

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN January 28th, 2024
 V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE



Icon of Saint Gregory, Saint John, Saint Basil -- January 30th

Prokeimenon. Mode 1
Psalm 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 First Letter to Timothy 4:9-15

Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and suffer reproach, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος α'
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 32.22,1
Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς.
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε δίκαιοι ἐν Κυρίῳ

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον α' 4:9-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος. Εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶν σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι, πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοὶ διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερά ᾖ ἐν πάνσιν.

The Gospel According to Luke 19:1-10

At that time, Jesus was passing through Jericho. And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο τὴν Ἱεριχώ· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ᾦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ᾦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ᾦν. καὶ προδραμὼν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι ἐκείνης ἡμέλλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπε πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατάβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μέναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἁμαρτωλῷ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταλύσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστιν. ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.

Coffee FELLOWSHIP Hour: TODAY is being hosted and served by the T.H.Y. (teenagers) in Whitehall after the Divine Liturgy. Share in the refreshments and good company of one F=faith and one mind!

Many thanks to the THEODOSAKIS FAMILY who hosted a 'heavenly birthday salute;' to our +ARCHON DEPOUTATOS BASILIOS THEODOSAKIS on his 94th birthday in God's embrace. A testimonial luncheon in 'Big Bill's honor was catered for all the Senior Citizen Club members. Nostalgic tales and legends were exchanged among the invited about this CHAMPION for the issue of the Asia-Minor Catastrophe of 1923 in SMYRNA, TURKEY. Archon Bill was a true phil-Hellene who wished that future generations would never forget the FIRST HOLOCAUST of the TWENTIETH CENTURY of the Ottoman Turks against all Orthodox Christians in the 'new' Turkey of Kemal Ataturk. If we forget, history repeats itself most egregiously.

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

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS: On Tuesday January 16th. The election committee (Susan JANNACE, Georgia STAMOS, and Dina THEODOSAKIS) assisted the Pastor Father Eugene in conducting the election of the EXECUTIVE BOARD of the COUNCIL. Congratulations are extended to the following servants of the Lord: PRESIDENT; Julia DEMAKAKOS, EXEC. V.P.: John LAMBRAKIS, 1st VP: Gus VELLIOS, 2nd VP: Nikolaos PARAS, SECRETARY: Connie IOANNIDIS, TREASURER: Demetria GAVARIS BAUSO. COUNCIL MEMBERS are: Vasilios Apostolou, Stacey Grivas Alfonso, John Eugenis, Harry Lambrakis, Maria Lambrianakos Fisher, Haritini Pandis, Aphrodite Stefandouros Stoilas, Christopher Vellios. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Today, Monday and Tuesday – January 28th, 29th, 30th, 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 Philotochos 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 31st, 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 02nd 10:00 A.M. (A GREAT DAY IN KALAMATA-GREECE!)

THY Saint Valentine Day dance: is being hosted on Saturday, February 10th 7:00 TO 11:00 P.M. Please note that any and all teenagers are cordially invited to participate.

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!

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

Inf on New High School



Brooklyn's First Pan-Orthodox Christian High School*

* target opening date September 2024



The Pan Orthodox Christian College Preparatory High School strives to provide an Orthodox Christ-centered atmosphere that enables students to become socially engaged, effective communicators and critical thinkers in a global environment. Students will be encouraged to fulfill their God-given potential. We envision a world in which the quality education students receive prepares them to be well rounded citizens with an Orthodox, Biblical Worldview, who will be successful leaders in their respective communities. [Mission Statement]



In a Pan-Orthodox Christian High School, our children will benefit from the same basic curriculum as any New York college prep high-school, enhanced with:

- . Orthodox Christian Religious Teachings
- . Faith-based Literature and Culture
- . Spiritual Based Social Environment
- . Traditional Orthodox Christian Languages, such as: Arabic, Georgian, Greek, Romanian, Russian, and Serbian.

For more info and a sneak peak at the curriculum, please contact us at:

Info@panorthodoxhs.org, visit our website at **www.panorthodoxhs.org** or scan the QR code to fill out a form.



