



THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN February 4th, 2024
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Holy Priest-Martyr Charalampios -- February 10th

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 Second Letter to the Corinthians 4:6-15

Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 117.14,18

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους β' 4:6-15 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα


Ἀδελφοί, ὁ θεὸς ὁ εἰπὼν ἐκ σκότους φῶς λάμπει, ὃς ἔλαμψεν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἔχομεν δὲ τὸν θησαυρὸν τοῦτον ἐν ὅστροκίνοις σκεύεσιν, ἵνα ἡ ὑπερβολὴ τῆς δυνάμεως ᾗ τοῦ θεοῦ, καὶ μὴ ἐξ ἡμῶν· ἐν παντὶ θλιβόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐ στενοχωρούμενοι· ἀπορούμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐξαπορούμενοι· διωκόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγκαταλειπόμενοι· καταβαλλόμενοι, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀπολλύμενοι· πάντοτε τὴν νέκρωσιν τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι περιφέροντες, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι ἡμῶν φανερωθῇ. Αἰεὶ γὰρ ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες εἰς θάνατον παραδιδόμεθα διὰ Ἰησοῦν, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ φανερωθῇ ἐν τῇ θνητῇ σαρκὶ ἡμῶν. Ὡστε ὁ μὲν θάνατος ἐν ἡμῖν ἐνεργεῖται, ἡ δὲ ζωὴ ἐν ὑμῖν. ἔχοντες δὲ τὸ αὐτὸ πνεῦμα τῆς πίστεως, κατὰ τὸ γεγραμμένον, Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, καὶ ἡμεῖς πιστεύομεν, διὸ καὶ λαλοῦμεν· εἰδότες ὅτι ὁ ἐγείρας τὸν κύριον Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἡμᾶς διὰ Ἰησοῦ ἐγερεῖ, καὶ παραστήσει σὺν ὑμῖν. Τὰ γὰρ πάντα δι' ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἡ χάρις πλεονάσῃ διὰ τῶν πλειόνων τὴν εὐχαριστίαν περισσεύσῃ εἰς τὴν δόξαν τοῦ θεοῦ.

At that time, a lawyer came up to Jesus and asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νομικός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ, πειράζων αὐτόν καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε, ποία ἐντολὴ μεγάλη ἐν τῷ νόμῳ; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοὺς ἔφη αὐτῷ· Ἀγαπήσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ καρδίᾳ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ψυχῇ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ διανοίᾳ σου· αὕτη ἐστὶ πρώτη καὶ μεγάλη ἐντολή. δευτέρα δὲ ὁμοία αὐτῇ· ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. ἐν ταύταις ταῖς δυσὶν ἐντολαῖς ὅλος ὁ νόμος καὶ οἱ προφῆται κρέμανται. Συνηγμένων δὲ τῶν Φαρισαίων ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτοὺς ὁ Ἰησοὺς λέγων· Τί ὑμῖν δοκεῖ περὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ; τίνας υἱὸς ἐστὶ; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· Τοῦ Δαυὶδ. λέγει αὐτοῖς· Πῶς οὖν Δαυὶδ ἐν Πνεύματι Κύριον καλεῖ αὐτὸν λέγων, εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου, κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; εἰ οὖν Δαυὶδ καλεῖ αὐτὸν Κύριον, πῶς υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ἐστὶ; καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδύνατο αὐτῷ ἀποκριθῆναι λόγον, οὐδὲ ἐτόλμησέ τις ἀπ' ἐκείνης τῆς ἡμέρας ἐπερωτῆσαι αὐτὸν οὐκέτι.

Coffee FELLOWSHIP Hour: TODAY is being hosted and served by the Greek School P.T.A. in Whitehall after the Divine Liturgy:

TODAY: As part of the on-going post –feast of the **THREE HOLY HIERARCHS** our select Greek School students will present an observance program at the conclusion of the traditional **ARTOKLASIA** under the direction of P.T.A. President Mrs. Sylvia Raptis. Artos will be distributed to all at the dismissal. Congratulations to our faculty members **MARIA HALKIAS** and **MARIA TZOVARA**.

