



TWELFTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



*Icon of the Cure of the Ten Lepers – Luke 17:12-19*

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**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 4**

**Psalm 75.11,1**

**Make your vows to the Lord our God and perform them.**

**Verse: God is known in Judah; his name is great in Israel.**

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. Ἦχος πλ. δ'**

**ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 75.11,1**

**Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.**

**Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.**

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' ἃ 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, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, 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 Ἕλλην καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος· ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν Χριστός.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Λουκᾶν 17:12-19 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When he saw them he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And he said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἰσερχομένου αὐτοῦ εἰς τινα κώμην ἀπήντησαν αὐτῷ δέκα λεπροὶ ἄνδρες, οἱ ἕστησαν πόρρωθεν, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἤραν φωνὴν λέγοντες· Ἰησοῦ ἐπιστάτα, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. καὶ ἰδὼν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε ἑαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσι. καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς ἐκαθαρίσθησαν. εἷς δὲ ἐξ αὐτῶν, ἰδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη, ὑπέστρεψε μετὰ φωνῆς μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν, καὶ ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ εὐχαριστῶν αὐτῷ· καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν Σαμαρεῖτης. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· οὐχὶ οἱ δέκα ἐκαθαρίσθησαν; οἱ δὲ ἐννέα ποῦ; οὐχὲν εὗρέθησαν ὑποστρέψαντες δοῦναι δόξαν τῷ Θεῷ εἰ μὴ ὁ ἄλλογενὴς οὗτος; καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἀναστὰς πορεύου· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε.

Congratulations to GUS and ANGELA VELLIOS on the forthcoming baptism of their 'first born' new daughter 'SPIRIDOULA APHRODITE' this coming Saturday , January 27<sup>th</sup>. NA SAS ZESE! The proud God- parents are Anthony and Elizabeth Brinn.

Next Sunday, Monday and Tuesday – January 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, our beloved Parish will observe the Triduum (three day celebration) of our Patronal Saints – Three Hierarchs.

**SUNDAY:** The teen youth group T.H.Y. will host a 'brunch' after Divine Liturgy OPEN FREE TO All in Whitehall. A fun aspect of the refreshments will be a CHINESE AUCTION' by the youngsters.

**MONDAY:** The traditional GREAT VESPER of the FEAST will be celebrated at 7:00 P.M. with a coffee and sweets reception open to all at 8:30 P.M. hosted by the Philoptochos Ladies Society.

**TUESDAY:** The Panagyrice Divine Liturgy of the THREE HOLY HIERARCHS ( SAINTS: BASIL, GREGORY and JOHN CHRYSOSTOM) will be celebrated at 9:30 A.M. with the ARTOKLASIA at 11:30 A.M. A coffee and sweets reception open to all will be hosted by the DAUGHTERS of Penelope Chapter #33 in Whitehall.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB:** Meeting on Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>, at 1:00 P.M. will observe a table of 'Grecian Delights' in honor of the FEAST! Father Eugene will highlight a discussion on the YPAPANTI OBSERVANCE (Holy Presentation – SARANTISIS of the CHRIST to the Temple of Solomon. It's 40 days after Christmas.

**YPAPANTI LITURGY:** Friday, February 02<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 A.M. ( A GREAT DAY IN KALAMATA-GREECE!)

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!

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

Philoptochos Ladies will convene their monthly session on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24<sup>th</sup> , at 3:30 P.M. in the afternoon in ROSEHALL. Preparations for the THREE HIERARCHS FEAST DAY (Vesper and Divine Liturgy – Monday – Tuesday January 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>), 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 TODAY, January 21<sup>st</sup>, with Father Eugene as the celebrant. KALI CHRONIA!

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

**GREEK SCHOOL PRESENTATION:** Highlighting the LIFE and TEACHING of the THREE HIERARCHS will be presented by select students of our school on February 04<sup>th</sup>.

**UP-COMING EVENTS:** T.H.Y. Teen Youth VALENTINE DAY DANCE in ROSEHALL at THREE HIERARCHS Saturday evening , February 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-11:00 P.M. Please see centerfold.

