



DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN
DISTRICT

THREE HIERARCHS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 14th,
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST
SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon

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Prokeimenon. Mode 4 Psalm 103.24,1

O Lord, how manifold are your works. You have made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 6:13-20

BRETHREN, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

Προκείμενον. Ἦχος δ' ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 103.24,1

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου Κύριε, πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον. Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 6:13-20 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχεν μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὡμοσεν καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων, Ἦ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε, καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε. Καὶ οὕτως μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχεν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσιν, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος. Ἐν ᾧ περισσότερον βουλόμενος ὁ θεὸς ἐπιδείξει τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλήs αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένηs ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆs ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν, καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος· ὅπου πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηγήθην Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδὲκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ λέγων, διδάσκαλε, ἤνεγκα τὸν υἱόν μου πρὸς σε, ἔχοντα πνεῦμα ἄλαλον. καὶ ὅπου ἂν αὐτὸν καταλάβῃ, ῥήσσει αὐτόν, καὶ ἀφρίζει καὶ τρίζει τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ξηραίνεται· καὶ εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου ἵνα αὐτὸ ἐκβάλωσι, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτῷ λέγει· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος, ἕως πότε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετε αὐτὸν πρὸς με. καὶ ἤνεγκαν αὐτὸν πρὸς αὐτόν. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν εὐθέως τὸ πνεῦμα ἐσπάραξεν αὐτόν, καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆs ἐκυλίετο ἀφρίζων. καὶ ἐπρώτησε τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ· πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· παιδιόθεν. καὶ πολλάκις αὐτόν καὶ εἰς πῦρ ἔβαλε καὶ εἰς ὕδατα, ἵνα ἀπολέσῃ αὐτόν· ἀλλ' εἴ τι δύνασαι, βοήθησον ἡμῖν σπλαγχνισθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ τὸ εἰ δύνασαι πιστεῦσαι, πάντα δυνατὰ τῷ πιστεύοντι. καὶ εὐθέως κράξας ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ παιδίου μετὰ δακρύων ἔλεγε· πιστεύω, κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐπισυντρέχει ὄχλος, ἐπετίμησε τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ λέγων αὐτῷ· τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγὼ σοι ἐπιτάσσω, ἐξελθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς εἰς αὐτόν. καὶ κράξαν καὶ πολλὰ σπαράξαν αὐτὸν ἐξῆλθε, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός, ὥστε πολλοὺς λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς κρατήσας αὐτόν τῆς χειρὸs ἤγειρεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἰσελθόντα αὐτόν εἰς οἶκον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπρώτων αὐτόν κατ' ἰδίαν, ὅτι ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τοῦτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται ἐξελεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Καὶ ἐκείθεν ἐξελθόντες παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ἠθέλεν ἵνα τις γνῶ· ἐδίδασκε γὰρ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀποκτανθεὶς τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται.

Feast of Saint John Climacus (OF THE LADDER) on Sunday, April 14th.

Homily on the divine ascent to heaven. Where are YOU on the ladder?

Special services this week:

Wednesday: April 17th.	PRAYER and HEALING SERVICE	5:00 – 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday: April 17th,	Evening Pre-Sanctified Liturgy	6:00 – 7:00 P.M.
Wednesday: April 17th,	Daughters of Penelope POT LUCK DINNER	
	The Lenten Feast is open to all at	7:00 – 8:30 P.M.
Friday: April 19th:	AKATHIST HYMN to the Virgin Mary	7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Next Sunday: SAINT MARY of EGYPT FEAST: APRIL 21ST, 10:30 A.M.

PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES SOCIETY will convene a general meeting in WHITEHALL after the Divine Liturgy at 12:30 P.M.

