



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN October 29th, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of the Healing of Jairus' Daughter (Luke 8:41-56)

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 Galatians 2:16-20

Brethren, knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ' ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον.

Πρὸς Γαλάτας 2:16-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιоῦται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεῦσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου· διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. Εἰ δέ, ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ, εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; Μὴ γένοιτο. Εἰ γὰρ ἂ κατέλυσα, ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἑμαυτὸν συνίστημι. Ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δέ, οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῇ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 8:41-56 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

At that time, there came to Jesus a man named Jairus, who was a ruler of the synagogue; and falling at Jesus' feet he besought him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she was dying. As he went, the people pressed round him. And a woman who had had a flow of blood for twelve years and had spent all her living upon physicians and could not be healed by anyone, came up behind him, and touched the fringe of his garment; and immediately her flow of blood ceased. And Jesus said, "Who was it that touched me?" When all denied it, Peter and those who were with him said, "Master, the multitudes surround you and press upon you!" But Jesus said, "Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me." And when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling, and falling down before him declared in the presence of all the people why she had touched him, and how she had been immediately healed. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace." While he was still speaking, a man from the ruler's house came and said, "Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more." But Jesus on hearing this answered him, "Do not fear; only believe, and she shall be well." And when he came to the house, he permitted no one to enter with him, except Peter and John and James, and the father and mother of the child. And all were weeping and bewailing her; but he said, "Do not weep; for she is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But taking her by the hand he called, saying, "Child, arise." And her spirit returned, and she got up at once; and he directed that something should be given her to eat. And her parents were amazed; but he charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ ᾧ ὄνομα Ἰάειρος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἄρχων τῆς συναγωγῆς ὑπῆρχε· καὶ πεσὼν παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ παρεκάλει αὐτὸν εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ, ὅτι θυγάτηρ μονογενὴς ἦν αὐτῷ ὡς ἑτῶν δώδεκα, καὶ αὕτη ἀπέθνησκεν. Ἐν δὲ τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτὸν οἱ ὄχλοι συνέπνιγον αὐτόν. καὶ γυνὴ οὖσα ἐν ῥύσει αἵματος ἀπὸ ἑτῶν δώδεκα, ἥτις ἰατροῖς προσαναλώσασα ὅλον τὸν βίον οὐκ ἴσχυεν ὑπ' οὐδενὸς θεραπευθῆναι, προσελθοῦσα ὀπισθεν ἤψατο τοῦ κρασπέδου τοῦ ἱματίου αὐτοῦ, καὶ παραχρῆμα ἔστη ἡ ῥύσις τοῦ αἵματος αὐτῆς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου; ἀρνούμενων δὲ πάντων εἶπεν ὁ Πέτρος καὶ οἱ σὺν αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, οἱ ὄχλοι συνέχουσίν σε καὶ ἀποθλίβουσι, καὶ λέγεις τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· ἤψατό μού τις· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἔγνω δύνάμιν ἐξελθοῦσαν ἀπ' ἐμοῦ. ἰδοῦσα δὲ ἡ γυνὴ ὅτι οὐκ ἔλαθε, τρέμουσα ἦλθε καὶ προσπεσοῦσα αὐτῷ δι' ἣν αἰτίαν ἤψατο αὐτοῦ ἀπήγγειλεν αὐτῷ ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ λαοῦ, καὶ ὡς ἰάθη παραχρῆμα. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· θάρσει, θύγατερ, ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε· πορεύου εἰς εἰρήνην. Ἐτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἔρχεται τις παρὰ τοῦ ἀρχισυναγώγου λέγων αὐτῷ ὅτι τέθνηκεν ἡ θυγάτηρ σου· μὴ σκύλλε τὸν διδάσκαλον. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀκούσας ἀπεκρίθη αὐτῷ λέγων· μὴ φοβοῦ· μόνον πίστευε, καὶ σωθήσεται. ἐλθὼν δὲ εἰς τὴν οἰκίαν οὐκ ἀφῆκεν εἰσελθεῖν οὐδένα εἰ μὴ Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ τὸν πατέρα τῆς παιδὸς καὶ τὴν μητέρα. ἐκλαίον δὲ πάντες καὶ ἐκόπτοντο αὐτήν. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· μὴ κλαίετε· οὐκ ἀπέθανεν, ἀλλὰ καθεύδει. καὶ κατεγέλων αὐτοῦ, εἰδότες ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. αὐτὸς δὲ ἐκβαλὼν ἔξω πάντας καὶ κρατήσας τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῆς ἐφώνησε λέγων· ἡ παῖς, ἐγείρου. καὶ ἐπέστρεψε τὸ πνεῦμα αὐτῆς, καὶ ἀνέστη παραχρῆμα, καὶ διέταξεν αὐτῇ δοθῆναι φαγεῖν. καὶ ἐξέστησαν οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῖς, ὁ δὲ παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς μηδενὶ εἰπεῖν τὸ γεγονός.



