

SUNDAY WEEKLY BULLETIN April 7th,  
V. Rev. Archimandrite Eugene N. Pappas

## THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross*

**Prokeimenon. Mode Plagal 2  
Psalm 27.9,1**

**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**

**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

**Προκείμενον. Ἦχος πλ. β'  
ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1**

**Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.**

**Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.**

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 4:14-16, 5:1-6 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες οὖν ἀρχιερέα μέγαν, διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς ὁμολογίας. Οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ δυνάμενον συμπαθεῖν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ' ὁμοιότητα, χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας. Προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρρησίας τῷ θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον, καὶ χάριν εὕρωμεν εἰς εὐκαιρον βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς, ἐξ ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος, ὑπὲρ ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν· μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσιν καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ αὐτὸς περικεῖται ἀσθενεῖαν· καὶ διὰ ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ, οὕτως καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ, προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἀαρών. Οὕτως καὶ ὁ Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασεν γεννηθῆναι ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν, Υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά σε. Καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει, Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

**Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Μάρκον 8:34-38, 9:1 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα**

he Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Εἴ τις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἐλθεῖν, ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλῃ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι, ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου, οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον ἐὰν κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ ἐὰν ἐπαισχυνθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμούς λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπαισχυνθήσεται αὐτόν ὅταν ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε ἐστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

**TODAY: April 07<sup>th</sup>, Our Parish will honor the memory of our beloved Past Parish Council President + HARRY LAMBRAKIS on his 40<sup>th</sup> Day Anniversary Tribute. All the faithful are cordially invited to join the immediate family in ROSEHALL for the MEMORIAL MAKARIA LUNCHEON. Your presence will honor his memory as a faithful steward.**

**ARTOKLASIA TODAY: is being presented honoring the birthday of PAVEL VODOLAGIN beloved husband of YEKATERINA DYUKOVA. May the Lord grant him many years and to his wife "KALI LEFTERIA" God's blessings on her forthcoming FIRST DELIVERY!**

**TODAY: APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>, VENERATION of the HOLY CROSS 11:30 – 12:00 P.M.**  
The 'sacred relic' of the Cross of Christ from ROME will pass in solemn procession for veneration. Daffodil flowers will be distributed to all the faithful for the home shrine or the cemetery memorial.

**SPECIAL SERVICES THIS WEEK:**

**Pre: Sanctified Liturgy of Pope Saint Gregory of Rome, Wednesday APRIL 10<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 A.M. – Noon. This gives the Senior Club members availability to attend before the session n at 1:00 P.M.**

**4<sup>th</sup> STANZA of Salutations to the Blessed Virgin Mary on FRIDAY APRIL 12<sup>TH</sup>, from 7:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.**

**Feast of Saint John Climacus (OF THE LADDER) on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

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

**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.**

**DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT: convened the Annual Assembly of clergy/laity representatives of the Archdiocese on Saturday – April 06<sup>th</sup>, at the Holy Resurrection Church in Brookville, Long Island. The sessions opened at 9:00 A.M. and concluded at 5:00 P.M. Representing the Three Hierarchs Community were Rev. Eugene Pappas, Julia Demakakos P.C. President, John Lambrakis P.C. V.P. , and Ms. Haritini Pandis P.C.**

**PASCHA CARD APPEAL COMMENCES: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 4 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 ON SUNDAY , APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup> 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 203<sup>rd</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup>, and DO NOT RESUME until post Pascha May 19<sup>th</sup>. Make your memorial commemorations now.**

**MEMORIAL TODAY: + HARRY LAMBRAKIS, P.P.C.P.**

On Sunday March 31st, selected students from our GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM presented their ANNUAL GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY program at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. It was a double headed feature of celebrating the ANNUNCIATION FEAST of the visit of Archangel Gabriel to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the 1821 DECLARATION of FREEDOM FOR THE Greek people and nation from the tyranny of the Turkish Ottoman Empire. The students and faculty present were greeted with enthusiastic applause at the singing of the Hellenic Anthem. ZHTO TO ETHNOS! ZHTO H ELLADA! Our students will participate in the 5th Avenue Greek Parade Next Sunday - April 14. Three Hierarchs always supports our Hellenic heritage legacy and tradition.







# ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ

## ΣΥΝΤΟΜΟΝ ΚΗΡΥΓΜΑ



«Εγενόμην ἐν Πνεύματι ἐν τῇ Κυριακῇ ἡμέρᾳ καὶ ἤκουσα φωνῆν ὅπως μου μεγάλην ὡς σάλπιγγος» (Ἀπ. 1,10)

Ταΐδεστι ἀπὸ τῆς Κοινοβιακῆ Γυναίκας Τερῆ Βοῆς Ἰγίου Αἰγυπτίου-Κιρκίης - ΣΤΙ 80 6407164 - τηλ. 2882-2810 - [taides@igklos.gr](mailto:taides@igklos.gr)

Περίοδος Γ' - Ἔτος ΙΣΤ' Φλόρινα - ἀριθμ. φύλλου 675*	Κυρ. Γ' Νηστ.-Σταυρῶσις (Μάρκ. 8,34 - 9,1) 7 Ἀπριλίου 2024 (1999)	Συντάκτης (†) ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυπτίου Ν. Καντιάτης
---	--	---

## Οἱ ἐχθροὶ καὶ τὸ ὄπλο

«Ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ» (Μάρκ. 8,34)

**Κ**άτι πολὺ περίεργο, ἀγαπητοί μου, λέει τὸ σημερινὸ εὐαγγέλιο (βλ. Μάρκ. 14-15). Θὰ προσπαθήσω μὲ ἄπλᾶ λόγια νὰ σᾶς δώσω νὰ τὸ καταλάβετε.

Λέει ὅτι ὅσοι ἔχουν βαπτισθῆ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τῆς ἁγίας Τριάδος, εἶνε δηλαδὴ Χριστιανοί, ὅλοι αὐτοὶ εἶνε στρατιῶτες. Στρατιῶτες δητὸν αὐτοὺς ποὺ βλέπουμε στὶς παρελάσεις. Διαφέρει ὁ στρατιώτης τοῦ Χριστοῦ ἀπὸ τοὺς στρατιώτες τῶν ἐπιγείων κρατῶν.

Στὴ στρατιὰ τοῦ Κυρίου μας προσκαλούμεθα ὅσοι νὰ καταταγοῦμε, ἀπὸ τὸ μικρὸ παιδάκι μέχρι τὸν ἀσπρομάλλη γέρο. Κάνει σήμερα μ' ἄλλα λόγια ὁ Χριστὸς μας γενικὴ ἐπιστράτευσι. Μᾶς καλεῖ ὅσοι, ἄντρες καὶ γυναῖκες, μαῦρους καὶ ἄσπρους, κόκκινους καὶ κίτρινους, νὰ γίνουμε στρατιῶτες του καὶ νὰ ὑπαταχθοῦμε στὸ βασίλειό του. Μὲ μόνη τὴ διαφορὰ, ὅτι ἡ ἐπιστράτευσις αὐτὴ δὲν εἶνε ὑποχρεωτικὴ.

Μποροῦσε ὁ Χριστὸς καὶ εἶχε δικαίωμα νὰ μᾶς πάρῃ ἀπὸ τὸ αὐτὶ καὶ νὰ μᾶς βάλῃ βιαίως στὴν Ἐκκλησία. Δὲν τὸ κάνει αὐτό· σέβεται τὴν ἐλευθερίαν μας. Μᾶς ἀφήνει νὰ διαλέξουμε· ἢ νὰ πάμε μαζί του ἢ νὰ πάμε μὲ τὸν διάβολο. Βάζει μπροστά μας τὸ νερὸ καὶ τὴ φωτιὰ καὶ μᾶς λέει· Διαλέξτε· ἂν θέλετε, βάλτε τὸ χέρι σας στὸ νερὸ καὶ θὰ ὀρσοιστήτε, ἂν θέλετε βάλτε το στὴ φωτιὰ καὶ θὰ καήτε (βλ. 1 Πέτρ. 3,18). Εἶστε ἐλεύθεροι. Γι' αὐτὸ εἶται ἀρχίζει τὸ εὐαγγέλιον· «Ὅστις θέλει ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν...», ὅποιος θέλει (Μάρκ. 16). Δὲν ἀναγκάζει κανέναν ἀπολύτως ὁ Χριστὸς.