CHURCHING TODAY: We welcome into the entrance of the Holy Mother Church the new born first son 'CONSTANTINOS ATHANASIOS' of the proud parents MICHAEL CHARLES SIMMONDS ad ALEXANDRA (PATSI) SIMMONDS. NA SAS ZESE!

PALM WEAVERS ARE NEEDED! Please consider joining the 'crew' of delicate fingers that will weave the thousands of PALM CROSSES to be devoutly distributed on the SUNDAY of PALMS April 28th. Learn the 'folk art' of weaving the cross and the joy it will bring to your soul. WEAVERS are invited for MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY April 22,23, and 24th in ROSEHALL from 11:00 A.M. Lenten luncheon treats will be served at 1:00 P.M. PLEASE JOIN US.

Reservations for the Palm Sunday Luncheon at Three Hierarchs WHITEHALL at 1:00 are in order.

Please see the insert flyer for all details. Join us as we open HOLY WEEK.

EASTER BAKE SALE of delicious and traditional Grecian pastries will be baked and offered by the Ladies Philoptochos Society on Sunday of Palms, APRIL 28th. See the Flyer!

Many thanks to the AVENUE "J" Florist – Vellios family for the beautiful daffodil flowers distributed of the faithful on this 'veneration of the Holy Cross' feast. Daffodils are the first harbinger of floral renaissance in springtime.

PASCHA CARD APPEAL COMMENCES: March 25th, was the opening of the 'drive' to inscribe faithful in the greeting and salutation of CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI! To the 1,000 homes of the community. Please see insert flyer and respond by visiting the church office with your donation. Your \$20.00 (twenty dollar donation) will assist our project. We'll be looking for your name and felicitations!

LENTEN NEEDS: The sacred and solemn occasion of our many religious services and traditions is fast approaching. HOLY WEEK is 2 weeks away! Please consider the following outreach in cooperation and dialogue with the Reverend Clergy. Speak to Father Eugene before making any decision. Communion wine is appropriate for the Holy Eucharist, King Size WHITE SHEETS are needed for the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, Olive Oil is necessary in abundance for the Holy Wednesday anointing. Incense, Prospora, altar flowers, are but a few of the essentials.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE PARADE: The traditional annual observance will be hosted by the City of New York on FIFTH AVENUE TODAY, APRIL 14TH FROM 1:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

A school bus will depart from Three Hierarchs on this date at 12:30 to participate in the festivity of our 203rd ANNIVERSARY of INDEPENDENCE from the tyranny of the OTTOMAN TURKISH TERROR.

POT LUCK DINNER is scheduled for Lent in concert with the EVENING PRE SANCTIFIED LITURGY! APRIL 17th by the Daughters of Penelope - 7:00 P.M. FREE!

Mark your calendar for this delicious Grecian delight Lenten buffet hosted by our gracious ladies:

We thank our 'church ladies' who are always at the helm of the ship of faith encouraging the people of God to participate in the breaking of bread. COME! SHARE! EAT! REJOICE!

TAKE NOTE: The final memorial tributes before PASCHA are set for APRIL 21st, and DO NOT RESUME until post Pascha May 19th. Make your memorial commemorations now.

MEMMORIALS: Sunday April 21: + TSY YAN CHZHOU +MARK O'PHAROW

+ EVANGELIA EKMANIAN + ANTONIOS ARGYROS + IRENE ARGYROS + GIORGIOS GONAKIS



THREE HIERARCHS PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON



**THREE HIERARCHS CHURCH
APRIL 28th, WHITEHALL
1724 Ave P
Brooklyn, NY
718-339-0280**

MENU

**SPLIT PEA SOUP
SALAD
BAKALIARO & SKORDALIA
ROASTER LEMON POTATOES
WINE & SOFT DRINKS
SPANAKORIZO
COFFEE or TEA
FRESH FRUIT & LENTEN SWEETS**

