



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 8th, 2023
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

THIRD SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Christ Raising the Widow's Son

Prokeimenon. Mode 1

Psalm 32.22,1

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us.

Verse: Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 9:6-11

Brethren, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your resources and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for great generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 9:6-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ σπείρων φειδομένως, φειδομένως καὶ θερίσει· καὶ ὁ σπείρων ἐπ' εὐλογίαις, ἐπ' εὐλογίαις καὶ θερίσει. Ἐκαστος καθὼς προαιρεῖται τῇ καρδίᾳ· μὴ ἐκ λύπης ἢ ἐξ ἀνάγκης· ἱλαρὸν γὰρ δότην ἀγαπᾷ ὁ θεός. Δυνατὸς δὲ ὁ θεὸς πᾶσαν χάριν περισσεῦσαι εἰς ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἐν παντὶ πάντοτε πᾶσαν αὐτάρκειαν ἔχοντες περισσεύητε εἰς πᾶν ἔργον ἀγαθόν· καθὼς γέγραπται, Ἐσκόρπισεν, ἔδωκεν τοῖς πένησιν· ἡ δικαιοσύνη αὐτοῦ μένει εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα. Ὁ δὲ ἐπιχορηγῶν σπέρμα τῷ σπείροντι, καὶ ἄρτον εἰς βρῶσιν χορηγῆσαι, καὶ πληθύναι τὸν σπόρον ὑμῶν, καὶ αὐξήσαι τὰ γενήματα τῆς δικαιοσύνης ὑμῶν· ἐν παντὶ πλουτιζόμενοι εἰς πᾶσαν ἀπλότητα, ἥτις κατεργάζεται δι' ἡμῶν εὐχαριστίαν τῷ θεῷ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 7:11-16 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

At that time, Jesus went to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. As he drew near to the gate of the city, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow; and a large crowd from the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother. Fear seized them all; and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!"

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐπορεύετο εἰς πόλιν καλουμένην Ναϊν· καὶ συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοὶ καὶ ὄχλος πολὺς. ὥς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ πόλει τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδοὺ ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκὼς υἱὸς μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν αὐτῇ. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ Κύριος ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτῇ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ κλαῖε· καὶ προσελθὼν ἥψατο τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες ἔστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ. ἔλαβε δὲ φόβος πάντας καὶ ἐδόξαζον τὸν Θεόν, λέγοντες ὅτι προφήτης μέγας ἐγήγερται ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOUR: IS BEING HOSTED BY THE JANNACE FAMILY IN MEMORY OF THEIR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED. Please join us in Whitehall for refreshments after the Divine Liturgy.

COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY: will be observed on **MONDAY** October 09th. Our school and church office will be closed

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.

PHILOTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY will take their OATH of OFFICE on **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15TH**. All executive and Board Members are urged to be present for the Divine Liturgy and ceremony at 10:30 A.M. A **MEMBERSHIP GENERAL MEETING WILL BE CONVENED** the following 22nd of October at 12:30 p.m. in White hall after the Sunday Liturgy.

Prayer and Healing Service is scheduled as each month on the **MIDDLE WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18TH**, starting at 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. The encounter is inspiring, educational, directive and healing. **GIVE IT A TRY AT LEAST ONCE!** We always end with the anointing of 'euchelaion'. Refreshments are offered at the conclusion for everyone.

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?**

Archbishop 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 **EUCCHARIST**. 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!**

CONGRATULATIONS are extended to the **NEW CUB SCOUT TROOP (CUB-MASTER)** Mr, Andreas Papamanousakis. He is a stellar son of the Parish, married with two children. Sign up your young lads (sons and grand-sons) and join the CUB SCOUT 'PACK'..... **IT'S A GROWING TOOL!**

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 !**

MEMORIALS TODAY, +ANTHONY JANNACE + MARITSA KONSTAS + VASYL CHERNYCHKO
MEMORIAL, OCTOBER 15th, + ANDREA PLESSIAS

Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!

From: "Maria A. Karamitsos" <maria@windycitygreek.com>
Subject: New York Greek Film Expo STARTS IN 2 DAYS!
Date: October 3, 2023 at 1:48:20 PM EDT
To: "Maria A. Karamitsos" <maria@windycitygreek.com>

Hello,

Kalo mina!

New York Greek Film Expo 2023 starts this Thursday, October 5!

