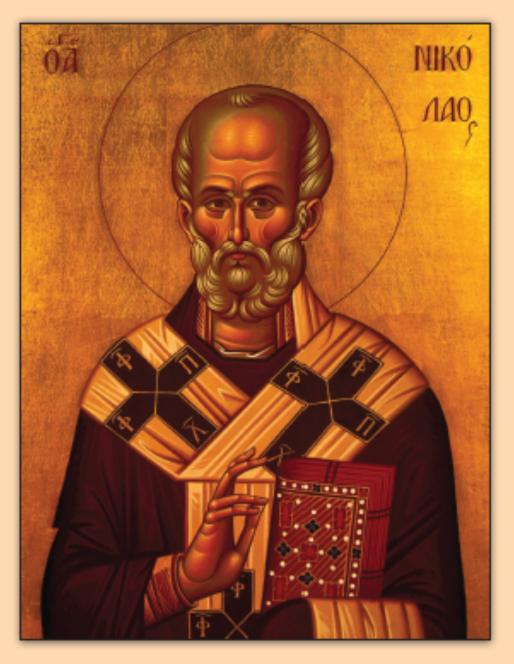


# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 3rd, 2023 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Nicholas -- December 6th

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### 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 Letter to the Ephesians 5:8-19

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

### Προκείμενον. Ήχος α' ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίφ

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 5:8-19 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Αδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε - ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ πνεύματος ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθεία - δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστιν εὐάρεστον τῷ κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπὸ αὐτῶν αἰσχρόν ἐστιν καὶ λέγειν. Τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἐστίν. Διὸ λέγει, Έγειρε ὁ καθεύδων καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφαύσει σοι ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε οὖν πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι, ἀλλὸ ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρόν, ὅτι αὶ ἡμέραι πονηραί εἰσιν. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ῷ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ὡδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ἄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες ἐν τῆ καρδία ὑμῶν τῷ κυρίω.

### Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 18:35-43 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἐγένετο δὲ ἐν τῷ ἐγγίζειν αὐτὸν εἰς Ἱεριχὼ τυφλός τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν· ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυϊδ, ἐλέησόν με· καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· υἱὲ Δαυϊδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν λέγων· τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.



Coffee Fellowship Hour TODAY is being hosted by the THEODOSAKIS FAMILY in blessed memory of + ARCHON DEPUTATOS BASILIOS THEODOSAKIS. Please join us in WHITEHALL for refreshments.

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

TODAY: The HOLY ORDER of THREE HIERARCHS is observing an artoklasia for all living members of the 'ORDER'.

SAINT NICHOLAS OBSERVANCE will commence with a Divine Liturgy on WEDNESDAY December 06<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 A.M. An artoklasia will be presented in honor of the Patron Saint of widows, orphans and seafarers (sailors) by DESPINA COUTSORADIS (her father of blessed memory was + NIKOLAOS) Eternal Memory!

XAVERIAN HIGH SCHOOL will present an afternoon for 'SENIORS' with food, sweets, live band, singers and entertainment – all FREE OF CHARGE on Thursday, December 07<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 – 4:00 P.M. All Three Hierarchs Seniors are invited. Details will be discussed on Wednesday (DEC.6<sup>th</sup>) WE NEED CARS TO GET THERE!

Congratulations are extended to TIMOTHY VOUDERIS (Coney Island Wonder Wheel Park FAME) who was married yesterday, December 02<sup>nd</sup> to Ms. KRISTI LONG. We extended our best wishes for a loving, long and healthful married life. May the Lord bless them with many 'VOUDERIANS' ......BRAVO STA STEPHANA!

NEXT SUNDAY: December 10th, our Greek School students will present their traditional Christmas Pageant in Church at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. The selected students will honor us all by reflecting on the MYSTERY of the NATIVITY of the LORD. Immediately thereafter we will descend to the Fellowship Coffee Hour for Christmas sweets and treats.