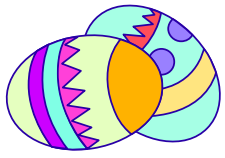


**ADULTS: \$30.00 CHILDREN: \$15.00
under 10 years**

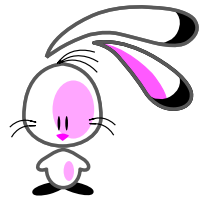


**RESERVE SEATS Call:
John Lambrakis (917) 673-9830
or Church Office 718-339-0280**





Three Hierarchs

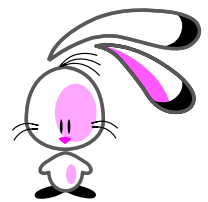


Ladies Philoptochos

Easter Bake Sale

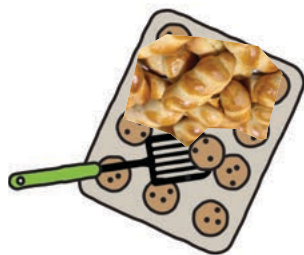


Menu	
TSOUREKIA	- \$ 10.00
KOULOURLAKIA	- \$ 10.00
KOURABIEDES	- \$ 15.00
MIXED	- \$ 15.00



Palm Sunday

April 28th, 2024





ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



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

Ἐκδίδεται ἀπὸ τὴν Κοινοβιακὴ Γυναικεῖα Ἰερὸ Μονὴ Ἁγίου Αὐγουστίνου Φλωρίνης - 531 00 ΦΛΩΡΙΝΑ - τηλ. 23850-28610 - imsaeflo@yahoo.gr

Περίοδος Δ' - Ἔτος ΙΖ' Φλώρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 712 ^ο	Κυριακὴ Δ' Νηστειῶν (Μάρκ. 9,17-31) 14 Ἀπριλίου 2024 (2000)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αὐγουστίνος Ν. Καντιώτης
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Ἡ παλαιὰ γενεὰ εὐθύνεται γιὰ τὴ νέα

(περὶ πατρίδος καὶ οἰκογενείας)

Τὸ θέμα τῆς σημερινῆς ὁμιλίας, ἀγαπητοί μου, εἶνε μιὰ κραυγὴ γιὰ βοήθεια, εἶνε ἓνα ΣΟΣ (SOS). Ποιὸς φωνάζει «βοήθεια»; Εἶνε ἡ φωνὴ ἐνδὸς δυστυχιζομένου πατέρα, ποὺ εἶχε παιδί δαιμονιζόμενο (βλ. Μάρκ. 9,17-31). Κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν ἐπήρεια τοῦ ἀκαθάρτου δαιμονίου τὸ παιδί σπαρταροῦσε σὰν τὸ ψάρι ὅταν τὸ βγάζουν στὴν ἀμμουδιά. Τὸ ἐπιαναν κρίσεις κ' ἐπεφτε στὴ φωτιά ἢ στὸ νερό. Ἄφριζε κ' ἔτριζε τὰ δόντια, παρουσίαζε θέαμα σπαραξικάρδιον.

«Βοήθεια», φώναζε ὁ πατέρας στοὺς μάγους, στοὺς γιατρούς, σὲ κάθε ἄνθρωπο. «Βοήθεια», φώναξε καὶ στοὺς ἀποστόλους. Ἐπὶ τέλους, ἀπελπισμένος, ἔπесе στὰ πόδια τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ φώναξε «βοήθεια».

Ὁ πατέρας αὐτὸς εἶνε ἓνα πραγματικὸ **σύμβολο χιλιάδων γονέων**. Ἐὰν λίγα παιδιά ἔχουν τὴν ἀρρώστια τοῦ παιδιοῦ ἐκείνου, ὑπάρχουν ὅμως χιλιάδες ἄλλα παιδιά ποὺ ὑποφέρουν κατὰ διαφορετικὸ τρόπο. Ἐχουν κακίες, ἐλαττώματα, ἀνωμαλίες. Εἶνε οἱ μικροὶ δαιμονισμένοι τῆς σημερινῆς κοινωνίας.

