



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December 31st, 2023

V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD SUNDAY OF KING DAVID, JOSEPH AND JAMES



Icon of the Nativity of Our Lord

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

Web site: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org

E-mail : info@threehierarchsbrooklyn.org

Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2

Psalm 27.9,1

O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.

Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8

TIMOTHY, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry. For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. β'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1

Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποιήσον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγωνίσαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειται μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσιν τοῖς ἡγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μᾶρκον 1:1-8 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπὸ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

Greeting

**The Clergy, Parish Council and all affiliated organizations of Three Hierarchs Church extend to you, good tidings of Christmas blessings.
God Is With Us Emmanuel !**

Churching Today: We pleased to receive into the embrace of the Holy Mother Church the new born son and second child “PERRY MICHAEL “ PARASKEVAS MICHAEL of Jimmy (Demetrios) and Kalliope KOKOTAS. NA SAS SESE O MIKROS! His little sister Katerina is a ‘little mom’.

TONIGHT : we shall usher in the NEW YEAR 2024 at our community ROSEHALL. It’s an event not to be missed for the WHOLE FAMILY. Please refer to the insert of the Sunday Bulletin for details. It’s NEVER too late to join us...even at the ‘door’ !

TOY COLLECTION this year for youths outside the community was MORE THAN A SUCCESS! It was overwhelmingly a firm evidence of our faithful’s outreach beyond the portals of our congregation. Anonymously you have given and abundantly you will receive from the Lord – the INCARNATE LOGOS, Christ Jesus!

BASILOPITA CELEBRATIONS will commence this evening after MIDNIGHT with the blessing and cutting of the Saint Basil Bread at the New Year Party in Rosehall. Each table will have their own ‘Blessed Bread ‘ for cutting and distributing. Fortunate will be the person receiving the ‘coin’. Chronia polla to every BASILIOS, BASILIKI, Basil, Regina, Rex. It’s their day! Saint Basil is one of our parochial PATRONS!

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!”

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. !

UP-COMING EVENTS: Philoptochos ladies will host their ANNUAL LUNCHEON for the benefit of Saint Basil Academy in Garrison, New York as a ‘BASILOPITA CELEBRATION’ on January 07th, (SUNDAY) after the Divine Liturgy.

EPIPHANY DATES: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, JANUARY 05th, 6th, and 7th. Divine Liturgy and the blessing of Holy Water (AGIASMOS) will be observed on each of these dates, from 10:30 – 12:00 NOON. Holy water bottles will be available upon request.

TWO MAJOR PATRON SAINT DAYS are to be highlighted as follows:

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT: Monday, January 01st, 10:30 A.M.

SAINT JOHN the BAPTIST- Sunday, January 07th, 10:30 A.M.

Artoklasies are always welcomed in honor or prayers answered.

CHURCH CALENDARS are being posted to each steward of the Parish. Look for yours in the mail. Register with the parish office and you will receive your Greek Orthodox BI-LINGUAL (Greek/English) calendar upon request. **DO IT!**

Our Clergy, Parish Council and all affiliated organizations extend a healthful happy and peaceful NEW YEAR 2024 to each of you! **KALI CHRONIA!**

2024

THREE HIERARCHS
PARISH COUNCIL
HOSTS.....

New Years Eve Party

GOURMET DINING
BUBBLY
OPEN BAR
LIVE DJ

ADULTS: \$100
YOUNG ADULTS UNDER 15 : \$50
COMPLEMENTARY FOR
CHILDREN UNDER 5

SUNDAY

DECEMBER **31** 8:30 PM

Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church
1724 Avenue P, Brooklyn, NY, 11229

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL (718)-339-0280
OR INFO@THREEHIERARCHSCHURCH.ORG



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Sites We Will Visit:

- LARNACA
- LEFKARA
- MONASTERY MACHAIRAS
- TROODOS MOUNTAINS
- KYKKOS MONASTERY
- KALOPANAGIOTIS VILLAGE
- KITI VILLAGE
- LIMASSOL CITY
- MONASTERY OF ST. NICHOLAS OF CATS
- NICOSIA CITY
- MONASTERY OF APOSTLE ANDREW*
- FAMAGUSTA*
- SALAMIS*
- PAPHOS CITY
- EASTERN COAST OF CYPRUS

Led by:

- Bishop Demetrios of Mokissos
- Bishop Gregorios of Mesaoria, Church of Cyprus
- Niko Kounenakis

**LIMITED SPACE! BOOK BY
JANUARY 8, 2024**

*These locations are in
the occupied territories.



For reservations or more information email bishopdemetrios@aol.com



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Τυπώθηκε ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γραμματεῖα τῆς Μονῆς Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23853-23812 - info@yghou.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΖ'
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 744*

Κυριακὴ πρὸ τῶν Φώτων (Μάρκ. 1,1-8)
31 Δεκεμβρίου 2023 (2000)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντζῆς

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο

«Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ» (Μάρκ. 1,1)

Ἡ περίοδος αὐτή, ἀγαπητοί μου, στὴ γλῶσσα τῆς Ἐκκλησίας ὀνομάζεται **Δωδεκαήμερον**. Καὶ σήμερον εἶνε ἡ **Κυριακὴ πρὸ τῶν Φώτων**. Τὶ εὐαγγέλιο διαβάζεται στὶς ἐκκλησίαις; διαβάζεται ἡ περικοπὴ κατὰ Μάρκον 1,1-8.

Ἀπὸ αὐτὴν θὰ σὰς παρακαλέσω νὰ προσέξετε μίαν μόνον λέξι. Εἶνε ἡ λέξις **«εὐαγγέλιον»**. Ἔτσι ἀρχίζει σήμερον ἡ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ· **«Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου...»** (βλ. 1,1). Τί σημαίνει **«εὐαγγέλιον»**; Νὰ τὸ κάνουμε λιανὰ.

«Εὐαγγέλιον»! Εἶνε λέξι ἑλληνικὴ, ποὺ διαδόθηκε παντοῦ σ' ὅλο τὸν κόσμον ἔτσι ἀμετάφραστη. **Τί τιμὴ γιὰ τὴ γλῶσσα μας!** Ἀλλὰ τὴ γλῶσσα αὐτὴ τὰ παιδιὰ τῆς σημερινῆς Ἑλλάδος δὲν τὴ θέλουν. Τὴ διώχνουν ἀπὸ τὰ σχολεῖα καὶ τὰ πανεπιστήμια. Ἐμεῖς ὅμως πρέπει νὰ κρατήσουμε τὴ γλῶσσα τῶν προγόνων μας, τὴ γλῶσσα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου.

Τί σημαίνει «εὐαγγέλιον»; Σημαίνει εἶδησι, **«καλὴ εἶδησι»**, **«εὐχάριστη εἶδησι»**. Μὰ ποιά εἶνε ἡ εὐχάριστη εἶδησι; Δὲν ὑπάρχει ἀνθρώπινη καρδιά ποὺ νὰ μὴν περιμένῃ κάποια εὐχάριστη εἶδησι. Καὶ ἐπειδὴ ὑπάρχει ποικιλία ἐνδιαφερόντων καὶ ψυχολογικῶν καταστάσεων, ποικίλες εἶνε καὶ οἱ εὐχάριστες εἰδήσεις. Ἐγὼ θὰ ὑπενθυμίσω **τρεῖς εὐχάριστες εἰδήσεις**.