There will not be a fellowship COFFEE HOUR TODAY, as we are encouraged to attend and support the DAUGHTERS of PENELOPE LUNCHEON and ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION in Rosehall. The festivities commence at 12:30 P.M. Dinner, prizes, raffles, and so much more to share an afternoon with friends. GRAND CELEBRATION AND ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDERS DAY. Please support our Demetra Chapter on this 30th, Jubilee Event.

ARTOKLASIA TODAY: in honor of the Holy Un-Mercenaries Saints Cosmas and Damianos is offered by Anargyros and Niki Apergis. CHRONIA POLLA TO THE FAMILY!

GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM: will be presented TODAY by some of our Greek School Students on Sunday, October 29th, in observance of 'OXI-DAY'. This is the patriotic response from Prime Minister Ioannis Metaxas on October 28th, 1940 to the Italian Dictator Benito Mussolini who planned the invasion of Greece. The Italian invasion was a disaster for Mussolini who called upon Adolph Hitler to bring the German Army of Nazis into Hellas. Ironically, Hitler so admired the Hellenic history and ancient culture of renown that he insisted Greece NOT BE BOMBED !

BAPTISM TODAY: new born son of Inna Globa and Mikita Sauhen and to be named 'MAXIM NICHOLAS'
N A S A S Z E S E !

PAULETTE POULOS (beloved daughter of our parish) and Executive Director of the Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund will be honored by G.A.E.P.I.S. COSMOS FM RADIO with the 28th. PHIDIPPIDES AWARD for her personal life achievement and passionate advocacy of Hellenism and Christian Orthodoxy. This tribute most deserved will be hosted on THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 09th 6:30 P.M at the NEW YORK CITY UNION LEAGUE CLUB. Join us as we salute one of our 'own'! AXIA! AXIA! AXIA!

HOLY WATER BLESSING for the month of November will be offered on WEDNESDAY, the FIRST of NOVEMBER at 12:00 P.M. AGIASMOS and the anointing with the oil of Euchelaion on the occasion of the Feast of Saints Cosmas and Damianos will be extended to all in attendance.

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

CLOCKS GO BACK! YES THEY DO! Next Sunday morning at 2:00 A.M. November 5th. We revert one hour as DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME.....ends. Set your clocks back an hour before you retire on Saturday evening..... or else you WILL be early to church on Sunday....that will be a first.!

Exercise your right and privilege to VOTE on ELECTION DAY, Tuesday, November 07th.

Check out SENIOR CLUB SCHEDULE of activities each Wednesday afternoon from 1-5 P.M. Everyone is invited to socialize, break bread and enjoy a fellowship of happy BINGO winners. Each week there is a new theme with lots to learn and recall. Come on down to ROSEHALL And share the fun.

UP-COMING DATES: Agiasmos (HOLY WATER BLESSING) Wednesday November 01st, from 11:00 – 11:30 A.M. Anointing with 'EUCHELAION' this day on the feast of physician saints- COSMOS and DAMIANOS..... all are welcomed!

SENIOR CLUB will the autumn season with TRICK or TREAT candies. Members are requested to wear ' masks ' ! 1:00 P.M.

Saturday NIGHT- Sunday morning 2:00 A.M. November 4-5 CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR – Daylight Saving time ENDS! Don't forget to change the clocks or you may arrive ON TIME for Sunday worship.....