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 10<sup>th</sup>. Please come.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS for the two year term 2024 and 2025 will be conducted on Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 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?

'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 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 YOURS----!

UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENTS: Monday, December 11th A.H.E.P.A Christmas Dinner Perry's Restaurant 7:00 P.M. Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, SAINT EUGENE LITURGY 10:00 A.M.

Artoklasia and SENIOR CLUB 'WINE and Cheese party Wednesday December 13<sup>th</sup>, PRAYER / HEALING SERVICE 6:00 P.M.

Thursday December 14th, PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS DINNER. Perry's Restaurant 6:30 P.M.

Friday December 15th. CUB and BOY SCOUT Christmas Party WHITEHALL 7:00 P.M.

+ BASILIOS THEODOSAKIS, Archon Deputatos + ELENI PAPADATOS **MEMORIALS TODAY** 

**MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK:** + ANASTASIA TSIMENIS

Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!









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

Έκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακή Γυναικεία Ίερὰ Μονή Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 -imaafio@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Ετος ΚΓ' Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλ. 1305 Κυριακὴ ΙΔ΄ Λουκᾶ (Λουκ. 18,35-43) 3 Δεκεμβρίου 2023 (2006) Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

# «Κύριε Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλέησόν με»

Καὶ πάλι, ἀγαπητοί μου, θὰ κηρύξω, καὶ πά-λι θὰ διδάξω. Τί θὰ πῶ, δικά μου λόγια; Δὲν ἔχουν ἀξία. Ἀκόμη καὶ ὁ πιὸ σοφὸς ἄνθρωπος μπορεῖ νὰ σφάλλη. «Πᾶς ἄνθρωπος ψεύστης», λέει ή άγία Γραφή (Ψολμ. 1152 = Ρου. 3,4). Ένας είνε ὁ ἀλάθητος, ὁ τέλειος, ὁ ἀληθινός ό Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Γι' αὐτὸ τὰ λόγια ποὺ θὰ πῶ θὰ τὰ ἀντλήσω ἀπὸ τὴν ἀστείρευτη πηγή τοῦ θείου λόγου, ἀπὸ τὸ ἱερὸ καὶ ἄγιο Εὐαγγέλιο, στὸ ὁποῖο εἶνε ἀποθησαυρισμένη ή σοφία, ή θεία σοφία. «Σοφία· όρθοί» (θ.Λεπ.)\* σοφία εἶνε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Τὸ εἶπε ό Κύριος, καὶ ἡ ἱστορία εἵκοσι αἰώνων τὸ βεβαιώνει, ὅτι ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου εἶνε ἀθάνατα: «Ὁ οὐρανὸς καὶ ἡ γῆ παρελεύσονται, οἱ δὲ λόγοι μου οὐ μὴ παρέλθωσι» (Ματθ. 24,35. Λουκ. 21,33). Θὰ ἔρθη μέρα ποὺ καὶ τὰ ποτάμια θὰ ξεραθοῦν, καὶ τὰ δέντρα θὰ ξερριζωθοῦν, καὶ τὰ βουνὰ θὰ λειώσουν σὰν μολύβι, καὶ τὰ ἄστρα θὰ πέσουν, καὶ ὁ ἥλιος θὰ σβήση. ἔνα θὰ μείνη αἰώνιο καὶ ἀκατάλυτο, ὁ λόγος τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, τὰ λόγια τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