• Αὐτὴ τὴν ὥρα ποὺ μιλάμε, μέσα στὶς φυλακὲς ὑπάρχουν **φυλακισμένοι** γιὰ διάφορες αἰτίες. Τί περιμένουν αὐτοὶ ν' ἀκούσουν; Ποιά εἶνε γι' αὐτοὺς ἡ εὐχάριστη εἶδησι; Νὰ δεχτοῦν ἐπισκέψεις; νὰ τοὺς φέρουν ροῦχα, φαγητά;... Τίποτε ἀπ' αὐτά. Γιὰ τοὺς φυλακισμένους ἡ εὐχάριστη εἶδησι, τὸ καλὸ μαντάτο, εἶνε, νὰ παῇ ὁ δεσμοφύλακας καὶ νὰ τοὺς πῇ· **Εἰστε ἐλεύθεροι!** ὁ ἀνώτατος ἀρχοντας ὑπέγραψε διάταγμα χάριτος, καὶ αὐριο φεύγετε!... Φαντάζεστε τὴ χαρὰ τους ἀκούγον-

τας ὅτι ἔληξε ἡ ποινὴ; Γι' αὐτοὺς ἡ εἶδησι ὅτι ἀποφυλακίζονται εἶνε εὐαγγέλιο.

• Θέλετε ἄλλο παράδειγμα; Αὐτὴ τὴν ὥρα στὰ κρεβάτια τῶν νοσοκομείων μας βρίσκονται ἀρρωστοὶ, **βαρεῖα ἀρρωστοὶ**, πληθὸς, ἀνω τῶν χιλίων - δύο χιλιάδων. Ποιοὶ εἶνε καὶ ἀπὸ τί πάσχουν; Πάσχουν ἀπὸ τὴ φοβερὴ **ἀσθένεια τοῦ καρκίνου**, ποὺ εἶνε ἡ μάστιγα τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος. Ποιά εἶνε γι' αὐτοὺς ἡ εὐχάριστη εἶδησι; Ὅτι τοὺς χαρίζεις λεφτά, καταστήματα, αὐτοκίνητα;... Ὅχι. Ἀλλὰ τί; Νὰ δώσῃ ὁ Θεὸς νὰ πῇ μιὰ μέρα τὸ ραδιόφωνο· Προσοχὴ προσοχὴ· σὰς μεταδίδουμε τὴν εἶδησι, ὅτι ἀνακαλύφθηκε τὸ φάρμακο κατὰ τοῦ καρκίνου... Ὡ τί χαρά! Θὰ πεταχτοῦν ἀπὸ τὰ κρεβάτια οἱ καρκινοπαθεῖς. Ἡ εἶδησι αὐτὴ γι' αὐτοὺς λέγεται εὐαγγέλιο.

• Κι ἄλλο ἓνα παράδειγμα. Αὐτὴ τὴν ὥρα ὑπάρχουν **ἄσσοι σκλαβωμένοι**, ποὺ ποδοπατοῦνται ἀπὸ κατακτητὰς. Μάλιστα ἐμᾶς τοὺς Ἕλληνες ἰδιαίτερος μᾶς συγκινεῖ τὸ γεγονός ὅτι ἡ μισὴ Κύπρος στενάζει κάτω ἀπὸ τὸν Ἄττιλα. Γιὰ σκεφτῆτε, τί περιμένουν οἱ Κύπριοι; Περιμένουν ν' ἀκούσουν μιὰ εἶδησι· ὅτι αὐριο οἱ Τοῦρκοι ἀδειάζουν τὸ νησί... Ὡ τί μεγάλη χαρὰ γι' αὐτοὺς καὶ γιὰ μᾶς!

Εὐαγγέλιο λοιπὸν θὰ εἶνε ἡ ἀπελευθέρωσι τῆς Κύπρου, εὐαγγέλιο ἡ ἀνακάλυψι τῆς θεραπείας τοῦ καρκίνου, εὐαγγέλιο ἡ ἀπελευθέρωσι τῶν φυλακισμένων. Θὰ μπορούσαμε νὰ φέρουμε καὶ **πολλὰ ἄλλα παραδείγματα**. Θὰ μπορούσαμε ἀκόμη ν' ἀνατρέξουμε στὴν ἀρχαία ἐποχὴ, νὰ ποῦμε ποιά παρόμοια εὐαγγέλια ἀναφέρονται π.χ. στὸν Ὀμηρὸ καὶ ἄλλους κλασσικοὺς συγγραφεῖς· θὰ μάκραινε ὅμως πολὺ ὁ λόγος.