Hellenic Film Society USA presents New York Greek Film Expo 2023
a Greek film festival for *all* New Yorkers, October 5—15
Presenting the Latest Films from Greece & a Retrospective of Renos Haralambidis

The Hellenic Film Society USA (HFS) presents its annual **New York Greek Film Expo, a Greek film festival for *all* New Yorkers**, October 5—15. Screenings of the latest Greek films will be presented at the Village East Cinema in Manhattan and at the Barrymore Film Center in Fort Lee, NJ. A special retrospective of the films of the acclaimed director, screenwriter, and actor, Renos Haralambidis, will be shown at the prestigious Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI) October 13-15.

Haralambidis and many of the filmmakers will be in attendance throughout the festival. They will participate in Q&A sessions with the audience following their screenings. HFS will present 14 screenings of 11 feature films, as well as film shorts. Films are in Greek with English subtitles. Additional programming will include a Master Class with Haralambidis; a panel discussion on the state of Greek cinema; a Directors on Directors conversation, and interviews with Haralambidis following each of his screenings by acclaimed film historians Andrew Horton (University of Oklahoma) and Foster Hirsch (Brooklyn College); plus and David Schwartz, founder of Cinema Projects and former MoMI Chief Curator--and more.

Meet Renos, the other filmmakers--and some of the actors! Don't miss it!

JOIN US!

Please share this info with your parishioners.

Info, schedules, and tickets: <https://hellenicfilmusa.org/>
Film & Expo trailers: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyltSKUHOz-k8gM-9xhPhkg>

See you there!
Maria

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Maria A. Karamitsos
Marketing & PR Consultant, Journalist, Author, Emerging Poet, Proud Hellene
A Positive Voice in Greek Media Since 2002
mariakaramitsos.com

Let's get social!
[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)

NEW YORK GREEK FILM EXPO



**A Greek film festival
for all New Yorkers**

October 5 – 15, 2023

See the latest, award-winning films from Greece and a retrospective of Renos Haralambidis. Meet the directors and attend our special film events and receptions.

