



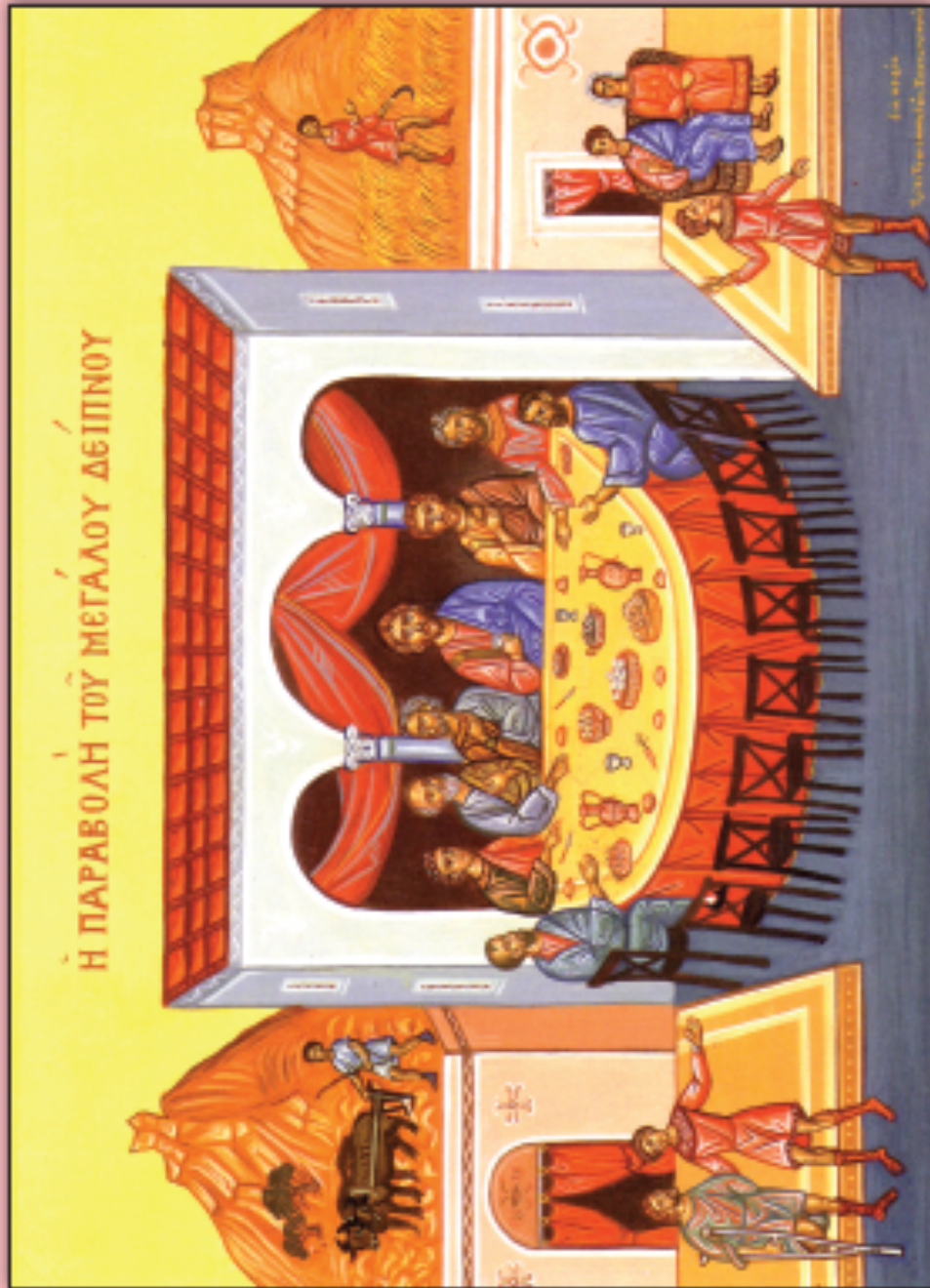
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN  
DISTRICT

# THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 17th, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast*

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**Prokeimenon. Mode 4**

**Daniel 3.26,27**

*Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.*

*Verse: For you are just in all you have done.*

*The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians 3:4-11*

*Brethren, when Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience. In these you once walked, when you lived in them. But now put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and foul talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old nature with its practices and have put on the new nature, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.*

