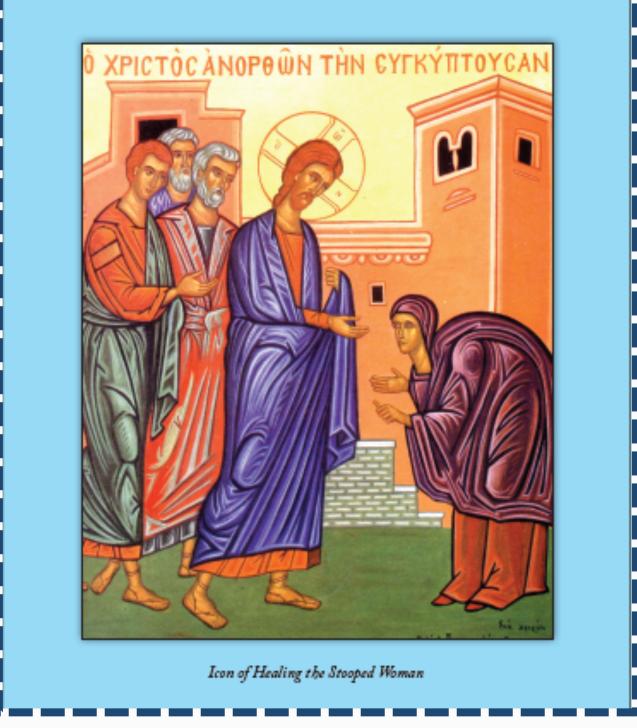


Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN December10th, 2023 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

Tenth Sunday of Luke



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Prokeimenon. Mode 2 Psalm 117.14,18 The Lord is my strength and my song. Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-17

Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

> **Προκείμενον. Ήχος β΄ ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18** Ίσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος. Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

> Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 6:10-17 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Άδελφοί, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ, καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ. Ἐνδύσασθε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, πρὸς τὸ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς στῆναι πρὸς τὰς μεθοδείας τοῦ διαβόλου. Ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἶμα καὶ σάρκα, ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις. Διὰ τοῦτο ἀναλάβετε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα δυνηθῆτε ἀντιστῆναι ἐν τῆ ἡμέρα τῆ πονηρᾶ, καὶ ἅπαντα κατεργασάμενοι στῆναι. Στῆτε οὖν περιζωσάμενοι τὴν ὀσφὺν ὑμῶν ἐν ἀληθεία, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν θώρακα τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ ὑποδησάμενοι τοὺς πόδας ἐν ἑτοιμασία τοῦ εἰαγγελίου τῆς εἰρήνης· ἐπὶ πᾶσιν ἀναλαβόντες τὸν θυρεὸν τῆς πίστεως, ἐν ῷ δυνήσεσθε πάντα τὰ βέλη τοῦ πονηροῦ τὰ πεπυρωμένα σβέσαι. Καὶ τὴν περικεφαλαίαν τοῦ σωτηρίου δέξασθαι, καὶ τὴν μάχαιραν τοῦ πνεύματος, ὅ ἐστιν ῥῆμα θεοῦ·

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 13:10-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα

The Gospel According to Luke 13:10-17

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ^{*}Ην δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιῷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ 'Ιησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῆ· yύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῆ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῷ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ 'Ιησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἶς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῆ ἡμέρα τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῷ củτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγών ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα 'Αβραὰμ οὖσαν, ῆν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῃ ἡμέρα τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ πῶς ὁ ἄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.



TODAY: Coffee Fellowship Hour is being hosed by the family of + ANASTASIA TSIMENIS. Please join us in WHITEHALL for refreshments. ETERNAL BE HER MEMORY!

By anticipation the ARTOKLASIA in honor of Saint Eleutherios is being offered TODAY by the FAMILY of ELEFTHERIA XENAKIS on her Patronal Feast Day. Chronia Polla to all!

TODAY: 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 10th. Please come.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS for the two year term 2024 and 2025 will be conducted today 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?

SENIOR CLUB will hold their 'CHRISTMAS DINNER' on Wednesday, December 20th, at 1:00 P.M. in WHITEHALL. guests may make a fee-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.

'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 <u>YOURS</u>----!