Γιὰ ρίξτε, ἀγαπητοί μου, μιὰ ματιὰ στὴν **παιδική, στὴν ἐφηβικὴ καὶ στὴ νεανικὴ ἡλικία**, ποὺ ἀρχίζει ἀπὸ τὰ 4 χρόνια καὶ φτάνει μέχρι τὰ 20. Τὸ παιδί στὸ σπίτι εἶνε τύραννος. Στὸ σχολεῖο εἶνε θηρίο. Στοὺς δρόμους, στὶς πλατεῖες καὶ στὰ κέντρα ἔχει ἀποβάλεϊ πλέον τὴ ντροπὴ. Αἰσχρολογεῖ, βωμολοχεῖ, δὲν τὸ ἔχει τίποτε νὰ ἐκσφενδονίσῃ ἐπάνω σὲ σεβαστὰ πρόσωπα ὅ,τι βρῆ μπροστά του. Ἐγιναν τὰ παιδιά τῆς Ἑλλάδος μικροὶ σάτυροι! ἔφτασαν σὲ σημεῖο νὰ ἐπιτίθενται ἐναντίον σεμνῶν γυναικῶν, ἀγάμων καὶ ἐγγάμων!...

Ἄλλ' ἐγὼ ἐδῶ δὲν θ' ἀπαγγεῖλω «κατηγορῶ» ἐναντίον τῶν παιδιῶν. Οὔτε ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς τὸ ἔκανε αὐτό. Ὅταν παρουσιάσθηκε μπροστά του τὸ παιδί ποὺ ἀφριζε, ποὺ ἐσπάραζε, ποὺ ἔτριζε τὰ δόντια, δὲν τὸ ἐπέπληξε ὁ Κύριος.

Ὁ ἔλεγχός του στράφηκε σὲ **τρεῖς κατευθύνσεις**. Πρῶτον στράφηκε πρὸς τοὺς μαθητάς του, ποὺ δὲν εἶχαν τὴ δύναμι νὰ τὸ θεραπεύσουν. Δεύτερον στράφηκε πρὸς τὸν ταλαίπωρο πατέρα, ποὺ δὲν ἤρθε ἐγκαίρως στὸ Χριστὸ καὶ δὲν ἔλαβε «**παιδιόθεν**» (ἐλ. 321) τὰ κατάλληλα μέτρα. Καὶ τρίτον στράφηκε πρὸς ὅλο τὸ λαό, ποὺ κατὰ κάποιο τρόπο ἦταν κι αὐτὸς ὑπεύθυνος γιὰ τὸ δράμα τοῦ παιδιοῦ, καὶ εἶπε· «**Ὁ γενεὰ ἀπιστος, ἕως πότε πρὸς ὕμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν;**» (ἐλ. 9,19). Ὁ Χριστὸς μὲ τὰ λόγια αὐτὰ δείχνει τοὺς ὑπευθύνους γι' αὐτὸ τὸ κατάντημα.

Ἄκριβῶς αὐτό, ἀδελφοί μου, ἐπιθυμῶ νὰ ἐντυπώσω στὴ σκέψι σας· **ὅτι ἡ παλαιὰ γενεὰ ἔχει εὐθύνη γιὰ τὴ νέα γενεὰ**.

Τὰ παιδιά θέλουν **διδασκαλία**, λόγια φωτεινά, ἅγιο **παράδειγμα**. Θέλουν **ἰδανικά**. Τὸ παιδί λατρεύει τοὺς ἥρωες. Ἄλλοίμονο στὴ γενεὰ ποὺ δὲν ἔχει νὰ παρουσιάσῃ ἥρωες. Αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ κορυφές, ποὺ βλέπει τὸ ἔθνος.