Village East Cinema

Second Ave at 12th St,
New York, NY 10003

October 5-8

Barrymore Film Center

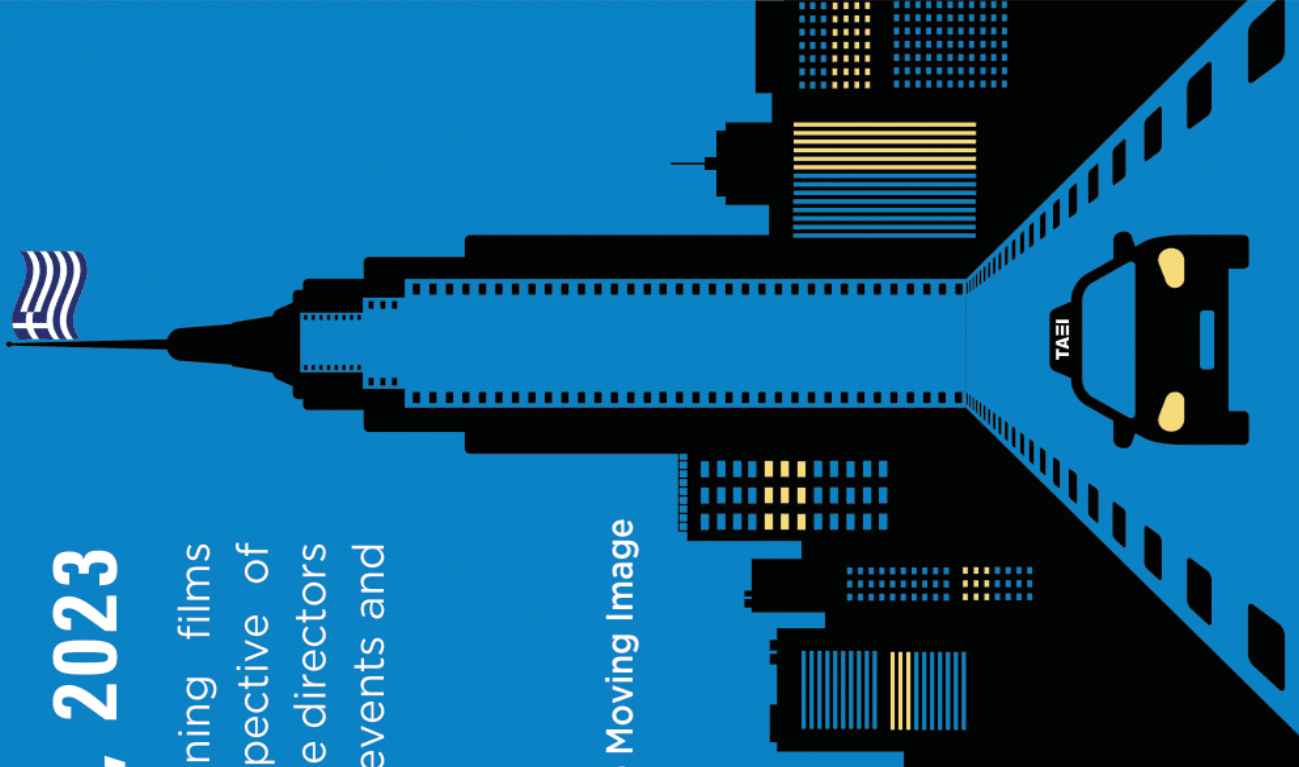
153 Main St, Fort Lee,
NJ 07024

October 9-10

Museum of the Moving Image

35th Ave at 37 St,
Astoria, NY 11106

October 13-15



HELLENIC
FILM
SOCIETY

For tickets and more information, visit
www.HellenicFilmUSA.org or call 347-934-9497.



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@ygho.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2587

Κυριακὴ Γ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 7,11-16)
8 Ὀκτωβρίου 2023

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Τὸ θεῖο δῶρο τῆς ζωῆς

«Νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. Καὶ ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ» (Λουκ. 7,14-15)

Χαίρω, ἀγαπητοί μου, χαίρω ὁ γέρον ἐγὼ ἐπίσκοπος ποὺ βρίσκομαι κοντά σας.

Τί λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα; (βλ. Λουκ. 7,11-16). Διηγείται **ἓνα θαῦμα τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ**. Ἐνα μόνο θαῦμα ἔκανε ὁ Χριστός; Ὅχι βέβαια! ἔκανε πολλά. Μετράει κανεὶς τὰ ἀστρά τ' οὐρανοῦ; ἄλλο τόσο μπορεῖ νὰ μετρήσῃ καὶ τὰ θαύματα ποὺ ἔκανε, κάνει καὶ θὰ κάνῃ μέχρι συντελείας τοῦ αἰῶνος ὁ Κύριός μας. Γιατί ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν εἶνε ἀπλὸς ἄνθρωπος, ὅπως εἴμαστε ὅλοι ἐμεῖς· **εἶνε καὶ Θεός**, εἶνε τὸ ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ πρόσωπα τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος· Πατὴρ, Υἱὸς καὶ Ἅγιον Πνεῦμα.

Ἦταν ἐποχὴ, τότε στὴν ἀρχὴ τοῦ κόσμου, ποὺ μέσα στὸ χάος δὲν ὑπῆρχε τίποτα. Καὶ αἰφνης ἀκούστηκε τὸ δημιουργικὸ πρόσταγμα τοῦ Πλάστου: «Γενηθήτω φῶς... Γενηθήτω στερέωμα... Νὰ γίνουν τὰ ἀστρά!...» (Ἰεζ. 1,3-5). Καὶ τότε στὸν οὐρανὸ ἔλαμψαν τ' ἀστέρια, πλήθος ἀμέτρητο. Ἐνα δὲ ἀπὸ αὐτά, τὸ λαμπρότερο γιὰ μᾶς, εἶνε ὁ **ἥλιος**, ποὺ σὲ μέγεθος εἶνε ἓνα ἑκατομμύριο τριακόσες χιλιάδες φορὲς μεγαλύτερος ἀπὸ τὴ Γῆ μας. Τεράστιο φωτεινὸ σῶμα, ποὺ στέλνει τόσο μακριὰ τὸ φῶς καὶ τὴ θερμότητά του· καὶ δωρεάν. Εἶνε τρόπον τινὰ ἡ ΔΕΗ τοῦ ἡλιακοῦ μας συστήματος. Ἄν σβῆσῃ ὁ ἥλιος (ὅπως ἔσβησε τὴ Μεγάλῃ Παρασκευῇ, ποὺ «ἀπὸ ἑκτῆς ὥρας σκοτὸς ἐγένετο ἐπὶ πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἕως ὥρας ἐνάτης» [Ματθ. 27,45. Μάρκ. 15,33. Λουκ. 23,44]), θὰ γίνῃ τέτοιο σκοτάδι ποὺ ὅλες μαζί οἱ ΔΕΗ τῆς Γῆς δὲν θὰ μποροῦν νὰ τὸ νικήσουν. Συχνὰ ἐρχονται στὸ γραφεῖο μας φτωχοὶ ποὺ παρακαλοῦν νὰ βοηθήσουμε, γιατί δὲν ἔχουν νὰ πληρώσουν τὸ λογαριασμὸ καὶ ἡ Δ.Ε.Η. ἢ ταιγγοῦνα τοὺς ἔκοψε τὸ ρεῦμα...

