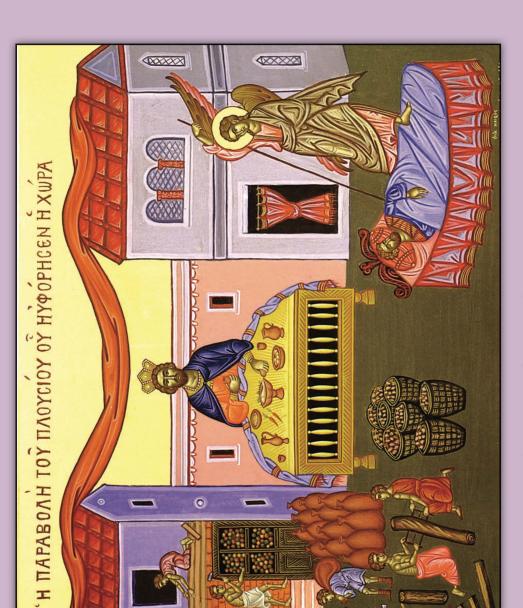


THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER19th, 2023 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas



NINTH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Icon of the Parable of the Rich Fool

1724 Avenue P Brooklyn, New York 11229-1206 Tel: (718) – 339- 0280

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode Psalm 28.11,1

The Lord will give strength to his people. Verse: Bring to the Lord, O sons of God, bring to the Lord honor and glory.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 2:14-22

Brethren, Christ is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Προκείμενον. Ήχος βαρύς ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 28.11.1

Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει. Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ υἱοὶ Θεοῦ, ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμήν.

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 2:14-22 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Αδελφοί, Χριστός ἐστιν ἡ εἰρήνη ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμφότερα ἕν, καὶ τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας, τήν ἔχθραν ἐν τῆ σαρκί αὐτοῦ, τὸν νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασιν, καταργήσας· ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίσῃ ἐν ἑαὐτῷ εἰς ἕνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον, ποιῶν εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκαταλλάξῃ τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἑνὶ σώματι τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἐλθὼν εὐηγγελίσατο εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς ἐγγύς· ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμφότεροι ἐν ἑνὶ πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. Ἄρα οὖν οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ συμπολῖται τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκεῖοι τοῦ θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ῷ πᾶσα οἰκοδομὴ υναρμολογουμένη αὔξει εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν κυρίῳ, ἐν ῷ καὶ ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς κατοικητήριον τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν πνεύματι.

Έκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 12:16-21 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

The Lord said this parable: "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τήν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἀνθρώπου τινὸς πλουσίου εὐφόρησεν ἡ χώρα· καὶ διελογίζετο ἐν ἑαυτῷ λέγων· τί ποιήσω, ὅτι οὐκ ἔχω ποῦ συνάξω τοὺς καρπούς μου; καὶ εἶπε· τοῦτο ποιήσω· καθελῶ μου τὰς ἀποθήκας καὶ μείζονας οἰκοδομήσω, καὶ συνάξω ἐκεῖ πάντα τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθά μου, καὶ ἐρῶ τῷ ψυχῷ μου· ψυχή, ἔχεις πολλὰ ἀγαθὰ κείμενα εἰς ἔτη πολλά· ἀναπαύου, φάγε, πίε, εὐφραίνου. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ Θεός· ἄφρον, ταύτῃ τῷ νυκτὶ τὴν ψυχήν σου ἀπαιτοῦσιν ἀπὸ σοῦ· ἃ δὲ ἡτοίμασας τίνι ἔσται; οὕτως ὁ θησαυρίζων ἑαυτῷ, καὶ μὴ εἰς Θεὸν πλουτῶν.



TODAY: Our Parish will observe the forthcoming "THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY" with a homily on GRATITUDE, spiritual hymns of the 'pilgrim' experience and a cornucopia feast hosted by the Philoptochos ladies in WHITEHALL. Hope you attend! All proceeds will go to the SEMINARY to teach future priests of our faith. Delicious sandwiches, salads, coffee and dessert will be served to all for only \$25. (twenty-five dollar) donation to keep our institutions of higher learning operating. Here we instruct the scholars of tomorrow and the much needed clergy of our American Orthodox Archdiocese. Please make every effort to attend or place a generous donation to the Seminary Fund.