Wednesday: February 07th, The **SENIOR CLUB** members will celebrate the **CHINESE NEW YEAR** with festivities, goodies, chop-sticks and (Chinese Auction) It is the **YEAR OF THE DRAGON**. 

PAN-ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL ‘OPEN HOUSE’ is scheduled at 670 – 92nd Street – **BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN** on Thursday, February 8th, at 6:30 P.M. Meet the founders of the institution, learn about the mission statement, and tour the school edifice. The school will provide a quality education for Orthodox Christian and other students from grades 9 through 12.

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

Super-Bowl Sunday: a.k.a. in Orthodox Christian calculation **THE SUNDAY of EMPERESS THEODORA** and **SAINT BLAISE** will highlight a **UKRAINIAN SOUP LUNCH** at 3:00 P.M in **WHITEHALL** for all to enjoy! Father Vasili invites you too. Adult parent chaperones will attend and assist.

A.H.E.P.A. HELLENIC HISTORY TOURNAMENT will be held on Saturday, February 17th with \$4,500 in cash prizes. The ‘**JEOPARDY- LIKE**’ competition is for student teams of three from grades 8th through 12th. The **NEW YORK STATE** venue is at Saint Nicholas Church – Flushing, N.Y. Competition commences at 11:00 A.M. Please see centerfold flyer.

PRAYER HEALING SERVICE as per usual is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 21st**. You’ve read about it, but have yet to attend! Give it a try. It’s an informal yet structured spiritual and intellectual epiphany on so many levels. The round circle discussions involve homily, scripture, prayer, witnessing, anointing and concludes with’ Goode Olde ‘ Christian fellowship with familiar and unfamiliar faces from Church. We invite you to join us.

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 **TODAY**.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YOUR STEWARDSHIP MEMBERSHIP TO THREE HIERARCH CHURCH FOR THE NEW YEAR 2024? Please remember it’s a privilege as well as an obligation to register support for your parish church. **BE A MEMBER! GOD DOES WONDERS!**

MEMORIALS February 11th: + MENELAOS and STAVROULA (Stella) BONIS
February 18th: + APOSTOLOS + ALEXANDRA PAPOUTSAKIS
+ MARY GEORGHIOU + FRANCES PAVLAKOS + ANDREAS MANICKAS

Eternal be the souls of the faithfully departed

THY VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

FEBRUARY 10th, 2024

7pm-11:30pm

OPEN TO ALL GOYAns 12-18

\$35 ENTRANCE FEE VIA ZELLE (646)-410-6683

\$40 AT DOOR

MUSIC BY BRAVO SOUND INT'L
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE
CONTACT:

(646)-410-6683

FB: THY Brooklyn

IG: goya_thy_bk

threehierarchsyouth@gmail.com

RSVP BY 2/9/24
USING THE QR CODE



Three Hierarchs Church 1724 Avenue P,
Brooklyn, NY 11229

THE AHEPA EMPIRE DISTRICT 6 INTRODUCES ITS



1ST ANNUAL HELLENIC HISTORY TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 17, 2024

WIN **\$4,500** IN CASH PRIZES

1ST & 2ND PLACE TEAMS INVITED TO
COMPETE FOR \$10,000 IN PRIZES

AT THE
INTERNATIONAL HELLENIC
HISTORY TOURNAMENT

JEOPARDY-LIKE COMPETITION
FOR STUDENT TEAMS
FROM GRADE 8-12

QUESTIONS FROM THE BOOK "HELLENIKA:
HERITAGE AND HISTORY" BY PETER LIMBER

SAINT NICHOLAS GREEK
ORTHODOX CHURCH
196-10 NORTHERN BLVD.
FLUSHING, NY 11358

SIGN-IN: 10:00 AM
COMPETITION STARTS
AT 11:00 AM

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 1/28/2024
ENTER TODAY AT AHEPAD6.COM/HHT