Νὰ γίνουν λοιπὸν τὰ ἀστρά! καὶ ἔγιναν τὰ ἀστρά. Νὰ γίνῃ ὁ ἥλιος! καὶ ἔγινε ὁ ἥλιος. Νὰ γίνῃ ἡ σελήνη! καὶ ἔγινε ἡ σελήνη. **Νὰ γεμίσῃ ἡ γῆ ἀπὸ ζωῆς**, τὰ νερά ἀπὸ ψάρια, ὁ ἀέρας ἀπὸ πουλιά! καὶ ἔγιναν. Νὰ βγάλῃ ἡ γῆ ζῶα μικρά - μεγάλα,

ἀπὸ τὸν ἐλέφанта μέχρι τὸ ἀηδονάκι ποὺ ψάλλει γλυκά. Τέλος, ἀφοῦ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ ἐτοίμασε ὅλα αὐτά, εἶπε· «**Ποιήσωμεν ἄνθρωπον...**» (Ἰεζ. 1,26) καὶ ἐμφανίστηκε ὁ **ἄνθρωπος**, τὸ τελειότερο δημιούργημά του.

Εὐτυχισμένοι ζοῦσαν οἱ πρωτόπλαστοι στὸν παράδεισο. Ἀλλὰ κατόπιν ὁ Ἀδὰμ ἁμάρτησε, καὶ ἔτσι μπῆκε στὴ ζωὴ τοῦ **οὐ θανάτου**. Πεθαίνει πλεόν ὁ ἄνθρωπος εἴτε ἀπὸ φυσιολογικὴ φθορὰ καὶ γηρατειά, εἴτε ἀπὸ ἀσθένειες ἢ δυστυχήματα ἢ ἐγκλήματα, εἴτε ἀπὸ φυσικὲς καταστροφές καὶ θεομηνίες. Ὁ θάνατος καὶ ὁ τάφος μᾶς νικοῦν ὅλους. Ἐνας μόνο τὰ νίκησε αὐτά, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός.

Στὸ σημερινὸ λοιπὸν εὐαγγέλιο τί βλέπουμε. Ἐκεῖνος ποὺ εἶνε ἡ πηγὴ τῆς ζωῆς, αὐτὸς ποὺ χορηγεῖ στὰ σύμπαντα τὸ θεῖο δῶρο τῆς ζωῆς, αὐτὸς τώρα βρίσκεται **μπροστὰ σὲ ἓνα ἀπὸ τὰ τόσα θύματα τοῦ θανάτου**, σὲ ἓνα νεκρὸ.

Ὁ Χριστὸς φτάνει στὴν πόλι Ναὶν - πότε· τὴν ὥρα ἀκριβῶς ποὺ ἀπὸ 'κεῖ ἔβγαινε μιὰ κηδεῖα καὶ πῆγαινε γιὰ τὴν ταφὴ στὸ κοιμητήριον. Εἶχε πεθάνει τὸ μονάκριβο παιδί μιᾶς χήρας καὶ πλῆθος κόσμου συνώδευε τὴν ἀξιοσυμπάθητη μάνα. Ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς σταματᾷ. Βλέπει τὴ χήρα νὰ θρηνῇ, τὴ σπλαχνίζεται καὶ τῆς λέει· Μὴν κλαῖς. Πλησιάζει τὸ φέρετρο, ἀγγίζει τὸ σῶμα τοῦ νεκροῦ παιδιοῦ καὶ προστάζει μὲ ἐξουσία· «**Νεανίσκε, σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι**»· νέε, σ' ἐσένα τὸ λέω, σήκω! (Λουκ. 7,14). Τότε ἐκεῖ, μπροστὰ στὰ μάτια ὁλων, **ὁ νεκρὸς ἀνακινεῖται, ἀνακάθεται στὸ φέρετρο** καὶ ἀρχίζει νὰ μιλά. Ὁ ζωοδότης Χριστός, ἀφοῦ τὸν ἀνέστησε, τὸν παραδίδει στὴ μητέρα του. Ὅλοι δοξολογοῦν τὸ Θεό.