Άκούσαμε, ἀδελφοί μου, καὶ σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ Λουκ 18,35-43). Τί λέει; Εἶνε ἡ ἰστορία ἐνὸς ταπεινοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ἐνὸς τυφλοῦ. Τί μᾶς λέει; "Ότι στὰ χρόνια τοῦ Χριστοῦ σὲ κάποιο σταυροδρόμι μιᾶς μικρᾶς πόλεως, ποὺ ώνομαζόταν Ίεριχώ, στεκόταν ἕνας ἄνθρωπος. Καλοκαίρι κάτω ἀπὸ τὸν καυστικὸ ἥλιο, χειμῶνα μέσα στὸ ψῦχος, στεκόταν ἐκεῖ καὶ ζητοῦσε τὴν ἐλεημοσύνη τῶν διαβατῶν, άφοῦ ἦταν τυφλός. Κάποιο σπλαχνικὸ χέρι τὸν ἔφερνε ἐκεῖ τὸ πρωὶ καὶ τὸν ἔπαιρνε τὸ βράδυ νὰ πάη στὸ σπίτι του νὰ κοιμηθῆ. Ζωὴ **μέσα σὲ σκοτάδι ἀπέραντο**. Δὲν ἔβλεπε τίποτε ἀπὸ τὰ ώραῖα ποὺ δημιούργησε ὁ Θεός. "Άχ πόσο ἀχάριστοι εἴμαστ' ἐμεῖς, ποὺ μᾶς ἔδωσε ὁ Θεὸς τὰ μάτια κ' ἕνα εὐχαριστῶ δὲν τοῦ λέμε!

Άλλὰ ἦρθε καὶ γιὰ τὸν τυφλὸ αὐτὸν **ἡ ὥρα** νὰ χαρῆ. Μιὰ μέρα, καθώς καθόταν ἐκεῖ στὸ σταυροδρόμι λέγοντας «Μιὰ βοήθεια, ἐλεῆστε με», ἀκούει θόρυβο· δὲν ἔβλεπε, ἀλλὰ ἄκουγε ὀχλοβοή. Λαὸς πολύς, ἄντρες γυναῖκες παιδιά, ὅλοι εἶχαν βγῆ στὸ δρόμο νὰ ὑποδεχθοῦν κάποιον. Ποιός ἐρχόταν; κανένας πρίγκιπας; κανένας βασιλιᾶς; κανένας μεγάλος καὶ ἰσχυρὸς τῆς γῆς; "Όχι. "Απόρησε ὁ τυφλός. -Τί συμβαίνει; ρώτησε. -Περνάει ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος, τοῦ λένε. Ἡ φήμη του ἦταν μεγάλη καὶ ὅλοι ἦθελαν νὰ τὸν δοῦν, νὰ τὸν ἀκούσουν, νὰ βεβαιωθοῦν γιὰ τὰ θαύματά του. "Ηθελαν ὅλοι, ἤθελε κι ὁ τυφλὸς νὰ τὸν δῆ\* ἀλλὰ πῶς, ἀφοῦ δὲν εἶχε μάτια; Ἡταν μιὰ εὐκαιρία αὐτὴ νὰ πάῃ κοντά του, μὰ πῶς νὰ πλησιάση; Τί ἔκανε λοιπόν ἔκανε τὸ στόμα του τηλεβόα κι ἄρχισε νὰ φωνάζη δυνατά\* «Ἰησοῦ υίὲ Δαυίδ, **ἐλέησόν με**» (ἐἰ 18,38). Φώναζε συνεχῶς ζητώντας τὴ βοήθεια τοῦ Χριστοῦ, νὰ τὸν κάνη καλά. Άλλὰ οἱ ἄλλοι, σκληροί και ἀπάνθρωποι, τοῦ ἔλεγαν -Κλεῖσ τὸ στόμα σου, βούλωσέ το, μη φωνάζεις, μᾶς ἐνοχλεῖς...

