

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN January 14^h, 2024
 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

LEAVE-TAKING OF THEOPHANY



Icon of the Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril -- January 18th

Prokeimenon. Mode 1

Psalms 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 4:7-13

BRETHREN, grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men." (in saying, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is he who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους 4:7-13 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνὶ ἐκάστῳ ἡμῶν ἐδόθη ἡ χάρις κατὰ τὸ μέτρον τῆς δωρεᾶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ λέγει, Ἀναβὰς εἰς ὕψος ἠχμαλώτευσεν αἰχμαλωσίαν, καὶ ἔδωκεν δόματα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις. Τὸ δέ, Ἀνέβη, τί ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ ὅτι καὶ κατέβη πρῶτον εἰς τὰ κατώτερα μέρη τῆς γῆς; Ὁ καταβάς, αὐτός ἐστιν καὶ ὁ ἀναβάς ὑπεράνω πάντων τῶν οὐρανῶν, ἵνα πληρώσῃ τὰ πάντα. Καὶ αὐτὸς ἔδωκεν τοὺς μὲν ἀποστόλους, τοὺς δὲ προφῆτας, τοὺς δὲ εὐαγγελιστάς, τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους, πρὸς τὸν καταρτισμὸν τῶν ἁγίων, εἰς ἔργον διακονίας, εἰς οἰκοδομὴν τοῦ σώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ· μέχρι καταστήσωμεν οἱ πάντες εἰς τὴν ἐνότητα τῆς πίστεως καὶ τῆς ἐπιγνώσεως τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ, εἰς ἄνδρα τέλειον, εἰς μέτρον ἡλικίας τοῦ πληρώματος τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

The Gospel According to Matthew 4:12-17

At that time, when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀκούσας δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Ἰωάννης παρεδόθη, ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν, καὶ καταλιπὼν τὴν Ναζαρέτ ἐλθὼν κατώκησεν εἰς Καπερναοὺμ τὴν παραθαλασσίαν ἐν ὁρίοις Ζαβουλὼν καὶ Νεφθαλείμ, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ρηθὲν διὰ Ἡσαΐου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· γῆ Ζαβουλὼν καὶ γῆ Νεφθαλείμ, ὁδὸν θαλάσσης, πέραν τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, Γαλιλαία τῶν ἐθνῶν, ὁ λαὸς ὁ καθήμενος ἐν σκότεινῳ φῶς μέγα, καὶ τοῖς καθημένοις ἐν χώρα καὶ σκιᾷ θανάτου φῶς ἀνέτειλεν αὐτοῖς. Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν· μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν.

Ladies Philoptochos Society: BASIOPITA LUNCHEON for the cause and support of Saint Basil Academy will be hosted TODAY in WHITEHALL after the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in outreach to youths in need.

TOMORROW: On National observance of Dr. Martin Luther King (JANUARY 15th), the school and church office will be closed. Please take note of the Scheduling.

SENIOR CLUB RESUMES this Wednesday January 17th, will remember in loving tribute one of their lifelong members, supporters and advocates + Archon Depoutatos Basilios (BILL) THEODOSAKIS. The immediate family is hosting a luncheon of nostalgia at this week's meeting. Please join us in ROSEHALL in prayer, fellowship and a 'makaria of agape'. Thank you Theodosakis Family one and all.

New Year's Eve Reveillion SUCCESS: 30 tables were filled with revelers ushering in the New Year 2024. Food, drink dancing, music, and frivolity were the call for an evening of family fellowship of young and old alike. Many thanks to our Clergy and Parish Council for a superb effort and heralding hope for the NEW YEAR! Mark your calendar from NOW for the spectacular 2025!

Scouting Programs are in full review. All youngsters male and female are invited to enroll at any time in our CUB SCOUT, BOY SCOUT, and GIRL SCOUT programs that meet every Friday evening from 7:00-9:00 P.M. in Whitehall, Rosehall and the GYM! This is an opportunity for mental physical, spiritual and moral health building. We are indeed proud of our TROOPS! Congratulations to our leaders and chaperones.