AUTUMN GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Parish Membership (STEWARDS) is convened on Sunday November 12th directly after the Divine Liturgy 1:00 P.M. The agenda has been posted to all registered with the church. ARE YOU? Please attend and learn of our progress and plans for future projects. We are alive and well! Upward and Onward!

MEMORIALS TODAY: + IVAN and + LYUDMILA DIACHENKO

MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: + FOTIOS and + CALLIOPE LOUZAKOS + MICHAEL SEKAS
Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!

28th Phidippides Award Gala



Honoring Executive Director of The Archbishop Iakovos Leadership 100 Fund

Paulette Poulos

for her passionate advocacy of Hellenism & Orthodoxy

Thursday November 9, 2023 6:30PM at The Union League Club

Hosted by the Board of Directors of Greek American Educational Public
Information System Inc. & Hellenic Public Radio-COSMOS FM 91.5

Senior Club Newsletter November-December 2023

WEDNESDAY

November 01st,

1:00 P.M.



Holy Water Blessing 12 Noon
Sants Cosmas and Damianos
(Holy Oil Anointing)
Hearty SOUP and salad
Coffee sweets and treats
B I N G O



November 08th,

1:00 P.M.



Holy Archangels/St. Nektarios
Lecture on the MIRACLES
Coffee, sweets and treats
B I N G O

November 15th,

1:00 P.M.



THANKSGIVING DINNER!
.....with the trimmings!
Eat, drink and be merry
B I N G O

November 22,

NO MEETINGENJOY YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND GIVE THANKS.

November 29,

1:00 P.M.



TURKEY SOUP DAY ! HOT CHOCOLATE
Pumpkin and mince pies
Coffee sweets and treats
B I N G O

December 06th,

1:00 P.M.



Saint Nicholas Day
LITURGY - 10 A.M.- 11:30 A.M.
ARTOKLASIA/YPSOMATA
Soup, breads and cheese
Coffee, cakes and buns
B I N G O

December 13th,

1:00 P.M.



SAINT EUGENE LITURGY 10:00 A.M.
Wine and Cheese for everyone
B I N G O
Coffee and sweets

December 20th,

1:00 P.M.



CHRISTMAS DINNER PARTY
Exchange of cards and novelties
B I N G O
Coffee and Candies

December 27th,

NO MEETING..... PREPARING FOR THE NEW YEAR !

- 2024 -

Enjoy the holidays. Be safe, be sound be happy!
A MOST BLESSED NEW YEAR TO ALL.

Georgia Stamos, Co-President

Demetrios Bouroutis, Co-President



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

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

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Μ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 2592

Κυριακὴ Ζ' Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 8,41-56)
29 Ὀκτωβρίου 2023

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ποιός ἀγγίζει τὸ Χριστό; Ἐλάχιστοι!

«Καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Τίς ὁ ἀψάμενός μου;» (Λουκ. 8,45)

Μία ἀπὸ τίς πέντε αἰσθήσεις τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε καὶ ἡ ἀκοή. Τὸ αὐτὶ εἶνε ἓνα θαυμαστὸ ὄργανο ποῦ προκαλεῖ κατάπληξι. Ὅταν κάποιοι μειωθῇ ἡ ἀκοή καὶ τρέχῃ στοὺς γιατρούς, τότε ἐκτιμᾷ τὴν ἀξία της. Ψαντὰρ εἶνε τὸ αὐτὶ τίποτα δὲν εἶνε τὸ τεχνητὸ βαντὰρ μπροστὰ στὴν ἀκοή μὲ τὴν ὁποία εἴμαστε ἐφωδιασμένοι.

Μὲ τὴν ἀκοή ἀκοῦμε τὴν πνοὴ τοῦ ἀνέμου ποῦ σείει τὰ φύλλα, τὸ φλοῖσβο τῆς ἀκρογιαλίδος, τὸ κελάδημα τῶν πουλιῶν, τίς κιθάρες - τὰ ὄργανα ποῦ παίζουν μουσική· ἀκοῦμε τὴ φωνὴ τῆς μάνας, τοῦ δασκάλου καὶ καθηγητοῦ. Μὲ τὴν ἀκοή ὁ ἀνθρώπος λαμβάνει γνῶσι ἐνὸς μεγάλου μέρους τῆς ἐπιστήμης.