UP-COMING SPECIAL EVENTS: Monday, December 11th A.H.E.P.A Christmas Dinner Perry's Restaurant 7:00 P.M. Wednesday December 13th, SAINT EUGENE LITURGY 10:00 A.M. Artoklasia and SENIOR CLUB 'WINE and Cheese party Wednesday December 13th, 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. CHRISTMAS LITURGY SCHEDULE: Sunday morning: December 24th, 10:30 A.M.

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

MEMORIALS TODAY	+ ANASTASIA TSIMENIS	
MEMORIAL NEXT WEEK:	+ VASILIOS AGORITSAS	+ DIMITROS GREGORIADIS
	+ ELENI KOUTSOUFLAKIS	+ LEONIDAS PAPPAS
	Eternal be the memory of the faithfully departed!	



Three Hierarchs Ladies Philoptochos

Cordially invites you to our

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 14, 2023

6:30 PM

Perry's Restaurant

3482 Nostrand Avenue

\$45.00 per person

RSVP: Mary Plessias 718 232-1177

All are welcome!

Join us for our annual holiday celebration. Bring your spouse, friend or significant other for an evening of food and fun!



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

Έκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεία Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἀγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης – 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 -imaaflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ΄ - Έτος ΚΓ΄ Φλώρινα - ἁριθμ. φύλλου 1307² Κυριακὴ Ι' (Λουκ. 13,10-17) 10 Δεκεμβρίου 2023 (2006) Συντάκτης (†) ἑπίσκοπος Αύγουστῖνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Θέλουμε ἀνόρθωσι

ΥΕ να, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἕνα ἀπὸ τὰ θαύματα ποὺ ἕκανε, κάνει καὶ θὰ κάνῃ μέχρι συντελείας τῶν αἰώνων εἰς πεῖσμα τῶν δαιμόνων ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός, μᾶς διηγεῖται σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Ποιό τὸ θαῦμα;

Μιὰ γυναίκα ἦταν ἄρρωστη. Τί ἀρρώστια είχε: Πολλές είνε οί άρρώστιες δέν ύπάρχει δργανο τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου σώματος ποὺ νὰ μὴν τὸ προσβάλλῃ ἡ ἀσθένεια. Κι ὅσο αὐξάνουν τὰ φάρμακα καὶ οἱ γιατροί, τόσο αὐξάνουν οί ασθένειες. Και ύπαρχουν ασθένειες ποὺ ὀφείλονται σὲ φυσικὰ αἶτια, καὶ ἀσθένειες πού -μήν παραξενευθή κανείς- όφείλονται σὲ ἄλλα μυστηριώδη αἶτια καὶ ματαίως ἡ έπιστήμη προσπαθεῖ νὰ τὰ ἐξιχνιάσῃ. ἕνας λ.χ. αἰσθάνεται, ὅτι σωματικῶς καταιτέει. Πάει στὸ γιατρό, μπαίνει στὰ νοσοκομεῖα, ὑποβάλλεται σὲ γενικὲς ἐξετάσεις, καὶ τέλος ὁ γιατρὸς τοῦ λέει* –Παιδί μου, ἰατρικῶς δὲν ἔχεις τίποτε' σωματικῶς δὲν εἶσαι ἄρρωστος. –Μά, γιατρέ, δὲν εἶμαι καλά... Κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος καταρρέει, λειώνει σάν τὸ κερί, στὸ τέλος πεθαίνει, καὶ ἡ ἰατρικὴ ἐπιστήμη μένει σὲ ἀπορία. Τί ἆραγε νὰ συμβαίνη: "Α! ὁ ἄνθρωπος δὲν εἶνε μόνο κορμί. "Αν ὁ γιατρὸς τὸν βλέπη μόνο ἔτσι, τότε σὲ τί διαφέρει ἀπὸ τὸν κτηνίατρο ποὺ ἐξετάζει ἕνα ζῶο; Καὶ δυστυχῶς ώρισμένοι γιατροί μοιάζουν σάν κτηνίατροι* άγνοοῦν ὅτι πέρα ἀπὸ τὸ σῶμα ὑπάρχει κάτι άλλο μυστηριῶδες, ἡ ψυχή. Συνεπῶς ὑπάρχουν ἀσθένειες ποὺ ὀφείλονται ὄχι σὲ σωματικά άλλά σε ψυχικά αίτια.

