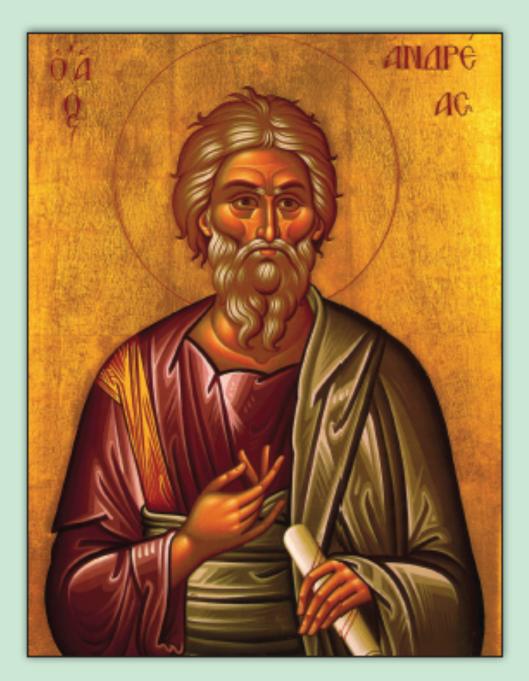


THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER26th, 2023 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Andrew -- November 30th

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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 Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-7

Brethren, I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος πλ. δ' ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1

Εὔξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίω τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν. Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:1-7 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Άδελφοί, παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς ἐγώ, ὁ δέσμιος ἐν κυρίῳ, ἀξίως περιπατῆσαι τῆς κλήσεως ἦς ἐκλήθητε, μετὰ πάσης ταπεινοφροσύνης καὶ πραότητος, μετὰ μακροθυμίας, ἀνεχόμενοι ἀλλήλων ἐν ἀγάπη, σπουδάζοντες τηρεῖν τὴν ἑνότητα τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν τῷ συνδέσμῳ τῆς εἰρήνης. Έν σῶμα καὶ ἕν πνεῦμα, καθὼς καὶ ἐκλήθητε ἐν μιᾳ ἐλπίδι τῆς κλήσεως ὑμῶν· εἶς κύριος, μία πίστις, ἕν βάπτισμα, εἶς θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ πάντων, ὁ ἐπὶ πάντων, καὶ διὰ πάντων, καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν ἡμῖν. Ένὶ δὲ ἑκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:18-27 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

At that time, a ruler came to Jesus and asked him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother.' "And he said, "All these I have observed from my youth." And when Jesus heard it, he said to him, "One thing you still lack. Sell all that you have and distribute it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." But when he heard this he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looking at him said, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" But he said, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄρχων λέγων· διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ, τί ποιήσας ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσω; εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς· τί με λέγεις ἀγαθόν; οὐδεὶς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εἶς ὁ Θεός. τὰς ἐντολὰς οἶδας· μὴ μοιχεύσῃς, μὴ φονεύσῃς, μὴ κλέψῃς, μὴ ψευδομαρτυρήσῃς, τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου καὶ τὴν μητέρα σου. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· ταῦτα πάντα ἐφυλαξάμην ἐκ νεότητός μου. ἀκούσας δὲ ταῦτα ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἔτι ἕν σοι λείπει· πάντα ὅσα ἔχεις πώλησον καὶ διάδος πτωχοῖς, καὶ ἕξεις θησαυρὸν ἐν οὐρανῷ, καὶ δεῦρο ἀκολούθει μοι. ὁ δὲ ἀκούσας ταῦτα περίλυπος ἐγένετο· ἦν γὰρ πλούσιος σφόδρα. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὸν ὁ Ἰησοῦς περίλυπον γενόμενον εἶπε· πῶς δυσκόλως οἱ τὰ χρήματα ἔχοντες εἰσελεύσονται εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ! εὐκοπώτερον γάρ ἐστι κάμηλον διὰ τρυμαλιᾶς ῥαφίδος εἰσελθεῖν ἢ πλούσιον εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰσελθεῖν. εἶπον δὲ οἱ ἀκούσαντες· καὶ τίς δύναται σωθῆναι; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· τὰ ἀδύνατα παρὰ ἀνθρώποις δυνατὰ παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ ἐστιν.