**Προκείμενον. Ήχος δ'**

**Δανιήλ 3.26-27**

*Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.*

*Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.*

*Πρὸς Κολοσσαεῖς 3:4-11 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα*

*Ἀδελφοί, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῇ, ἡ ζωὴ ἡμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἥτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρεία, δι' ἣ ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας. Ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιεπατήσατέ ποτε, ὅτε ἐζήτε ἐν αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ πάντα, ὀργήν, θυμόν, κακίαν, βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογίαν ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον, τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν· ὅπου οὐκ ἔστι Ἕλληνας καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος· ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν Χριστός.*

*Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 14:16-24 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα*

*The Lord said this parable: "A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time of the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for all is now ready.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a field, and I go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I must go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.' And another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, 'Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.' And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and there is still room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet. For many are called, but few are chosen.'"*

*Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε δεῖπνον μέγα καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς· καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δοῦλον αὐτοῦ τῇ ὥρᾳ τοῦ δείπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἐτοιμὰ ἐστί πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς παραιτεῖσθαι πάντες. ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀγρόν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω ἀνάγκην ἐξελθεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε· γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ· ἔξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ ῥύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ δοῦλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας, καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ κύριος πρὸς τὸν δοῦλον· ἔξελθε εἰς τὰς ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον εἰσελθεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκος μου. λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεται μου τοῦ δείπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσιν κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.*



**TODAY: Coffee Hour Fellowship is being hosted by the + VASILIOS AGORITSAS FAMILY in his blessed memory. Please join us in WHITEHALL for refreshments.**

**ARTOKLASIES ARE OFFERED TODAY: Saint Dionysios is honored by Dionysia Soumakis as she observes the solemnity of her patron saint. Saint Spyridon is also honored in this 'post-feast' observance by Spyros Vlahos on his name day and by the NEW PARENTS Gus and Angela Vellios on this FIRST observance by their new born daughter 'Spiridoula Aphrodite. NA MAS ZESOUN OLOI! Chronia Polla to all the celebrants named and their loved ones.**

**Christmas decorations enhance the festivity. Our florists each year donate 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'. "Blessed are those who love the beauty of the Lord's House!"**

**SENIOR CLUB will hold their 'CHRISTMAS DINNER' on Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL. guests may make a free-will offering at the event and participate in the festivity. ALL ARE WELCOMED.**

**MAKE YOUR EVENING RESERVATION for the Annual New Year's Party at ROSEHALL in the Three Hierarchs Church Community Center. Please refer to the insert flyer for all the details. Our anticipation is to make this NEW YEAR CELEBRATION a true family event. Yiayia, Papou, and the 'kids' are invited to join us. RESERVE YOUR FAMILY TABLE NOW! (718) 339-0280.**

**NEW YEAR HIGHLIGHT: As each year at midnight, Father Eugene offers individual, couples, and family blessings to all who enter the CHURCH SANCTUARY AREA (Solea) for intentions of good health, restored health and recovery, peace, direction and thanksgiving to the Lord. It's an inspirational moment to begin the NEW YEAR 2024! Blessings are extended as you approach the altar from 12:15 to 1:00 A.M. Hail the NEW YEAR 2024 with a clean and fresh beginning dedicated to God. The Church doors will be open to the public from midnight to 1 A.M. !**

**'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 are placed 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----**

**CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE: Sunday morning: December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 A.M.  
Sunday evening: December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 P.M. (VESPERAL)  
Monday morning: December 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 A.M.**

**MEMORIALS TODAY: + LEONIDAS PAPPAS + VASILIOS AGORITSAS  
+ DIMITROS GREGORIADIS + ELENI KOUTSOUFLAKIS + SOPHIA KARPADAKIS  
Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!**

**Please note that 'MEMORIAL TRIBUTES' are not offered from Christmas through the Feast of the Epiphany – January 6<sup>th</sup>.**





Selected students from our GREEK SCHOOL, honored the Christmas holy season with the Annual Pageant in the Church after the Divine Liturgy. Many thanks are extended to faculty members Maria Halkias and Maria Tzovara for their staging and direction. KALA CHRISTOUGENNA is the greeting of the season!











# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Γερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – [imsafla@yahoo.gr](mailto:imsafla@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Γ' - Ἔτος ΙΣΤ'  
Ἀριθμ. φύλλου 702<sup>2</sup>

Κυριακὴ ΙΑ' Λουκᾶ (Λκ. 14,16-24. Μθ. 22,14)  
17 Δεκεμβρίου 2023 (1999)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ὁ ἐκκλησιασμός

«Ἐρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά ἐστι πάντα» (Λουκ. 14,17)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἀκούγεται **μιὰ φωνή**, ποὺ δὲν ἔρχεται ἀπὸ τὴ γῆ, ἔρχεται **ἀπὸ τὸν οὐρανό**· μιὰ φωνή, ποὺ εἶνε γεμάτη στοργή καὶ ἀγάπη καὶ μᾶς καλεῖ ὄλους ἀνεξαιρέτως, ἄντρες γυναῖκες καὶ παιδιά. Ποιός ἄραγε θὰ ἔχη αὐτιά ν' ἀκούσῃ τὴ φωνὴ αὐτῆς; Κολλᾶς τὸ αὐτάκι σου γιὰ ν' ἀκούσῃς τὸ ραδιόφωνο, ἀλλ' ἐδῶ ἀκούγεται μιὰ φωνὴ ποὺ εἶνε σπουδαιότερη ἀπ' ὅλες. Ποιός, λέω, ἔχει αὐτιά γιὰ νὰ τὴν ἀκούσῃ;

Ἀκούεται φωνὴ ἀπὸ τὸ ἅγιο Εὐαγγέλιο. Τί λέει **τὸ εὐαγγέλιο** σήμερα (βλ. Λουκ. 14,16-24. Μθ. 22,14); Ἐχει ἀπλᾶ λόγια.

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Εἶνε **μιὰ παραβολή**. Καὶ τί λέει; Κάποιος ἄνθρωπος πλούσιος εἶχε καὶ καρδιὰ μὲ εὐγενεῖς διαθέσεις, καρδιὰ γεμάτη ἀγάπη. Ἀποφάσισε νὰ κἀνῃ **ἓνα τραπέζι** καὶ νὰ φιλέψῃ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους. Γι' αὐτὸ τὸ σκοπὸ προετοίμασθηκε. Ἐσφαξε ἄρνιά, φώναξε μαγείρους, ἀγόρασε κρασιά, ἔκανε ὅ,τι χρειάζεται γιὰ νὰ στρώσῃ ἓνα τραπέζι πολυτελέστατο. Ὅταν πιά ἦρθε ἡ ὥρα καὶ ἦταν ὅλα ἔτοιμα, ἔστειλε τοὺς ὑπηρέτες του νὰ πᾶνε δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά, νὰ φωνάξουν τοὺς προσκεκλημένους. Καὶ τοὺς εἶπαν· **Ἐλᾶτε, ὅλα εἶνε ἔτοιμα!**

Θὰ περίμενε κανεὶς ὅλοι νὰ πᾶνε· νὰ μὴ λείψῃ κανένας. Καὶ ὁμως **δὲν πῆγε οὔτε ἓνας!** Παράξενο πρᾶγμα, νὰ γίνεται τραπέζι καὶ νὰ μὴν πάῃ οὔτε ἓνας. Ἐφεραν **διάφορες δικαιολογίες**. Καὶ οἱ τρεῖς εἶπαν, ὅτι δὲν εὐκαιροῦν. Ὁ ἓνας δὲν εὐκαιροῦσε νὰ πάῃ, γιατί ἀγόρασε χωράφι καὶ ἔπρεπε νὰ πάῃ νὰ τὸ δῇ. Ὁ δεύτερος εἶπε, ὅτι ἀγόρασε πέντε βόδια καὶ ἔπρεπε νὰ πάῃ νὰ τὰ δοκιμάσῃ, γιὰ νὰ δῇ ἂν εἶνε καματερά. Καὶ ὁ τρίτος, ὁ πιὸ ἀδιάντροπος, εἶπε, ὅτι παντρεύτηκε, ὅτι τώρα ἔχει γυναῖκα, καὶ δὲν ἀδειάζει γιὰ τέτοια πρά-

γματα. Ὁ ἓνας μετὰ τὸν ἄλλο ἀρνήθηκαν καὶ οἱ τρεῖς νὰ πᾶνε στὸ τιμητικὸ γεῦμα.