Art & Design: www.StudioOfTheSeas.com



ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἐπὶ τὴν Καννοβιακὴ Γυναικίᾳ Ἰερὰ Μονὴ Χρίου Αὐγουστίνου Θάβρινης – 531 00 ΘΑΔΡΙΝΑ – τηλ. 23850-28610 – info@yghoa.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος Κ'
Θλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 954*

Κυριακὴ ΙΕ' Λουκᾶ
4 Φεβρουαρίου 2024 ἐσπέρας (2003)

Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος
Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καννιώτης

Α'. Τὸ μεγαλύτερο ἁμάρτημα

«Εἴ τις οὐ φιλεῖ τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ἦτω ἀνάθεμα. μαρὰν ἀθά» (Α' Κορ. 16,22)

Λένε, ἀγαπητοί μου, ὅτι κάπου στὴν Ἑλλάδα ὑπῆρχε ἕνας σταῦλος πολὺ ἀκάθαρτος, ὁ σταῦλος τοῦ Αὐγείου. Τριάντα χρόνια εἶχε νὰ καθαριστῇ. Ἐπὶ τέλους βρέθηκε ὁ Ἡρακλῆς καὶ τὸν καθάρισε. Πῶς; Ἐρριξε μέσα τὴν κοίτη τοῦ Ἀλφειοῦ ποταμοῦ, καὶ τὰ ὀρμητικὰ ρεύματα ἔδωξαν τοὺς ὄγκους τῆς κοπριάς. Δὲν γνωρίζω, ἀγαπητοί μου, ἐὰν ὑπῆρχε τέτοιος σταῦλος στὴν ἀρχαία ἐποχή. Γνωρίζω ὅμως καλὰ, ὅτι ὑπάρχει κάποιος ἄλλος σταῦλος ἀπείρως πιὸ ἀκάθαρτος. Ποιὸς εἶνε αὐτός; Εἶνε αὐτὸς ποὺ ὑπονοοῦσε ὁ σταῦλος τοῦ Αὐγείου. Μὴν τὸν ζητήσετε μακριά· εἶνε πολὺ κοντά. Σταῦλος εἶνε ἡ καρδιά μας. Ὡς ἡ καρδιά μας! Δὲν ὑπάρχει βαθύτερο καὶ σκοτεινότερο πρᾶγμα. Ἔτσι φωνάζει ὁ προφήτης Ἰερεμίας· «Βαθεῖα ἡ καρδιά παρὰ πάντα...» (Ἰερ. 17), σταῦλος Αὐγείου. Δὲν ἀκοῦτε καὶ τὸ Δαυὶδ ποὺ λέει «Καρδίαν καθαρὰν κτίσσον ἐν ἐμοί, ὁ Θεός»; (Ψαλμ. 51,12). Δὲν ζητῶ, Κύριε, οὔτε πλούτη οὔτε δόξα οὔτε τὴ σοφία τοῦ κόσμου τούτου· ζητῶ νὰ μοῦ δώσης καθαρὴ καρδιά.

Ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη καθαρμοῦ, χρειαζόμαστε ἐσωτερικὴ κάθαρσι. Ἔχουμε ἀνάγκη νὰ καθαρθοῦν οἱ καρδιές μας. Ἄν καθαρίσουμε τὴς καρδιές μας, θὰ ἐορτάσουμε τὸ ὠραιότερο Πάσχα. Τὴ νύχτα τῆς Ἀναστάσεως, λίγα λεπτὰ πρὶν ψαλῇ τὸ «Χριστὸς ἀνέστη», ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας ψάλλει· «Τὴν ἀνάστασίν σου, Χριστέ Σωτήρ, ἀγγελοὶ ὕμνουσιν ἐν οὐρανοῖς. Καὶ ἡμᾶς τοὺς ἐπὶ γῆς καταξίωσον ἐν καθαρῇ καρδίᾳ σὲ δοξάζειν».