T.H.Y. Our TEEN CLUB meets on Friday evenings from 9:00-11:00P.M for activities, fellowship, games and friendships. All teens (13 through 18) are invited to join on any Friday evening. Just show up, and we'll do the rest!

HOLY WATER (AGIASMOS) from the sacred high holy days of the Epiphany (Theophania) are available upon request from the clergy. Every home should have a bottle of holy in the shrine, and in the glove compartment of every car! Homes, businesses, and social areas may be blessed by the clergy upon request and specific date/time. Please call the Church Office if you are interested in the visitation blessing. OFFICE: 718-339-0280. SPEAK WITH EFFIE (office secretary)

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE MEETING of the Demetra Chapter #33 on Monday evening January 22nd, at 6:30 P.M. in Whitehall. New member initiations will be observed. Congratulations.

Philoptochos Ladies will convene their monthly session on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24th , at 3:30 P.M. in the afternoon in ROSEHALL. Preparations for the THREE HIERARCHS FEAST DAY (Vesper and Divine Liturgy – Monday – Tuesday January 29th and 30th), will be finalized. As every year we depend upon the PHILOPTOCHOS to make us proud with the public receptions for the Patronal Observance. THANK YOU DEAR LADIES ALL!

DIPLATANOS SOCIETY will have their 'agiasmos' and 'oath of office' ceremonies on Sunday, January 21st, with Father Eugene as the celebrant. KALI CHRONIA!

PRAYER/HEALING SERVICE: Wednesday – January 24th 6:00 P.M. Witnessing, healing, scripture, homily, anointing Always ending with fellowship refreshment 8.PM.

MEMORIALS TODAY:

+ IRENE VALLONE (former Parochial School Secretary and devoted member of our faith community.)
+ ANNE & JAMES LEE

Sunday January 21st:

+ NIKITAS SIGELAKIS + ANDREAS MANICKAS + VIRGINIA DIMOULAS
+ GEORGE ZERVAKOS +EVELYN ZERVAKOS

Eternal Be The Souls Of The Faithfully Departed.

SAVE THE DATE !

FEBRUARY 10th, 2024

THY'S VALENTINES DAY DANCE

OPEN TO ALL GOYANS 12-18

\$35 ENTRANCE FEE

DJ | FOOD & DRINKS | SWEETS

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

(646)-410-6683

FB: THY Brooklyn

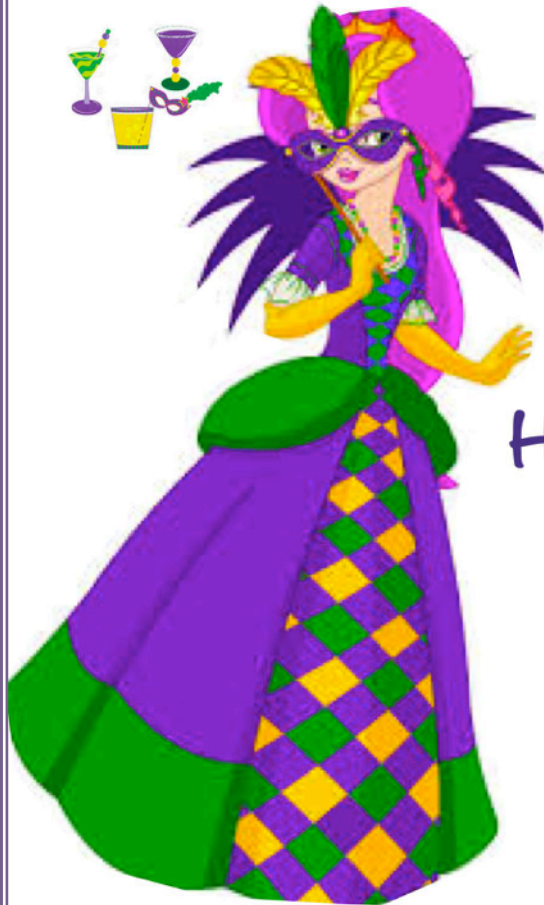
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threehierarchsyouth@gmail.com

1724 Avenue P, Brooklyn, NY 11229



Three Hierarchs
Ladies Philoptochos



Luncheon
Honoring Three Ladies



HELEN KALOGERAS
JOYCE MITCHELL
HELEN KOKIS



Sunday
March 10th, 2024

Three Hierarchs Church

Rose Room- 12:30 P.M.