Ἀκοῦμε τόσα ὥραϊα. Καὶ πάνω ἀπ' ὅλα - ποιό· «Καὶ ὑπὲρ τοῦ καταξιοθῆναι ἡμᾶς τῆς ἀκροάσεως τοῦ ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου» (βλ. 1^ο μᾶς ἀξιώνει ὁ Θεὸς στὴν ἐκκλησιὰ ν' ἀκοῦμε τὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἅγιο Εὐαγγέλιον! Ἡ ὥρα ἐκείνη εἶνε μεγάλη.

Ἔχουμε συναίσθησι; Οἱ Σλάβοι, παρ' ὅλη τὴν ἀθρεία ποῦ πέρασαν, τὴν ὥρα τοῦ εὐαγγελίου γονατίζουν, καὶ μὲ τὴ στάσι αὐτὴ τί λένε; Σ' εὐχαριστοῦμε, Κύριε, ποῦ μᾶς ἔδωσες αὐτιά καὶ μᾶς ἀξιώνεις ν' ἀκοῦμε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιό σου.

Ἔμεῖς τί κάνουμε ἄραγε; Ὁ Κύριος εἶπε ἐντόνως· «Ὁ ἔχων ὅτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω», ὁποῖος ἔχει αὐτιά ἂς ἀκούῃ (Ματθ. 13, 9) καὶ «Μακάριοι οἱ ἀκούοντες τὸν λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ φυλάσσοντες αὐτόν», εὐτυχισμένοι ὅσοι ἀκοῦνε μὲ προθυμία τὸν θεῖο λόγο ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν τηροῦν μὲ συνέπειαν (Ματθ. 13, 23). Αὐτιά σωματικά ἔχουμε· αὐτιά πνευματικά;

Μ' αὐτὲς τίς προϋποθέσεις ἂς δοῦμε τώρα τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιον (Ματθ. 14, 33), ποῦ διαγεῖται δύο θαύματα, ἀπὸ τὰ ἄπειρα ποῦ ἔκανε καὶ κάνει ὁ Κύριός μας. Τὸ ἓνα εἶνε ἀπ' τὰ πῶς μεγάλα, ἀνάστασι νεκροῦ· ἀνέστησε τὴν κόρη τοῦ ἀρχισυναγώγου Ἰακώβου. Τὸ ἄλλο εἶνε θεραπεία μῆς χρονίας μεγάλης ἀσθενείας. Ὑπὸ ποιὲς συνθήκες ἐγιναν;

✓ Ὁ Χριστὸς περιοδεύοντας πέρασε ἀπὸ τὴν περιοχὴ τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν, ὅπου τοῦ ἔδειξαν ἀγένη καὶ τὸν ἔδωξαν. Φεύγει καὶ γυρίζει στὴ Γαλι-

λαία. Ἐδῶ τὸν ὑποδέχεται πλῆθος λαοῦ· ὅλοι αὐτοὶ θέλουν νὰ τὸν δοῦν, νὰ τὸν ἀκούσουν. Τὸν κυκλώνουν καὶ συνωστίζονται γύρω του.