Ἀλλὰ πῶς θ' ἀποκτήσουμε καθαρὴ καρδιά; ὁ σταῦλος τοῦ Αὐγείου καθαρίστηκε μὲ τὰ ρεύματα τοῦ Ἀλφειοῦ· ἡ δική μας καρδιά πῶς θὰ καθαριστῇ; Θὰ καθαριστῇ, ἐὰν ῥίξουμε μέσα σ' αὐτὴν τὸν Ἰορδάνη. Δὲν ἐννοῶ τὸν φυσικὸ Ἰορδάνη. Μπορεῖς νὰ περάσης ὄχι μὴ ἀλλὰ χίλιες φορὲς τὸν Ἰορδάνη ποταμό, καὶ

ὅμως οὔτε μιὰ ἁμαρτία νὰ σβῆσης. Ἰορδάνης, ποὺ πλένει τὰ ἁμαρτήματα ὧλων μας, εἶνε, ἀδελφοί μου, τὸ δάκρυ τῆς ἁμαρτωλῆς γυναίκας, τὸ δάκρυ τοῦ ληστοῦ, τὸ δάκρυ τῆς μετανοίας. Δώστε μου ἕνα δάκρυ μετανοίας, καὶ αὐτὸ εἶνε ποταμός, μέσα στὸν ὁποῖο πλένονται καὶ καθαρίζονται καὶ ἀστράφτουν σὰν τὸ χιόνι οἱ ἁμαρτωλὲς ψυχές. Ἀκριβῶς πρὸς τὸ μυστήριον τῆς ἱερᾶς μετανοίας καὶ ἐξομολογήσεως μὲς καλοῦν οἱ ἄγιες αὐτὲς ἡμέρες.

Θέλω, ἀγαπητοί μου, νὰ κεντήσω τὴν περὶεργεία σας ἐπάνω σὲ ἕνα θέμα τὸ ὁποῖο θεωρῶ βασικό. Ἄν μπορούσα νὰ ἐξασκήσω τὸ ἔργο τοῦ πνευματικοῦ πατρός, ἂν μπορούσα νὰ βάλω πετραχήλι καὶ νὰ σὰς ἐξομολογήσω, θὰ μεταχειριζόμουν στὸ μυστήριον τῆς ἐξομολογήσεως μιὰ ἄλλη μέθοδο· μέθοδο παλαιά, ἀλλὰ λησμονημένη. Ποιά μέθοδο;

Σήμερα ἡ ἐξομολόγησις δὲν γίνεται σωστά· ἔχει γίνει ἕνα ἀπλὸ ἐρωτηματολόγιο. Ἀλλὰ πέρα ἀπὸ τὸ ἐρωτηματολόγιο ἀπλώνεται ἡ οὐσία τοῦ μυστηρίου. Πιστεύω, ὅτι τὸ κακὸ στὴν ἐξομολόγησι πρέπει νὰ τὸ χτυπήσουμε κατακέφαλα. Τὸ φίδι δὲν ὠφελεῖ νὰ τὸ χτυπᾷς στὴν οὐρά· ὅσο κι ἂν τὸ χτυπᾷς στὴν οὐρά, θὰ μείνῃ ζωντανό, ἔστω καὶ κολοβό. Τὸ φίδι πρέπει νὰ τὸ χτυπήσης στὸ κεφάλι. Καὶ στὴν ἐξομολόγησι τώρα χτυπᾷμε τὴν οὐρά, δὲν χτυπᾷμε τὸ κεφάλι. Ἔτσι στὸ μέγα τοῦτο μυστήριον γίνεται μιὰ θεομπαιξία. Ποιά θεομπαιξία; Λέμε τὰ μικρά, τὰ ἀσήμαντα· τὰ μεγάλα, τὰ κεφαλαιώδη ἁμαρτήματα δὲν τὰ λέμε.