COFFEE HOUR TODAY: is being hosted by John and Frances (VELLIOS) Eugenis in blessed memory of the passing of + NICHOLAS VELLIOS. Please join us in WHITEHALL for refreshments and fellowship.

SAINT KATHERINE'S FEAST DAY: Celebrated yesterday (Saturday) November 25th, is being honored TODAY with ARTOKLASIES offered by: Demetri and Kalliopi KOKOTAS in honor of yiayia Katerina and daughter Katerina. Also Anthony and Maria (Lambrianakos) Fisher in honor of their Niece Katherine.

SENIOR CLUB MEMBERS: will join for 'THANKSGIVING' left- overs! With Turkey Soup, Hearty bread, pumpkin pie, mince pie, coffee sweets and cakes. BINGO always rounds out the day. See you WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 29TH. 1:00 P.M.

HOLY WATER BLESSING for the month of DECEMBER will be offered on FRIDAY, December 01st, at 11:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY will hold a GENERAL MEETING of the Ladies Philanthropic group after Divine Liturgy of Sunday December 03rd, in ROSEHALL The Ladies are requested to join in the coffee hour reception and then adjourn to the meeting.

CALENDAR UPDATE: The Ukrainian Orthodox Archdiocese in America recently changed from the 'OLD ' Julian Calendar to the updated Gregorian Calendar. Hence there will NOT be a thirteen day difference in the celebration of major saint day observances and Festal Holy Days. Weekday liturgies of the Ukrainian community will be celebrated for the most part at 8:30 A.M. unless otherwise announced. Sunday worship will continue with the 12:30 P.M. Ukrainian service.

Christmas decorations are in the works. Our florists as each year will be donating the wreaths, lights, tree and floral tributes for the 'season'. We are so blessed to have a dozen florists attached to our parish who donated all the Christmas 'highlights'. We anticipate the Church to be fully decorated in time for the Greek School Pageant on Sunday – December 10th. Please come.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS for the two year term 2024 and 2025 will be conducted on Sunday December 10th, from 10:00 A.M. through 2:00 P.M. at the school office. Only registered stewards of the parish are eligible to VOTE! Are you one?

TODAY: we commence our 'TOY COLLECTION' as we do each year for distribution at Christmas-time outside our community. The Philanthropic outreach for children at Christmas time has always met with enthusiastic success! PLEASE REMEMBER all donations of toys, arts and crafts, games, puzzles, ANONYMOUSLY at the Icon of the Blessed Virgin Mary and CHILD on the altar steps. PLEASE! Please DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT.... just leave it in the bag. It is essential that the distribution for girl or boy and age category be correct. We love the cheerful giver, unknown.

Christmas card appeal is about to be announced. A mailing will be posted to all registered stewards of the parish. Prepare to have your name and family inscribed to the card which will be mailed to 1,000 homes of our parochial register. DON'T OMIT YOUR NAME FROM THE LISTING! WE ALWAYS LOOK FOR <u>YOURS</u>----!

MEMORIALS TODAY: +NICHOLAS VELLIOS + ELIZABETH SCIABARRA + JOHN LAMBRIANAKOS + IOANNIS KOURAKIS Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!

MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK: + BASILIOS THEODOSAKIS, Archon Deputatos









«Έγενόμην έν Πνεύματι έν τή Κυριακή ήμέρα καὶ ήκουσα φωνήν όπίσω μου μεγάλην ώς σάλπιγγος» (Άπ. 1,10)

"Existing and thy Korvethanh Γυνακεία Τερά Μονή Τιγίου Αύγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΑΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 20050-20010 -imaerilo@yehoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Έτος ΚΒ' Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλλου 1213 Κυριακή ΙΓ' Λουκά (Λουκ. 18,18-27) 26 Νοεμβρίου 2023 (2005) Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Τηροῦμε τὶς ἐντολές;

Ακούσατε, άγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο βὶ

Μαι ἘΙΒΕΊ. Τί εἶνε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο; "Ενα βιβλίο, τὸ ὡραιότερο στὸν κόσμο. Γι' αὐτό, ὅχι
μόνο στὴν ἐκκλησία πρέπει νὰ τ' ἀκοῦμε, ἀλλὰ καὶ στὸ σπίτι νὰ ὑπάρχη. Νὰ τὸ διαβάζη ὁ
πατέρας ἡ μητέρα τὰ παιδιά, γιὰ νὰ ἀγιάζωνται. Κι ὅπως στὸ σπίτι δὲν λείπει τὸ ψωμί, ἔτοι
δὲν πρέπει νὰ λείπη καὶ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε ἡ τροφὴ τῆς ψυχῆς.

Τί λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα; Όμιλεῖ γιὰ ἔναν ἄνθρωπο ποὺ πῆγε καὶ γονάτισε μπροστὰ στὸ Χριστό. Τί ἤθελε; φτωχὸς ἤταν καὶ
ζητοῦσε ἐλεημοσύνη; ἄρρωστος ἤταν καὶ ζητοῦσε θεραπεία; "Όχι. Καὶ νέος ἤταν, καὶ ὑγιἡς ἤταν, καὶ «πλούσιος σφόδρα» [λικ. [ξ.2] ἤταν.
Τὰ εἶχε ὅλα, μὰ δὲν ἔμενε εὐχαριστημένος.
Κάτι ἄλλο ζητοῦσε. Διότι παραπάνω ἀπὸ τὰ λεφτά, τὶς διασκεδάσεις, τὰ γλέντια εἶνε κάτι
ἄλλο, ποὺ δὲν τὸ σκεπτόμαστε. Γιὰ ὅλα συζητοῦμε, ἀλλ' αὐτὸ τὸ περιφρονοῦμε. Ποιό εἶνε;
"Η σωτηρία τῆς ψυχῆς, πῶς θὰ σωθῆ ἡ ψυχή
μας. "Ο ἄνθρωπος δὲν εἶνε σὰν τὸ ζῷο ποὺ ψοφάει" ὅταν πεθαίνη πάει σ' ἔναν ἄλλο κόσμο.
"Υπάρχει αἰώνιος ζωή, παράδεισος καὶ κόλασι.

-Τί εἶν' αὐτὰ ποὺ λὲς τώρα; Αὐτὰ πίστευαν οὶ γιαγιάδες μας, ὅχι ἐμεῖς. Ὑπάρχει κόλασι, ὑπάρχει παράδεισος, ὑπάρχει αἰώνια ζωή;...

Υπάρχει! Ποιός τὸ βεβαιώνει; Ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ ἡ Γραφή. Κι ὅσο βέβαιος εἶσαι ὅτι ὑπάρχει ἥλιος, ἀστέρια, βουνά, λαγκάδια, Αὐστραλία, Άμερική, τόσο βέβαιος νὰ εἶσαι ὅτι ὑπάρχει ὁ ἄλλος κόσμος καὶ πρέπει ἀπὸ τώρα νὰ φροντίζουμε ὅλοι γιὰ ἐκεῖ ποὺ θὰ πᾶμε.

Αὐτὸ ἀπασχολοῦσε καὶ τὸν ἄνθρωπο τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Εἶπε στὸ Χριστό' «Διδάσκαλε ἀγαθέ», τί νὰ κάνω γιὰ νὰ κληρονομήσω τὴν αἰώνιο ζωή; [tā হ]. Τώρα, μέσα σὲ χιλιάδες ἀνθρώπους, εἶνε ζήτημα ᾶν βρίσκεται ἔνας ποὺ νὰ σκέπτεται ἔτσι. Προσέξατε πῶς προσφωνεῖ τὸ Χριστό; «Διδάσκαλε άγαθέ». Γιατὶ ὅντως ὁ Χριστὸς δίδαξε τὰ πιὸ ώραῖα λόγια στὸν κόσμο. Καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς τί ἀπήντησε σ' αὐτό' –Δὲν ὑπάρχει, λέει, ἄλλος ἀγαθὸς παρὰ μόνο ἔνας, ὁ Θεός.