Donation - \$65.00 - Pre Paid
\$70.00 - at the Door



Reservations:-
Effie Paraponiaris-
718-253-7219
Mary Plessias
718-232-1177



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 Ἱερὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imaeflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Γ' - Ἔτος ΙΖ'
Ἀριθμ. φύλλου 707²

Κυριακὴ μετὰ τὰ Φῶτα (Ματθ. 4,12-17)
14 Ἰανουαρίου 2024 (2000)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

«Μετανοεῖτε»

«Ἀπὸ τότε ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς κηρύσσειν καὶ λέγειν· Μετανοεῖτε· ἤγγικε γὰρ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν» (Ματθ. 4,17)

Ἡ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ποὺ ἀκούσαμε σήμερα (βλ. Ματθ. 4,12-17), ἀδελφοί μου, ἀλλὰ καὶ ὁ **λόκληρος τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο εἶνε σοφία**. Δὲν ὑπάρχει κάτω ἀπὸ τὸν ἥλιο καὶ τὰ ἄστρα ἄλλο βιβλίον μὲ μεγαλυτέρα ἀξία ἀπὸ τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Τὰ λόγια τοῦ εἶνε ἡ ὑψίστη φιλοσοφία.

Ὁ τελευταῖος λόγος τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἦταν τὸ «**Τετέλεσται**» (βλ. 19,30), λόγος μὲ βαθεῖα σημασία. Ἀλλ' ὅπως ὁ τελευταῖος, ἔτσι καὶ ὁ **πρῶτος λόγος** ποὺ βγήκε ἀπὸ τὰ χεῖλη του, ἔχει μεγάλη σημασία. Καὶ ὁ πρῶτος λόγος εἶνε τὸ «**Μετανοεῖτε**» (Ματθ. 4,17). Ἄς ἀναλύσουμε τὴν **ἐννοια τῆς μετανοίας**, τὸ κορυφαῖο κήρυγμα τοῦ Θεανθρώπου.

Ἡ ἀνθρωπότης, ἀγαπητοί μου, **εἶνε ἀσθενής**. Νοσεῖ ποικιλοτρόπως. Καὶ **ποιὰ ἡ αἰτία**; Ἐπῆλθε διαταραχὴ στὸ σύμπαν, στὸ ἠθικὸ σύμπαν, λόγῳ παραβάσεως τοῦ ἠθικοῦ νόμου. Ὁ ἠθικὸς νόμος συνοψίζεται στὸ Δεκάλογον, ποὺ ἔλαβε ὁ Μωϋσῆς, καὶ πρὸ παντὸς στὴν **Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους ὁμιλία** τοῦ Κυρίου. Δυστυχῶς τὸ νόμον αὐτὸ τὸν καταπατοῦμε. Οὐδέποτε ἄλλοτε ἡ ἀνθρωπότης καταπάτησε τὸ νόμον τοῦ Θεοῦ τόσο ὅσο ἡ σύγχρονη γενεά. Ἀμέτρητα τὰ ἁμαρτήματά μας. Ὁ αἰώνας αὐτός, ὁ αἰώνας τῶν πυραύλων, θὰ ὀνομασθῇ καὶ αἰώνας τοῦ ἐγκλήματος. Ἔχουμε παραβάσεις τοῦ ἠθικοῦ νόμου, παραβάσεις μικρὰς καὶ μεγάλης. Στὴν ἀνθρωπότητα σήμερα ἀρμόζει αὐτὸ ποὺ εἶπε ὁ Δαυὶδ, ὅτι «**αἱ ἀνομίαι μου ὑπερῆραν τὴν κεφαλὴν μου, ὥστε φορτίον βαρὺ ἐβαρύνθησαν ἐπ' ἐμέ**» (Ψαλμ. 37,5)· ἢ ἐκεῖνο ποὺ εἶπε ὁ προφήτης Ὡσηέ, ὅτι «**ἀρὰ καὶ ψεῦδος καὶ φόνος καὶ κλοπὴ καὶ μοιχεῖα κέχυνται ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, καὶ αἷματα ἐφ' αἷμασι μίσγουσιν**» (Ψαλμ. 42)· ἢ ἐκεῖνο ποὺ εἶπε ὁ προφήτης Ἡσαΐας, ὅτι ὅλη ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα ἀπὸ τὴν κορυφὴ μέχρι τὰ νύχια εἶνε γεμάτη ἀπὸ ἔλκη, γεμάτη ἀπὸ ἁμαρτήματα (βλ. 1,6).