“With us everything should be secondary compared to our concern with children, and their upbringing in the instruction and teaching of the Lord.”

— St. John Chrysostom

შემოგვიერთდით

أهلاً وسهلاً



присоединяйтесь

присднүйтесь

είστε καλεσμένοι

OPEN HOUSE

PAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

670 92ND STREET, BROOKLYN, NY 11209

Please Join Us

Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:30 PM

An Information Session:

September 2024 Opening

of the Pan Orthodox Christian High School

Meet the Founders, Learn About Our School, and Tour the Building



The mission of the Pan Orthodox Christian High School is to provide an Orthodox, Christ-centered educational experience for students of grades 9-12.

The high school will provide a quality education focused on the core academic subjects that are aligned with NYSED learning standards and frameworks, including STEM.

Our College Readiness Curriculum will equip each student with Orthodox values, a strong academic foundation, and the skills necessary to begin their college career. This will prepare them to be well-rounded citizens and successful leaders in their respective communities.

PREPARE THE NEXT GENERATION TO SUCCEED IN THE WORLD!

For more information: Text or call 917-295-1222

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ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἐπὶ τὴν Καινοβιακὴ Γυναικαία ὑπὸ Μονὴ Χρίου Αὐγουστίνου Θωακίτης - 531 00 ΘΑΔΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - info@vghos.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΘ'
Θλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 842*

Κυριακὴ ΙΕ' Λουκᾶ Ζαχαρίου (Λουκ. 19,1-10)
28 Ἰανουαρίου 2024 (2002)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης

Ἀνάγκη μετανοίας

«Ἰδοὺ τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς,
καὶ εἴ τι νός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν» (Λουκ. 19,8)

Σήμερα, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ εὐαγγέλιο **Ματθ. 13,13** διηγεῖται ἓνα θαῦμα.

—Θαῦμα; Λάθος κάνεις, θά πῃτε. Ἐμεῖς δὲν ἀκούσαμε διήγησι κάποιου θαύματος.

Καὶ ὅμως ἐπιμένω, ὅτι σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο διηγεῖται ἓνα θαῦμα. Θαῦμα ὄχι ἀπὸ 'κεῖ-να πού με τόση περιέργεια ζητοῦν οἱ ἄνθρωποι, ἀλλὰ θαῦμα, πού μπορεῖ νὰ ἐπαναληφθῇ σὲ κάθε τόπο καὶ σὲ κάθε χρόνο· θαῦμα, πού κ' ἐμεῖς μπορούμε νὰ τὸ ἀπολαύσουμε.

—Καὶ ποῖό εἶνε τὸ θαῦμα αὐτό; Ποῦ ἐγινε;

Ἐγινε στὴν Ἱερικῶ, πόλι τῆς Ἰουδαίας. Ἦταν ἡ δευτέρα πόλις μετὰ τὰ Ἱεροσόλυμα, πόλις ἱερατικῇ. Ἐκεῖ ὑποδέχονται σήμερα τὸ Χριστό.

Στὸ ἄκρο τῆς πόλεως αὐτῆς ὁ Χριστὸς εἶχε θεραπεύσει ἓνα τυφλό. Καὶ καθὼς προχωροῦσε πρὸς τὰ μέσα, ἐγινε μεγάλος συναγερμός. **Μεγαλειώδης ὑποδοχὴ** τὸν περίμενε. Ποιὸς δὲν ἤθελε νὰ δῇ αὐτὸν πού ἔκανε τὰ θαύματα καὶ ν' ἀκούσῃ τὴ γλυκεῖα φωνή του; Ποιὸς δὲν ἤθελε ν' ἀνοίξῃ τὸ σπῖτι του νὰ τὸν δεχτῇ;

Ὑπῆρχαν ἐκεῖ σπῖτια μικρὰ καὶ μεγάλα. Ὑπῆρχαν καλύβες, ὑπῆρχαν καὶ σπῖτια πού κατοικοῦσαν οἱ γραμματεῖς καὶ οἱ φαρισαῖοι, οἱ ἀρχιερεῖς, οἱ ἱερεῖς καὶ οἱ Λευῖτες. **Σὲ ποῖό σπῖτι ἀραγε θὰ πᾶ ὁ Χριστός;**