Domestic Violence Shelter Drive: is undertaken by the Ladies Philoptochos DISTRICT, until December 15th. Please review the centerfold of instructions how YOU can participate with gifts of hygiene and toiletries for women and children.

BOY SCOUT TROOP #531 (GOLDEN GREEKS) are away this week-end for a three day camping trip to RESICA FALLS. Our scouting program is an essential tool for both boys and girls in their maturity and adult formation. Have you considered registering your young lad or lassie in the SCOUTS.? Every Friday evening at 7:00 P.M. the youngsters gather in the GYNNASIUM, WHITEHALL AND ROSEHALL for learning, crafts and morale building. It's a life experience that our youngster should NOT miss.

Celebrating the BAPTISM of their daughter 'VICTORIYA MEENA' today November 19th. We congratulate VIJAY and YEKATERINA (DESYATNIKOVA) KITSON, the proud parents.

NA SAS ZESE!

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.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEWS: The Autumn session held on Sunday, November 12th, was well attended. Nominations were held for the new term of Office 2024 and 2025. Many nominations were made and accepted. In general ALL THE NEWS was greeted with appreciation for the efforts of the clergy and the parish council. A NEW PROJECT was accepted for proposal and review. A community center (two level) to be constructed over the ROSEHALL PLAZA is in the 'works' for the future. This will include the 'elevator' from the floor to the PLAZA and down to the ROSEHALL area. Everyone is on board for this initiative.

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 $10^{\rm th}$. 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?

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>----!

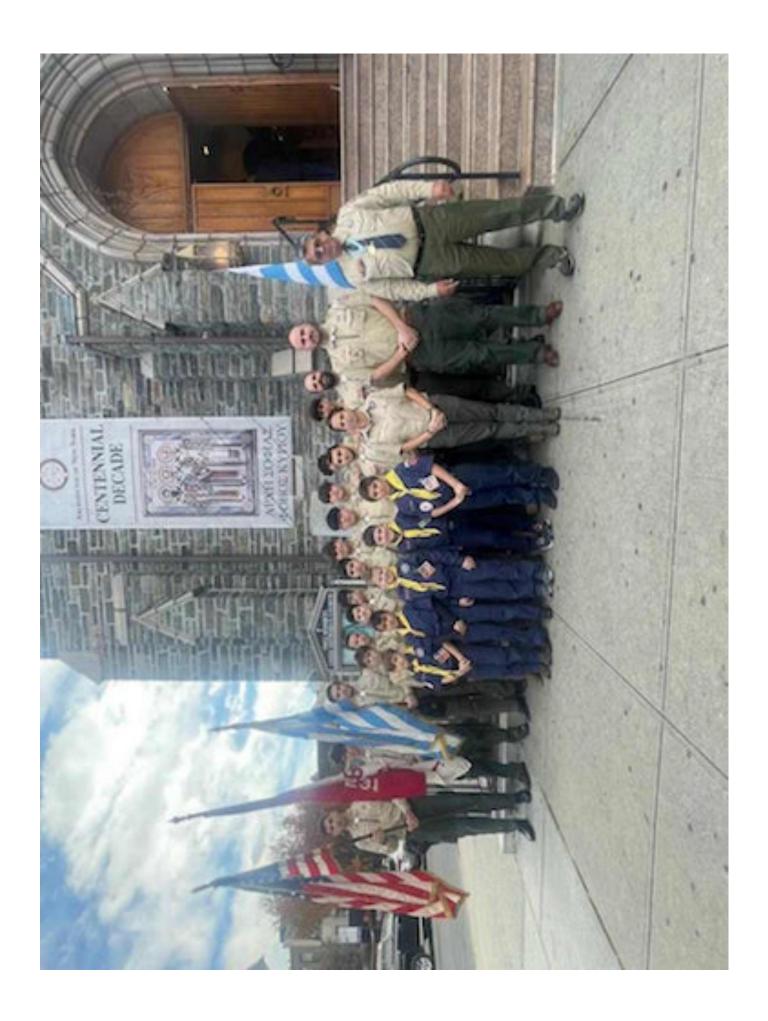
MEMORIALS TODAY:. + IRENE PETERS + STEVE (Stavros) KRITSAS.