Νοσεῖ λοιπὸν ἡ ἀνθρωπότης· τὸ φωνάζουν καὶ οἱ πέτρες. **Ποιὸς θὰ τὴν θεραπεύσῃ;**

Ὅπως γύρω ἀπὸ ἓναν πολὺ βαρεῖα ἀσθενῆ, ἔτσι καὶ γύρω ἀπὸ τὸ κρεβάτι τῆς ἀσθενοῦς ἀνθρωπότητος βρίσκονται «**γιατροί**» καὶ γίνεται τρόπον τινὰ **ἱατρικὸ συμβούλιον**. Ἰατρικὸ συμβούλιον ἐννοῶ τοὺς κοινωνιολόγους, ψυχολόγους, φιλοσόφους, κυβερνήτες, ποὺ συσκέπτονται ἂν ὑπάρχῃ θεραπεία.

Οἱ γνώμες διχάζονται. Ἄλλοι, **ἀπαισιόδοξοι**, λένε· Δὲν ὑπάρχει πλέον θεραπεία στὸν κόσμον· ἐκεῖ ποὺ ἔφτασε ἡ ἀνθρωπότης, παρ' ὅλα τὰ ἐπιτεύγματά της, ὁδηγεῖται πρὸς αὐτοκτονίαν, μὲ πιστόλι τὴν πυρηνικὴ ἐνέργεια.

Ἄλλοι εἶνε **ὑπεραισιόδοξοι** καὶ λένε· Μὴν ἀκοῦτε· ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα προχωρεῖ μὲ γοργὸ βῆμα πρὸς μεγάλες ἐξελίξεις· ἐντὸς ὀλίγου πατοῦμε στὰ ἄστρα καὶ θὰ κατοικήσουμε ἐκεῖ. Ἐμεῖς ἐλπίζουμε σὲ θεραπεία... Κι ὅταν τοὺς ρωτήσῃς, ποιὰ εἶνε τὰ φάρμακά τους, ἔχουν συνταγὰς πρόχειρες, συστήματα ποὺ λήγουν στὰ νεώτερα εἰς -ισμός (π.χ. ἀνθρωπισμός, καπιταλισμός, σοσιαλισμός, κομμουνισμός, οἰκουμενισμός κ.λπ.). Νομίζουν οἱ ταλαίπωροι, ὅτι μὲ τέτοιες συνταγὰς καὶ τέτοια χάπια θὰ θεραπευθῇ τὸ κακόν.

Υπάρχει καὶ μιὰ ἄλλη τρίτη κατηγορία ἀνθρώπων, ποὺ πιστεύουν σὲ ἓναν ἄλλον τρόπο θεραπείας. Ἀντὶ νὰ κάθεστε, λένε, σὰν τίς γριεὲς καὶ νὰ κλαῖτε καὶ νὰ ἐλεεινολογῆτε τὸν ἑαυτὸ σας, κάντε **ἐπανάστασι**· δὲν χρειάζονται οὔτε δάκρυα οὔτε μοιρολόγια, χρειάζονται γρόνθος, γροθιά, λένε αὐτοί. Ἡ ἀνθρωπότητα εἶνε βαρεῖα ἀσθενής, καὶ πρέπει νὰ μπῇ στὸ χειρουργεῖο. Αὐτοὶ φρονοῦν, ὅτι μὲ τὸ αἷμα, μὲ τὸ αἱματοκύλισμα, θὰ ἔρθῃ ἡ θεραπεία.