Ὁ Χριστὸς τελικὰ προτιμᾷ τὸ σπῖτι τοῦ **πιδ ἁμαρτωλοῦ**, τοῦ ἀρχιτελώνη Ζαχαρίου, πού οἱ φανατικοὶ Ἰουδαῖοι δὲν τοῦ ἄγαν οὔτε καλημέρα. Διότι τελώνης, καὶ μάλιστα ἀρχιτελώνης, ἦταν τότε συνώνυμο τοῦ ἐκμεταλλευτοῦ, τοῦ κλέφτη, ἐκείνου πού ἀπομυζᾷ τὶς λαϊκὲς μᾶζες, τοῦ δωσίλογου. Καὶ ὅμως αὐτὸν προτιμᾷ ὁ Χριστός.

Ὅταν ἀκούστηκε αὐτό, ὅλοι «**διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες** ὅτι **παρὰ ἁμαρτωλῶ ἄνδρι εἰσῆλθε**

καταλῦσαι» (Ματθ. 13). Ἀλλ' ὅ,τι ἔκανε ὁ Χριστὸς, τὸ ζύγιζε καλά. Αὐτός, πού εἶνε ὁ «**ἐτάζων καρδίας καὶ νεφρούς**» (Ματθ. 13), ζύγισε ὅλους· καὶ εἶδε, ὅτι αὐτὸς ὁ τελώνης ἦταν ὁ **ἀξιος τῆς ἐπισκέψεώς του**. Γιατί ἀραγε;

Πρῶτα - πρῶτα, ὅταν ἀκουσε ὅτι ὁ Χριστὸς ἐρχεται στὴν πόλι, **ἔκλεισε τὸ γραφεῖο** του. Βγῆκε ἔξω καὶ τί νὰ δῇ· ἓνας κόσμος ὁλόκληρος, ἄντρες γυναῖκες, σπρώχνονταν γιὰ νὰ ὑποδεχτοῦν τὸ Χριστό. Βελόνα νὰ ῥριχνες, δὲν ἔπεφτε κάτω. Αὐτὸς ἦταν κοντοῦ ἀναστήματος καὶ δὲν ἐβλεπε. Ἄναψε τότε μέσα του μιὰ ἐπιθυμία νὰ δῇ τὸ Χριστό. Ὑπελόγισε ἀπὸ πού θὰ περάσῃ, κ' ἔτρεξε μπροστὰ σὰν νὰ ἦταν παιδί. Βρῆκε ἓνα δένδρο καὶ —ἀξιωματοῦχος αὐτὸς καὶ μὲ κοινωνικὴ θέσι—, σκαρφάλωσε σ' αὐτὸ σὰν τὸ γατί. Ἐκανε τὸ δέντρο παρατηρητήριο καὶ **περίμενε τὸ Χριστό**. Ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς πλησίασε, σήκωσε τὰ μάτια καὶ τοῦ ἔρριξε μιὰ ματιά.

Ὡ, φτάνει αὐτὴ ἡ ματιά! Πάνω ἀπ' ὄλες τὶς ματιὰς καὶ τὰ βλέμματα, τῆς μάνας τῆς γυναίκας τοῦ παιδιοῦ..., τὸ ἀνώτερο εἶνε ν' ἀξιωθοῦμε νὰ δεχτοῦμε **μιὰ ματιὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ**. Ὅπως λέει κάπου ὁ ἱερὸς Χρυσόστομος, ὅταν ἔρθῃ ἡ ἡμέρα ἐκείνη στὴ μέλλουσα κρίσι, **μιὰ ματιὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ φτάνει**· ἀρκεῖ ἐκεῖνος νὰ ρίξῃ πάνω μας μιὰ ματιά, γιὰ νὰ γίνῃ ἡ καρδιά μας παράδεισος. Διαφορετικά, ἡ ψυχὴ βυθίζεται σὲ θλίψι. «**Μὴ ἀποστρέψῃς τὸ πρόσωπόν σου ἀπὸ τοῦ παιδός σου, ὅτι θλίβομαι**» (Ματθ. 23).

