλει ν' ἀγγίξουν ἄλλοι τὰ πράγματά του, νὰ τοῦ πάρουν τὴν οἰκονομίαν πού ἔχει, νὰ καταπατήσουν τὸ κτῆμα του, νὰ τοῦ κλέψουν τὴν **περιουσία** του; Κανεῖς. Ποιὸς ἀπὸ μᾶς θέλει νὰ τοῦ κάνουν κακὸ στὴν ὑγεία καὶ στὴ **ζωὴ** του, νὰ τὸν θανατώσουν; ποιὸς θέλει νὰ σκοτώσουν τὸν πατέρα, τὴ μητέρα, τὰ ἀδέρφια του; Κανεῖς. Καὶ ποιὸς θέλει νὰ τὸν συκοφαντήσουν οἱ ἄλλοι, νὰ ψευδομαρτυρήσουν γι' αὐτόν, νὰ τὸν πᾶν σὲ δικαστήρια νὰ καταδικασθῇ; ποιὸς θέλει στὸ πρόσωπο τῆς γυναίκας ἢ τῆς κόρης του νὰ προσβάλλῃ κάποιος τὴν οἰκογενειακὴν του **τιμὴν καὶ ὑπόληψιν**; Κανεῖς. Ὅπως, λοιπόν, ἐσὺ δὲν ἐπιθυμῇς ὁ ἄλλος νὰ κάνῃ κακὸ σ' ἐσένα, κ' ἐσὺ νὰ μὴν κάνῃς κακὸ κανένα.

Προχωρεῖ ἔπειτα ὁ Κύριος καὶ μᾶς ὑψώνει ἐπάνω ἀπὸ τὰ κοινὰ ἀνθρώπινα μέτρα. Μὴν περιορίζετε, λέει, τὴν ἀγάπην σας στοὺς φίλους μόνο· προχωρεῖτε, δείχνετε **ἀγάπην καὶ**

στοὺς ἐχθρούς. Μὴ βοηθᾶτε μονάχα ὄσους οὐκ ἔχουν βοηθήσει· νὰ βοηθᾶτε, ὅταν ὑπάρχη ἀνάγκη, ἀκόμα καὶ τοὺς ἀντιπάλους σας. Μὴ δανεῖζετε μόνο ἐκεῖ πού ξέρετε ὅτι θὰ πάρете πίσω μὲ τόκο, μὲ τὸ παραπάνω, τὰ δανεικά· νὰ δίνετε μὲ ἀπλοχεριά κ' ἐκεῖ πού δὲν ὑπάρχει ἐλπίδα νὰ οὐκ τὰ ἐπιστρέψουν. Τότε ὁ μισθός σας θὰ εἶνε πολὺς στὸν οὐρανό. Τότε θὰ εἰστέ «υἱοὶ τοῦ Ὑψίστου», παιδιὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ Πατέρα, ὁ ὁποῖος ἔχει ἀγάπη καὶ καλωσύνη ὅχι μόνο γιὰ τοὺς ἀθῶους καὶ ἐυγνώμονες ἀλλὰ καὶ γιὰ «τοὺς ἀχαρίστους καὶ πονηροὺς» (Ῥωμ. 9:13).

Ὅχι ὁμως μόνο λόγια ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔργα. Τὴν ὑπέροχη αὐτὴ διδασκαλία τοῦ ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς ἐπισφράγισε μὲ τὴ ζωὴ του. Ἐκεῖνος πάνω ἀπ' τὸ σταυρὸ συγχώρησε τοὺς σταυρωτάς του καὶ προσευχήθηκε γι' αὐτοὺς λέγοντας: «Πάτερ, ἄφες αὐτοῖς· οὐ γὰρ οἶδασι τί ποιοῦσι»· συχώρεσέ τους, Πατέρα, δὲν ξέρουν τί κάνουν (Λουκ. 23:34). Ὁ ἀγαθὸς καὶ ἀνεξικακία ἀφθαστή! Γι' αὐτὸ γιὰ μᾶς ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε τὸ ὕψιστο ὑπόδειγμα τῆς τελειότητος.