**MEMORIALS TODAY:**

+ 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:

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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 Τετρὰ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - [imaaflo@yahoo.gr](mailto:imaaflo@yahoo.gr)

Περίοδος Α' - Ἔτος Α'  
Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου ...

Κυριακὴ IB' Λουκᾶ (Κολ. 3,4-11)  
21 Ἰανουαρίου 2024 (1972)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος  
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

## Ὁ «παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος»

«...Ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον» (Κολ. 3,9-10)

Στὴν ἀποστολικὴ περικοπή, ποὺ διαβάστηκε σήμερα σὲ ὄλους τοὺς ναοὺς τῆς Ὁρθοδόξου Ἐκκλησίας (βλ. Κολ. 3,4-11), ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος μιλάει γιὰ δύο ἀνθρώπους· ὁ ἓνας εἶνε «ὁ παλαιός», ὁ ἄλλος εἶνε «ὁ νέος» (ἐλ. 3,9-10). Ἔτσι τοὺς ὀνομάζει. Μὲ ποιόν, παρακαλῶ, ἀπ' τοὺς δύο μοιάζουμε, μὲ τὸν παλαιὸ ἢ μὲ τὸν νέο; Ἀλλὰ πρὶν ἀπαντήσουμε στὸ ἐρώτημα αὐτὸ πρέπει νὰ δώσουμε κάποια ἐρμηνεία σ' αὐτὲς τὶς δύο λέξεις ποὺ ἀναφέρει ὁ Ἀπόστολος.

«Παλαιός» - «νέος». Μὴ νομίζετε, ὅτι οἱ λέξεις αὐτὲς ἔχουν σχέσι μὲ τὴν ἡλικία. Μπορεῖ νὰ εἶνε ἓνας πολὺ ἡλικιωμένος, γέρος 80 ἢ 90 χρονῶν, κι ὅμως νὰ εἶνε νέος. Καὶ πάλι μπορεῖ ἓνας νὰ εἶνε νέος στὴν ἡλικία, πάνω σ' ὅλη τὴν ἀκμὴ τῆς νεότητος, κι ὅμως νὰ εἶνε παλαιός. Τί εἶνε ἄραγε ἐκεῖνο ποὺ τὸν ἓνα ἄνθρωπο τὸν κάνει παλαιό, καὶ τὸν ἄλλο τὸν κάνει νέο;

«Παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος»! Στὴ δημοτικὴ γλῶσσα λέγεται *παλιάνθρωπος*. Παλιάνθρωπος; Τόλμησε νὰ πῆς ἓναν ἄλλον ἄνθρωπο παλιάνθρωπο, καὶ θὰ δῆς τί θὰ γίνη· θὰ θυμώσῃ, θὰ ἐξαγριωθῇ καὶ θὰ σοῦ κάνῃ μῆνυσι. Κι αὐτὸ θὰ εἶνε τὸ λιγώτερο. Γιατί υπάρχουν καὶ χειρότερα· ὑπάρχει περίπτωσι πού, ὅταν κάποιος ἀκουσε νὰ τὸν λένε παλιάνθρωπο, πῆρε πιστόλι καὶ σκότωσε αὐτὸν ποὺ τὸν εἶπε ἔτσι. Κάθε ἄνθρωπος ἔχει μεγάλη ἰδέα γιὰ τὸν ἑαυτό του καὶ δὲν ἐπιτρέπει νὰ τὸν ὀνομάζουν ἔτσι. Ἐγὼ παλιάνθρωπος; σοῦ λέει. Πρέπει νὰ πλύνῃς τὸ στόμα σου μὲ ῥοδόσταμο γιὰ ν' ἀναφέρῃς τ' ὄνομά μου... Καὶ ὁ πιὸ διεφθαρμένος ὑπερασπίζει τὴν τιμὴ τοῦ ὀνόματός του. Ἄτιμο καὶ παλιάνθρωπο δὲν

θέλει κανένας νὰ τὸν ὀνομάσουν. Καθένας, καὶ μάλιστα αὐτὸς ποὺ εἶνε οἰκογενειάρχης, θέλει ν' ἀφήσῃ στὰ παιδιὰ του καὶ στὰ ἐγγόνια του καλὸ ὄνομα. Γιατί τὸ καλὸ ὄνομα ζυγίζει παραπάνω ἀπὸ ἓνα τόννο χρυσάφια καὶ διαμάντια. Τὸ καλὸ ὄνομα εἶνε θησαυρὸς ἀνεκτίμητος.

«Παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος»! Καὶ ὅμως, ἀγαπητοί μου· παρ' ὅλη τὴν καλωσύνη ποὺ δείχνουν ἐξωτερικῶς πολλοὶ ἄνθρωποι, καὶ γιὰ τὴν ἐξωτερικὴ αὐτὴ καλωσύνη καὶ εὐγένεια ὀνομάζονται «καλοὶ ἄνθρωποι», ὑπάρχει στὸ βάθος πολλὴ κακία καὶ διαφθορά. Ὁ «παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος» εἶνε κρυμμένος στὴν καρδιά κάθε ἀνθρώπου. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος, κι αὐτὸς ἀκόμα ποὺ ὀνομάζεται καλός, μοιάζει μ' ἓνα πηγάδι πολὺ βαθύ, ποὺ στὴν ἐπιφάνειά του φαίνεται καθαρὸ· ἂν ὅμως πάρῃς ἓνα κουβά κι ἀρχίσῃς νὰ τὸ ἀδειάζῃς καὶ φτάσῃς στὸν πάτο, τότε θὰ δῆς πόση ἀκαθαρσία ἦταν κρυμμένη στὸ βάθος τοῦ πηγαδιοῦ. Ἔτσι εἶνε κι ὁ ἄνθρωπος· ἀπ' ἔξω φαίνεται καλός, ἀλλὰ μέσα στὴν καρδιά του, ποὺ τὴ βλέπει μόνο ὁ Θεός, πόση διαφθορά καὶ κακία εἶνε κρυμμένη! Μόνο ὅσοι δὲν πήραν ποτὲ στὰ χέρια τοὺς τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ δὲν τὸ ἔκαναν καθρέφτη γιὰ νὰ δοῦν σ' αὐτὸν τὴν κακία καὶ τὴ διαφθορά τους, μόνο αὐτοί, ἐνῶ τὸ πρόσωπό τους εἶνε γεμάτο μουτζούρες, μποροῦν νὰ λένε, ὅτι εἶνε καθαροὶ καὶ ἅγιοι κι ὅτι σ' αὐτοὺς δὲν ταιριάζει ἡ ὀνομασία «παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος». Ὅσοι ὅμως διαβάζουν τὸ Εὐαγγέλιο καὶ βλέπουν σὲ ποιοῦ ὕψος ἀρετῆς θέλει ὁ Χριστὸς τὸν ἄνθρωπο, κ' ἐξετάζουν τὸν ἑαυτό τους καὶ βλέπουν πόσο μακριὰ εἶνε ἀπ' τὸ ἰδανικὸ μιᾶς ἀγίας ζωῆς ποὺ κήρυξε



καὶ ἔζησε ὁ Χριστός, μόνο αὐτοὶ ἔχουν τὸ «γνῶθι σαυτόν», καὶ συμφωνοῦν μὲ τὸν Παῦλο, καὶ συντετριμμένοι ἀπ’ τὴ συναίσθησι τῆς ἁμαρτωλότητός τους γονατίζουν καὶ παρακαλοῦν τὸ Θεό, νὰ ξερριζώσῃ ἀπὸ μέσα τους τὸ δέντρο τῆς ἁμαρτίας μὲ τὰ πολλὰ κλαδιά, καὶ νὰ φυτέψῃ μέσα στὴν καρδιά τους τὸ νέο δέντρο τῆς ἀρετῆς καὶ τῆς πίστεως.