Στρατιῶτες λοιπὸν εἴμαστε. Ἀρχηγὸς μας εἶνε ὁ Χριστὸς. Σάλπιγγά του εἶνε τὸ ἱερὸ εὐαγγέλιον. Καὶ μᾶς καλεῖ σ' ἓνα πόλεμον ἱερὸ καὶ ἁγιο. Νὰ πολεμήσουμε τοὺς ἐχθροὺς μας. Ποιοὶ εἶνε οἱ ἐχθροὶ μας;

\*\*\*

Περίεργοι οἱ στρατιῶτες, περίεργος ὁ Ἀρχηγός, περίεργα τὰ σαλπίσματα, ἀλλὰ περίεργοι καὶ οἱ ἐχθροί. Κανεὶς δὲν φαντάζεται ποιοὶ εἶνε. Ὁ Χριστὸς λέει· Ὁ μεγαλύτερος ἐχθρὸς δὲν εἶνε ὁ γείτονας· δὲν εἶνε οἱ Τούρκοι, οἱ Βούλγα-

ροι ἢ δὲν ξέρω ποιοὶ ἄλλοι. Ὁ μεγαλύτερος ἐχθρὸς εἶνε πολὺ κοντὰ μας· εἶνε ὁ ἑαυτὸς μας. Ναι, ὁ ἑαυτὸς μας, δηλαδὴ οἱ κακίαι καὶ τὰ πάθη μας· αὐτὰ εἶνε ποὺ μᾶς καταστρέφουν.

Δὲν πᾶνε πολλές ἡμέρες ποὺ ἓνα χωριὸ ἐξήνησε ἀνάστατο. Κανεὶς δὲν πήγε στὴ δουλειά. Συνέβη δυστύχημα ποὺ δὲν εἶχε ξαναγίνει. Βρήκαν μέσα σ' ἓνα σταῦλο ἓναν ἄνθρωπο κρεμασμένο. Ποιὸς τὸν κρέμασε; Ὁ ἐχθρὸς του; ὁ γειτονός του; Ὅχι· ὁ ἑαυτὸς του. Ἐδέσε ἓνα σχοινὶ καὶ κρεμάστηκε. Γιατί κρεμάστηκε; Γιατί ἀπὸ νῆος πήγαινε στὶς ταβέρνες. Ἐγινε ἀλκοολικός, μέθυσος. Δὲν μποροῦσε νὰ ζῆσθ χωρὶς κρασί. Μιά μέρα, μεθυσμένος πολὺ, ἀντὶ νὰ βάλῃ στὸ ποτήρι κρασί, ἔβαλε νέφτι· καὶ ἔκαψε τὸ λάρυγγά του. Ἐκανε ἓνα χρόνο στὰ νοσοκομεία. Δὲν μποροῦσε πᾶ νὰ μιλήσῃ· ἡ φωνὴ του μόλις καὶ μετὰ βίας ἀκουγόταν. Δὲν μποροῦσε νὰ φᾶ· μπουκιὰ ἔγινε πολὺ λεπτὸ καὶ εὐαίσθητο τὸ λάρυγγι του. Μόνο γάλα, ὡς μικρὸ παιδάκι, μποροῦσε νὰ πάρῃ. Ἐζῆσε ἓνα - δυὸ χρόνια. Βλαστημοῦσε τὰ θεία, μικροὺς καὶ μεγάλους. Ζοῦσε παράνομα μὲ ξένες γυναῖκες. Ἐκκλησία δὲν πατοῦσε. Στὸ τέλος, ἀπελπιωμένος ὡς τὸν Ἰούδα, πήρε σχοινὶ καὶ κρεμάστηκε. Ποιὸς τοῦ ἔφατῃ; ποιὸς τὸν κρέμασε; Ὁ ἑαυτὸς του.