Ὑπάρχουν καὶ ἄλλα εὐαγγέλια, μὰ ἐκεῖνα εἶνε **ψετο-εὐαγγέλια**. Δὲν θὰ σὰς μιλήσω γι' αὐτά. Ἐγὼ θέλω νὰ σὰς πῶ γιὰ τὸ ἓνα καὶ μο-

ναδικό, τὸ κορυφαῖο εὐαγγέλιο, ποὺ περιέχει τὴν πλεόν εὐχάριστη εἰδησι τοῦ κόσμου.

Ποιά εἶν' αὐτή; Ὡς ἐδῶ μ' ἀκούγατε προσεκτικά· ἀλλ' ἀμφιβάλλω ἂν θὰ μ' ἀκούσετε καὶ στὴ συνέχεια ἔτσι. Ἄχ κόσμε κόσμε, ποὺ συγκινεῖσαι γιὰ μικρὰ καὶ ἀσήμαντα πράγματα, καὶ γιὰ τὰ μεγάλα καὶ ὑψηλὰ μένεις ψυχρὸς!

Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο μὲ τὴν πιὸ εὐχάριστη εἰδησι περιέχει ἓνα μήνυμα, τὸ ὑπὲρ πᾶν μήνυμα. Ποιό εἶνε τὸ μήνυμα; Εἶνε αὐτὸ ποὺ ἀκουσαν οἱ βοσκοὶ τὴν ἀλησμόνητη ἐκείνη νύκτα. Τί ἀκουσαν· «Ἰδοὺ εὐαγγελίζομαι ὑμῖν χαρὰν μεγάλην, ἣτις ἔσται παντὶ τῷ λαῷ, ὅτι ἐτέχθη ὑμῖν σήμερον σωτήρ», ὅτι γεννήθηκε ὁ Σωτήρας τοῦ κόσμου [κα. 2:10].

Ὡ! Τὸ αἰσθάνονται οἱ παπᾶδες, οἱ δεσποτάδες, οἱ μικροί, οἱ μεγάλοι; Τὸ αἰσθάνεστε, ἀδέρφια μου, ἐσεῖς; Πῶς νὰ σὰς μιλήσω, μὲ τί γλῶσσα νὰ συγκινήσω τίς καρδιές σας; Πῶς νὰ σὰς ἐκφράσω τὸ μεγαλεῖο τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου μας;

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο θὰ τὸ αἰσθανθῆς, ἂν πιστέψης ὅτι εἶσαι ἁμαρτωλός. Εἶσαι ἁμαρτωλός! Καθένας ἔχει τὸν ἐγωισμό τοῦ καὶ φρονεῖ, ὅτι εἶνε ὁ καλύτερος ἄνθρωπος. Δὲν εἶνε ἔτσι τὰ πράγματα. Ἐὰν πάρης κόσκινο καὶ κοσκίνισης τὸν ἑαυτὸ σου, τίς σκέψεις σου, τὰ λόγια σου, τίς πράξεις σου, θὰ δῆς, ὅτι πολλὴ βρωμιὰ καὶ πολλὴ παλιανθρωπιὰ καὶ πολλὴ ἀκολασία ὑπάρχει μέσα σου. Ἄλλοι φαινόμαστε, καὶ ἄλλοι εἴμαστε. Τὰ βάθη τῆς καρδιᾶς μας εἶνε διεφθαρμένα. Εἴμαστε ἁμαρτωλοί. Ποιὸς θὰ τολμήσῃ νὰ πῇ, ὅτι δὲν εἶνε ἁμαρτωλός; Ὁποῖος τὸ πῇ, ἀγνοεῖ τὸν ἑαυτὸ του.