Τέτοια ἀσθένεια ἦταν αὐτὴ ἀπὸ τὴν ὁποία ἕπασχε ἡ γυναίκα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου. Λέει σαφῶς τὸ εὐαγγέλιο καὶ κανείς δὲν μπορεῖ νὰ τὸ ἀρνηθῇ, ὅτι γι' αὐτὴν ἕκανε διάγνωσι ὅχι κάποιος τυχαῖος γιατρός, ἀλλὰ ὁ Ἰατρὸς μὲ γιῶτα κεφαλαῖο, ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστός. Αὐτὸς λέει, ὅτι ἡ ἀσθένειά της ἀφείλετο ὅχι σὲ φυσικὰ ἀλλὰ σὲ μυστηριώδη αἶτια, ὅτι ὁ σατανᾶς, ναὶ ὁ σατανᾶς, «ἔδησε» τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτή (λωκ.13,16), ὅτι κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπίδρασι τοῦ πονηροῦ πνεύματος ἀσθένησε. Κι ὅπως παίρνεις μιὰ βέργα καὶ τὴ λυγίζεις καὶ τὴν κάνεις στεφάνι, κατὰ παρόμοιο τρόπο ὁ

«Καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη» (Λουκ. 13,13)

σατανᾶς πῆρε τὴ γυναῖκα αὐτὴ καὶ τῆς λύγισε τὴ σπονδυλικὴ στήλη' καὶ ἐνῷ προηγουμένως ἦταν ὄρθια, στὸ ἑξῆς κάμφθηκε, τὸ κεφάλι της ἔφτανε στὴ γῆ, κι ἀπὸ μακριὰ φαινόταν σὰν ἕνα κτῆνος ποὺ περπατάει μὲ τὰ τέσσερα.

Γυναίκα δυστυχισμένη. Άλλὰ καὶ εὐλογημένη. Γιατί; Διότι σὰν τέτοια ποὺ ἦταν, σακάτισσα καὶ καμπουριασμένη, δὲν θά 'πρεπε νὰ βγαίνῃ ἔξω. Ἀνάπηρα πλάσματα γίνονται συχνὰ ἀντικείμενο χλεύης κακοαναθρεμμένων παιδιῶν. Καὶ ὅμως αὐτὴ ἔβγαινε ἀπὸ τὸ σπίτι της μιὰ φορὰ τὴν ἑβδομάδα. Πότε; Τὸ Σάββατο' διότι τὸ Σάββατο ἔχουν οἱ Ἑβραῖοι ὡς ἡμέρα ἀργίας. Πήγαινε μπουσουλώντας στὴ συναγωγή, κ' ἐκεῖ εἶχε τὸ αὐτί της τεντωμένο ν' ἀκούῃ τὰ ἱερὰ λόγια.

Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτὴ ἄκουσε ἐκεῖ – ποιόν; Τὸ Χριστό. Καὶ ὁ Χριστός, ποὺ εἶνε γεμᾶτος εὐσπλαχνία, ὠκεανὸς ἀγάπης καὶ ἐλέους, ἔστρεψε τὴν προσοχή του σ' αὐτὴν τὴ σακάτισσα' ἦρθε γιὰ νὰ βραβεύσῃ τὴν προθυμία της.