Μαζὶ μὲ τὴ γλυκεῖα καὶ στοργικὴ ματιά του στὸ Ζαχαῖο ὁ Χριστὸς εἶπε· «**Ζαχαῖε...**».

Ἦξερε τὸ ὄνομά του, ὅπως **ἔξερει καὶ τὰ ὀνόματά μας**. Ἄς μὴ γνωρίζουν τὰ ὀνόματά μας οἱ μεγάλοι καὶ οἱ ἰσχυροί, ἄς εἴμαστε μικροὶ καὶ ἄσημοι, ἄς μὴ γράφονται τὰ ὀνόματά μας σὲ ἐφημερίδες καὶ περιοδικά, ἄς μὴν

τὰ φωνάζουν τὰ ραδιόφωνα. Ὅταν εἶσαι κοντὰ στὸ Χριστό, τὸ ὄνομά σου εἶνε γραμμένο σὲ βιβλίο ζωῆς, στὴν καρδιά τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

«Ζακχαῖε», τοῦ λέει, «σπεύσας, κατάρβηθι», κατέβη γρήγορα κάτω, γιατί σήμερα θὰ μείνω στὸ σπίτι σου [11:13]. Καὶ ὁ Ζακχαῖος ἔσπευσε, κατέβηκε, καὶ ὠδήγησε τὸ Χριστὸ στὸ σπίτι του.

Ὅταν ἔφτασαν, σταμάτησε στὸ κατώφλι. Μέσα στὴν καρδιά του ἔγινε μιὰ ἐπανάστασι. Γκρεμίστηκε τὸ κάστρο τῆς ἁμαρτίας, κ' ἕνας νέος κόσμος «ὁμορφος, ἀγγελικὰ πλασμένος» ποὺ λέει ὁ ποιητής, ἄρχισε νὰ γεννιέται. Τὸν ἀκούσατε τί εἶπε; Πῆρε **δυὸ ἀποφάσεις**, ποὺ ἂν τίς ἔπαιρνε κι ὁ ὑπόλοιπος κόσμος, ἡ γῆ θὰ γινόταν οὐρανός. Ἡ πρώτη ἀπόφασί: «Ἄν, Κύριε, ἀδίκησα ἄνθρωπο, εἶμαι ἑτοιμος νὰ τὸν ἀποζημιώσω». Ἄν ἔκλεψα ἕνα πρόβατο, θὰ δώσω τέσσερα. Ἄν ἔκλεψα μίαν δραχμὴ, θὰ δώσω τέσσερις. Ἄν ἔκλεψα δέκα δραχμὲς, θὰ δώσω σαράντα. • Κ' ἔκλεινε τὸ ὑπόλοιπο, ποὺ θὰ μείνῃ, δὲν θὰ τὸ κρατήσω μόνο γιὰ τὴν οἰκογένειά μου. Θὰ τὸ μοιράσω. Τὸ μισὸ θὰ κρατήσω ἐγώ, τὸ ὑπόλοιπο **θὰ τὸ μοιράσω σ' αὐτοὺς ποὺ ἔχουν ἀνάγκη**.

Ἔτσι, μ' αὐτὰ ποὺ ἔκανε ὁ Ζακχαῖος (τὴ σφοδρὴ ἐπιθυμία νὰ δεῖ τὸ Χριστό, τίς μεγάλες ἀποφάσεις ποὺ πήρε, ἀποφάσεις δικαιοσύνης φιλανθρωπίας καὶ ἐλέους) **ἀπέδειξε, ὅτι ἦταν ἄξιός** νὰ τὸν ἐπισκεφθῇ ὁ Χριστός.

Τὸ εὐαγγέλιο αὐτό, ἀγαπητοί μου, διαβάζεται ὅταν πλησιάζουμε στὸ **Τριψύδιο**. Παρουσιάζεται ὁ Ζακχαῖος, γιὰ νὰ μᾶς θυμίσῃ τὴν ἀνάγκη τῆς μετανοίας, ποὺ θὰ προβάλλῃ σὲ λίγο ἐνώπιόν μας ἡ Ἐκκλησία.