Τὸν Κύριο ἀκολούθησαν οἱ μαθηταί του. Ὁ πρωτομάρτυς **Στέφανος**, ἐνῶ τὸν λιθοβολοῦσαν προσευχήθηκε γιὰ τοὺς φονεῖς μὲ τὰ λόγια «Κύριε, μὴ στήσης αὐτοῖς τὴν ἁμαρτίαν ταύτην», μὴν τοὺς καταλογίσῃς τὴν ἁμαρτίαν αὐτῇ (Πράξ. 7:60). Καὶ ὁ ἀπόστολος **Παῦλος**, πού ἀξιωθῆκε νὰ ὑψωθῇ «ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ» καὶ «ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ λαλῆσαι», ἄκουσε λόγια ἀνέκφραστα, πού ἄνθρωπος δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὰ πῇ (Β' Κορ. 12:4), προσευχόταν γιὰ τοὺς διώκτες του καὶ εὐχόταν, νὰ σωθοῦν ἐκεῖνοι καὶ ὅς χαθῇ αὐτός (Ῥωμ. 9:3). Οἱ πατέρες τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ἀντιπαραβάλλουν δύο ἀντίθετα παραδείγματα ἀποστόλων· τοῦ Παύλου, πού δείχνει σὲ τί ὕψος μπορεῖ νὰ φτάσῃ ὁ ἄνθρωπος, καὶ τοῦ Ἰούδα, πού δείχνει σὲ τί βυθὸ ἀπωλείας μπορεῖ νὰ βρεθῇ.

Ἡ ἀγαθότης, ἡ ἀνεξικακία, ἡ συγχωρητικότητα καὶ οἱ ἄλλες ἀρετὲς εἶνε γνωρίσματα ἐκείνων πού πῆραν τὸ δρόμο τῆς τελειότητος. Αὐτὰ μᾶς διδάσκει σήμερα ὁ Κύριός μας μὲ τὸ εὐαγγέλιο τῆς Β' Κυριακῆς τοῦ Λουκά.

Ἐάν ἡ ἀνθρωπότης, ἀδελφοί μου, ἄκουγε καὶ ἐφάρμοζε τὰ λόγια αὐτά, ὁ κόσμος θὰ ἦταν καλύτερος καὶ πιὸ ἀσφαλισμένος. Τί μᾶς ἐπιφυλάσσει τὸ μέλλον; Ὁ Θεὸς μόνο γνωρίζει. **Μᾶς διδάσκει, λοιπόν, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς ἐνισχύσῃ, ὥστε «πάντα γενναίως φέρειν τὰ συμβαίνοντα, κἂν ὑβρίζωσί τινες, κἂν ἀνοσίως ἐπιβουλεύωσιν»,** γιὰ νὰ ὑπομένουμε μὲ ἀνδρεία ὅσα

θ' ἀκολουθήσουν, εἴτε κάποιοι ὑβρίζουν εἴτε ἐπιβουλεύονται πρὸς θάνατον, ὅπως ἐξηγεῖ ὁ Θεοφύλακτος Βουλγαρίας (Ἐπιστολὴ 123/73).

Διαβάζετε τὴν ἱερὰ Ἀποκάλυψη, πού περιγράφει τρομερὰ πράγματα. Ἀλλὰ παρ' ὅλο τὸν πόλεμο πού λέει ἐκεῖ ὅτι θὰ κάνουν οἱ δυνάμεις τοῦ σκότους, δὲν θὰ νικήσουν τὰ θηρία· θὰ νικήσῃ «τὸ ἀρνίον τὸ ἐσφαγμένον», ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς (Ῥωμ. 8:37).

Φοβερὰ πράγματα συντελοῦνται ἤδη στὸν πλανήτη μας. Στὸν τελευταῖο παγκόσμιος πόλεμο ἀεροπλάνο ἔρριξε βόμβες ὅχι ἀπλῶς ἀλλὰ πυρηνικὲς, πού κατέστρεψαν δύο μεγάλες πόλεις τῆς Ἰαπωνίας! Τὰ μεγάλα κράτη ὁμως ἐξακολουθοῦν νὰ ἐξοπλίζονται...

Συμβαίνουν καὶ ἄλλα φοβερὰ καὶ ἀπαίσια. Οἱ γυναῖκες π.χ. κάνουν ἐκτρώσεις, καὶ ἐκτρώσεις ἴσον δολοφονία ἀνυπεράσπιστου ἐμβρύου! 500.000 παιδιὰ φονεύονται κάθε χρόνο, καὶ ποῖός μετανοεῖ νὰ ἐπιστρέψῃ στὸ Θεό; Ἡ δού ἡ φρικτὴ ἀτέλεια, ἡ δεινὴ πτώσις μας.