Υπάρχουν καὶ σήμερα ἀνάπηροι ποὺ ἐκκλησιάζονται, ἐνῷ ἄλλοι ὑγιεῖς δὲν πατοῦν στὴν ἐκκλησία. "Όταν πηγαίνω στὴν Πτολεμαίδα συγκινοῦμαι, διότι σὲ μιὰ ἐκκλησία βλέπω τὴν Κυριακὴ νὰ ἔρχεται πρῶτος-πρῶτος ἕνας ἀνάπηρος τοῦ πολέμου σὲ καροτσάκι, μὲ σακατεμένα τὰ δυό του πόδια ἀπὸ τὸ ἀλβανικὸ μέτωπο. Μὰ τί βρίσκει; θὰ ποῦν μερικοί. Ἐμένα ρωτᾶτε, ἅπιστοι; ῥωτῆστε τὸν ἶδιο. Ξέρετε τί μοῦ εἶπε ὁ ἀνάπηρος αὐτός; «Ἄν δὲν ἐρχόμουν στὴν ἐκκλησία, θ' αὐτοκτονοῦσα' μόνη παρηγοριά μου ἕμεινε ἡ Ἐκκλησία τοῦ Χριστοῦ μας». Ὅπως λοιπὸν ὁ ἀνάπηρος τῆς Πτολεμαίδος, ἕτσι καὶ ἡ γυναίκα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου καὶ ἄλλοι ἀκόμα ἀνάπηροι αἰσθάνονται τὴν ἀνάγκη τοῦ ἐκκλησιασμοῦ. Αὐτοὶ ἀποτελοῦν ἕλεγχο γιὰ σένα, ποὺ ἔχεις πόδια ἀλλὰ τὰ πόδια τά 'χεις γιὰ διασκεδάσεις καὶ ὅχι γιὰ νὰ τρέχης ἐκεῖ ποὺ σὲ καλεῖ ὁ Θεός.

Πηγαίνει λοιπὸν ἡ σακατεμένη αὐτὴ γυναίκα στὴν ἱερὰ σύναξι καὶ ὡς βραβεῖο τῆς προθυμίας παίρνει – τί; Ὁ Χριστὸς τῆς λέει[•] «Γύvaι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου» (ἐἰ Ἱλιῦ ἀπ' τὴ στιγμὴ αὐτὴ εἶσαι πλέον ἐλεύθερη[•] δὲν θὰ περπατặς καμπουριασμένη, δὲν θὰ εἶσαι ἀντικείμενο περιφρονήσεως[•] θὰ εἶσαι ὑγιὴς καὶ ἀξιοπρεπής. Καὶ ξαφνικά, σὰν νὰ πέρασε ἡλεκτρισμὸς τὰ κόκκαλά της, ἡ γυναίκα ἔγινε καλά. Ἀμέσως ἡ σπονδυλική της στήλη ἀνωρθώθηκε, τὸ κεφάλι σηκώθηκε ψηλά. Ὅλος ὁ λαός, ποὺ εἶδε τὸ θαῦμα, εἰς πεῖσμα τῶν φαρισαίων καὶ τῶν δαιμόνων, δόξαζε τὸ Θεό.

Αὐτὸ εἶνε, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο μὲ λίγα λόγια. Προτοῦ νὰ τελειώσω θέλω νὰ πῶ, ὅτι αὐτὴ ἡ «συγκύπτουσα»(ἐἰ ۱3,11) –ἔτσι λέγεται στὴν ἑλληνικὴ γλῶσσα ἡ καμπουριασμένη, ἡ ῥαχιτική– εἶνε ἡ φωτογραφία μας. Μπᾶ, θὰ πῆτε ἀπὸ μᾶς, δόξα τῷ Θεῷ, κανένας δὲν εἶνε καμπούρης, σακάτης ὅλοι στεκόμαστε ὅρθιοι, ἡ σπονδυλική μας στήλη εἶνε καλά. Ἐνῷ ὅμως σωματικῶς δὲν εἴμαστε ἀνάπηροι, ψυχικῶς εἴμαστε καὶ ὡς ἅτομα καὶ ὡς οἰκογένειες καὶ ὡς κοινωνία. Ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα εἶνε συγκύπτουσα.