Αὐτά μᾶς λέει σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο.

Γιὰ νὰ εἴμαστε -κι ὅχι ἀπλῶς νὰ λεγώμαστε- **Χριστιανοί**, δὲν ἀρκεῖ, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ ὅτι κάποτε βαπτιστήκαμε· ὀφείλουμε καὶ **νὰ ζοῦμε πάντοτε**

τε κατά τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ νὰ μετέχουμε στὴ ζωὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ (στὰ ἄχραντα μυστήρια). Τότε ἔχουμε «ζωὴν ἐν ἑαυτοῖς» (βλ. β.3-54), τότε διατηροῦμε τὸ ἀνεκτίμητο δῶρο τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὴ ζωὴ· τὴ φυσικὴ καὶ τὴν πνευματικὴ, τοῦ σώματος καὶ τῆς ψυχῆς μας. Νὰ προσευχώμαστε λοιπόν, νὰ ἐκκλησιαζώμαστε τακτικὰ τοῦλάχιστον τὶς Κυριακὲς κι ὄχι ν' ἀπουσιάζουμε δίχως λόγον· νὰ εὐγνωμονοῦμε κ' εὐχαριστοῦμε τὸν Κύριο γιὰ τὰ δῶρα του· νὰ μετανοοῦμε κι ἀποζητοῦμε τὸ ἔλεός του καὶ νὰ τὸν παρακαλοῦμε νὰ συγχωρήσῃ τ' ἁμαρτήματά μας.

Νὰ μένουμε πιστοὶ στὸ δνομά του καὶ ν' ἀντιστεκώμαστε στὸ ρέυμα τῆς ἀπιστίας· νὰ ὀδηγοῦμε τὰ παιδιὰ μας κοντὰ στὸ Χριστὸ τώρα ποὺ τὰ σχολεῖα ἀλλάζουν χαρακτῆρα καθὼς ὑποβαθμίζεται τὸ μάθημα τῶν θρησκευτικῶν. Ἄλλοτε λειτουργοῦσαν δύο ἐκκλησίαι· μία ἡ μεγάλη καὶ κεντρικὴ τῆς ἐνορίας καὶ μία ἡ μικρὴ «κατ' οἶκον ἐκκλησία» (Ρωμ. 16,5. 1 Κορ. 16,19. Κολ. 4,15 φλ.2)· τότε κάθε σπιτί ἦταν μιὰ ἐκκλησία. Πίστευαν καὶ παρακαλοῦσαν τὸ Θεό. Τώρα δυστυχῶς αὐτὸ ἔγινε σπάνιο. Πολλοὶ δὲν πιστεύουν καθόλου στὸ Θεὸ ἢ πιστεύουν ἀόριστα, ἀγνοοῦν τὴν ἁγία Τριάδα, τὸν Πατέρα τὸν Υἱὸν καὶ τὸ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα, αὐτὸν ποὺ ἔδωσε καὶ δίνει στὸν κόσμον τὴ ζωὴ. Ὁ Κύριος εἶπε· «Ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὁ τὸν λόγον μου ἀκούων καὶ πιστεύων τῷ πέμψαντί με ἔχει ζωὴν αἰώνιον... μεταβέβηκεν ἐκ τοῦ θανάτου εἰς τὴν ζωὴν» (βλ. β.24). Ὅποιος λοιπόν ἐμμένει ἡθελημένα στὴν ἀπιστία καὶ τολμᾷ νὰ δηλώνη ἀπιστος, αὐτὸς μόνος του στερεῖται τὴ ζωὴ ποὺ χαρίζει ὁ Θεός, μένει ἐκουσίως στὸ θάνατο.