Σὲ κάποιο βιβλίον ἕνας διδάσκαλος Ῥώσος μυστικιστῆς φιλόσοφος, ποὺ ἀπηχεῖ τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου, θέτει ἕνα ἐρώτημα – καὶ τὸ θέτω κ' ἐγώ. Ἄν ἐρχόσασταν στὴν ἐξομολόγησι, θὰ σὰς ῥωτοῦσα· Ἀφ' ὅτου γνωρίσατε τὴ ζωὴ μέχρι τώρα ποιὸ εἶνε τὸ μεγαλύτερο ἁμάρτημά σας; Εἶνε ἡ κλοπὴ, ἡ ἀρπαγὴ, ἡ

καταδυνάστευσι φτωχῶν καὶ ἀδυνάτων; εἶνε ἢ φιλαργυρία; εἶνε ἢ κενοδοξία, ὁ φόνος, ἢ μοιχεία, ἢ πορνεία, ἢ εἶνε ἕνα ἀπὸ τὰ ἀπαίσια ἐκεῖνα ἁμαρτήματα, ποὺ ζωγραφίζει στὴν ἐπιστολή του πρὸς Ῥωμαίους ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος; [βλ. 12:14]. Δὲν γνωρίζω ποιά εἶνε ἡ ἀπάντησί σας, ποῖο ἁμάρτημα ἐσεῖς παίρνετε κυριώτατα καὶ τὸ υπογραμμίζετε ὡς τὸ φοβερότερο τῆς ζωῆς σας. Ἐγὼ ὁμως κρατῶ στὰ χέρια τὴ ζυγαριὰ ποὺ λέγεται ἁγία Γραφή, ποὺ ζυγίζει οὐρανὸ καὶ γῆ, ποὺ ζυγίζει μεγάλα καὶ μικρὰ ἁμαρτήματα μετὰ ἀκρίβεια· καὶ μ' αὕτῃ τῇ ζυγαριᾷ θὰ σᾶς δείξω ποῖο εἶνε τὸ μεγαλύτερο ἁμάρτημά μας.

Ἀνοίγω πρῶτα τὴν **Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη**. Καὶ μόλις ἀνοίξω, ἀπ' τὴν ἀρχὴ μέχρι τὸ τέλος μοῦ φαίνεται ὅτι βλέπω ἕναν οὐρανὸ ν' ἀστράφτει καὶ νὰ βροντᾷ. Τί λέει ἡ Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη; τί λέει ὁ νόμος τοῦ Θεοῦ; τί λέει ὁ Μωυσῆς, τὸ Σινὰ «τὸ δρόσος τὸ καπνίζον»; [Ἐξ. 24:18; τί λένε οἱ προφῆτες; Ἀκούω κατ' ἐπανάληψιν μιὰ λέξι ποὺ προκαλεῖ τὴ φρίκη, τὴ λέξι «**Ἀνάθεμα!**» [βλ. 1:28 2:9 2:17 1:18 καὶ 1:28 2:14 1:15]. Στὴν ἱστορία τοῦ νεωτέρου Ἑλληνισμοῦ, σὲ ἐποχὴ ἀγρίου πολιτικοῦ ἐμφυλίου σπαραγμοῦ, ἐβούλετο κάποτε ἡ λέξι «ἀνάθεμα». Ἀλλ' ἐκεῖνο τὸ ἀνάθεμα δὲν ἦταν ἔκφρασις τοῦ θελήματος τοῦ Θεοῦ. Τὸ ἀνάθεμα ποὺ ἐκφράζει ἡ Παλαιὰ Διαθήκη εἶνε πολὺ διαφορετικόν. Τί θὰ πῇ «ἀνάθεμα»; τί θὰ πῇ «ἀναθεματισμένος»; Θὰ πῇ «χωρισμένος». Ὅπως ὁ γιατρὸς παίρνει τὸ χειρουργικὸ μαχαίρι καὶ ἀποκόπτει τὸ σάπιο μέρος γιὰ νὰ σώσῃ τὸ γερό, ἔτσι καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον χωρίζει τὸ σεσηπὸς ἀπὸ τὸ ὑγιές. Χωρίζει τὸν ἀμετανόητο ἐγκληματία ἀπὸ τοὺς λοιπούς. Τὸν διαγράφει ἀπὸ τὸ μητρώον τῶν τέκνων τοῦ Θεοῦ, τὸν ἀποκόπτει ἀπὸ τὴν κοινωνία τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀναθεματισμένος! Κηρύχθηκε κάποιος στὴν παλαιὰ διαθήκη ἀναθεματισμένος; Δὲν ἔχει δικαίωμα νὰ ἐπικοινωνήσῃ με τοὺς ἄλλους, καὶ δὲν ἐπιτρεπόταν κανεὶς νὰ τοῦ πῇ καλημέρα. Οὔτε ἡ γυναῖκα του, οὔτε τὰ παιδιὰ του, οὔτε αὐτὴ ἡ μάνα ποὺ τὸν γέννησε ἐπιτρεπόταν νὰ τὸν πλησιάσουν. Τὸν θεωροῦσαν ἐχθρό· ὅπως καὶ στὴν παλαιὰ Σπάρτη, ποὺ ἡ μητέρα τοῦ Παισάνια ἔφερε ἡ ἴδια πρώτη τὴν πέτρα γιὰ νὰ φράξουν τὸ ναό, ὅπου εἶχε καταφύγει ὁ προδότης γυιὸς της, καὶ ἔδωσε παράδειγμα ὑψηλόφρονος γυναίκας, ἡ ὁποία πάνω ἀπὸ τὴν ἀγάπην τοῦ παιδιοῦ εἶχε τὴν ἀγάπην τῆς πατρίδος. Ἔτσι καὶ οἱ Ἰσραηλιτεῖς. Ὅταν κάποιος ἀναθεματιζόταν, συγκεντρώνονταν ὅλοι μετὰ τῇ