Σὲ μιὰ στιγμή σταματᾷ καὶ στρέφοντας τὸ βλέμμα γύρω ῥωτᾷ· «Ποιὸς μὲ ἀγγίξε; Οἱ μαθηταὶ τοῦ ἀποροῦν τί ἐννοεῖ, γιατί ὄχι ἓνας ἀλλὰ πλῆθος ἀνθρώποι, μικροὶ - μεγάλοι, τὸν ἀγγίζουν· ὅλοι σπρώχνουν νὰ πᾶνε κοντὰ του. Μὲ τὸ στόμα τοῦ Πέτρου ἀποκρίνονται· «Μά, Κύριε, ἐδῶ τόσος κόσμος σὲ πιέζει, πᾶει νὰ σὲ λειώσῃ, καὶ λές «Ποιὸς μὲ ἀγγίξε;». Ὁ Χριστὸς ὁμῶς ἐπιμένει· «Κάποιος μὲ ἀγγίξε· γιατί ἐγὼ ἔνωσα κάποια δύναμι νὰ βγαίῃ ἀπὸ μένα. Τότε παρουσιάζεται μπροστὰ τοῦ **μιά γυναίκα**· πέφτει τὸν προσκυνᾷ· ἔχει μπροστὰ σὲ ὅλους ἀποκαλύπτει· «Κύριε, λέει, ἐγὼ εἶμαι ποῦ σὲ ἀγγίξα· συχώρεσέ με ποῦ ἔκανα αὐτὸ τὸ τόλμημα. Ἦμουν μιὰ δυστυχισμένη ἄρρωστη· 12 χρόνια ἔπασχα ἀπὸ γυναίκα πάθησι, αἱμορραγία, στράγγισα πιά. Πῆγα σὲ γιατρούς, πῆρα φάρμακα, ἔωδεψα μιὰ περιουσία. Ἀποτέλεσμα; Τίποτα· καὶ κινδύνευα νὰ πεθάνω. Μὰ ὅταν ἄκουσα ὅτι ἔρχεσαι, εἶπα μέσα μου· Ὁ Χριστὸς θὰ μὲ κάνῃ καλά! Πλησίασα πίσω σου μὲ τὴν πίστι, πῶς ἂν ἀγγίξω τὴν ἀκρὴ ἔστω τοῦ ρούχου σου θὰ γειάνω. Καὶ μόλις σὲ ἀγγίξα **θεραπεύτηκα**. Χίλιες δόξες νὰ ᾄδῃς!...

Στὴν αἱμορροοῦσα θὰ ἐπανέλθουμε.

✓ Ἐν συνεχείᾳ πῆγε **στὸ σπήλι τοῦ Ἰακώβου**. Βρῆκε νεκρὸ πλέον τὸ κορίτσι τοῦ καὶ ὅλους νὰ κλαῖνε. «Μὴν κλαῖτε, τοὺς λέει· δὲν πέθανε, **κοιμᾶται**. Ἐκεῖνοι, ἄκου, διέκοψαν τὸ κλάμα νὰ τὸν περιγελάσουν - τόσο σίγουροι ὅτι ἡ κόρη πέθανε.

Ἔχει σημασία ἡ λέξι ποῦ εἶπε, «κοιμᾶται». Οἱ πιστοὶ ἔτσι βλέπουν τὸ θάνατο. Σύγκρινε τώρα τὴ δική μας ἀπιστία. Πῶς λέμε τὸ μέρος ποῦ θάβονται οἱ νεκροί; Νεκροταφεῖο. Μὰ τὸ **νεκροταφεῖο** εἶνε γιὰ τοὺς ἀπίστους, ἐνῶ γιὰ τοὺς πιστοὺς λέγεται **κοιμητήριον**, κ' ἐπάνω στὸ σταυρὸ τοῦ τάφου γράφουν «ἐκοιμήθη». Ὁ θάνατος, ὅπως διδάσκει ὁ ἅγιος Κοσμάς ὁ Αἰτωλός, εἶνε ἓνας μεγάλος ὕπνος· καὶ ὁ ὕπνος ἓνας μικρὸς θάνατος (1^η). Κάθε φορὰ ποῦ κοιμόμαστε, γιὰ λίγο πεθαίνουμε· ἀλλ' ὅσο εἶσαι βέβαιος ὅτι μετὰ ἀπὸ ἓναν

ΰπνο θά Ξυπνήσης, τόσο βέβαιος νά 'σαι κι ὅτι μετὰ τὸ θάνατο θ' ἀναστήθης. Ἡ μάνα πού βλέπει τὸ παιδί νά κοιμᾶται στήν κούνια δὲν κλαίει, χαίρεται· κ' ἐμεῖς μὴν κλαίμε ἀπαρηγόρητα τοὺς νεκροὺς μας, γιατί δὲν χάθηκαν, θ' ἀναστήθουν.