Τὸ ἔμαθε ὁ καλὸς ἐκεῖνος ἄνθρωπος καὶ λυπήθηκε κατάκαρδα. Διατάζει τότε, νὰ πᾶνε στὰ σοκάκια καὶ στίς φτωχοσυνοικίες, καὶ **δουὶ βροῦν φτωχοὺς, σακάτηδες, τυφλοὺς, ἀνθρώπους ἐγκαταλελειμμένους, ὀρφανὰ καὶ χήρες**, νὰ τοὺς φωνάξουν στὸ τραπέζι.

Τοὺς φώναξαν καὶ πῆγαν. Τοὺς εἶπαν· Ἐλᾶτε, ἀδέρφια· ὁ νοικοκύρης τοῦ τόπου σᾶς καλεῖ στὸ τραπέζι. Κ' ἐκεῖνοι, καθὼς ἦταν πεινασμένοι, ἔτρεξαν ὅλοι. Καὶ γέμισε ἡ μεγάλη αἴθουσα τῆς ὑποδοχῆς ἀπὸ τέτοιους ἀνθρώπους, ποὺ ὁ κόσμος τοὺς περιφρονεῖ. Ἡ **χαρὰ** τοῦ συμποσιάρχου ἦταν μεγάλη.

Ἀλλὰ ὅλα αὐτά, ὅπως εἶπαμε, εἶνε μιὰ παραβολή. Καὶ στὴν παραβολὴ ὁ Κύριος **ἄλλα λέει καὶ ἄλλα ἐννοεῖ**. Ἄς ἐξηγήσουμε μὲ ἀπλᾶ λόγια τὴν παραβολή.

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Ὁ ἄνθρωπος αὐτός, ποὺ ἔκανε τὸ τραπέζι, ποιός εἶνε; Εἶνε ὁ Κύριός μας, εἶνε ὁ Θεός μας. Naί, **ὁ Θεὸς στρώνει τραπέζι**. Εἶνε πλούσιος ὅσο δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ φανταστῇ ὁ ἄνθρωπος. Καὶ παραπάνω ἀπ' ὅλα εἶνε γεμάτος ἀγάπη, συμπάθεια καὶ στοργὴ γιὰ τὸν κόσμον. Στρώνει τραπέζι ὁ Θεός.

Τὸ μεσημέρι, ποὺ θὰ καθήσετε νὰ φᾶτε, **πῆτε ἓνα Εὐχαριστῶ** στὸ Θεὸ γιὰ τὸ τραπέζι. Τὸ νεράκι ποὺ θὰ πιῇς, τὸ ψωμάκι ποὺ θὰ φᾶς, τὸ φρούτο, τὸ γάλα, τὸ κρέας, τὸ βούτυρο, τὸ κρασί, ὅλα αὐτὰ δὲν εἶνε δικά σου. Ἐσύ δὲν μπορεῖς νὰ κἀνῃς οὔτε μιὰ σταγόνα νερό, οὔτε ἓνα προβατάκι, οὔτε ἓνα βόδι, οὔτε ἓνα τσαμπὶ σταφύλι. Ὅλα αὐτὰ τὰ ἔκανε ὁ καλὸς Θεός. Σοῦ τὰ ἔδωσε, καὶ κάθεσαι καὶ τρῶς. Κ' ἐνῶ ἔχεις τὴ μπουκιά στὸ στόμα,



άντι νὰ πῆς «Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός», δὲν τὸ λές. Ποιὸς κάνει πιά προσευχή;...

Τὸ ἕνα τραπέζι εἶνε αὐτό. Ἄλλ' ὑπάρχει κ' ἕνα ἄλλο τραπέζι ἀπείρως ἀνώτερο. Ποιὸ εἶν' αὐτό; Ρίξτε μιὰ ματιὰ μέσα στὸ ἱερὸ βῆμα. Τραπέζι στρωμένο εἶνε ἐκεῖ. Τὸ στρώνει ὁ Χριστός. Ἐπάνω **στήν ἁγία τράπεζα** εἶνε ἕνα ποτήρι, **τὸ ἅγιο ποτήρι**, καὶ ἕνας δίσκος, **τὸ ἅγιο δισκάριο**. Μέχρι νὰ φθάσῃ ἡ θεία λειτουργία στὸ σημεῖο ποὺ γονατίζουμε ὅλοι, ἐπάνω στήν ἁγία τράπεζα ὑπάρχει ἀκόμα κρασί καὶ ψωμί. Ἐκείνη τὴν ὥρα ὁ παπᾶς γονατίζει καὶ παρακαλεῖ τὸ Θεό· καὶ τὸ κρασί γίνεται **αἷμα Χριστοῦ**, καὶ τὸ ψωμί γίνεται **σῶμα Χριστοῦ**. Τὸ πιστεύουμε ἀκραδάντως αὐτό.