σάλπιγγα, διαβαζόταν ὁ νόμος, ἀπαγγελλόταν ἡ κατηγορία, καὶ μετὰ, χίλια χέρια ἐπιάναν λιθάρια, τὰ ἔρριχναν πάνω του καὶ τὸν σκέπαζαν μ' αὐτά, γιὰ νὰ ἐξαφανισθῇ ἀπὸ προσώπου γῆς ὁ ἐγκληματίας, ὁ παραβάτης.

«**Ἀνάθεμα**». Σὲ ποιούς; Ἀνάθεμα σὲ ὅσους πηγαίνουν με τοὺς εἰδωλολάτρες. Ἀνάθεμα σὲ ὅσους πηγαίνουν στοὺς μάγους καὶ τὶς μάγισσες. Ἀνάθεμα στοὺς πόρνους καὶ τὶς πόρνες. Ἀνάθεμα στοὺς μοιχοὺς. Ἀνάθεμα στοὺς βλασφήμους. Ἀνάθεμα σὲ ὅσους τρῶνε τὸν ἰδρώτα τῶν φτωχῶν καὶ τὸ ψωμὶ τῶν ὀρφανῶν. Αὐτὰ λέει ὅχι κάποιος αὐστηρὸς ἱεροκήρυκας ἀλλ' αὐτὸ τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον διὰ τῶν σελίδων τῆς Παλαιᾶς Διαθήκης.

Ἀλλ', ἀδελφοί μου, εἶμαι κ' ἐγὼ ἁμαρτωλὸς καὶ φοβᾶμαι τὸ «ἀνάθεμα». Γι' αὐτὸ ἔρχομαι τώρα στὸν κόσμον τῆς **Καينῆς Διαθήκης**, ὅπου ἀπὸ τὴν πρώτη σελίδα μέχρι τὴν ἀρχὴ τῆς Ἀποκαλύψεως πνέει μιὰ ἄλλη αὔρα, ἡ αὔρα τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ Γολγοθᾶ, ποὺ ἀναψύχει τὴν ἀνθρώπινη καρδιά, ἡ αὔρα τῶν οἰκτιρμῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἐδῶ δὲν ἀκούω πλέον τὸ «ἀνάθεμα».