Ἄλλοι ὅμως, ἀκόμη χειρότερα, ὄχι μόνο τολμοῦν νὰ δηλώνουν ἀπιστοὶ, ἀλλ' ἀντιπάσονται μὲ κακία στὴν πίστι. Ἀμφισβητοῦν τὴν ἀλήθεια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, ἀσεβοῦν στὰ ἱερὰ καὶ ὅσια, βλαστημοῦν τὰ θεῖα. Τὸ δὲ πιὸ θλιβερὸ ποιοῦ εἶνε· ὅτι, ἐνῶ συμβαίνουν ὅλα αὐτά, ὕψις ἀντίδρασις δὲν ὑπάρχει. Οἱ νόμοι τοῦ Θεοῦ καταπατοῦνται ἀσυστόλως, καὶ ἡ κοινωνία δὲν ἐνοχλεῖται· τ' ἀνέχεται ὅλα σὰν νὰ μὴ βλέπη σὰν νὰ μὴ ἀκούη τίποτε.

Ἡ στάσι αὐτὴ, εἴτε προέρχεται ἀπὸ ἀδιαφορία ἢ ἀπὸ δειλία ἢ ἀπὸ συγκατάθεσι καὶ συμφωνία μὲ τὸ κακὸ, δείχνει **νέκρα, ἀπουσία ζωῆς**. Σὲ παρόμοια περίπτωσι ὁ Χριστός, κάποιον ποὺ ἔλεγε πὼς θέλει νὰ τὸν ἀκολουθήσῃ, τὸν προέτρεψε μὲ τὰ βαθυστόχαστα ἑκεῖνα λόγια· «Ἀκολουθεῖ μοι, καὶ ἄφες τοὺς νεκροὺς θάψαι τοὺς ἑαυτῶν νεκρούς», ἄφησε δηλαδὴ τοὺς πνευματικὰ νεκροὺς (αὐτοὺς τοὺς ἀπίστους ἢ ἀδιαφόρους ἢ ἐχθρικά διатеθειμένους) νὰ γηροκομήσουν καὶ νὰ θάψουν τοὺς σωματικὰ νεκροὺς γονεῖς (Ματθ. 8,22. Λουκ. 9,60).

Στὴν Ἀποκάλυψι ὁ Χριστός, ὄχι πλεόν με τέτοια ἡπιότητα ἀλλὰ σὲ τόνο αὐστηρὸ ἐλέγχει καὶ

γιὰ ν' ἀφυπνίσῃ τὴν κοιμισμένη συνείδησι τοῦ ἁμαρτωλοῦ λέει· «Οἶδά σου τὰ ἔργα, ὅτι δνομα ἔχεις ὅτι ζῆς, καὶ νεκρὸς εἶ. γίνου γρηγορῶν...»· ἔξέρω τί ἔχεις κάνει· ἀπ' ἔξω φαντάζεις ζωντανός, κατ' οὐσίαν ὅμως εἶσαι ἕνας πνευματικὰ νεκρός· ἐύπνα λοιπόν... (βλ. β.1-2).

Αὐτὰ εἶχα νὰ πῶς σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου. **Τί μᾶς κόστισε –καὶ μᾶς κοστίζει–, ἀδελφοί μου, ἡ ἁμαρτία;** Θάνατο, σωματικὸ καὶ ψυχικόν. Καὶ πὼς ὁ θάνατος μπήκε στὴ ζωὴ μας; Μὲ τὴν ἁμαρτία. Νὰ τὸ κεντρί τοῦ θανάτου· «τὸ κέντρον τοῦ θανάτου ἡ ἁμαρτία» (βλ. 1 Κορ. 15,56), μ' αὐτὴν μᾶς ταίμησε σὰν ἄλλη σφήκα καὶ μᾶς φαρμάκωσε. Καὶ ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ ἀντίδοτο γιὰ τὸ φαρμάκι τῆς ἁμαρτίας; **Ἡ πίστι καὶ ἡ ἀγάπη** μας γιὰ τὸ Θεὸ καὶ τὸ συνάνθρωπο.