Γεννᾶται τὸ μεγάλο ἐρώτημα· **Ἡ κοινωνία μας ἔχει ἰδανικά;**

• Ἄν ἀνοίξουμε τὰ συντάγματα καὶ τοὺς νόμους, θὰ δοῦμε, ὅτι στὰ βιβλία ὑπάρχουν. **Τρία** εἶνε τὰ ἰδανικά κάθε Ἑλληνοῦ, **τρία** τὰ ἀστέρια τοῦ ἔθνους μας· **οἰκογένεια, πατρίδα, πίστι**. Ἄλλ' αὐτὰ μένουν στὰ λόγια καὶ στὰ χαρτιά. Τὰ ζωγραφίζουμε μὲ θεωρίες, στὴν πράξι ὅμως δὲν κάνουμε τίποτε.

Φωνάζει ὁ ἕνας· Θέλουμε οἰκογένεια! **Τί εἶνε οἰκογένεια;** Μέσα στὰ βιβλία εἶνε θεσμὸς ἅγιος, μυστήριον μέγα. Εἶνε ἔνωση καρδιῶν, συνταυτισμὸς σκέψεως, συμβόλαιον ἱερό, δεσμὸς ἀδιάλυτος. Ἡ οἰκογένεια εἶνε ὑπόθεσι τῆς καρδιάς. Ὡραῖα λόγια· ἀλλὰ στὴν πράξι;

Μιὰ κόρη περιμένει χρόνια τὸ νυμφίον, καὶ κινδυνεύει νὰ μείνῃ στὸ ράφι γιὰτὶ λείπει...τὸ παραδάκι. Εἶνε φτωχιά, σὰν τὴν ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκο. Κανεὶς δὲν πλησιάζει τὴν πόρτα τῆς.

Μια άλλη αντίθετως, πού έχει χρυσίον και άργύριον, «ἀγοράζει» ὅποιον θέλει. Καί ἡ καλή κόρη πικραίνεται. **Ὁ γάμος ἔγινε** πλέον, ἀπό ὑπόθεσι τῆς καρδιάς, **ὑπόθεσι τοῦ χρήματος.**

Ἐνας πατέρας, φτωχὸς οἰκογενειάρχης, εἶχε μιὰ κόρη ἐργατικὴ καὶ φιλότιμη, καὶ δὲν μπορούσε νὰ τὴν παντρέψῃ. Γέρασε, καὶ δὲν ἤθελε νὰ κλείσῃ τὰ μάτια του ἀφήνοντας τὴν κόρη ἀνύπαντρη. Σκέφτηκε κάτι. Διέδωσε μὲ τρόπο στὰ γύρω χωριά, ὅτι κάποιος πλούσιος συγγενῆς τους πέθανε στὴν Ἀμερικὴ καὶ ἀφῆσε κληρονομιά στὴν κόρη πολλὰ δολλάρια. Μόλις αὐτὸ διαδόθηκε, ἄρχισαν νὰ καταφθάνουν ντουζίνες οἱ ὑποψήφιοι γαμπροί...

Ἄρα, ἀγαπητοί μου, δὲν εἶνε πλέον ὁ γάμος μυστήριον μέγα καὶ ἱερὸν καὶ ἔνωσις καρδιῶν, ἀλλὰ ὑπόθεσις τοῦ χρήματος.

Ὁ ἄγγελος παίρνει κιμωλία καὶ γράφει· ὁ γάμος = μυστήριον μέγα. Καὶ ὁ διάβολος γράφει· ὁ γάμος = ἐμπόριο αἰσχροτάτο.

Ὅταν τὰ παιδιά καὶ οἱ νέοι βλέπουν, ὅτι ὁ γάμος στὰ χαρτιά καὶ στὴ θεωρία εἶνε ἕνα μεγάλο ἰδανικό, ἐνῶ στὴν πράξι εἶνε μιὰ ἐμπορικὴ συναλλαγὴ, πῶς αὐτὰ τὰ παιδιά νὰ πιστεύουν στὰ ἰδανικά;

Φωνάζουν γιὰ οἰκογένεια, καὶ τὴν οἰκογένεια τὴν ἔχουν διαλύσει. Τὸ ἀστέρι αὐτὸ τὸ πήραμε ἀπὸ ἑκεῖ ψηλά, πού βρισκόταν, καὶ τὸ ρίξαμε στὸ βοῦρκο καὶ στὴν ἁμαρτία.