Τί ἔχουμε νὰ ποῦμε ἐμεῖς; Στὸ συμβούλιον αὐτὸ τῶν φιλοσόφων καὶ κοινωνιολόγων λέμε· Δὲν συμφωνοῦμε οὔτε μὲ τοὺς ἀπαισιόδοξους, οὔτε μὲ τοὺς ὑπεραισιόδοξους, οὔτε μὲ τοὺς ἐπαναστάτες. Ἐμεῖς δὲν προσκυνᾶμε γιατροὺς ἐπιγείους. **Υπάρχει γιατρός**. Ἀποκαλυφθῇτε,

κύριοι. Γιατρός μοναδικός εἶνε ὁ Χριστός. Στὴν θεία λειτουργία τὸν ὀνομάζουμε «*ἱατρὸν τῶν «ψυχῶν καὶ τῶν σωμάτων ἡμῶν»*» (θ. Λειτουργ. εὐχ. κεφαλαιὸν πρὸ καθάρ.). ἱατρὸν ἐν ἀπολύτῳ ἐννοία.

Ἄν μπορούσε ἡ ἀνθρωπότης νὰ θεραπευθῇ ἀπὸ τοὺς φιλοσόφους, τοὺς ἐπιστήμονες, τὸν τεχνικὸ πολιτισμό, ἀπ' ὅλα αὐτά, δὲν θὰ ἐρχόταν ὁ Χριστὸς στὸν κόσμον. **Ἦρθε, γιατί ὁ κόσμος εἶχε ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ τὴν παρουσία του.** Ἦρθε στὸν κόσμον, γιὰ νὰ συστήσῃ ἱατρεῖο καὶ νὰ δώσῃ φάρμακο ἰσχυρὸ καὶ ῥωμαλέο.

Ἱατρεῖο του εἶνε ἡ Ἐκκλησία. Γι' αὐτὸ ψάλλουμε· «*Τίς ὁδυνώμενος καὶ προσπίπτων τῷ ἱατρῷ τούτῳ οὐ θεραπεύεται;*» (Παρακλητ., ἤχ. δ', κυρ. ἐσπ., ἀπόστ.). Ἐδῶ βρισκόμαστε ὅλοι ἐμεῖς οἱ ἀσθενεῖς. Ἄν ὑπάρχῃ κάποιος ὑγιής, ἀμεμπτος, ἀναμάρτητος, ὡς βγῇ ἔξω. Ἀλλὰ ὅλοι εἴμαστε ἀμαρτωλοὶ, ὅλοι ἀσθενεῖς, στὸ σῶμα καὶ στὸ πνεῦμα.

Καὶ ποιά εἶνε τὰ φάρμακα τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Ὡς τὰ φάρμακά του! Εἶνε δοκιμασμένα, ἀποτελεσματικά γιὰ κάθε ἀρρώστια. Καὶ ἓνα ἀπὸ αὐτά, τὸ δραστικώτερο, ποὺ καθαρίζει καὶ ἐξυγιαίνει τὸν ἀνθρώπο μέχρι τὶς τελευταῖες ἴνες τῆς υπάρξεώς του, εἶνε τὸ «*Μετανοεῖτε*» ποὺ ἀκούσαμε σήμερα (Ματθ. 4,17). Μόνο διὰ τῆς μετανοίας θὰ σωθῇ ὁ κόσμος.

Τί εἶνε ἡ μετάνοια; Ἄν ῥωτήσετε ἓνα φιλόλογο, θὰ σᾶς πῇ, ὅτι ἡ λέξι *μετάνοια* εἶνε σύνθετη. Ἀποτελεῖται ἀπὸ δύο μέρη, *μετά* καὶ *νοῦς*, καὶ ὅτι τὸ πρῶτο, τὸ *μετά*, σημαίνει **μεταβολή**.

Ὅσοι κάνετε στρατιῶτες, ἀκούσατε τὸ παράγγελμα «*Μεταβολή*». Ὅσοι εἴστε σωφῆρες, γνωρίζετε ὅτι σὲ ἐπικίνδυνα σημεῖα τοῦ δρόμου χρειάζεται ἀπότομη στροφή. Καὶ οἱ ναυτικοὶ ξέρουν, ὅτι κάποτε στὸν ὠκεανό, σὲ φοβεροὺς κυκλῶνες, ὁ πλοίαρχος διατάζει «*στροφή 180 μοιρῶν*». Εἶνε ἡ δυσκολώτερη στροφή.