Αὐτὸ μᾶς διδάξε σήμερα ὁ Χριστός. Τοὺς βγά-
ζει ὅλους ἔξω, πιάνει τὸ χέρι τῆς κόρης καὶ φωνά-
ζει· «Ἡ παῖς, ἐγείρου»· κόρη, σήκω. Κ' ἐπέστρεψε
στὸ σῶμα ἡ ψυχὴ· **τὴν ἀνέστησε!** Τὴν Ξύπνησε
ἀπ' τὸ θάνατο τόσο εὐκολα, ὅπως τὴν Ξυπνοῦσε
ἡ μητέρα της ἀπὸ τὸν ΰπνο.

Αὐτὸ πού εἶπε ὁ Χριστὸς σ' αὐτὴ τὴν κόρη, θά
ἀκουστῇ στὸ τέλος σὲ ὅλο τὸν κόσμον· **Νεκροί,
ἀναστήθιτε!** Ὁ Χριστιανὸς τί ὁμολογεῖ· «*Προσ-
δοκῶ ἀνάστασιν νεκρῶν*» [ῥώμ. 8:23]. Ὅποιος ἀρ-
νεῖται τὴν ἀνάστασι τῶν νεκρῶν, δὲν εἶνε Χριστι-
ανός. Πιστεύουμε. Ὅσο εἶνε βέβαιος ὅτι αὐριο εἶ-
νε Δευτέρα, τόσο βέβαιοι νά εἴμαστε ὅτι θά ἔρ-
θῃ καὶ ἡ Δευτέρα Παρουσία, κατὰ τὴν ὁποία θ'
ἀναστήθουν ὅλοι οἱ νεκροί.

Ἄλλ' ὅς ἐπιστρέψουμε στήν αἰμορροοῦσα.
Πλήθη λαοὺ πλησιάζουν κι ἀγγίζουσιν τὸ Χριστό,
ἐκεῖνος ὅμως μόνο γιὰ μιὰ γυναῖκα λέει, ὅτι ἀπέ-
σπασε δύναμι ἀπὸ αὐτόν. Δὲν εἶνε περίεργος; Ἐ,
αὐτὸ πού ἔγινε ἐκεῖ τότε, συμβαίνει καὶ σήμερα.
Πλήθη ἐκκλησιάζονται, μετέχουν σὲ πανηγύρια, ἀ-
κοῦνε, ἀνάβουν κεριὰ· **ποιὸς ὅμως ἀγγίζει τὸ Χρι-
στό;** ποιά εἶνε ἡ οὐσιαστικὴ ἐπαφή, ἡ ζωοποιὸς με-
τάγγισι χάριτος, ἡ ἀληθινὴ ὠφέλεια;

Ἀμφιβόλλω θν μέσ' στοὺς 100, μέσ' στοὺς
1.000, μέσ' στοὺς 10.000 **ὑπάρχει ἕνας** σὺν τὴν αἰ-
μορροοῦσα, ἕνας πού νά βγαίνει ἀλλοιωμένος,
λυτρωμένος καὶ θεραπευμένος ἀπὸ τὴ θεία λει-
τουργία καὶ τὴ λατρεία γενικά.

Πῶς πλησιάζουν; πῶς μετέχουν, τί αἰσθάνον-
ται, τί ζοῦν μέσα τους; Μπαίνουν στήν ἐκκλησία;
Τίποτα· οὔτε τὸ σταυρὸ τους καλὰ - καλὰ δὲν ξέ-
ρουν νά κάνουν. Ἀκοῦνε «*Εὐλόγημένη ἡ βασι-
λεία...*»; Τίποτα· οὔτε λίγο τὴν κεφαλὴ τους δὲν
σκύβουν. Προχωρεῖ ἡ λειτουργία, ἀκούγεται ὁ ἀ-
πόστολος, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο; Μένουν σὺν τὸ ξύλο καὶ
τὸ μάρμαρο, ἀδιάφοροι, δὲν συγκρατοῦν τίποτα·
παρόντες τῷ σῶματι, ἀπόντες τῷ πνεύματι. Πα-
ρακολουθοῦν μόνο ὅ,τι βλέπουν τὰ ὕλικά μάτια,
χαζεοῦν· τίποτ' ἄλλο πέρα ἀπ' αὐτά. Ἀκοῦνε
μόνο μὲ τ' αὐτιά τοῦ σώματος, ἡ ψυχὴ δὲν ἀκού-
ει τίποτα. Πολὺ σπανίως θά ᾄδῃς μιὰ ψυχὴ, πού νά
βρίσκεται μέσ' στήν ἐκκλησίαν καὶ νά παρακολου-
θῇ μὲ πίστι, νά ζῇ μὲ συναίσθησι τὴ θεία λειτου-
ργία, νά προσεύχεται μὲ τὴν καρδιά. **Ἐντελῶς τυ-
πικὴ εἶνε ἡ παρουσία στὸ ναό.**