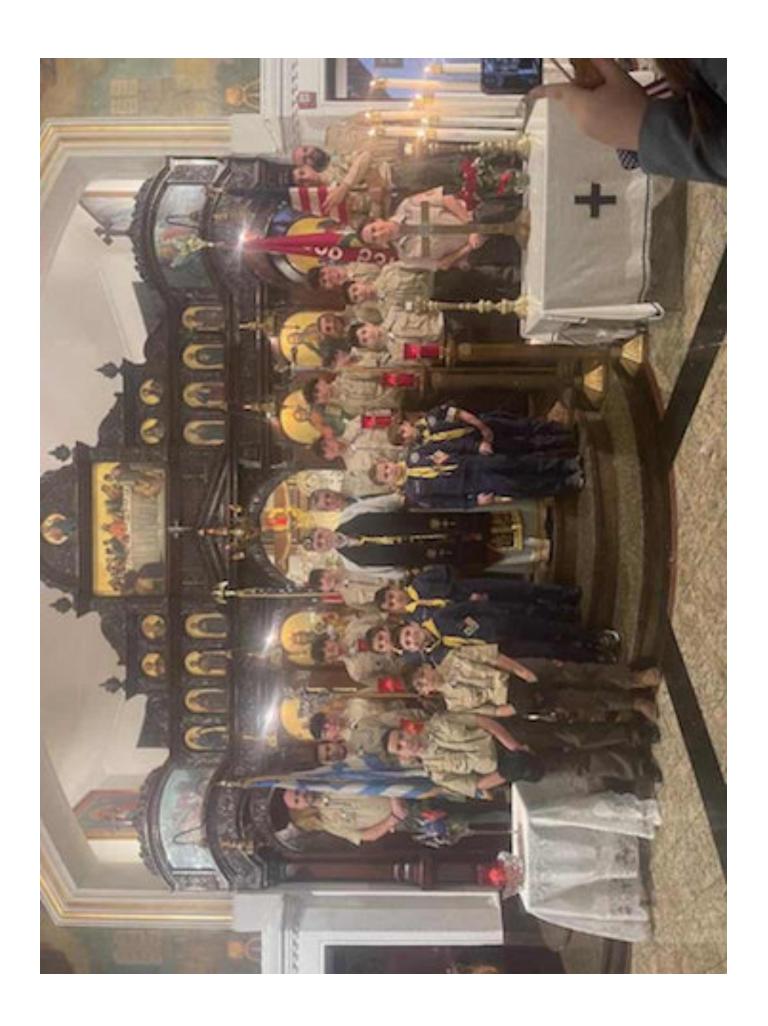
+ KONSTANTINOS APOSTOLOU

MEMORIALS NEXT WEEK: +NICHOLAS VELLIOS + ELIZABETH SCIABARRA

+ JOHN LAMBRIANAKOS

Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!









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

Έχδιδεται όπό την Κοινοβιακή Γυναικεία Τερά Μονή Άγίου Αύγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΑΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28010 -imaefio θγείτου.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - "Έτος ΙΘ' Φλώρινα - άριθμ. φύλλου 915² Κυριακή Θ΄ Λουκά (Λουκ. 12,16-21: 14,35) 19 Νοεμβρίου 2023 (2002) Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αύγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Φυλαχθῆτε ἀπὸ τὴν πλεονεξία

«...Καὶ συνάξω ἐκεῖ πάντα τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθά μου» (Λουκ. 12,18)

Ακούσατε, άγαπητοί μου, τὸ ἰερὸ καὶ ἄγιο Εὐαγγέλιο β. Ιου. 12/62/14/26]; Δὲν ἐννοῶ ἄν τ' ἀκούσατε μὲ τὰ ἐξωτερικά σας αὐτιά, ἀλλὰ μ' ἐκεῖνα τὰ αὐτιὰ ποὺ ζητὰ ὁ Κύριός μας ὅταν λέει «Ὁ ἔχων ὧτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω» (Ναὶ 11/5 κὰ). "Οποιος προσέξη σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο, θὰ δῆ μέσα σ' αὐτὸ τὴ φωτογραφία του, τὴ φωτογραφία τῆς κοινωνίας, ὅλης τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος.