Τὸ ἕνα τραπέζι, ποὺ μᾶς στρώνει ὁ Θεός, εἶνε στὸ σπίτι μας, τὸ καθημερινὸ φαγητό. Τὸ ἄλλο εἶνε στήν ἐκκλησία τὴν Κυριακή, ἡ θεία κοινωνία. Καὶ ἡ καμπάνα, ποὺ χτυπᾷ, μᾶς φωνάζει. Ἡ καμπάνα εἶνε τὸ προσκλητήριο τῶν ἀγγέλων. Μᾶς φωνάζει καὶ λέει· Ἐλάτε στήν ἐκκλησία, **ἐλάτε στὸ μυστικὸ δεῖπνο**, γιὰ νὰ γευθῆτε τὸ σῶμα καὶ τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ!

Καὶ οἱ Χριστιανοὶ τί κάνουν; Πρῶτα, στὰ χρόνια τῆς τουρκοκρατίας ποὺ δὲν χτυποῦσαν καμπάνες, οἱ Χριστιανοὶ εἶχαν αὐτιά καὶ ἄκουγαν τὴν καμπάνα τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. Καὶ πῆγαιναν ἔξω, μέσα στὰ φαράγγια καὶ στὶς σπηλιές, καὶ λάτρευαν καὶ προσκυνοῦσαν ἐκεῖ τὸ Θεό. Τώρα χτίσαμε ὁμορφες ἐκκλησιές, ἔχουμε καμπάνες καὶ πολυελέους, ἀλλὰ δὲν ἔχουμε πολλούς, καὶ μάλιστα νέους, ἀνθρώπους στήν ἐκκλησία. Πρίν, χωρὶς καμπάνες, πῆγαιναν στήν ἐκκλησία. Τώρα; Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, καὶ τὰ ἀντρόγυνα εἶνε ξαπλωμένα στὰ κρεβάτια. Κ' ἐπειτα ἀποροῦμε, πῶς βγαίνουν τὰ παιδιὰ κουτσά, στραβά κι ἀνάπηρα, ἐγκληματικά. Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα· **ξύπνα, ὁρθίος νά 'σαι, νὰ πᾶς στήν ἐκκλησία**.

**Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα**, καὶ τότε πᾶνε κάποιοι γιὰ νὰ ξαπλώσουν· γιατί ὅλη τὴ νύχτα ἦταν στὸ κέντρο ἢ στήν ταβέρνα καὶ ξενουχτοῦσαν. Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, καὶ παίρνει ὁ ἄλλος τὸ τουφέκι του γιὰ νὰ πάῃ νὰ κυνηγήσῃ. Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, καὶ πάει στὴ λέσχη ἢ στὸ καφενεῖο καὶ παίζει χαρτιά. Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, καὶ ὁ γεωργὸς πάει στὸ χωράφι του· κ' ἐπειτα θέλει νὰ 'χῃ προκοπή, καὶ παραπονιέται γιατί ἔκλεισε ὁ οὐρανὸς, δὲν βρέχει καὶ δὲν θὰ ὑπάρχη νερό! Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα κι ὁ ἄλλος τρέχει δεξιὰ κι ἀριστερά.

Χριστιανοὶ μου! Χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα; **Φτερά στὰ πόδια!** Ἐλάτε στήν ἐκκλησία.

Δὲν μᾶς ζητᾷ πολλὰ πράγματα ὁ Θεός. Δὲν

μᾶς λέει νὰ σηκώσουμε στὶς πλάτες μας ἕνα βουνό. Μᾶς δίνει **ἕνα χαλικάκι**. Εὐκολὰ πράγματα εἶνε αὐτὰ ποὺ μᾶς ζητάει.