Σκανδαλίζεται κανείς άκούγοντας τὸ λόγο αὐτό. Οἱ δὲ χιλιασταὶ μᾶς λένε: Νά κι ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν θεωροῦσε τὸν ἐαυτό του Θεό... Κάνουν λάθος. Ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε Θεὸς καὶ ἄνθρωπος, Θεάνθρωπος. Ἑδῶ λοιπὸν μιλάει ὡς ἄνθρωπος, καὶ θὰ ἑξηγήσουμε γιατί. "Ότι ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε Θεὸς τὸ φωνάζουν τὰ ἔργα καὶ τὰ λόγια του, τὰ θαύματα καὶ οἱ προφητεῖες του, τὸ φωνάζουν ἄγγελοι καὶ ἄνθρωποι. Κι ἄν ἐμεῖς τὸ ἀρνηθοῦμε, καὶ οἱ πέτρες θὰ φωνάξουν «Εἶς ἄγιος, εἶς Κύριος, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, εἰς δόξαν Θεοῦ Πατρός' ἀμήν» (Νὶ ἐπὶλει).

Άγιος καὶ Θεὸς λοιπὸν ὁ Χριστός. -Καὶ γιατί ἐδῶ μιλάει ὡς ἄνθρωπος καὶ λέει «Οὐδεἰς ἀγαθὸς εἰ μὴ εἶς ὁ Θεός»; [κικ 18,18]. Διότι αὐτὸς ποὺ τοῦ ἔκανε τὴν ἐρώτησι δὲν τὸν πίστευε ὡς Θεό τὸν θεωροῦσε ἄνθρωπο. Τοῦ ἀπαντῷ λοιπὸν ἀνάλογα μὲ τὴν ἰδέα ποὺ εἶχε. Σὰν νὰ τοῦ λέῃ Ἑφ' ὅσον μὲ θεωρεῖς ἄνθρωπο, γιατί μὲ λὲς ἀγαθό; Ἑὰν μὲ πιστεύης ὡς Θεό, τότε «Εἶς ἄγιος, εἶς Κύριος, Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, εἰς δόξαν Θεοῦ Πατρός ἀμήν».

Άφοῦ λοιπὸν μόνο ἐκεῖνος εἶνε ἄγιος καὶ Θεός, ἐμεῖς οἱ ἄνθρωποι, ὅλοι ἀνεξαιρέτως, τί εἵμαστε; 'Άμαρτωλοί. Τί θὰ πῇ ἀμαρτωλός; Έκεῖνος ποὺ ἔκλεισε τ' αὐτιά του καὶ δὲν ἀκούει τὸ Θεό, ἀλλὰ παραβαίνει τὶς ἐντολές του.