Σήμερα ὁμως μὲ τὰ χρυσὰ λόγια τοῦ ὁ Κύριος ὑψώνει νοητὴ κλίμακα, σὺν ἐκείνῃ τῆς Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης (Ῥωμ. 7:12), πού πατάει στὴ γῆ καὶ ἀγγίζει τὸν οὐρανό. **Δεῦτε ὑψωθῶμεν λοιπόν, ἐλᾶτε ν' ἀνυψωθοῦμε, νὰ γίνουμε «υἱοὶ Ὑψίστου»** (Ῥωμ. 8:16). Νὰ πολεμήσουμε τὰ πάθη πού φωλιάζουν μέσα μας (θυμὸ, ὀργή, ἀκολασία, φιλαργυρία κ.λπ.). Νὰ μετανοήσουμε εὐλικρινῶς. Ν' ἀκούσουμε τὸ θεῖο κέλευσμα «**Τέλεις γίνεσθε**» (1' Κορ. 14:20 Ῥωμ. 8:13). Νὰ καθαρισθῇ ἡ καρδιὰ καὶ ὁ νοῦς μας, ὥστε μιά μέρα ν' ἀξιωθοῦμε νὰ ποῦμε κ' ἐμεῖς ὅπως οἱ ἀπόστολοι «**Ἐώρακαμεν τὸν Κύριον**» (1' Κορ. 15:8).

Τρέξτε στὴν ἐξομολόγησι σὲ καλὸ πνευματικὸ πατέρα. Δὲν οὐκ κρύβω ὅτι κ' ἐγὼ ὡς ἁμαρτωλὸς ἐξομολογοῦμαι σὲ ταπεινὸ ἱερέα. Φροντίστε καθένος καὶ γιὰ τὴν οἰκογένειά του, ἰδιαίτερως γιὰ τὰ παιδιὰ καὶ τοὺς νέους.

Μὴν ἀμελεῖτε τὸν ἐκκλησιασμό τῆς Κυριακῆς καὶ τὴν καθημερινὴ προσευχή.

Νὰ ξέρετε ὅτι ἀρχισαν τὰ κατηχητικὰ καὶ παρακαλῶ ὁδηγήστε ἐκεῖ τὰ παιδιὰ δημοτικοῦ, γυμνασίου, λυκείου. Ἀφοῦ ἄλλοι πασχίζουν στὰ σχολεῖα νὰ ἐκπαραθυρώσουν τὸ μάθημα τῶν θρησκευτικῶν, ἡ Ἐκκλησία φροντίζει νὰ τὸ διδάσκουν κατηχηταὶ καὶ κατηχήτριες.

Ὁ Θεὸς νὰ μᾶς ἐλεήσῃ. Κι ὅταν ἔρθῃ ὁ θάνατος, ὁ Κύριος «**οἱ εὐχῶν τῶν ἁγίων πατέρων ἡμῶν**» νὰ μᾶς δώσῃ «**χριστιανὰ τὰ τέλη τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν ... καὶ καλὴν ἀπολογίαν**» (Ῥωμ. 8:13).

Αὐτὰ τὰ λίγα εἶχα νὰ πῶ σήμερα πρὸς ὠφέλειαν ὅλων μας· ἀμήν.

(f) **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.

Be Merciful, Just as Your Father is Merciful

Perhaps no other attribute of God, besides His love, attracts us to Him as does His mercy. This quality distinguishes Him from all false gods. From the beginning to the end of the Bible, the endless procession of saints extols His mercy, repeating the refrain: "His mercy endures forever!"

His mercy caused Him to devise a plan of redemption that would reach every human being, moved Him to give His only Son as a ransom for all sinners, established His kingdom and His Church, inspired the Scriptures, provided the sacraments, forgives all our transgressions and heals our diseases, and gives us peace, joy, and hope and time for repentance. Great is His mercy!

That indescribable, overflowing, and undeserved mercy melts away all our pride and arrogance, fills us with gratitude, and gives us a new birth, a new life, a new will, and a new viewpoint. Now we look at our fellow inhabitants of the earth with the eyes of our merciful Father.

And so the chain reaction goes on from God to us to others. As His mercy endures forever, so may our mercifulness – as that of His children – be likewise enduring.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for His mercy endures forever. Amen.

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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](#))

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