● Τὸ ἄλλο ἀστέρι τώρα, πού λέγεται **πατρίδα**. Στὰ παλιὰ ἀτομικὰ βιβλιάρια τῶν στρατιωτῶν ἔγραφε· «*Μητρός τε καὶ πατρός καὶ τῶν ἄλλων προγόνων ἀπάντων τιμιώτερόν ἐστιν ἡ πατρίς*» (Πλάτ., Κριτ. 12). Καὶ αὐτὴ ἡ πατρίδα εἶνε ἡ Ἑλλάδα. Πόσο σοῦ στοιχίζει ἡ πατρίδα; Ὅχι σὲ λόγια καὶ σὲ θεωρίες, ἀλλὰ σὲ θυσίες. Ἐλα νὰ ζυγίσω τὸν **πατριωτισμό** σου.

Φωνάζει ἡ πατρίδα σ' αὐτὸν μὲ τὰ χρήματα τὰ πολλά. Δὲν τοῦ ζητᾶ τώρα νὰ δώσῃ τὸ αἷμα του· ζητᾶ κάτι πολὺ μικρό, ζητᾶ τὰ **χρήματά** του. Ἄν ἀγαποῦσε τὴν πατρίδα, θὰ ἦταν συνεπὴς στὶς οἰκονομικὲς του ὑποχρεώσεις, θὰ πληρώνε τὸν φόρο του τίμια καὶ εὐλικρινά. Ἀλλὰ οἱ μεγάλοι κάνουν δῆθεν τὸν πατριώτη, καὶ ἀποφεύγουν τοὺς φόρους. Ἔτσι τὰ βάρη πέφτουν στοὺς ὤμους τοῦ μικροῦ λαοῦ, πού κάμπτεται κάτω ἀπὸ τὴν βαρύτατη **φορολογία**. Ψηφίζει τὸ κράτος νόμους ἐπὶ νόμων, ἀλλ' αὐτοὶ καταφέρνουν νὰ ξεφεύγουν, νὰ μὴν πληρώνουν, καὶ νὰ μένουν ἀσύλληπτοι.

«Πατρίδα», φωνάζουν οἱ **ἐφοπλισταί**. Ἄλλ' ἐὰν ἀγαποῦσαν τὴν πατρίδα, θὰ θεωροῦσαν χαρὰ νὰ ὑψώσουν ἑλληνικὴ σημαία στὰ κα-

ράβια τους. Στὰ κατάρτια τους δὲν ἀνεμίζει ἡ ἑλληνικὴ **σημαία**, ἀλλὰ οἱ σημαίες ἄλλων ἀσημάντων κρατῶν. Γιατί; Γιατί ἐκεῖ εἶνε δλα φτηνά. Γιὰ τὰ τριάκοντα ἀργύρια τοῦ Ἰούδα προτιμοῦν ξένες σημαίες. Θὰ βάλουν τὴν ἑλληνικὴ, ἂν τὸ κράτος τοὺς ἀφήσῃ ἀφορολόγητους...

Ἄν εἶσαι πατριώτης, στὸ πορτοφόλι σου θὰ ἔχῃς φράγκα ἑλληνικά. Καὶ ὅμως αὐτοὶ περιφρονοῦν τὸ φτωχὸ ἑλληνικὸ **νόμισμα**. Αὐτοὶ τὰ λεφτά τους, σὲ ράβδους χρυσοῦ, τὰ φυλάνε στὴν Ἑλβετία καὶ σ' ἄλλες χώρες.