Ἔνα μικρὸ χαλικάκι εἶνε ὁ ἐκκλησιασμός. 168 ὥρες ἔχει ἡ ἐβδομάδα. Καὶ ἀπὸ τὶς 168 **μᾶς ζητάει ὁ Θεὸς μιὰ ὥρα**, γιὰ νὰ πᾶμε στήν ἐκκλησία. Μιὰ ὥρα κρατάει ἡ θεία λειτουργία ἀπὸ τὸ «*Εὐλογημένη ἡ βασιλεία...*» μέχρι τὸ «*Δι' εὐχῶν...*». Κ' ἐσύ οὔτε μιὰ ὥρα δὲν ἔρχεσαι ἐδῶ νὰ λατρεύσῃς τὸ Θεό; Μᾶς καλεῖ ὁ Θεὸς στὰ μεγάλα καὶ ὑψηλά.

Ἄ βέβαια· ἂν γίνεται κανένας γάμος καὶ παίζουν βιολιά, τότε ὅλοι μαζεύονται. Ἄ βέβαια· ἂν δοῦν καμμιὰ ἀρκούδα νὰ χορεύῃ καὶ κανένα γύφτο νὰ παίξῃ τὸ ντέφι, δὲν μένει κανένας ποὺ νὰ μὴ βγῇ ἀπὸ τὸ σπίτι του. Ἄ βέβαια· ἂν ἔρθῃ κανένα ἔργο ποὺ παρουσιάζει τὰ αἰσχρά, τὰ γκανγκστερικά, τὰ ἀπαίσια καὶ ἀκατονόμαστα, βεβαίως θὰ τρέξουν ὅλοι νὰ τὸ δοῦν. Ἄν τίποτε κτηνάρια φέρουν γυναῖκες διεφθαρμένες, κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν Ἀθήνα ἢ τὴ Θεσσαλονίκη, τότε θὰ μαζευτῇ ὅλη ἡ νεολαία. **Ὅταν ὁμως χτυπᾷ ἡ καμπάνα, κανεῖς!...** Αὐτὸ εἶνε μικρὴ ἁμαρτία;

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Ἀγαπητά μου ἀδέρφια! Ὁ Θεὸς εἶνε γεμάτος στοργὴ καὶ ἀγάπη. Ἡ ἐκκλησία εἶνε τὸ σπίτι του. Ἐδῶ εἶνε τὸ τραπέζι του, τὸ σῶμα του καὶ τὸ αἷμα του. Μᾶς καλεῖ. Καὶ οἱ **πόρτες τῆς ἐκκλησίας εἶνε ἀνοιχτές**. Ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ποὺ θὰ γεννηθῇς μέχρι τὴν ὥρα ποὺ θὰ ξεψυχήσῃς εἶνε ἀνοιχτές καὶ σὲ περιμένουν.

Ἀνοιχτὴ εἶνε ἡ πόρτα τῆς ἐκκλησίας, καὶ σὲ περιμένει. **Θὰ κλείσῃ ὁμως μιὰ μέρα!** Κι ἅμα κλείσῃ, θὰ πᾶμε ἀπ' ἔξω, θὰ χτυπᾶμε καὶ θὰ λέμε· Χριστέ, Παναγιά, ἅγιοι, ἀνοίξτε!... Ἀλλὰ δὲν θ' ἀνοίγῃ ἡ πόρτα. Καὶ θ' ἀκούσουμε τότε κάτι λόγια ποὺ προτιμότερο νὰ μὴ ζούσαμε στὸν κόσμον, λόγια - ἀστροπελέκια. Ποιά λόγια θὰ πῇ ὁ Χριστός; «*Πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ*», ἄντε στὸ «καλό», «*πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ*» (Ματθ. 25, 41).

Ἀδελφοί μου! Ἔως ὅτου βλέπουμε τὸ φῶς, **ἕως ὅτου βρισκόμαστε στὴ μάταιη τούτη ζωὴ**, ἂς ἀνοίξουμε τ' αὐτιά μας, ἂς ἀνοίξουμε τὴν καρδιά μας. Ἄς ἐκκλησιαζώμαστε, ἂς λέμε πάντοτε τὸ «*Δόξα σοι, ὁ Θεός*», καὶ ἂς κοινωνοῦμε τὰ ἄχραντα μυστήρια, γιὰ νὰ ἔχουμε τὴν εὐλογία τοῦ Θεοῦ εἰς αἰῶνας αἰώνων· 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**

**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 Great Feast*

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

**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](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)