'Ο ἄνθρωπος, παρ' ὅλες τὶς φλυαρίες ἀθέων καὶ ἀπίστων, ποὺ διασπείρουν ὅτι κατάγεται άπὸ τὸν πίθηκο, εἶνε γεγονὸς ὅτι διαφέρει ἀπὸ τὸ ζῶο. Ἀπόδειξις, τὰ κτήνη περπατοῦν μὲ τὰ τέσσερα, ἐνῷ ὁ ἄνθρωπος βαδίζει μὲ τὰ δύο καὶ λέγεται ὀρθοβάμων. Γιατί; Ό Θεὸς τὸν ἔπλασε ἔτσι, γιὰ νὰ βλέπη τὸν οὐρανό, νὰ βλέπῃ τὰ ὑψηλὰ καὶ τὰ μεγάλα. Άνοῖξτε ἕνα λεξικὸ τῆς ἀρχαίας ἑλληνικῆς γλώσσης νὰ δῆτε, ὅτι ἡ λέξι *ἄνθρωπο*ς σημαίνει τὸ ὃν ἐκεῖνο ποὺ ἄνω θρώσκει, βλέπει πρὸς τὰ ἄνω, πρὸς τὸν οὐρανό. Τρία πράγματα εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος* μυαλό, καρδιά, θέλησις. Πόσο διαφέρει τὸ μυαλὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀπὸ τὸ μυαλὸ τοῦ ζώου, ἡ καρδιὰ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀπ' τὴν καρδιὰ τοῦ ζώου, ἡ θέλησις - ἡ βούλησις τοῦ άνθρώπου άπὸ τὰ ἔνστικτα τοῦ ζώου! Στὸν ἄνθρωπο ὁ νοῦς πρέπει νὰ σκέπτεται τὰ μεγάλα καὶ ὑψηλά, ἡ καρδιὰ νὰ συγκινῆται ἀπὸ τὰ εύγενῆ καὶ ἱερά, ἡ βούλησις καὶ ἡ ἐνέργειά του νὰ κινῆται πρὸς τὰ δίκαια καὶ ἀληθινά.

Ἐρωτῶ[•] συμβαίνει αὐτό; Αὐτὰ σκέπτεται, aὐτὰ aἰσθάνεται, aὐτὰ τηρεῖ ὁ ἄνθρωπος; Κάθε ἄλλο. Έφ' ὄσον λοιπὸν ἀπέχει ἀπὸ αὐτά, ἀξίζει νὰ λέγεται ἄνθρωπος; Πῶς νὰ σὲ ὀνομάσω ἄνθρωπο, λέει ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος (Α ΡΔ57,88,κἐ), ὅταν ἀρπάζῃς σὰν τὸ λύκο, εἶσαι πονηρὸς σὰν τὴν ἀλεποῦ, εἶσαι ἐπιθετικὸς σὰν τὴ λεοπάρδαλι, κεντᾶς σὰν τὸ σκορπιό, ἐκδικῆσαι σὰν τὴν καμήλα, εἶσαι λαίμαργος σὰν τὸ χοῖρο;... Καὶ ἕνας νεώτερος ἰατροφιλόσοφος, ὁ Καρρέλ, λέει ὅτι, ἐὰν πρὸς στιγμὴν οἰ ἄνθρωποι ἕπαιρναν ἐξωτερικῶς τὴ μορφὴ ποὺ τοὺς ἁρμόζει, τότε ἐλάχιστοι θὰ ἕμεναν ἄνθρωποι. Ὅπως ἡ μυθικὴ Κίρκη μετέβαλε τοὺς συνοδοὺς τοῦ Ὁδυσσέως σὲ τετράποδα, κατὰ παρόμοιο τρόπο καὶ ἡ ἁμαρτία μεταβάλλει τοὺς ἀνθρώπους **σὲ κτήνη, σὲ ζῷα**.

Δέν μᾶς ἀρμόζει τὸ σχῆμα τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Γι' αὐτὸ θρηνώντας ὁ προφήτης Δαυἳδ λέει* «Ἄνθρωπος ἐν τιμῆ ὢν οὐ συνῆκε, παρασυνεβλήθη τοῖς κτήνεσι τοῖς ἀνοήτοις καὶ ὡμοιώθη αὐτοῖς» (Ψιλμ 48,1321). Νά γιατί ἡ συγκύπτουσα εἰκονίζει τὴν ἀνθρωπότητα. Καυχώμαστε, δτι ἀγγίξαμε τὰ ἄστρα. Ψυχικῶς ὅμως; "Ένα γεγονὸς ἀρκεῖ νὰ δείξῃ ποιά εἶνε ἡ κατάστασι. Όταν ἕγινε ὁ δεύτερος παγκόσμιος πόλεμος, οί μεγάλες δυνάμεις ἕλεγαν στὰ μικρὰ ἕθνη, ὅτι ὁ πόλεμος γίνεται γιὰ τὴ λευτεριά, τὴ δικαιοσύνη, τὴν ἀλήθεια τὸ δίκαιο. Ψέματα ἔλεγαν, ὅπως ὁ σημερινὸς ἀρχισυνάγωγος ὅταν ἕλεγε ὅτι ἐνδιαφέρεται γιὰ τὴ θρησκεία. Ή ἀλήθεια εἶνε, ὅτι ὁ πόλεμος, ἔγινε γιὰ τὰ πετρέλαια τῆς Μοσούλης καὶ τὰ κάρβουνα τοῦ Ῥήνου, δηλαδὴ ἀπὸ τὴν πλεονεξία.