Καὶ πῶς μοιάζει ὁ ἁμαρτωλός; Εἶνε σὰν τὸ σκλάβο, σὰν τὸ φυλακισμένο ποὺ ὑποφέρει μέσα στὴ φυλακὴ τῶν παθῶν καὶ τῆς κακίας του, σὰν τὸν ἄρρωστο ποὺ πάσχει ἀπὸ τὴν πιὸ φοβερὴ ἀσθένεια τοῦ κόσμου, τὴν ἁμαρτία. Ὡ ἡ ἁμαρτία, ὦ οἱ ἁμαρτίες μας! Αὐτὲς δημιουργοῦν τὸ ἄγχος μέσα στὶς καρδιές μας.

Ποιὸς θὰ μᾶς σώσῃ ἀπὸ τὴν ἁμαρτία; Μόνον ὁ Χριστός. Αὐτὸς εἶνε ποὺ θραύει, σπάει, τίς σιδερένιες πύλες τῶν φυλακῶν τῶν παθῶν μας. Αὐτὸς μᾶς λυτρώνει, αὐτὸς εἶνε ἡ δόξα μας.

Τί θὰ ἦταν, ἀδέρφια μου, ὁ κόσμος χωρὶς Χριστό; Ὡ συμφορά! Μπορεῖς νὰ ζήσης χωρὶς λεφτά, χωρὶς παιδιά, χωρὶς γυναῖκα, χωρὶς γλῶσσα, ἀκόμη καὶ χωρὶς πατρίδα· τετρακόσα - πεντακόσα χρόνια ἦταν σκλαβωμένος ὁ τόπος μας, καὶ ἔζησε, γιατί πίστευε στὸ Χριστό. Χωρὶς Θεὸ ὅμως, χωρὶς Χριστό, δὲν μπορεῖς νὰ ζήσης, ὅπως δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ ζήσῃ ὁ κόσμος χωρὶς ἥλιο. Προτιμότερο νὰ σβήσῃ ὁ

ἥλιος καὶ τὰ ἀστρα τοῦ οὐρανοῦ, παρὰ νὰ σβήσῃ μέσα στὴν καρδιά μας ὁ Χριστός.

Εὐαγγέλιο! Τὸ βιβλίο αὐτὸ τὸ ἅγιο καὶ ἱερό, ποὺ εἶνε ὁ βασιλεὺς τῶν βιβλίων, αὐτὸ σὰς συνιστῶ, μὲ τὴν ἐναρξὶ τοῦ ἔτους, ν' ἀρχίσετε νὰ διαβάζετε. Δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλο βιβλίο ἀνώτερο. Δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλο βιβλίο ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ σώσῃ τὸν κόσμο.

Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο παίρνει τὸν ἀπελπισμένο καὶ τοῦ δίνει ἐλπίδα. Ὑπῆρχαν ἄνθρωποι ποὺ ἦταν ἔτοιμοι ν' αὐτοκτονήσουν, καὶ δὲν τὸ ἔκαναν· τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοὺς σταμάτησε. Ἐζησαν, καὶ εἶπαν· Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο κάνει καὶ τὸν πιὸ ἀπελπισμένο νὰ θέλῃ νὰ ζήσῃ. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο παίρνει τὸν ἄγριο καὶ τὸν κάνει ἡμερο καὶ ἄκακο, δημιουργεῖ πραγματικὸ πολιτισμό. Ἄγριοι, ποὺ τρῶνε τοὺς ἀνθρώπους σὰν τὰ λάχανα, ἀπὸ τὴν ὥρα ποὺ θὰ πιάσουν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἀλλάζουν. Τεράστια μεταβολή. Κανένα βιβλίο δὲν ἔφερε τέτοια ἐπανάστασι στὸν κόσμο. Κάποιος Γάλλος, ἄπιστος καὶ διεφθαρμένος, ἔφτασε κάτω στὴν Ἀφρική. Ἐξω ἀπὸ μὴ καλύβα εἶδε ἓνα ἄγριο νὰ διαβάξῃ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ τὸν εἰρωνεύτηκε.