Εἶνε νύχτα, μεσάνυχτα. Τὰ πουλιὰ κοιμοῦνται στίς φωλιές τους, τὰ άθῶα παιδάκια κοιμούνται στίς κούνιες τους, οί έγκληματίες καί οί φυλακισμένοι κοιμούνται κι αύτοί στὰ κελλιά τους: στίς καλύβες πρὸ παντὸς τῶν κουρασμένων άθώων άνθρώπων γλυκός είνε δ ύπνος. "Ολοι κοιμούνται, ένας όμως δὲν κοιμάται. Άγρυπνεῖ. Τὰ μάτια του ἔχουν κοκκινίσει. Γιατί άραγε; Ποιός νά 'νε αὐτός; Νὰ εἶνε πατέρας ή μάνα, ποὺ τὸ παιδί τους χαροπαλεύει; Νὰ εἶνε νοσοκόμος ἢ γιατρός, ποὺ ξαγρυπνά δίπλα στὸν ἄρρωστο; Νὰ εἶνε κανένας ἐπιστήμονας, ποὺ στύβει τὸ μυαλό του πάνω στὰ βιβλία; Νὰ εἶνε κανένας στρατιώτης, ποὺ μὲ τὸ ὅπλο φυλάει ἐπάλξεις; Νὰ εἶνε κανένας άσκητής, που κάτω άπο τὰ ἄστρα μὲ τὸ κομποσχοίνι κάνει προσευχές;...

Αύτὸς ποὺ ἀγρυπνεῖ δὲν εἶνε οὕτε μάνα οῦτε πατέρας οὕτε γιατρὸς οὕτε στρατιώτης οῦτε ἐπιστήμονας οὕτε ἀσκητής. Άλλὰ τί εἶνε; Ύπάρχουν δύο εἶδῶν ἀγρυπνίες – διαλέξτε· ἀγρυπνίες τοῦ διαβόλου, καὶ ἀγρυπνίες τοῦ Θεοῦ. Αὐτὴ ἐδῶ εἶνε ἀγρυπνία τοῦ διαβόλου. Αὐτὸς ἐδῶ ποὺ ἀγρυπνεῖ βηματίζει νευρικὰ μέσα στὸ σπίτι του. Πλησιάστε ν' ἀκούσετε τί λέει. Φωνὴ ἄγχους ἀκούγεται, φωνὴ ἀγωνίας. «Τί νὰ κάνω;» λέει. Μὰ ποιός νά 'νε ἄραγε αὐτός:

«Τί νὰ κάνω;». Νὰ τὸ πῆ ὁ φτωχὸς οἰκογενειάρχης μὲ τὰ 7-8 παιδιὰ ποὺ ζητοῦν κάθε μέρα τροφή. Νὰ τὸ πῆ ἡ χήρα ἡ παντέρημη, ποὺ δὲν ἔχει στὸν κόσμο στήριγμα. Νὰ τὸ πῆ ὁ ἄνεργος, ποὺ χτύπησε χίλιες πόρτες καὶ καμμιά δὲν ἄνοιξε νὰ τοῦ δώση δουλειά. Νὰ τὸ ποῦν οἱ πεινασμένοι καὶ οἱ δυστυχισμένοι... Δὲν τὸ λέει κανείς ἀπ' αὐτούς. Τὸ λέει κάποιος ἄλλος. Τί πρόβλημα ἔχει; πρόβλημα ἀρχιμήδειο, πρόβλημα άλγεβρικό Αὐτὰ τὰ προβλήματα τὰ λύνει ὁ ἄνθρωπος' τὸ δυσκολώτερο πρόβλημα εἶνε κάποιο ἄλλο, ποὺ ἐξακολουθεῖ καὶ σήμερα νὰ σείη τὸν κόσμο. Γι' αὐτὸ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε αἰώνιο. Τὸ ἐρώτημα αὐτό, «Τί νὰ κάνω;», εἶνε τὸ κοινωνικὸ πρόβλημα, ποὺ ἐξακολουθεῖ νὰ βοᾶ στὸν κόσμο.

«Τί νὰ κάνω;». Τί εἶνε αὐτὸς ποὺ τὸ λέει; Εἶνε πλούσιος. Μόνο πλούσιος; Πλεονέκτης εἶνε. Τί τοῦ συνέβη; Ἐκεῖνο τὸ χρόνο ἦρθε ἐξαιρετικὴ εὐφορία στὰ χωράφια του. Τὸ ἀμπάρι του γέμισε σιτάρι, τὰ βαρέλια γέμισαν κρασί, τὰ πιθάρια του γέμισαν λάδι. Εἶχε περισσέματα πολλὰ καὶ δὲν χωροῦσαν οἱ ἀποθῆκες ζητοῦσε μεγαλύτερες. Καὶ τί λέει; ᾿Ακοῦστε τον δὲν ὑπάρχει λέξις τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου χωρὶς σημασία. Ὅλο τὸ βάρος εἶνε σὲ μιὰ ἀντωνυμία. «Τί νὰ κάνω», λέει, γιὰ «τὰ γενήματά μου καὶ τὰ ἀγαθά μου», τὰ ὑπάρχοντά μου [less 12]7-18]. ᾿Αχ νὰ ἔλειπε αὐτὸ τὸ «μου»!