Αὐτὸ ποὺ εἶπαν στὸν τυφλὸ οἱ σκληροὶ ἐκεῖνοι συμπολῖτες του, τὸ λένε καὶ μέχρι σήμερα. "Όταν δοῦν κανένα νὰ μιλάη γιὰ τὸ Χριστό, προσπαθοῦν νὰ τοῦ κλείσουν τὸ στόμα. Αὐτὸ συμβαίνει καὶ σ' ἐμένα, ἀγαπητοί μου. Άπὸ τότε ποὺ βγῆκα στὸ κήρυγμα μέχρι σήμερα, ἄνθρωποι τοῦ κόσμου προσπαθοῦν μὲ ποικίλους τρόπους νὰ μὲ κάνουν νὰ μὴ κηρύττω. "Όχι, λένε" μπορεῖς νά "σαι ἐπίσκοπος, νὰ λειτουργᾶς, νὰ εὐλογᾶς, νὰ μοιράζης τὸ άντίδωρο, καλὰ ὅλ' αὐτά' **νὰ κηρύττης ὅμως** όχι. Διότι τὸ κήρυγμα εἶνε ἡ ἀλήθεια τοῦ Θεοῦ, κ' ἡ ἀλήθεια δὲν ἀρέσει στοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Παρ' ὅλες ὅμως τὶς ἀντιδράσεις, τοὺς διωγμούς καὶ τὶς περιπέτειες, ἐξακολουθῶ, σὰν τὸν τυφλὸ κ' ἐγώ, νὰ κηρύττω καὶ νὰ φωνάζω μέχρι τελευταίας μου ἀναπνοῆς.

«Ἐπετίμων», λέει, «αὐτῷ ἴνα σιωπήση» οἱ ὅχλοι τὸν μάλωναν καὶ τοῦ ἔλεγαν νὰ κλείση τὸ στόμα του. Άλλ αὐτὸς συνέχιζε. Κι ὁ Χριστὸς τί ἔκανε; Μήπως δὲν τὸν ἄκουγε; "Ω! 'Ο Χριστός, ποὺ εἶνε ἀκεανὸς θείας ἀγάπης καὶ στοργῆς, τὸν ἄκουσε, καὶ διατάζει νὰ τὸν φέρουν κοντά του. Κι ὅταν πλησίασε τὸν ρωτάει «Τί θέλεις;». 'Εκατομμύρια νὰ τοῦ δίνατε, τσουβάλια λίρες νὰ τοῦ δίνατε, δὲν ἄξιζαν ὅσο αὐτὸ ποὺ ζητοῦσε 'ἤθελε τὸ φῶς του. Θέλω, λέει, «Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω», θέλω νὰ δῶ. Κι ὁ Κύριος τί τοῦ εἶπε; Μία λέξι ναί, μία λέξι «Ἀνάβλεψον» (ἐἰ ΙΚΨ). Χωρὶς χρονοτριβή, μέσα σ' ἔνα λεπτό, τὰ μάτια ἐκεῖνα τὰ κλειστὰ ἄνοιξαν.

"Ω τί εἶδε! πανόραμα, ὅλα τὰ ὡραῖα τοῦ κόσμου" τὰ λουλούδια, τὶς πράσινες πεδιάδες, τὰ δέντρα γεμᾶτα φύλλα καὶ καρπούς, τὰ πουλιὰ στὰ κλαδιά, τὰ ἀρνάκια νὰ βόσκουν στὰ λιβάδια" εἶδε ἀκόμα τὰ ποτάμια νὰ τρέχουν, τὴ θάλασσα τὴ μεγάλη, τὰ βουνὰ τὰ χιονισμένα, τὸν ἥλιο νὰ σκορπάη τὸ φῶς του, τὰ ἄστρα τ' οὐρανοῦ. Παραπάνω εἶδε – ποιόν; τὴ μάνα καὶ τὸν πατέρα του, ποὺ ῶς τότε ἄκουγε μόνο τὴ φωνή τους μὰ δὲν τοὺς εἶχε δεῖ. Εἶδε –τίποτα δὲν εἶπα– παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα ποιόν; Τὸ Χριστό. Τὸν εὐχαρίστησε, κι ἀπὸ τότε τὸν ἀκολουθοῦσε καὶ δόξαζε τὸ Θεό.