Κάθε θανάσιμη ἁμαρτία (φιλοδοξία, φιλαργυρία, φιληδονία καὶ τὰ παρακλάδια τους) ἔχουν ἀσφαλῶς σχέσι μὲ τὸ θάνατο καὶ ἀντιστρατεύονται τὴ ζωὴ. Ἄλλ' ἐὰν ὑπάρχῃ μιὰ ἁμαρτία ποὺ βρίσκεται στὸν ἀντίποδα ἀκριβῶς τοῦ θείου δώρου τῆς ζωῆς, εἶνε οἱ **δολοφονίες καὶ ἐκτρώσεις** καθὼς καὶ οἱ ποικίλοι **τρόποι ἀποφυγῆς τῆς τεκνογονίας**· αὐτὰ ἔχουν στερήσει τὸ φῶς τοῦ ἡλίου σὲ δισεκατομμύρια ἀνθρώπινες ζωές, τὶς ὁποῖες ἔφαγε καὶ τὶς ὁποῖες τρώει καὶ τώρα ἀκόμα τὸ μαῦρο σκοτάδι, καὶ οἱ κραυγὲς καὶ οἰμωγὲς τους ἀνεβαίνουν στὸ θρόνον τοῦ Θεοῦ ζητώντας ἐκδίκησιν (βλ. βλ. β.10).

Θάνατος· νὰ πῶς ἀμείβει ἡ ἁμαρτία τὰ θύματα, στοὺς σκλάβους τῆς. **Ζωὴ αἰώνιος**· νὰ τί χαρίζει ὁ Κύριός μας σὲ ὅσους τὸν ἀκολουθοῦν. Διαλέγετε καὶ παίρνετε. «Τὰ ὀψώνια (=δὲ μισθός) τῆς ἁμαρτίας θάνατος, τὸ δὲ χάρισμα τοῦ Θεοῦ ζωὴ αἰώνιος ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ Κυρίῳ ἡμῶν» (βλ. β.2). Ὅποιος ἔχει ἀγάπη, αὐτὸς ἔχει ζωὴ. «Ὁ μὴ ἀγαπῶν τὸν ἀδελφὸν μένει ἐν τῷ θανάτῳ». Καὶ ὅσοι ἀγαποῦμε τοὺς ἀδελφούς μας «οἶδαμεν ὅτι μεταβεβήκαμεν ἐκ τοῦ θανάτου εἰς τὴν ζωὴν» (βλ. β.114).

Ὁ Κύριος δὲν θέλει θάνατο. «Ἐγὼ», λέει, «ἦλθον ἵνα ζωὴν ἔχωσι καὶ περισσὸν ἔχωσι», ἦρθα στὴ γῆ γιὰ νὰ ἔχουν ὅλοι ζωὴ καὶ νὰ τὴ χαίρωνται πλουσίως (βλ. β.10).

Μετάνοια, λοιπόν, ἐξομολόγησι, συμφιλίωσι, ὀρθὴ πίστι, τίμια ἐργασία, **εὐσπλαχνία**, δικαιοσύνη. **Ἀγάπη** καὶ λατρεία στὸ Χριστό, ἀγάπη στὴν Ἐκκλησίαν, στὴν οἰκογένεια καὶ σ' αὐτὴ τὴ μαρτυρικὴ μας πατρίδα. Ἐλλὰς καὶ Ὁρθοδοξία εἶνε δύο πράγματα ἐνωμένα. **Μείνετε ἐνωμένοι**. Καὶ τότε νὰ εἴστε βέβαιοι, ὅτι ἡ Μακεδονία μας, ἡ χώρα τοῦ Μεγάλου Ἀλεξάνδρου, ποὺ ἦταν καὶ εἶνε, θὰ μείνῃ πάντα Ἑλληνική.

(†) **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.

Jesus, the Lord of Life

How do you respond to the misfortunes of others? In a number of places the gospel records that Jesus was "moved to the depths of His heart." Our English word "compassion" is a weak translation of the Hebrew word for "sympathy."

Why was Jesus so moved on this occasion? Jesus not only grieved the untimely death of a youth, but he showed the depth of his concern for a woman who lost not only a husband, but an only child as well. The scriptures make clear that God takes no pleasure in the death of anyone (e.g., Ezekiel 33:11); God desires life, not death. Jesus not only had compassion, He also had power – the ability to restore life and make whole again. Jesus, however, incurred grave risk by approaching the bier, since contact with a

dead body made one ritually impure. His touch not only restored life but brought freedom and wholeness to soul as well as body.

This miracle is reminiscent of the prophet Elisha who raised another mother's son (see 2 Kings 4:18-37). Jesus claimed as His own one whom death had seized as its prey. By His word of power He restored life for a young man marked for death. Jesus is Lord not only of the living but of the dead as well. Jesus triumphed over the grave and He promises that because He lives, we also shall live in Him (John 14:19). Do you trust in the Lord's power to give life and hope in the face of misfortune and despair?

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