

## April 2, 2017: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Of St. Mary of Egypt)

### Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14:

*But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

### Gospel: Mark 10:32-45:



*Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your*

*right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed*

*drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Last Sunday, the Savior announced for the first time, since the beginning of Great Lent, His voluntary and redeeming Passion: *“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”*

Today, one week before His triumphal (and last) entry into Jerusalem, He begins to be more detailed about the last chapter of His public ministry, preparing His disciples for the upcoming events: *“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”* As you can see, not only does He give precise details about His Passion, but He even foretells His betrayal *to the chief priests and to the scribes*.

The apostles were still hoping that their Master would establish a worldly kingdom, hence the request from James and John for a place of honor in such a kingdom: *“Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”*

Their request brings about another revelation, this time concerning the way these two disciples (and all of them, save John) would complete the last days of their life: *“You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;*

Even such a personal revelation escapes the grasp of the disciples. The squabble that ensued among the apostles indicates that their minds were set rather on things of this world than on humility and personal sacrifice. It was at this point that Christ began to give them, in a more direct way, a lesson on humility and sacrificial love, making Himself the prototype of such selfless and loving example: *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

May our good and loving Lord give us the spirit of humility, understanding and sacrifice!

**Fr. George Bazgan**

**Altar boys for this Sunday:**

**Alexander Ștefănescu  
Alexandru Mustea**

## **Sunday Fellowship**

The following families are scheduled to look after  
this Sunday's fellowship:

**Oancia Ion & Cornelia  
Bitea Mioara  
Roman Mihaela**

**Thank you all very much!**

## **SPECIAL SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:**

**Fridays at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VERGIN.**

**Saturday at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.**

**CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.**

## **SPRING CLEANING**

**On Saturday, April the 8<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 9:30 AM, a  
general Spring cleaning will take place.**

**This includes the inside as well as the outside (weather permitting)  
of the Church complex.**

**Volunteers are needed!**

## **FISH DINNER**

**On April 9, 2017 (PALM SUNDAY), following the Divine Liturgy, the traditional FISH DINNER will be held.**

**We expect you to be generous with your donations,  
which will be collected at the table.**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!**

## **The new Fellowship Roster**

**The new Fellowship Roster begins on April 23, 2017**

**Those who want to drop out or those who would like to participate,  
are asked to contact Fr. George by April 9.**

**Thank you!**

## **Ushers Needed**

We are looking for volunteers for Church ushers (greeters) on Sundays.

By rotation, 2 volunteers (men or women) will greet the people at the door and assist them (especially the new comers/visitors).

Those who want to volunteer, please call **Fr. George at 780-473-0029.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them **to pay their membership until Easter.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

## **Invitation**

You are invited to attend the installation of His Grace Ioan Casian, the Bishop of the newly established institution:

**THE ROMANIAN ORTHODOX DIOCESE OF CANADA.**

The festivities will take place on May 6-7 in Montreal.

Those interested, call Fr. George at 780-473-0029.

## **Spread the word**

We make an appeal to all of you, subscribers to our weekly electronic Bulletin, to invite your family members and friends to submit their email address and join the list of our parish subscribers.

This is so we can reach as many people as possible.

**Thank you for your help!**