Ἐνα ἄλλο πάλι χωριὸ, τὴ νύχτα, στὴ μάμμη ἢ ὄρα, ἀναστατώθηκε. Τ' ἀκούτε; Ἄν μᾶς φωνάξῃ τὴ νύχτα ἡ Ἐκκλησία γιὰ προσευχή, ποιὸς ἐρχεται; Ἄλλ' ὅταν τὰ μεσάνυχτα φωνάξῃ ὁ διάβολος, πλήθη τρέχουν στὶς ταβέρνες καὶ τὰ νυχτερινὰ κέντρα, ποὺ φύτρωσαν ὡς τὰ μανιτάρια πάνω στὴν κοπριά... Στὴ μάμμη ἢ ὄρα λοιπὸν ἀναστατώθηκε τὸ χωριὸ. Βγήκαν ὅσοι ἔξω. Τί ἔγινε; Λογομάχησαν δύο, ἐκεῖ ποὺ κάθονταν, καὶ ὁ ἓνας ἔβγαλε τὸ μαχαίρι, τὸ ἐμπηξε στὴν καρδιά τοῦ ἄλλου καὶ τὸν ὄφθησε νεκρὸ. Τώρα τὸν κυνηγᾶ ἡ ἀστυνομία...

Ποιὸς λοιπὸν εἶνε ὁ μεγαλύτερος ἐχθρὸς μας; Ὁ ἑαυτὸς μας, οἱ κακίαι καὶ τὰ πάθη, ποὺ ἔχουμε ὅσοι μέσα μας.

Άλλος εχθρός, πού έχουμε, είναι ο κόσμος. Παιός κόσμος; Για παράδειγμα, Ένας άντρας πού δέν πιστεύει. "Ήρθε κάποτε μιὰ γυναίκα καί μοῦ λέει:

-Δέν ἀντέχω πιά. Όλα τὰ ἐλαττώματά του τὰ ἀνέχομαι, μὰ αὐτὸ δέν τὸ ὑποφέρω. Δέν μ' ἀφήνει νὰ πάω στὴν ἐκκλησία. Δέν μ' ἀφήνει νὰ κάνω προσευχή. Μόλις ἄῃ νὰ προσεύχωμαι, βλαστημάει τὸ Χριστό. Μιά μέρα, πού με εἶδε νὰ κάνω προσευχή, πήρε τὴν εἰκόνα τῆς Παναγίας καὶ τὴν ἔκαψε...

Κόσμος λοιπὸν εἶνε ὁ σύζυγος πού θέλει νὰ ξεριζώσῃ ἀπὸ τὴ γυναίκα του τὴν πίστι στοῦ Θεοῦ. Κόσμος εἶνε ἡ γυναίκα, ἡ ἀνηθικὴ καὶ διεφθαρμένη, πού μπαίνει ἀνάμεσα στὰ ἀντράγυνα καὶ τὰ χωρίζει. Μιά μέρα ἦρθε στὴ μητρόπολι μιὰ ἄλλη γυναίκα καί μοῦ λέει:

-Εἴκοσι χρόνια ἔζησα μὲ τὸν ἀντρα μου, μὰ τώρα χωρίζω.

Τὴ ρώτησα, γιατί; Καί μοῦ ἀπάντησε:

-Ἦρθε μιὰ τραγουδίστρια ἀπὸ τὴ Θεσσαλονίκη, ἔδωσε τὰ πορτοφόλια τοῦ κόσμου καὶ πήρε καὶ τὸν ἀντρα μου. Πῆγε τώρα στὴ Θεσσαλονίκη μαζί της, γιὰ νὰ φῶν τὰ λεφτά, πού ἔκανε μὲ κόπους στὴ Γερμανία.

Κόσμος εἶνε ὁ ἀντρας πού δέν πιστεύει, κόσμος εἶνε ἡ διεφθαρμένη γυναίκα. Κόσμος εἶνε ἐκεῖνος ὁ γραμματισμένος, πού πήγε στοῦ σχολεῖο, ἔμαθε πέντε γράμματα, καὶ πάει στοῦ χωριό, ἀνοίγει τὸ στόμα του καὶ λέει, ὅτι δέν πιστεύει.

Κόσμος εἶνε διὰ ἐκεῖνα πού μᾶς ἀπρώχνουν στὴν ἁμαρτία καὶ τὸ κακό.