Ἐχει λοιπὸν ἀνάγκη ἡ ἀνθρωπότης ἀπὸ στροφή ὄχι 10, ὄχι 20, ἀλλὰ 180 μοιρῶν. Καὶ αὐτὸ εἶνε ἡ μετάνοια. Στροφή ἀπὸ τὸ σκοτάδι στὸ φῶς, ἀπὸ τὸ ψέμα στὴν ἀλήθεια, ἀπὸ τὴν συκοφαντία στὴν τιμιότητα. Μετάνοια θὰ πῇ **ἀλλαγὴ μυαλοῦ**· ν' ἀλλάξουμε μυαλό.

Τὰ αὐτοκίνητα γιὰ ἐπισκευὴ τὰ πᾶμε στὰ συνεργεῖα, τὰ χαλασμένα ρολόγια τὰ πᾶμε στὰ ὠρολογοποιεῖα. Ἐδῶ **ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἐπισκευῆς καὶ ἀλλαγῆς ὁ νοῦς μας.** Διότι ὁ νοῦς μας δὲν εἶνε πλέον διαυγής. Ζῇ μέσα στὴν ὀμίχλη. Εἶνε ναρκωμένος καὶ δὲν σκέπτεται σωστά. Ὅλοι σήμερα, μὲ τὴ «*λογικὴ*» τους, θὰ σᾶς δικαιολογήσουν καὶ τὴν πιὸ νοσηρὴ

κατάστασι, καὶ τὰ πλέον εἰδεχθῇ ἐγκλήματα. Ῥωτήστε τὸ φιλάργυρο, καὶ θὰ ὑπερασπιστῇ μὲ «*σοβαρά*» ἐπιχειρήματα τὴ φιλαργυρία του· ῥωτήστε τὸν πόρνο καὶ τὸ μοιχό, καὶ θὰ σᾶς δικαιολογήσουν πλήρως τὰ ἐγκλήματά τους. Γιατὶ ἔπαψε πιά ὁ νοῦς νὰ σκέπτεται ὀρθά. Ἡ σκέψι, τὸ φρόνημα, τὸ ἐσωτερικὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ἔχει ἀνάγκη νὰ ὑποστῇ ριζικὴ ἀλλαγὴ.

«Μετανοεῖτε» λοιπόν. Ὅλοι. Μετανοεῖτε, γέροντες συνηλικιώτες μου, γιὰ τὶς ἀμαρτίες τῆς νεότητός σας. Μετανοεῖτε, νέοι καὶ παιδιὰ, γιὰ τὶς ἀταξίες, ποὺ ἀσχημίζουν τὴν ὥραία ἡλικία σας. Μετανοεῖτε, ἄντρες ὄριμοι, γιὰ τὶς πράξεις σας. Μετανοεῖτε, γυναῖκες, ποὺ σὰν νυχτερίδες πετᾶτε στὰ σκότη τῆς ἀμαρτίας. Μετανοεῖτε, γονεῖς, γιὰ τὴν ἀθλία τακτικὴ ἀπέναντι στὰ παιδιὰ σας. Μετανοεῖτε, παιδιὰ, γιὰ τὴν ἄστοργη καὶ ἀχάριστη συμπεριφορὰ στοὺς γονεῖς σας. Μετανοεῖτε, πλούσιοι, γιὰ τὶς ἀδικίες, τὶς ἀσπλαχνίες, τὴν πλεονεξία, τὴν ἐκμετάλλευσι τοῦ ἀδυνάτου. Μετανοεῖτε, μικροὶ καὶ μεγάλοι, δάσκαλοι καὶ καθηγηταί, φιλόσοφοι καὶ ψυχολόγοι, γιατροὶ καὶ λοιποὶ ἐπιστήμονες, κυβερνήτες καὶ λαός, ὁπαδοὶ κάθε παρατάξεως. Ἀλλάξτε τρόπο ζωῆς.

—Μὰ θὰ μᾶς συχωρέσῃ ὁ Θεός; ρωτοῦν.