Ποιές εἶνε οἱ ἐντολὲς τοῦ Θεοῦ; "Όπως ξέρουμε, δέκα ἐντολὲς ἔδωσε πάνω στὸ ὅρος Σινὰ στὸ Μωῦσῆ. Δέκα εἶνε τὰ δάχτυλά μας, δέκα καὶ οἱ ἐντολές. Κόβεις ἔνα δάχτυλό σου; Δὲν τὸ κόβεις. "Όπως λοιπὸν δὲν κόβεις οῦτε ἔνα δάχτυλό σου, ἔτσι δὲν πρέπει νὰ κόψης νὰ παραβῆς οῦτε μία ἐντολὴ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ σήμερα στὸ εὐαγγέλιο ὁ Χριστός, ἀπαντώντας στὸν πλούσιο, ὑπενθύμισε μερικές ἀπὸ τὶς έντολές, ὄχι ὄλες. Μιλάει ὁ Θεὸς καὶ τί λέει; Μία έντολὴ εἶνε: «Μὴ μοιχεύσης» (λακ 1820). Δηλαδή, ὁ ἄντρας νὰ μὴν ἀφήση τὴ γυναῖκα του καὶ πάη μὲ ἄλλη, νὰ μὴν ἀγγίξη σὲ ξένη γυναϊκα. Τὸ ίδιο ίσχύει καὶ γιὰ τὴ γυναϊκα· δὲν έπιτρέπεται ν' ἀφήση έκεῖνον ποὺ στεφανώθηκε καὶ νὰ σμίγη μὲ ἄλλον. "Οποιος χωρίση άντρόγυνο, κάνει μεγάλη άμαρτία. Προτιμότερο νά γκρεμίσης μιά έκκλησία, παρά νά διαλύσης μιὰ οἰκογένεια. Φωτιά, κόλασις εἶνε ή μοιχεία καὶ ή πορνεία. Στὰ παλιὰ τὰ εῦλογημένα χρόνια, ποὺ δὲν εἶχαν ῥαδιόφωνα τηλεοράσεις κι όλα αύτὰ που έχουμε έμεῖς σήμερα, σέβονταν τὸ γάμο. Διαζύγιο δὲν ὑπῆρχε. Έκατὸ χρόνια νὰ περνοῦσαν, κανείς δὲν χώριζε. Μόνο τὸ φτυάρι τοῦ νεκροθάφτη χώριζε τὸ ἀντρόγυνο. Τώρα; Σὰν τὰ ζῷα καὶ χειρότερα ἀπὸ τὰ ζώα. Καὶ γελοῦν καὶ κοροϊδεύουν καὶ διηγοῦνται τὰ «κατορθώματά» τους. «"Ω γενεὰ ἄπιστος καὶ διεστραμμένη!» (Μπί.17,17). «Μή μοιχεύσης», λέει ὁ Θεός[,] ὁ ἄνθρωπος δὲν ἀκούει.

- "Αλλη έντολή τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁρίζει" «Μή φονεύ» σης»(tà). Ἡ ζωὴ εἶνε ἀπὸ τὸ Θεό. Δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ δημιουργήση ζωὴ ὁ ἄνθρωπος: ὄχι ἄνθρωπο, άλλ' οῦτ' ἔνα μυρμηγκάκι δὲν φτειάνει. Έκεῖνο λοιπὸν ποὺ δὲν μπορεῖς νὰ φτειάσης, μὴν τὸ καταστρέφεις: σεβάσου τὴ ζωὴ τοῦ ἄλλου. Τηρούμε δμως τὴν ἐντολὴ αὐτή; Δυστυχῶς! Ποτέ ἄλλοτε δὲν σκοτώθηκαν τόσοι ἄνθρωποι δσοι έπὶ τῶν ἡμερῶν μας. Στὸν πρῶτο παγκόσμιο πόλεμο 45.000.000 νεκροί* στὸ δεύτερο 55.000.000 νεκροί* κι ἄν γίνη τρίτος, τὰ θύματα θά είνε πολύ περισσότερα. Έννοια σου! γλέντα, διασκέδαζε, βγάζε τὰ μάτια σου, μὴ σέβεσαι τίποτε, καὶ ἔρχεται ἡ δικαία τιμωρία. --«Μή μοιχεύσης», λέει ὁ Θεός. -"Όχι, ἐγὼ θὰ μοιχεύω. -«Μὴ φονεύσης». -"Όχι, θὰ φονεύω, λέει ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Άλλ' ὅποιος πάει κόντρα μὲ τὸ Θεό, θὰ καταστραφῆ, θὰ γίνη σκόνη.
- Ποιά ἄλλη ἐντολὴ ὑπενθυμίζει ὁ Κύριος;
 «Μὴ κλέψης» [ἐἰ]. Τὰ χεράκια σου μὴν πειράξουν ξένα πράγματα. Χρυσάφι νὰ τρέχη στὰ
 πόδια σου, μὴ τ' ἀγγίξης, ἀφοῦ δὲν σοῦ ἀνήκει.
 "Εχεις δικά σου ἐκατὸ πρόβατα, λέει ὁ ἄγιος
 Κοσμᾶς ὁ Αἰτωλός 'θέ'ς νὰ τὰ χάσης; βάλε μέσ'
 στὸ κοπάδι σου ἔνα κλεμμένο, καὶ θὰ τὰ χάσης
 δλα!... Ἡ κλεψιὰ εἶνε κατάρα. Τηροῦμε λοιπὸν
 τὴν ἐντολὴ αὐτή; Δὲ' βαριέσαι! τίποτε. ᾿Απόδειξις 'ἀστυνομία φυλάει στὶς πόλεις καὶ ἀγροφύλακες τὰ χωράφια, ἐνῷ στὰ παλιὰ χρόνια
 οὕτε ἀστυφύλακας οῦτε ἀγροφύλακας ὑπῆρχε' δὲν ἄγγιζε κανείς ξένα πράγματα.
- Τὸ «Μὴ μοιχεύσης» δὲν τὸ τηροῦμε, τὸ