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«Παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος»! Ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὅπως καὶ ἄλλοτε μᾶς δόθηκε ἀφορμὴ νὰ κηρύξουμε, δὲν εἶνε ὅπως βγῆκε ἀπ’ τὰ χέρια τοῦ Δημιουργοῦ. Ὁ ἄνθρωπος, ὅπως τὸν ἔπλασε ὁ Θεός, ἦταν ἓνα ἔξοχο δημιούργημα· ἦταν σὰν ἄγγελος, καὶ διέφερε ἀπ’ τοὺς ἀγγέλους μόνο στὸ ὅτι εἶχε σῶμα. Κακία μέσα του δὲν ὑπῆρχε. Τὰ ἔβλεπε ὅλα μὲ ἀθωότητα. Ἦταν ὑγιὲς κατὰ πάντα. Καὶ δὲν θὰ πέθαινε ποτέ. Αὐτὸς ἦταν ὁ ἄνθρωπος ὅπως βγῆκε ἀπ’ τὰ χέρια τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀλλ’ ἀλλοίμονο! μέσα στὸν ἄνθρωπο, ἀπὸ δική του ἀπροσεξία, μπῆκε τὸ πρῶτο μικρόβιο, ποὺ γέννησε ὅλα τὰ ἑκατομμύρια τῶν μικροβίων ποὺ προξένησαν καὶ προξενοῦν τόση καταστροφὴ στὸν κόσμο. Καὶ τὸ πρῶτο μικρόβιο εἶνε αὐτὸ ποὺ ἡ Γραφὴ ὀνομάζει «ἁμαρτία» (Ματθ. 1,21 κ.ά.). Ἡ ἁμαρτία ἔβγαλε τὸν ἄνθρωπο ἀπὸ τὸν παράδεισο. Αὐτὴ ἔρριξε τὸν ἄνθρωπο ἀρρωστο στὸ κρεβάτι. Αὐτὴ ἔφερε τὸν πόνο καὶ τὰ δάκρυα στὸν κόσμο. Αὐτὴ ἔσπρωξε τὸν Κάιν νὰ σκοτώσῃ τὸν ἀδελφὸ του. Αὐτὴ ὥπλισε καὶ ὀπλίζει τοὺς ἀνθρώπους μὲ μαχαίρια καὶ τσεκούρια καὶ μὲ ἄλλα ἀκόμη πιὸ φοβερὰ ὄπλα, γιὰ νὰ σκοτώνωνται, ἀντὶ νὰ ζοῦν ὅλοι ἀγαπημένοι σὰν παιδιὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Αὐτὴ, ναὶ ἡ ἁμαρτία, ἄλλαξε τὸν ἄνθρωπο, κατέστρεψε τὴν ἀγγελικὴ ὁμορφιά ποὺ εἶχε, τὸν γέμισε μὲ ῥυτίδες καὶ πληγές, τὸν ἔκανε ἀγνώριστο, ὥστε οἱ ἄγγελοι, ποὺ τὸν ἔβλεπαν σ’ αὐτὴ τὴν ἀθλία κατάστασι, νὰ λένε· Αὐτὸς εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος ποὺ βγῆκε ἀπ’ τὰ χέρια τοῦ Θεοῦ; ... Αὐτὸν τὸν ἄνθρωπο τῆς κακίας καὶ ἀθλιότητος καὶ διαφθορᾶς ἔχει ὑπ’ ὄψιν του καὶ ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ὅταν ὀνομάζῃ τὸν ἄνθρωπο «παλαιόν».

«Παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος»! Ξέρετε πῶς μοιάζει ὁ παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος; Ὑποθέστε, ὅτι ἓνας γλύπτης κάνει ἀπὸ καθαρὸ μπροῦντζο ἓνα ἄγαλμα. Τὸ ἄγαλμα εἶνε ὠραῖο, εἶνε τέλειο.