Ἀνοιξτε τὴν καρδιά σας καὶ μὲ συναίσθησι **δῶστε του τ' ἀμαρτήματά σας.** Ἄν μαζεუτοῦν ὅλα μαζὶ τ' ἀμαρτήματα ὅλου τοῦ κόσμου, θὰ γίνῃ ἓνας ὄγκος, θὰ σχηματισθῇ ἓνας Ὀλυμπος· Ὀλυμπος ὄχι ἀπὸ πέτρες καὶ θάμνους, ἀλλὰ ἀπὸ κάρβουνα ἀναμμένα. Φαντασθῆτε ἓναν Ὀλυμπο ἀπὸ κάρβουνα, καιόμενον καὶ φλεγόμενο. Ποιὸς μπορεῖ νὰ τὸν σβῇ;

Καὶ ὁμως! Ῥίξτε τ' ἀμαρτήματα ὅλα στὸν ὠκεανὸ καὶ θὰ δῆτε· ἡ φωτιά δὲν θὰ νικήσῃ τὴ θάλασσα, ἡ θάλασσα θὰ νικήσῃ τὴ φωτιά. Ποιά εἶνε ἡ **φωτιά;** Οἱ **ἀμαρτίες**· οἱ δικές μου, οἱ δικές σας, τοῦ κόσμου ὅλου. Καὶ ποιά εἶνε ἡ **θάλασσα;** Ὡς ἀδελφοί μου, πιστέψτε το· ἡ θάλασσα, ἡ ἀπέραντη καὶ ἀπύθμενη, εἶνε τὸ **ἔλεος, τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ.** Μέσα στὴ θάλασσα αὐτὴ πέφτουμε καὶ καθαρίζομαστε. Ἄν ὁ Χριστὸς δὲν θυσιαζόταν, οὔτε ὁ ληστής μπορούσε νὰ πῇ τὸ «*Μνήσθητί μου, Κύριε*» (Λουκ. 23,42) οὔτε κανένας ἄλλος. Ἐλπίζουμε στὸ θεῖο ἔλεος, ἐλπίζουμε στὴ φιλανθρωπία του.

Ἀδελφοί μου, κάνετε τὴ στροφή, **ἐπιστρέψτε στὸν Κύριο,** τὸν σπλαχνικὸ καὶ μακρόθυμο Σωτῆρα μας· ὄν, παῖδες, ὑμνεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας· 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 2024 commitment **TODAY!** The benefits you shall receive beyond grace include the satisfaction and knowledge that this Church and community thrive thanks to your outreach.

Athanasius and Cyril, Champions and Models

Saint Athanasius (Athanasios) is one of the great figures of Christianity. He is called the "champion of orthodoxy" as he resolutely opposed Arianism. Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ's divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace – reading, writing and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism. Athanasius suffered many trials while he was bishop of Alexandria. He was given the grace to remain strong against what probably seemed at times to be insurmountable opposition. He defended the true faith for his flock, regardless of the cost to himself. In today's world we are experiencing this same call to remain true to our faith, no matter what.

Saint Cyril's importance for theology and Church history lies in his championing the cause of orthodoxy against the heresy of Nestorius. Nestorianism

implied that the humanity of Christ was a mere disguise. At the Council of Ephesus (431), Cyril condemned Nestorianism and proclaimed Mary truly the "God-bearer" – "Theotokos" (the mother of the one Person who is truly God and truly human). In the confusion that followed, Cyril was deposed and imprisoned for three months, after which he was welcomed back to Alexandria as a second Athanasius (the champion against Arianism).

Lives of the saints are valuable not only for the virtue they reveal but also for the less admirable qualities that also appear. Holiness is a gift of God to us as human beings. Life is a process. We respond to God's gift, but sometimes with a lot of zigzagging. If Cyril had been more patient and diplomatic, the Nestorian Church might not have risen and maintained power so long. But even saints must grow out of immaturity, narrowness and selfishness. It is because they – and we – do grow, that we are truly saints, persons who live the life of God.

WEB SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit

RADIO MINISTRY: Each Saturday at 1:15 PM Fr. Eugene hosts the radio broadcast **MATTERS OF CONSCIENCE NOW IN ITS 26th 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)

YOUR E-MAILING address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally.

See :Website: www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org