Αὐτή, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε ἡ ἱστορία τοῦ τυφλοῦ τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Πολλὰ διδάγματα προσφέρει. Ένα θέλω νὰ κρατήσουμε τὴ μικρὴ προσευχὴ ποὺ ἔκανε, ἐκείνη τὴ δέησί του «Ἰησοῦ υἱὲ Δαυίδ, ἐλέησόν με» (ἐἰ ١৪)8). «Κύριε Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλέησόν με».

Αὐτὸ τὸ «ἐλέησόν με» τὸ ἀκοῦμε καὶ τώρα στὴν ἐκκλησία, τὸ ψάλλουν οἱ ψάλτες σὲ κάθε θεία λειτουργία δεκάδες φορὲς λέμε «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», «Κύριε, ἐλέησον»... Τὸ λέμε, ἀλλὰ ἡ καρδιά μας εἶνε ἀδιάφορη καὶ ψυχρή, μπούζι. Τὸ λέμε, ἀλλ' ὅχι ὅπως ὁ τυφλός, μὲ ὅλη τὴν καρδιά, μὲ ὅλη τὴν πίστι στὸ Χριστό. Τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» εἶνε ἡ πιὸ σύντομη προσευχή ἀλλ' ὅταν λέγεται μὲ πίστι, κάνει θαύματα. "Ω τί δύναμι ἔχει!

Στά παλιά τα χρόνια οἱ ἄνθρωποι δὲν ἤξεραν γράμματα, δὲν μποροῦσαν μήτε νὰ διαβάσουν. Δὲν ὑπῆρχαν σχολειά, δὲν ὑπῆρχαν σπίτια μεγάλα μὲ τὰ μέσα αὐτὰ ποὺ διαθέτει σήμερα ἡ γενεά μας, ῥαδιόφωνα τηλεοράσεις κ.τ.λ.. Κατοικοῦσαν σὲ καλύβες. Ένας ξένος, ποὺ ἦρθε τὸν καιρὸ τῆς τουρκοκρατίας στὰ μέρη τῆς Μακεδονίας καὶ νύχτωσε σὲ κάποιο χωριὸ κοντὰ στὸν Άλιάκμονα, φιλοξενήθηκε τὸ βράδυ σὲ μιὰ καλύβα. Καὶ θαύμασε. Τί νὰ δῆ\*

στὴν καλύβα κατοικοῦσαν ἄγιοι ἄνθρωποι' ἦταν ὁ πατέρας, ἡ μάνα, οἱ παπποῦδες, καὶ ἐφτὰ - ὀχτώ παιδιά. "Όταν νύχτωσε καὶ βγῆκαν τὰ ἄστρα ἄναψαν τὴν καντήλα τους, γονάτισαν ὅλη ἡ οἰκογένεια καὶ προσευχήθηκαν' «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» διὰ πρεσβειῶν τῆς ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου, «Κύριε, ἐλέησον». Ποῦ εἶνε σήμερα αὐτὴ ἡ πίστις; Τὸ εἶπα κι ἄλλοτε' δεῖξτε μου ἕνα σπίτι, ποὺ κάθε βράδυ ἄντρας γυναίκα παιδιὰ ἀνάβουν τὸ καντήλι τους καὶ γονατιστοὶ προσεύχονται καὶ παρακαλοῦν ὅπως οἱ ῆρωες πρόγονοί μας. Ἐκεῖνοι ἦταν ἀθῷοι, δὲν ἤξεραν διαζύγια, πορνεῖες, μοιχεῖες, βλαστήμια, μυρμήγκι δὲν πατοῦσαν. Ἐκεῖνοι ἔλεγαν τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» μὲ τὴ φλόγα τῆς καρδιᾶς τους.