Τὰ παλιὰ τὰ χρόνια ὁ κόσμος μᾶς ἐσπρωχνε στοῦ Θεοῦ. Τώρα ὁ κόσμος μὲ τὰ ραδιόφωνα του, μὲ τίς τηλεοράσεις του, μὲ τὰ αἰσχρά του τραγούδια, μὲ τοὺς ἐξαλλοὺς χορούς καὶ μ' ἄλλα παρόμοια μᾶς ἀπρώχνει μὲ χίλια χέρια στὸν διάβολο, στοῦ κακό καὶ στὴν ἁμαρτία.

Λοιπὸν, ὁ Χριστὸς μᾶς καλεῖ. Θέλεις νὰ καταταγῆς στὴ στρατιὰ τοῦ Χριστοῦ; Θέλεις νὰ εἶσαι Χριστιανός; Θὰ προσπαθήσῃς νὰ ξεριζώσῃς τὸ κακό πού εἶνε μέσα σου, πού εἶνε στοῦ σπιτί σου, πού εἶνε δίπλα σου.

Ἐπιναλαμβάνω. Ἐχθρός μας ἡ σάρκα, πού θέλει σὰν τὸ γουρούνι νὰ κυλιέται μέσα στίς βρωμιές καὶ τίς ἀκαθαρσίες. Ἐχθρός μας ὁ ἀπιστος κόσμος, πού ζητεῖ μὲ κάθε μέσο νὰ μᾶς παρασύρῃ. Ἐχθρός μας τέλος, μεγάλος ἐχθρός, εἶνε ὁ διάβολος.

-Μὰ ὑπάρχει διάβολος; Θὰ σοῦ πῇ ὁ ἄλλος. Ἄκου τώρα, σὸν εἰκοστὸ αἰῶνα νὰ μιλοῦν γιὰ διαβόλους!...

Θὰ μπορούσα ν' ἀναφέρω πολλές ἀποδείξεις γιὰ τὴν ὕπαρξιν τῶν δαιμόνων. Ἄν ὑπάρχει κανεὶς πού ἀμφισβάζει, δες πᾶν στὴν Κεφαλονιά νὰ δῆ τοὺς δαιμονισμένους, πού ἀφρίζουν. Τοὺς δέχουν μὲ ἀλυσίδες κι αὐτοὶ τίς σπᾶνε σὰν κλω-

στές. Βλαστημᾶνε τὸ Χριστὸ καὶ τὴν Παναγία, λένε πράγματα ἄπρεπα... Ἄλλ' ὅταν ἐκεῖ στοῦ μοναστηρίου βγῆ ὁ σταυρός, Ένας σταυρός δχι μὲ ἀσημι καὶ διαμάντια, ἀλλὰ ὁ σιδερένιος σταυρός πού κρατοῦσε ὁ ἅγιος Γεράσιμος καὶ ἀκουστή, «Εἶς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Πατρὸς καὶ τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ τοῦ ἁγίου Πνεύματος», τότε οἱ δαιμονισμένοι φωνάζουν «Μ' ἔκαψες, Καθάλη, μ' ἔκαψες...», καὶ σπαράζουν σὰν τὰ φάρια καὶ βγαίνουν τὰ δαιμόνια.

Λοιπὸν αὐτοὶ εἶνε οἱ ἐχθροὶ μας: ὁ κακὸς εἰσαυτός μας, ὁ κόσμος, καὶ ὁ διάβολος. Αὐτοὺς πρέπει νὰ πολεμήσουμε, γιὰ νὰ γίνουμε Χριστιανοί.

\*\*\*

Ἄρχηγός μας εἶνε ὁ Χριστὸς, σάλπιγγα τὸ εὐαγγέλιο. Καὶ ὄπλο μας; Ὅπλο, πού κάνει θαύματα καὶ ἀσφαλίζει τὸν ἄνθρωπο 100%, εἶνε ὁ τίμιος σταυρός. Αὐτὸ τὸ ὄπλο παρουσιάζεται σήμερα, Κυριακὴ τῆς Σταυραποσκυνησεως, μπροστὰ στὰ μάτια μας, μέσα στὰ λουλούδια καὶ μέσα στὰ ἀρώματα.