Ἄγιοι ἄγγελοι καὶ ἀρχάγγελοι, φρουρεῖτε τὸν τόπο μας, τὰ βουνὰ καὶ τὰ λαγκάδια μας! Γιατί ἂν ἔρθῃ κίνδυνος, θὰ δοῦμε τοὺς κυρίους αὐτοὺς νὰ φεύγουν μὲ τὰ ἐλικόπτερα καὶ νὰ μένη ὁ μικρὸς λαὸς γιὰ νὰ ὑποφέρῃ...

«Πατρίδα» φωνάζουν, καὶ οὔτε μιὰ δραχμὴ δὲν δίνουν γιὰ τὰ εὐαγγῆ ἰδρύματα. Πού εἶνε οἱ μεγάλοι ἐκεῖνοι **ἐθνικοὶ εὐεργέτες** μας! Φτωχαδάκια εὐλογημένα, ἔφευγαν στὸ ἐξωτερικὸ γυμνοί, μόνο μὲ τὴν εὐχὴ τῆς μάνας. Ἄλλος πῆγαινε στὴ Μόσχα, ἄλλος στὴν Ὀδησσό, ἄλλος στὴν Ἀλεξάνδρεια. Μιὰ λαχτάρα εἶχαν· ν' ἀποκτήσουν χρήματα, γιὰ νὰ κάνουν καλὸ στὴ φτωχὴ μας τὴν πατρίδα· νὰ χτίσουν σχολεῖα, νοσοκομεῖα, ἐκκλησιές. Πού εἶνε σήμερα οἱ εὐεργέτες; Πού εἶνε ὁ «Ἀβέρωφ», τὸ θρυλικὸ μας καράβι;...

Ὅλα ἔγιναν **συμφέρον**. Τὸ ἀστέρι τῆς πατρίδος τὸ ρίξαμε μέσα στὸ χρηματοκιβώτιο τοῦ Ἰούδα.

● Τὸ δὲ τρίτο φωτεινὸ ἀστέρι εἶνε ἡ **πίστις**. Ὡ ἡ ἀγία μας Ἐκκλησία! Ἐδῶ ὅμως θὰ σταματήσω. Ἐχῶ μιλήσει ἐπανεπιλημμένως καὶ ἔχω γράψῃ γι' αὐτό. Ὅσοι θέλετε, διαβάστε τὸ βιβλίο «*Ἐλευθέρα καὶ ζῶσα Ἐκκλησία*». Θὰ δῆτε, σὲ ποῖο ὕψος βρισκόταν τὸ ἀστέρι αὐτό, καὶ πού κατήντησε ἐπὶ τῶν ἡμερῶν μας.

Κάθε παιδί πού ἔρχεται στὸν κόσμο, ἀγαπητοί μου, κλείνει μέσα του ἕνα μεγαλεῖο ἀλλὰ καὶ μιὰ τραγικότητα. Ἐχει καλὲς καὶ κακὲς κλίσεις. Ἐχει ἀγγελικὰ καὶ δαιμονικὰ στοιχεῖα. Ποιὰ ἀπὸ τὰ δύο θὰ νικήσουν; Ἐξαρτᾶται κατὰ μέγα μέρος ἀπὸ τὸ **περιβάλλον**. Ἐρωτῶ· Τὰ παιδιά ἀπὸ πού ἦρθαν; Ἄπ' τὸ φεγγάρι ἢ ἀπ' τὸν Ἄρη; Στὰ δικά μας χέρια δὲν γεννήθηκαν; Ποιὸς φταίει λοιπόν;

Ἄς βάλουμε τὸ χέρι στὴν καρδιά κι ἂς ἐρωτήσουμε, ἐνώπιον τοῦ Ἐσταυρωμένου· **Ἐμεῖς τί κάναμε γιὰ τὰ παιδιά;**

(†) **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.

Journeying to Pascha

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will

be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.

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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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