Ὅταν ἔγιναν τὰ ἀποκαλυπτήριά του ὅλοι τὸ θαύμασαν. Οἱ ἀκτίνες τοῦ ἡλίου, ποὺ ἔπεφταν πάνω του, τὸ ἔκαναν ν’ ἀστράφτῃ. Ἀλλ’ ἀπὸ τότε ποὺ τὸ ἔστησαν μέχρι σήμερα πέρασαν δυὸ καὶ τρεῖς χιλιάδες χρόνια. Βάρβαροι τὸ γκρέμισαν ἀπ’ τὴ θέσι του. Τὸ ἄγαλμα, ἐγκαταλελειμμένο, σκεπάστηκε ἀργότερα ἀπ’ τὰ χρώματα καὶ τὶς ἀκαθαρσίες. Χρόνια, αἰῶνες, ἦταν ἐκεῖ θαμμένο. Ἦρθε ὁμως κάποιος, ἔσκαψε καὶ τὸ βρῆκε. Ἦταν σὲ ἀθλία κατάστασι· τίποτε δὲν θύμιζε τὴν πρώτη του δόξα. Ἀλλ’ ὁ τεχνίτης –καὶ τεχνίτης ἀπαράμιλλος ἦταν αὐτὸς ποὺ τὸ ἀνέστυξε– δὲν ἀπελπίστηκε. Τὸ πῆρε, τὸ ἔρριξε μέσα στὸ καμίνι, τὸ ἔλειωσε, κι ἀπὸ τὸ ἴδιο ὕλικὸ ἔκανε πάλι τὸ ἄγαλμα, ποὺ ἦταν χίλιες φορὲς ὠραιότερο ἀπὸ τὸ πρῶτο.

Μὲ καταλάβετε τί θέλω νὰ πῶ μὲ τὸ παράδειγμα αὐτό; Παραβολικῶς σᾶς μίλησα. Ἄγαλμα εἶνε ὁ ἄνθρωπος· ἄγαλμα ἔξοχο, ἄγαλμα ὄχι ἄψυχο ἀλλ’ ἐμψυχο, ἄγαλμα μὲ νοῦ καὶ καρδιά. Ἐνα ἄγαλμα κάποιος τὸ κάνει. Ἀλλὰ τὸ ἄγαλμα αὐτὸ ποὺ λέγεται ἄνθρωπος ποιὸς τὸ ἔκανε; Ὁ Θεὸς τὸ ἔκανε. Ὅποιος πῆ, ὅτι ἔτσι φύτρωσε, δὲν εἶνε στὰ λογικά του. Τὸ ἄγαλμα τὸ κάνει ὁ γλύπτης· τὸν ἄνθρωπο τὸν ἔκανε ὁ μέγας καλλιτέχνης ποὺ λέγεται Θεός. Τὰ ἀγάλματα τὰ τρώει ἡ σκουριά, τὰ καταστρέφουν οἱ βάρβαροι. Καὶ τὸν ἄνθρωπο; Τὸν καταστρέφει ἡ σκουριὰ τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ τὰ βαρβαρικὰ πάθη. Ἀγνώριστος πιά κατήντησε ὁ ἄνθρωπος.

Ἐ, αὐτὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο, τὸν κακὸ καὶ διεφθαρμένο, τὸν φονιᾶ καὶ τὸν ἐγκληματία, τὸν πόρνο καὶ τὸ μοιχό, τὸν γεμᾶτο ἀπὸ κακίες καὶ πάθη, αὐτὸ τὸν ἄνθρωπο, τὸν «παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπο», ἦρθε ὁ Χριστός, ὁ Θεῖος Καλλιτέχνης, τὸν πῆρε, τὸν ἔρριξε μέσα στὸ φλογερὸ καμίνι τῆς ἀγάπης του, καὶ ἀπὸ ἐκεῖ μέσα ὁ παλαιὸς ἄνθρωπος, ὁ φονιᾶς καὶ ὁ ληστής, βγῆκε νέος ἄνθρωπος, βγῆκε ἅγιος. Κι ὁ κόσμος εἶδε καὶ θαύμασε καὶ εἶπε· Μόνο ὁ Χριστὸς ἔχει τὴ δύναμι νὰ παίρνῃ τὰ παλιὰ πράγματα καὶ νὰ τὰ κἀνῃ νέα· νὰ παίρνῃ τὰ κάρβουνα καὶ νὰ τὰ κἀνῃ διαμάντια· νὰ παίρνῃ τὴ σκουριά καὶ νὰ τὴν κἀνῃ χρυσάφι. Σ’ αὐτόν, τὸ Χριστό, τὸ Δημιουργὸ τοῦ παντός, τὸν σοφὸ Καλλιτέχνη, τιμὴ καὶ δόξα εἰς 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.

*Faith, Cleansing and Gratitude*

Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest." So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found to give glory to God except this for-

eigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

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