Ἡ κατάστασι αὐτὴ θυμίζει ἕνα ἀνέκδοτο. Κά-
ποιος ἀσκητὴς μὲ διορατικὸ χάρισμα στάθηκε
τὴν Κυριακὴ ἔξω ἀπὸ τὸ ναὸ τῆς ἐνορίας. Ἀφοῦ
χτύπησε ἡ καμπάνα κι ἀρχισαν νά 'ρχωνται οἱ
Χριστιανοί, αὐτὸς τοὺς παρατηροῦσε καὶ κατα-
λάβαινε τὴν πνευματικὴν κατάστασι τοῦ καθενός.

Γυναῖκες, ἄντρες, παιδιά καὶ νέοι ξμπαίνουν· γέ-
μισε ἡ ἐκκλησία. Μὲ τὸ χάρισμα πού εἶχε εἶδε ὅτι
μπαίνοντας, ὅλοι ἦταν μαῦροι. Ὅταν ὁ παπᾶς εἶπε
τὸ «*Δι' εὐχῶν...*», ὁ ἀσκητὴς βγῆκε, στάθηκε πάλι
ἐκεῖ καὶ παρατηροῦσε. Οἱ Χριστιανοὶ πῆραν ἀντί-
δωρο κ' ἔβγαιναν. Πάλι ὅμως ἦταν μαῦροι. **Μαῦροι
μῆκαν, μαῦροι ἔβγαιναν.** Πολὺ λυπήθηκε κ' ἔ-
κλαιψε ὁ ἀσκητὴς. Μόνο κάποιον ἀπὸ τοὺς τε-
λευταίους εἶδε νά βγαίνει **ἁπλως σὺν τὸ χιόνι.**
Θαύμασε ὁ γέροντας καὶ δόξασε τὸ Θεό. Τὸν
πλησιάζει, τοῦ πιάνει κουβέντα, κ' ἐκεῖνος τοῦ εἶ-
πε· Ἐγὼ εἶμαι πολὺ ἁμαρτωλός, ἔκανα τοῦ κόσμου
τὶς ἀδικίες· μὰ σήμερα, ἀκούγοντας τὴν καμπάνα,
δὲν ξέρω τί μ' ἔκανε καὶ ἤρθα. Κι ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα
πού μῆκα δὲν ἔπαυα νά κλαίω λέγοντας· **Κύριε
Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλέησόν με...** Νάτος λοιπόν· αὐ-
τὸς μαῦρος μῆκε - ἁπλως βγῆκε, ἕνας μέσ'
στοὺς χίλιους. Αὐτὸ εἶνε.

Διαφορετικά, τί νά τὸν κάνῃς τὸν ἐκκλησιασμό;
Εἶδες πού ἡ Ἐκκλησία μᾶς λέει «*Τὰς θύρας, τὰς
θύρας· ἐν σοφίᾳ πρόσχωμεν*» [1:13]. Τί σημαίνει
αὐτό; Παλαιὰ ὑπῆρχε τάξι. Στεκόταν στήν πόρτα
κάποιος καὶ δὲν ἐπέτρεπε νά μῆθ' ὁ καθένας. Ἐμ-
παίνουν λίγοι, ἐλάχιστοι. «*Ὅσοι πιστοί*» [1:13]. Τώρα
μπαίνουν ὅλοι στὸ ναό, κι ὁ ἕνας βγάζει τὸ ρολοῖ
τοῦ νά δῇ τί ὥρα εἶνε, κ' οἱ ἄλλοι παραπονοῦνται
«*Ἄργεῖ ὁ παπᾶς*», «*ἀργεῖ ὁ ψάλτης*», «*ἀργεῖ ὁ κή-
ρυκας*». **Ὁ νοῦς εἶνε ἄλλοῦ.** Κ' ἔτσι καμμιὰ ὠφέ-
λεια δὲν ἀποκομίζουμε.