«Τὰ άγαθά μου», λέει. "Ήταν δικά του; "Εὰν δὲν ἔπεφτε ἡ βροχούλα στὰ χωράφια, ἐὰν δὲν φυσοῦσε ἀέρας, ἐὰν δὲν ὑπῆρχαν κατάλληλοι καιροί, θὰ ἔσπερνε ἀλλὰ δὲν θὰ θέριζε. Τὰ ἀγαθὰ λοιπὸν δὲν εἶνε δικά του εἶνε τοῦ Θεοῦ. «Τοῦ Κυρίου ἡ γῆ καὶ τὸ πλήρωμα αὐτῆς» [θὰμ. ἄ]]. "Αλλὰ αὐτὸς τὰ κάνει δικά του.

Καὶ ζητάει ἀποθῆκες. Άποθῆκες; Ύπάρχουν ἀποθῆκες, ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ ἀσφαλίση 100% τὰ προϊόντα του καὶ κανένας νὰ μὴν τὰ πειράξη. Ἀποθῆκες; Νά κάθε στομάχι πεινασμένου εἶνε μιὰ ἀποθήκη. Νὰ τὰ μοιράση σ' αὐτοὺς καὶ νὰ τὰ ἀσφαλίση. Άλλ' αὐτὸς δέν τὸ καταλα-Βαίνει.

"Υστερα ἀπὸ πολλή σκέψι βρῆκε κάποια λύσι. Θὰ γκρεμίση τὰ μικρὰ κτήρια καὶ θὰ τὰ κάνη μεγάλα κ' ἐκεῖ θὰ συγκεντρώση τὰ ἀγαθά του καὶ θὰ ζήση μὲ ἔνα πρόγραμμα Σαρδαναπάλου καὶ Λουκούλλου καὶ Ἐπικούρου, «Φάγωμεν καὶ πίωμεν, αῦριον γὰρ ἀποθνήσκομεν» [Νε 212 » Κ Και 15,22].

"Όταν τὰ εἶχε ὅλα τακτοποιήσει ἦταν πιὰ περασμένα μεσάνυχτα. Κουρασμένος ἀπὸ τὴ σκέψι πήγε νὰ κοιμηθή. Άλλ' ἐκείνη τὴ στιγμὴ κάποιος τοῦ χτυπὰ τὴν πόρτα. "Ω τὸν αὐθάδη! γίνεται επίσκεψι τέτοια ώρα; "Ανθρωπος δὲν κάνει ἐπίσκεψι μεσάνυχτα: αὐτὸς λοιπὸν ποιός είνε; Είνε ο χάρος! Ήρθε σὲ ὧρα ποὺ δὲν τὸν περίμενε. -Ποιός εἶστε; -Εἶμαι ὁ χάρος καὶ ἦρθα νὰ σὲ πάρω... Αὐτὸς ἔρχεται τὴν ώρα ποὺ δὲν περιμένεις, τὸ πρωὶ ποὺ ξυπνῆς, τὸ μεσημέρι ποὺ τρῶς, τὸ βράδυ ποὺ ξαπλώνεις, στή γιορτή, στήν καθημερινή, στό χωράφι, στὸ δρόμο, στὴν πλατεῖα, στὸ ἀεροπλάνο ποὺ ταξιδεύεις, τὴν ὧρα ποὺ παντρεύεσαι... Έτσι ἔρχεται ὁ χάρος. Εἶνε ἀναιδέστατος: δὲν ξέρει αὐτὸς ὧρες, δὲν κάνει διάκρισι.