«Μή φονεύσης» δέν τὸ τηροῦμε, τὸ «Μή κλέψης» δέν τὸ τηροῦμε. Μιὰ ἄλλη έντολὴ ὀρίζει «Μή ψευδομαρτυρήσης» [ά]. Νὰ μὴν πὰς δηλαδὴ στὸ δικαστήριο καὶ ἀπλώσης τὸ βρωμερό σου χέρι ἐπάνω στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ πάρης ψεύτικο ὅρκο γιατὶ ὁ Θεὸς στὴν Καινὴ Διαθήκη ἀπαγορεύει τὸν ὅρκο ἀπολύτως [β. Ναὶ 5,3]. Τηροῦμε τὴν ἐντολὴ αὐτή; "Αλλοτε ὁ λόγος ἦταν συμβόλαιο" τὸ «val vai» καὶ τὸ «οῦ οῦ» [ἐἰ ٤]). Τώρα; χιλιάδες κάθε μέρα στὰ δικαστήρια παλαμίζουν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ ψευδομαρτυροῦν. Κολάζουν καὶ κολάζονται.

Τέλος τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο μᾶς ὑπενθυμίζει μία ἀκόμη ἐντολή «Τίμα τὸν πατέρα σου» [κκ. 8,2]. Κανείς δὲν βγῆκε ἀπὸ βράχο ὁλοι μας γεννηθήκαμε ἀπὸ μιὰ μάνα, ποὺ μᾶς πῆρε βρέφη – μιὰ μύξα καὶ μᾶς ἀνέστησε, κι ἀπὸ ἔνα πατέρα, ποὺ κοπίασε καὶ μόχθησε γιὰ νὰ μᾶς κάνη ἀνθρώπους. "Υστερα ἀπὸ τὸ Θεὸ ἔρχεται ὁ πατέρας καὶ ἡ μάνα. Γι' αὐτὸ ἔχεις καθῆκον ἱερὸ νὰ τοὺς σεβαστῆς. "Αλλὰ κι αὐτὴ ἡ ἔντολὴ καταπατεῖται. Παιδιὰ βγάζουν γλῶσσα καὶ μερικὰ ἔχουν τέτοια αὐθάδεια, ῶστε σηκώνουν καὶ χέρι στὴ μάνα καὶ τὸν πατέρα. Σὲ τί χρόνια φτάσαμε! Κατηραμένα - μαρμαρωμένα τὰ χέρια ποὺ χτυποῦν πατέρα καὶ μάνα.