Ἄν θέλουμε νά μποῦμε στὸ κλῆμα τῆς θείας χάρι-
τος καὶ νά πάρουμε τὸ ἔλεος τοῦ Θεοῦ, νά μοιά-
σουμε στὴ γυναῖκα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου·
Ὅποιος ἀπέκτησε μάτια καὶ αὐτιά πνευματικά,
καρδιά εὐαίσθητη, αὐτὸς ἀγγίζει ἀληθινὰ τὸ Χρι-
στό. Γιατί ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε παρὼν στὰ τροπάρια
τοῦ ψάλτη, στὶς εὐχὰς τοῦ ἱερέως, στὶς αἰτήσεις
τοῦ διάκου, στὰ ἀναγνώσματα τοῦ ἀποστόλου
καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, καὶ ἐξαιρέτως στήν θεία κοι-
νωνία. Μιὰ εὐχὴ τῆς θείας Μεταλήψεως λέει καὶ
γιὰ τὴν αἰμορροοῦσα· «*Ἡ μὲν τοῦ κρασπέδου
σου ἀψαμένη εὐχερῶς τὴν ἴσιν ἔλαβεν, ...ἐγὼ
δὲ ὁ ἔλεεινός (= ἀξιολύπητος) ὢλον σου τὸ σῶ-
μα τολμῶν δέξασθαι μὴ καταφλεχθεῖν*» [ῥώμ. 8]. Ἡ
γυναῖκα αὐτή, λέει, τὴν ἄκρη τοῦ ἐνδύματός σου
ἀγγίξε κι ἀμέσως θεραπεύτηκε, ...κ' ἐγὼ ὁ ἄθλι-
ος, πού δὲν ἀγγίζω τὸ ἐνδυμὰ σου ἀλλὰ τολμῶ
καὶ δέχομαι ὅλο τὸ σῶμα σου, σὲ παίρνω ὅλο-
κληρον μέσα μου, **μὴν κατακοῶ.**

Νὰ ἐξετάσουμε, ἀδελφοί μου, προσεκτικὰ τὸν ἐ-
αυτὸ μας. **Νὰ μετέχουμε μὲ πίστι στὴ λατρεία, ὅχι
ἀπὸ συνήθεια.** Ἄν ἐρχώμαστε τυπικά, φοβᾶμαι μὴ-
πως κάποτε στερηθοῦμε τὴν ἐκκλησίαν, ὅπως ἔγινε
στὴν Ἀλβανία. Νὰ συναισθανώμαστε βαθειὰ τὴν
ἀθλιότητά μας καὶ τὸ μεγαλεῖο τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ
ἔτσι νά μπαίνουμε στήν ἐκκλησίαν, γιὰ νά λαμβά-
νουμε τὴ χάρι τοῦ Θεοῦ· 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

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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.

Two Miracles Attest that Jesus is the Resurrection and Life

Christ foreknew His mystery, even before the foundations of the world. It was in the last ages of the world that He arose for the inhabitants of earth. Having borne the sin of the world, He abolished both it and death, which is its consequence and was brought upon us by its means. He plainly said, "I am the resurrection and the life," and "he who believes in me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death unto life." We will see this fulfilled in facts. The ruler of the synagogue of the Jews came near and, embracing the Savior's knees, begged Him to deliver his daughter from the bonds of death. Look, she already was brought down to this and was in extreme danger! The Savior consented and set out with

him. He was even hurrying on to the house of the one who invited Him and was aware that what was being done would profit many of those who followed Him and would also be for His own glory. On the way, He saved the woman who was the victim of a severe and incurable malady. No one could stop her issue of blood that ruined the art of physicians. No sooner had she touched the hem in faith, than He immediately healed her. A miracle so glorious and revealed was, so to speak, the work merely of Christ's journey.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

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