Αὐτὸς ὁ τίμιος σταυρός, πού κρατοῦν ἄγγελοι καὶ ἀρχάγγελοι: αὐτὸς ὁ τίμιος σταυρός, πού στήθηκε στοῦ Γαλγοθᾶ κ' ἐπάνω του χύθηκε τὸ αἷμα τοῦ Χριστοῦ, αὐτὸς εἶνε τὸ ὄπλο μας. Αὐτὸ εἶνε τὸ ὄπλο τῶν παιδιῶν, τῶν γυναικῶν, τῶν ἀνδρῶν, τῶν ἀσκητῶν, τῶν ἱερῶν, τοῦ στρατοῦ μας.

Ναί, ὄπλο παντοδύναμο εἶνε ὁ σταυρός. Καὶ κάνει θαύματα. Πότε; Κάνει θαύματα ὁ σταυρός πρῶτα - πρῶτα ὅταν πιστεύῃς. Τί πρέπει νὰ πιστεύῃς; Νὰ πιστεύῃς, ὅτι Αὐτὸς, πού κρεμάστηκε ἐπάνω στοῦ σταυροῦ τῆς Μεγάλῃς Παρασκευῆς, δέν εἶνε Ένας ἀπλὸς ἄνθρωπος, ὅπως ἄλλοι οἱ ἄλλοι. Ὁ Χριστὸς, πού ἔχυσε τὸ αἷμα του γιὰ τὴ σωτηρία ἄλων μας ἐπάνω στοῦ σταυροῦ, εἶνε Θεός. Τὸ φωνάζουν τὰ λόγια του στοῦ εὐαγγέλιο. Τὸ φωνάζουν τὰ θαύματά του τὰ ἄπειρα. Τὸ φωνάζει ἡ ζωὴ του. Τὸ φωνάζει ἡ ἀνάστασί του.

Εἶνε Θεός ὁ Χριστὸς. Καὶ ἂν ἐμεῖς δέν τὸ πιστέψουμε καὶ δέν τὸ φωνάξουμε, καὶ οἱ πέτρες πού πατάμε καὶ τὰ ποτάμια καὶ οἱ θάλασσες καὶ τὰ ἄστρα θὰ φωνάξουν: «Εἶς ἄγιος, εἶς Κύριος, ἤσους Χριστὸς, εἶς δόξαν Θεοῦ Πατρὸς» (Ματθ. 23:39).

Πιστεύεις στοῦ Χριστοῦ; πιστεύεις ὅπως πιστεύουν οἱ ἄγιοι καὶ οἱ μάρτυρες; Τότε ὁ σταυρός του θὰ εἶνε ὄπλο πανίσχυρο στὰ χέρια σου. Ἄν ὅμως δέν πιστεύῃς, τότε γιατί ἔρχεσαι στὴν ἐκκλησία;

Ὁ σταυρός εἶνε τὸ ὄπλο τοῦ πιστοῦ. Γι' αὐτὸ σήμερα τὸν παρουσιάζει μπροστὰ μας ἡ Ἐκκλησία μας. Μ' αὐτὸν θὰ πολεμήσουμε τοὺς τρεῖς μεγάλους ἐχθρούς: τὸν εἰσαυτό μας, τὸν κόσμο, καὶ τὰ πονηρὰ πνεύματα - τὸν διάβολο.

Θὰ πολεμήσουμε. Καὶ μὲ τὴ βοήθεια τοῦ τιμίου σταυροῦ, θὰ διαπλεύσουμε τὸ ὑπόλοιπο τῆς Μεγάλῃς Τεσσαρακοστῆς ὅπως θέλει ὁ Θεός καὶ θὰ φτάσουμε νικηταί στὴν ἁγία Ἀνάστασι.

(†) Ἐπίσκοπος Αἰγυουστίνος

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 Cross, Our Victory*

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

*St. John Chrysostom*

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.ecpubs.com](http://www.ecpubs.com)

**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](http://LIVESTREAMINGPLAYER) . The website address. [W.W.gaepis.org](http://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.

See :Website: [www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org](http://www.threehierarchsbrooklynny.org)