Έρχεται λοιπὸν αὐτὸς καὶ τοῦ λέει: - Έχω έντολη να σε πάρω. -Χάρε, ἄφησέ με ν' ἀπολαύσω τὰ ἄγαθά, ἄφησέ με νὰ κάνω διαθήκη νὰ τὰ μοιράσω στοὺς συγγενεῖς μου. -"Όχι" αύτή τὴ στιγμή. Ὁ οὐρανὸς ἐξέδωκε ἔνταλμα συλλήψεως... Κι δ χάρος τὸν παίρνει στὰ μαῦρα φτερά του καί τὸν μεταφέρει στὸν ἄδη. Πολλές σπηλιές έχει ὁ ἄδης, άλλὰ ή πιὸ σκοτεινή είνε ή σπηλιά τῶν φιλαργύρων καὶ τῶν πλεονεκτών. Γιατί αύτοί είνε οί μεγαλύτεροι έγκληματίες. Έν τῷ μεταξὺ στὸ παλάτι τοῦ πλεονέκτου γίνεται καυνάς μεγάλος, Μαζεύτηκαν σὰν τὰ κοράκια οἱ συγγενεῖς καὶ μαλώνουν γιὰ τὸ πῶς θὰ μοιραστῆ ή περιουσία του. Διαπληκτισμοί, δικαστήρια..., ἐνῷ τὸ πρᾶγμα ήταν ἀπλούστατο.

Αὐτὴ μὲ λίγα λόγια εἶνε ἡ παραβολὴ τοῦ ἄφρονος πλουσίου. Καὶ τὸ συμπέρασμα; Τὸ λέει ὁ ἴδιος ὁ Χριστός · «'Όρᾶτε καὶ φυλάσσεσθε ἀπὸ πάσης πλεονεξίας» · ἀνοῖξτε τὰ μάτια σας καὶ φυλαχτῆτε ἀπὸ κάθε πλεονεξία (Խκ. 12,19). Αὐτὴ εἶνε ἡ ἀρρώστια, ὁ καρκίνος τῆς ψυχῆς, τὸ θηρίο ποὺ δὲν χορταίνει ποτέ.

Τί θὰ πῆ πλεονεξία; Κατὰ κάποιο τρόπο δλοι εἴμαστε πλεονέκτες. Μὴ ζυγίζεστε μὲ ζυγαριὲς τοῦ κόσμου ἐλᾶτε νὰ ζυγιστοῦμε μὲ τὴ ζυγαριὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Πλεονεξία εἴνε τὸ νὰ μὴ μένης εὐχαριστημένος σ' ἐκεῖνα τὰ λίγα ποὺ χρειάζονται γιὰ τὴ συντήρησί σου, στὸν «ἄρτον τὸν ἐπιούσιον» (Μπί.ξ.ΙΙ), στὰ ἀπολύτως ἀναγκαῖα. "Όταν ξεπερνῷς αὐτὸ τὸ μέτρο, τότε πιὰ ἀρχίζει ἡ πλεονεξία.

Καὶ ἡ πλεονεξία εἶνε ἀδηφάγος. Μάζεψε χίλιες λίρες; θέλει νὰ τὶς κάνη δυὸ χιλιάδες τὶς δυὸ χιλιάδες νὰ τὶς κάνη τέσσερις, τὶς τέσσερις ὀχτώ... Ἡ θάλασσα μπορεῖ νὰ πῆ στὰ ποτάμια, Φτάνει χόρτασα ἀπὸ τὰ νερά σας ὁ ἄδης μπορεῖ νὰ πῆ στὸ χάρο καὶ στοὺς νεκροθάφτες, Φτάνει χόρτασα ἀπὸ νεκρούς μὰ ὁ πλεονέκτης δὲν θὰ πῆ ποτέ Φτάνει. Ἅν ἦταν δυνατόν, κι ἀπὸ τὸ στόμα τοῦ φτωχοῦ νὰ πάρη τὴ μπουκιά. Ὑπάρχει ἄλλη μεγαλύτερη ἀ-Φροσύνη στὸν κόσμο:

Λέει ή μυθολογία για τὸν Μίδα βασιλια τῆς Φρυγίας, ὅτι εἶχε χρυσάφι, ὅὲν ἔμενε ὅμως ἰκανοποιημένος. Προσευχήθηκε λοιπὸν στοὺς θεοὺς τοῦ 'Ολύμπου' Μιὰ χάρι σᾶς ζητῶ' ὅ,τι πιάνω, νὰ γίνεται χρυσό – ῷ τὸν ἀνόητο! Καὶ οἱ θεοὶ ἄκουσαν, λέει, τὴν προσευχή του, κι ἀπὸ τότε ὅ,τι ἔπιανε (χῶμα, πέτρες, λουλούδια, δέντρα...) γινόταν χρυσάφι. Πάει στὸ σπίτι, πιάνει ψωμί, χρυσό πιάνει πιάτο, χρυσό πιάνει ποτήρι, χρυσό. Πάει ἡ κόρη του νὰ τὸν πλησιάση, ἔγινε κι αὐτὴ ἄγαλμα. Φάε τώρα, ἀνόητε, χρυσάφι!