Η ἀνθρωπότητα, πεσμένη στὰ πάθη, θέλει νὰ σηκωθῆ, ὅπως ἡ συγκύπτουσα ποὺ ἐπιθυμοῦσε νὰ ὑψώσῃ τὸ κεφάλι της. Ἀνόρθωσι ζητάει ὁ κόσμος. Ποιός θὰ τὸν σηκώσῃ; Οἱ κοσμοδιορθωταί, ποὺ προβάλλουν κατὰ καιροὺς δικά τους «εὐαγγέλια», ἐξαπατοῦν. Μία εἶνε ἡ ὁδός, δὲν ὑπάρχει ἄλλη' εἶνε ἡ στενὴ καὶ τεθλιμμένη ἀλλὰ νικηφόρος ὁδὸς μὲ τὴν πινακίδα «ὁδὸς Γολγοθā». Εἶνε ἡ ὁδὸς ποὺ βάδισε ὁ Χριστός, καὶ μᾶς καλεῖ νὰ τὴ βαδίσουμε κ' ἐμεῖς. Ὁ Ἐσταυρωμένος, ὁ ὁποῖος ἀνώρθωσε τὴ γυναῖκα τοῦ σημερινοῦ εὐαγγελίου, μπορεῖ ν' ἀνορθώσῃ καὶ τὴ δική μας γενεά.

Τὸ εἴπαμε καὶ τὸ ἐπαναλαμβάνουμε. Κάτω ἀπὸ τὰ ἄστρα δὲν ὑπάρχει, ναὶ δὲν ὑπάρχει, ἄλλο ὄνομα ποὺ μπορεῖ νὰ μᾶς σώσῃ, ἐκτὸς ἀπὸ τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ μόνου Σωτῆρος, τοῦ μόνου Ἰατροῦ, **τοῦ μόνου Ἀνορθωτοῦ**, τοῦ μόνου Λυτρωτοῦ τῆς ἀνθρωπότητος, τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ^{*} «ὄν, παῖδες Ἑλλήνων, ὑμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς alῶvaς».

(†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστῖνος

Χπομαγνητοφωνημένη όμιλία, που Έγινε στόν Ι. ναό Χγ. Παντελεξμονος Φλωρίνης την 7-12-1975 με δλλο τίτλο. Καταγραφή και σύντμησης 18-13-2006, έπαν έκδοσης 6-11-2022.

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.

Satan and Sin Now there was in the synagogue a woman who for eighteen years was bowed down by infirmity. And her case may prove of no little benefit to those who have understanding; for we must gather what is to our advantage from every quarter:----since by what happened to her we may see that Satan often receives authority over certain persons, such, namely, as fall into sin, and have grown lax in their efforts after piety. Whomsoever therefore he gets into his power, he involves, it may be, in bodily diseases, since he delights in punishment and is merciless. And the opportunity for this the all-seeing God most wisely grants him, that being sore vexed by the burden of their misery, men may sot themselves upon changing to a better course. ...

For the accursed Satan is the cause of disease to the bodies of men, inasmuch as Adam's trans-

gression was, we affirm, his doing, and by means of it our human frames have become liable to infirmity and decay. But when this was the state of men. God, Who by His very nature is good, did not abandon us when suffering under the punishment of a protracted and incurable malady, but freed us from our bonds, revealing as the glorious remedy for the sufferings of mankind His own presence and manifestation in the world. For He came to fashion our state again to what it was originally: for "God, as it is written, made not death: neither has He pleasure in the destruction of the living. For He created all things that they might have their being; and healthful were the generations of the world; and there is in them no poison of destruction,""but by the envy of the devil death entered into the world."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast <u>MATTERS OF</u> <u>CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 25th YEAR OF BROADCASTING LIVE ON WNYE 91.5 COSMOS FM</u>, 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 (<u>Click</u> <u>live radio</u>)

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