Καὶ εἶνε τὸ κήρυγμα αὐτὸ πάντοτε ἐπίκαιρο. Ποιὸς δὲν ἔχει ἀνάγκη μετανοίας; Κι αὐτὸς ποὺ κάθεται στὰ ἀνάκτορα κι αὐτὸς ποὺ κάθεται στὴν καλύβα, κι ἀρχιεπίσκοπος ἢ πατριάρχης κι ὁ καλόγερος, κι ὁ ἐργάτης κι ὁ κεφαλαιοκράτης, ὅλοι, ἀδέρφια μου, στὸ μάταιο αὐτὸ κόσμο **ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη μετανοίας**.

Ἀνοίξτε τὸ βιβλίο τῆς ζωῆς καὶ ρίξτε μιὰ ματιά. Θὰ δεῖτε νὰ παρελαύνουν ὅλα σὰν στρατιῶτες μπρὸς στὸ βασιλεῖο. Σὰς ἐρωτῶ. Δὲν ντρέπεστε γιὰ πολλὰ; Δὲν ὑπάρχουν πράξεις, λόγια, σκέψεις ποὺ θρηνεῖ ἡ ψυχὴ σας; Γι' αὐτὰ λοιπὸν εἶνε ἀνάγκη νὰ μετανοήσουμε.

Ὑπάρχουν δυὸ εἰδῶν μετάνοιες μετάνοια εὐλικρινῆς καὶ μετάνοια ψεύτικη. Διαβάστε τὰ εὐαγγέλια· ἀμάρτησε ὁ Πέτρος, ἀμάρτησε κι ὁ Ἰούδας. Ὁ Πέτρος ἀνῆλθε, ὁ Ἰούδας πρόδωσε τὸ Χριστό. Ἄλλ' ὁ μὲν Πέτρος μετανόησε καὶ «ἐκλαυσε πικρῶς» [Ματθ. 26:75], ἐνῶ ὁ Ἰού-

δας «μεταμεληθεὶς ἀπέστρεψε τὰ τριάκοντα ἀργύρια... καὶ ἀπελθὼν ἀπήγγελετο» [Ματθ. 27:3], αὐτοκτόνησε. Γι' αὐτὸ λέω· ὑπάρχουν δυὸ μετάνοιες· ἡ μετάνοια τοῦ Ζακχαῖου, τοῦ ἀσώτου, τῆς πόρνῃς, τοῦ ληστοῦ, ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡ μετάνοια τοῦ φαρισαίου καὶ τοῦ Ἰούδα.

Ἐμεῖς, ἀδελφοί μου, ὅχι μετάνοια Ἰούδα, ἀλλὰ **εὐλικρινῆ μετάνοια**, σὰν τὴ μεγάλη μετάνοια τοῦ Ζακχαῖου. Δὲν εἶνε ἀπλῶς νὰ λέμε Μετανοῶ. Μετάνοια θὰ πῇ, νὰ ἀλλάξῃς πιά δρομολόγιο ζωῆς, νὰ κάνῃς τὰ ἀντίθετα ἀπ' ὅ,τι ἔκανες. Νὰ γίνῃ ὁ φιλάργυρος ἐλεήμων, ὁ φιλόδοξος ταπεινός, ὁ ἀκόλαστος ἐγκρατής. Γι' αὐτὸ εἶπα, ὅτι σήμερα στὸ εὐαγγέλιο ὑπάρχει τὸ μεγαλύτερο θαῦμα, τὸ **θαῦμα τῆς ἐσωτερικῆς μεταβολῆς** τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. Τί ἦταν πρῶτα ὁ Ζακχαῖος καὶ τί ἔγινε; Ἦταν ἕνας λύκος κ' ἔγινε ἀρνί, ἦταν ἕνα κάρβουνο κ' ἔγινε διαμάντι τοῦ Χριστοῦ. Πῶς; Διὰ τῆς μετανοίας.