Ένα «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», ναὶ ἔνα «Κύριε, ἐλέησον», ἂν τὸ τῆς ἀπὸ τὴν καρδιά σου, ἀξίζει
παραπάνω ἀπὸ χίλιες τυπικὲς προσευχὲς καὶ
ψαλσίματα. Μ' ἔνα «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» κατεβάζεις τὰ ἄστρα ἀπ' τὸν οὐρανό, συντρίβεις τοὺς
δαίμονες, καῖς τὴν ἀμαρτία. ἀρκεῖ μόνο νὰ
βγαίνῃ ἀπὸ φλογερὴ πίστι. Ἐνῷ σήμερα οἱ
καρδιές μας εἶνε ψυγεῖο, Βόρειος Πόλος.

Συνιστῶ, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» σὲ μικροὺς καὶ μεγάλους. Σύντομη προσευχή, ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ τὴ λένε ὅλοι\* καὶ οἱ γέροντες καὶ τὰ νήπια, καὶ οί γυναῖκες καὶ οί ἄντρες, καὶ οἱ ἐπιστήμονες καὶ οἱ ἀγράμματοι, καὶ οί βοσκοὶ καὶ οί ἐργάτες, ὅλοι. «Κύριε, ἐ*λέησον»*, προσευχή ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ λέγεται **πάντοτε**· τὸ πρωὶ ποὺ ξημερώνει καὶ βγαίνεις ἀπὸ τὸ σπίτι καὶ πῷς στὸ χωράφι, στὸ μαντρί, στὸ γραφεῖο, στὸ στρατῶνα, στὸ σχολεῖο ἢ στὸ νοικοκυριό σου «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» τὸ μεσημέρι, ποὺ κάθεσαι στὸ τραπέζι μὲ ὅλα τ' ἀγαθά<sup>,</sup> «*Κύριε, ἐλέησον»* τὸ βράδυ πρὶν κοιμηθῆς. "Έτσι θά "νε ἁγιασμένη ἡ ζωὴ καὶ θὰ ὑπάρχη στὴν ψυχὴ χαρὰ καὶ ἀγαλλίασις. Αὐτὴ τὴν προσευχή συνιστῶ σὲ ὅλους σας.

Αὐτὸ τὸ «Κύριε, ἐλέησον» θυμᾶμαι στὸ "Αγιο 'Όρος ποὺ πῆγα καὶ ἄκουγα ὅλη νύχτα ἔναν τυφλὸ καλόγερο, ποὺ καθόταν ἀπὸ κάτω,
νὰ τὸ λέη 'δὲν μποροῦσε νὰ διαβάση, κι ὅλη
νύχτα θὰ τὸ εἶπε χιλιάδες φορές ' «Κύριε Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλέησόν με», «Κύριε Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλέησον τὸν κόσμον, ἐλέησον τοὺς
ἄρχοντές μας, ἐλέησον τοὺς δασκάλους καὶ
καθηγητάς μας, ἐλέησον τοὺς ἐργάτες μας,
ἐλέησον τοὺς βοσκούς μας, ἐλέησον τὸς γυναῖκες, ἐλέησον τὴν πατρίδα μας, ἐλέησον τὸν
κόσμον ὅλον. «Κύριε, ἐλέησον».

(†) 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.

### The Legendary Saint Nicholas

The absence of the "hard facts" of history is not necessarily an obstacle to the popularity of saints, as the devotion to St. Nicholas shows. Both the Eastern and Western Churches honor him, and it is claimed that, after the Theotokos, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. And yet, historically, we can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor.

As with many of the saints, however, we are able to capture the relationship which Nicholas had with God through the admiration which Christians have had for him – an admiration expressed in the colorful stories which have been told and retold through the centuries.

Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In the English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of the tongue, Santa Claus – further expanding the example of generosity portrayed by this holy bishop.

The critical eye of modern history makes us take a deeper look at the legends surrounding St. Nicholas. But perhaps we can utilize the lesson taught by his legendary charity, look deeper at our approach to material goods in the Christmas season and seek ways to extend our sharing to those in real need.

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