Καὶ ὁμως κάπου ἀκούγεται κ' ἐδῶ τὸ «ἀνάθεμα»! Ποιὸς τὸ λέει; Τὸ λέει ὁ ἀπόστολος Παῦλος. Ὁ Παῦλος «**ἀνάθεμα**»; Ὁ Παῦλος, ποὺ ἡ καρδιά του ἦταν ἕνας ὠκεανὸς ἀγάπης, ποὺ ἔψαλε τὸν ὡραιότερον ὕμνον γιὰ τὴν ἀγάπην [βλ. 1:3 καὶ 2:3], ποὺ εἶπε ἐκεῖνα τὰ ἀθάνατα λόγια «Ἐάν ταις γλώσσαις τῶν ἀνθρώπων λαλῶ καὶ τῶν ἀγγέλων, ἀγάπην δὲ μὴ ἔχω, ... οὐδὲν εἰμι» [1:3 καὶ 2:3]· ὁ Παῦλος λοιπὸν ἐκστομίζει τὴ λέξι αὕτη «ἀνάθεμα»; Ναι.

Καὶ σὲ ποιούς, παρακαλῶ, ἐκστομίζει τὴ λέξι αὕτη; Λέει ὁ Παῦλος «ἀνάθεμα» στοὺς πόρνους, στοὺς μοιχοὺς, στοὺς ὑπερφηγάνους...; Ποῦ λέει τὸ «ἀνάθεμα»; Ἀκούστε. Στὴν ἐπιστολὴ ποὺ ψάλλει τὸν ὕμνον τῆς ἀγάπης, στὴν ἴδια ἐπιστολὴ τελειώνοντας γράφει τὰ ἑξῆς. «Εἴ τις οὐ φιλεῖ τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, ἢ τὸ ἀνάθεμα. μαρὰν ἀθά»· ἂν ὑπάρχη κανεὶς ποὺ δὲν ἀγαπᾷ τὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν, νὰ εἶνε ἀνάθεμα [1:3 καὶ 2:22].

Ἄρα, ἀγαπητοί μου, τὸ μεγαλύτερον ἁμάρτημα ποῖο εἶνε; Τὸ ὅτι δὲν ἀγαπᾷμε τὸν Χριστό. Καὶ εἶνε αὐτὸ ἁμάρτημα τῆς ἐποχῆς μας, τοῦ αἰῶνος μας. Ἐν μέσῳ μυρίων ἐρώτων καὶ ἐνγκαλισμῶν τῆς ὕλης, δὲν ὑπάρχει πλέον ὁ θεὸς ἔρωτας, ὁ ἔρωτας τοῦ Ἐσταυρωμένου.

Ἀλλὰ τὸ θέμα δὲν τελειώνει ἐδῶ. Διακόπτουμε λοιπὸν καὶ θὰ συνεχίσουμε τὴν ἄλλη Κυριακή.

(†) **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.

The Priest-Martyr Charalampias

One of the lesser-known saints on our calendar is that of Saint Charalampias, who is commemorated on February 10th.

Saint Charalampias was a priest who lived in a small town in Asia Minor in the second century. He suffered much at the hands of the pagan authorities who tried to make him renounce his Christianity. Despite the many tortures they inflicted upon him, the priest Charalampias refused to renounce Christ. Amazingly, the saintly priest survived the numerous attempts to break his spirit and end his life through torture. This caused many to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Thousands sought out Saint Charalampias in his prison cell to ask for his blessing. They referred to him as the "man who could not be

killed." This further enraged the pagan Emperor, Servius, who ordered Charalampias to be brought to Antioch to be beheaded. Tradition tells us that just before his executioners were about to behead him, a voice was heard from the heavens that said, "Well done my good and faithful servant." With that, Saint Charalampias fell asleep in the Lord just before the executioner's blow was struck. Nonetheless, Saint Charalampias is regarded as a martyr who willingly gave up his life for the sake of his Faith.

Through his prayers, may we walk firmly in the footsteps of Christ and find strength in the face of the struggles that come our way.

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)**

WEB SITE: information is **ALWAYS ON LINE** ready to see and read. If you submit **YOUR E-MAILING** address we can forward Bulletin Information to you personally.

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