Αὐτὰ μᾶς λέει τὸ εὐαγγέλιο σήμερα. Ποιός ὅμως τ' ἀκούει; "Αλλα λόγια τεντώνουμε τὸ αὐτάκι μας νὰ τ' ἀκούσουμε· τὰ χρυσὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας δὲν τ' ἀκοῦμε.

Καὶ αὐτὲς εἶνε πέντε μόνο ἐντολές. Ὑπάρχουν κι άλλες. Ύπάρχει δὲ καὶ ή ἀκόμα πιὸ μεγάλη ἐντολή, τὸ «Άγαπᾶτε άλλήλους»(№ 1334), ν' άναπάη ὁ ἔνας τὸν ἄλλο. Ύπάρχουν ώραιότερα λόγια; Αὐτὰ δίδαξε ὁ Χριστός. Κι δμως έμεῖς δὲν τὰ τηροῦμε. Άμαρτάνουμε. Εἴμαστε άμαρτωλοί. Καὶ ὡς ἀμαρτωλοὶ μ**ᾶς ἀξίζει τιμω**ρία. Άλλ' ὁ Χριστὸς εἶνε εὕσπλαχνος καὶ φιλάνθρωπος. Δὲν μᾶς συνερίζεται. "Αν μᾶς συνεριζόταν, θ' ἄνοιγε τὴ γῆ νὰ μᾶς θάψη, θά 'κανε τ' ἄστέρια ἄστροπελέκια στὰ κεφάλια μας, θ' ἄφηνε τὰ ποτάμια νὰ φουσκώσουν καὶ νὰ μᾶς πνίξουν. **Μᾶς ἀνέχεται ὁ Θεός**, γιατί μᾶς ἀγαπάει καὶ περιμένει τὴ μετάνοιά μας. Περιμένει ένα δάκρυ μετανοίας. Δῶστε μου **ἔνα δάκρυ**· δάκρυ γιὰ τὶς πορνεῖες, γιὰ τὶς μοιχεῖες, γιὰ τὶς κλοπές, γιὰ τὶς ἄτιμίες, γιὰ τὶς άσέβειες στοὺς γονεῖς... Τὸ δάκρυ αὐτὸ γίνεται διαμάντι μπροστά στὸ Θεό.

Αὐτὰ εἶχα νὰ σᾶς πῶ σήμερα. Σᾶς εὐλογῶ καὶ εὕχομαι ὁ Θεὸς νὰ εἶνε πάντα μαζί σας.

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος

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.

Many Calls for the Chosen

The first call that shaped St. Andrew's life was the very timing and place of his birth. The second call that shaped Andrew's life came through John the Baptist. Andrew must have been an alert young man longing for the coming of the Messiah when he first heard the preaching of John. Andrew's third call came from Jesus himself. The fourth call that shaped Andrew's life was to follow Jesus, to be his disciple, a student in daily contact with Jesus, walking and talking with him, listening and learning from the Master, as from a Rabbi. The fifth call that changed Andrew's life was his selection by Jesus as one of the twelve sportles, to give witness, to preach, to bring others to Christ. Andrew, the student, was chosen to become a teacher sent by Christ. His sixth call came through pious Greeks at the Passover in Jecusalem. They wanted to see Jesus, to be introduced to him. The boy from Bethraida began using his language skills, his understanding of Greek and Roman culture, to bring Gentiles to Jesus. St. Gregory Naziannen, St. Jesume, and St. Paulinus tell us that after Pentecost Andrew became an apostle to people in the land of Greece, the bordering lands, and as tradition tells us, ultimately to Bynantium. The final call in Andrew's life was to martyriden by crucifizion on an X shaped cross at Patras in Achaia.

Saint Andrew's vocation, and ours as well, warn't given all at once, but gradually. Seven calls from the Lord built one upon the other throughout the course of his life. Andrew's response to each call gave new shape to his life and prepared him for the next gift of God. This courageous young man, by purity of heart and docile obedience to God's will became in St. Bede's words, "The Introducer to Christ." He introduced his brother to Javas, and the Greeks and Scythians.

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)

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