Άλλ' αὐτό, ἀδελφοί μου, ἔπαθε καὶ ἡ ἀνθρωπότης σήμερα. Γέμισαν οἱ τράπεζες ἀπὸ ράβδους χρυσοῦ. Στὴν Άμερικὴ ἄνοιξαν βουνὰ ἀλόκληρα νὰ κρύψουν τὸ χρυσάφι τους μέσα στὴ γῆ. Ποτέ ἄλλοτε δὲν μαζεύτηκε τόσος πλοῦτος, τόσα ἀγαθά' ποὺ ἄν ὑπῆρχε μιὰ δικαία κατανομή, ὅχι αὐτὸ τὸν πληθυσμὸ μόνο ἀλλὰ πολὺ περισσότερα δισεκατομμύρια θὰ μποροῦσε νὰ θρέψη ἡ γῆ. Τώρα ὁ χρυσὸς μαζεύτηκε στὰ χέρια ὀλίγων, ποὺ ἔπαναλαμβάνουν σὰν τὸν ἄφρονα «Τὰ ἀγαθά μου», τὰ ὑπάρχοντά μου, ἐνῷ οἱ πολλοὶ δυστυχοῦν καὶ ὑποφέρουν. "Ετσι, ἐνῷ ὑπάρχει ἄφθονο χρυσάφι, πεθαίνουν σήμερα ἄνθρωποι.

Μὰ ἔπὶ τέλους ποιός φταίει; Τὸ χρυσάφι; "Όχι" μέταλλο είνε. Φταίει ὁ ἄνθρωπος, φταίει ἡ πλεονεξία τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ποὺ ἔσβησε τὸ Θεὸ καὶ ἔκανε τὸ χρῆμα θεό του ἔνα θεὸ ψεύτικο, ποὺ δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ φέρη στὸν ἄνθρωπο τὴν πραγματικὴ εὐτυχία.

^{*}Ω εὐτυχία, ποῦ κατοικεῖς; –Κοντὰ στὸ Θεό. Τὸ ψάρι δὲν ζἢ ἔξω ἀπὸ τὴ θάλασσα καὶ τὸ πουλὶ ἔξω ἀπὸ τὸν ἀέρα, καὶ ἡ ἀνθρώπινη ψυχὴ δὲν ζἢ παρὰ μόνο κοντὰ στὸ Χριστό ὄν, «παίδες, ὑμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας» ἀμήν.

(†) 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.

Commentary on Riches

The land of a rich man produced abundant harvests, and he thought to himself, "What am I to do? I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones." Now why did that land bear so well, when it belonged to a man who would make no good use of its fertility? It was to show more clearly the forbearance of God, whose kindness extends even to such people as this. He sends rain on both the just and the unjust, and makes the sun rise on the wicked and good alike. But what do we find in this man? A bitter disposition, hatred of other people, unwillingness to give. This is the return he made to his Benefactor. He forgot that we all share the same nature; he felt no obligation to distribute his surplus to the needy. His barns were full to bursting point, but still his miserly heart was not satisfied. Year by year he increased his wealth, always adding new crops to the old. The result was a hopeless impasse: greed would not permit him to

part with anything he possessed, and yet because he had so much there was no place to store his latest harvest. And so he was incapable of making a decision and could find no escape from his anxiety. What am I to do?

You who have wealth, recognize who has given you the gifts you have received. Consider yourself, who you are, what has been committed to your charge, from whom you have received it, why you have been preferred to most other people. You are the servant of the good God, a steward on behalf of your fellow servants. Do not imagine that everything has been provided for your own stomach. Make decisions regarding your property as though it belonged to another. Possessions give you pleasure for a short time, but then they will slip through your fingers and be gone, and you will be required to give an exact account of them.

St. Basil the Great

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