—Μπα! Ἐμεῖς στὴ Γαλλία, λέει, αὐτὸ τὸ βιβλίο τὸ θεωροῦμε παλιὸ πλεόν.

Καὶ τί τοῦ ἀπῆντησε ὁ ἄγριος;

—Δὲν ξέρω τί ἰδέα ἔχετε στὴ Γαλλία γιὰ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ἐγὼ ἓνα σοῦ λέω· ὅτι, ἐὰν δὲν πίστευα στὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ δὲν τὸ διάβαζα, αὐτὴ τὴν ὥρα θὰ σὲ σκότωνα καὶ θὰ σὲ ἔτρωγα. Διότι ἤμουν ἀνθρωποφάγος.

Ὡ Εὐαγγέλιο, λείπεις ἀπὸ τὴ ζωὴ μας!

Μόνον στὰ δικαστήρια μένει τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο, γιὰ νὰ τὸ παλαμίζουν καὶ νὰ ὀρκίζονται. Ἀλλ' ὅχι! Ὁ ἄγωνισθοῦμε, μαζί μὲ τ' ἄλλα, καὶ γιὰ νὰ καταργηθῇ ὁ ὄρκος στὰ δικαστήρια. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο δὲν ἔχει θέσι ἐκεῖ γιὰ νὰ ὀρκίζονται. Τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο ἔχει θέσι καὶ στὰ δικαστήρια καὶ στὰ σχολεῖα καὶ στοὺς στρατώνες καὶ στὰ σπίτια μας καὶ παντοῦ, γιὰ νὰ τὸ τηροῦμε.

Γι' αὐτὸ συνιστῶ· ὅλοι, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, καὶ ἰδίως οἱ οἰκογενειάρχες, νὰ πάρете στὰ χέρια σας τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Χωρὶς ψωμὶ νὰ περνᾷ μέρα, χωρὶς φαγητὸ νὰ περνᾷ μέρα· χωρὶς Εὐαγγέλιο νὰ μὴν περνᾷ μέρα.

Διαβάστε τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο. Ἐνα μῆνα ἂν τὸ διαβάσετε, θὰ δῆτε ἀλλαγὴ στὸν ἑαυτὸ σας· καὶ θὰ δοξάζετε τὸ Χριστό. Διότι δὲν δόθηκε στὸν ἄνθρωπο ὠραιότερο, τιμιώτερο, ὑψηλότερο, σπουδαιότερο δῶρο ἀπὸ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

(†) 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.

Celebrate and Be Glad

Let us strive to comprehend the mystery. The reason God is in the flesh is to kill the death that lurks there. As diseases are cured by medicines and assimilated by the body, and as darkness in a house is dispelled by the coming of light, so death, which held sway over human nature, is done away with by the coming of God. And as ice formed on water covers its surface as long as night and darkness last but melts under the warmth of the sun, so death reigned until the coming of Christ; but when the grace of God our Savior appeared and the Sun of Justice rose, death was swallowed up in victory, unable to bear the presence of true life. How great is God's goodness, how deep his love for us!

Let us join the shepherds in giving glory to God, let us dance with the angels and sing: Today a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us, not as God, which would have been terrifying for our weakness, but as a slave so as to free those who live in slavery. Who could be so lacking in sensibility and so ungrateful as not to join all here present in our gladness, exultation, and radiant joy? This feast belongs to the whole of creation. Let everyone join in and be grateful. Let our voices too ring out in songs of jubilation!

St. Basil the Great

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com

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](#))

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