Στὴ μετάνοια μᾶς καλεῖ σήμερα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο μὲ τὴ σάλπιγγα τοῦ Ζακχαῖου. Ἀλλὰ στὴ μετάνοια μᾶς καλεῖ καὶ ὁ ἅγιος **Ἐφραίμ ὁ Σύρος** (ἐορτάζει 28 Ἰανουαρίου). Εἶνε ἕνας ἀπὸ τοὺς πρῶτους κατανυκτικοὺς πατέρας καὶ διδασκάλους τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας. Ὅλη ἡ ζωὴ του ἦταν ἕνα δάκρυ κ' ἕνα πένθος γιὰ τὴν ἁμαρτία. Κέντρο τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, λέει, εἶνε τὸ μυαλό. Μολύνθηκε αὐτό; ὅλα εἶνε μολυσμένα. Γι' αὐτὸ σὲ κάποια ὁμιλία του περὶ μετανοίας, στρέφεται πρὸς τὸν διάβολο καὶ λέει:

Τί μεγάλο κακὸ κάνεις στὸν κόσμον μὲ τὴν ἁμαρτία, διάβολε! Μᾶς μόλυνες τὸ μυαλό· κ' ἐνῶ ἡ σκέψις μας πρέπει νὰ εἶνε κρύσταλλο, ἔγινε βρωμερὴ καὶ ἀκάθαρτη. Μᾶς ἔκανες τὴν καρδιά κρύα· καὶ ἐνῶ πρέπει νὰ φλέγεται ἀπὸ ἀγάπη στὸ Θεὸ καὶ τὸν πλησίον, ἔγινε πάγος. Μᾶς ἔκλεισες τὰ μάτια νὰ μὴ βλέπουμε τὰ ὠραῖα τοῦ Θεοῦ, μᾶς ἔκλεισες τ' αὐτιά νὰ μὴν ἀκοῦμε τὰ λόγια του. Μᾶς ἔκανες, διάβολε, παράλυτους καὶ νεκρούς. Ἔως πότε θὰ σὲ ὑπηρετοῦμε, ἔως πότε θὰ εἴμαστε γκαρσόνια σου; λέει ὁ δοσιεὺς Ἐφραίμ.

Ἀπὸ σήμερα, ὅχι ἀπὸ αὐριο, διακόπτουμε σχέσεις μὲ τὸν διάβολο. Παίρνουμε διαζύγιο ἀπ' αὐτόν. Μπρός, μπρός, κοντὰ στὸ Χριστό! **Κοντὰ στὸ Χριστό!** μᾶς φωνάζουν τὰ πάντα.

Εἶθε ὁ Χριστός, μὲ τὸ δάκρυ καὶ τὸν πόνο, νὰ δεχτῇ τὴ μετάνοιά μας. Καὶ «τὸν ὑπόλοιπον χρόνον τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν» ὡς τὸν διανύσουμε «ἐν εἰρήνῃ καὶ μετανόια» [1.Ιω. 1:3], ἔως ὅτου φθάσουμε ἐπάνω στὸν οὐρανό, γιὰ νὰ δοξάζουμε ἐκεῖ Πατέρα Υἱὸν καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα· ἀμήν.

(†) **ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος**

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.

Sunday of Zaccheus

Lord, your mercy is great indeed for all who receive it with sincerity of heart. We rejoice today with Zacchaeus, the poor little rich man whose house was blessed and sanctified by your entrance and presence. Listening to this Holy Gospel, we understand that even though he had a certain amount of material wealth and earthly riches, he himself knew that there was something missing and that indeed, he was poor.

But he could only have known this because he responded to your invitation, gently but insistently, calling to his heart. His heart must have been a heart of flesh, warm and giving, for he says that he gives "one half of his possessions to the poor" and will "restore fourfold if he has defrauded anyone." This Zacchaeus

is not a cold calculating man, but a man in search of that "something missing" in his life. Even though he did not know what it was, he did know in his heart that somehow Jesus might have the answer for him. Jesus, your answer came in a manner that far exceeded his expectations. For he came to realize in the instant You said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately ..." that You, O Lord, were the only "true riches."

Lord, as the time of the Great Fast swiftly approaches, give us the desire of Zacchaeus to see You: the desire that will go to any lengths and do anything to get just a glimpse of You. Lord, it is more than just a glimpse that You give to those who "seek You with all their heart."

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)

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