

April 3, 2016: The Third Sunday of Lent (Of the Holy Cross)

Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6:

Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness. Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself, to offer sacrifices for sins. And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: "You are My Son, Today I have begotten You." As He also says in another place: "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38; 9:1:



When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man

give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels." And He said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that there are some standing here who will not taste death till they see the kingdom of God present with power."

Just as the pilgrim who embarks on a long journey needs, after a while, to stop and replenish his/her energy, the same is true with us, the Orthodox Christians who embark every Spring on the spiritual journey of Great Lent, whose destination is the Lord's Resurrection or Pascha. The Fathers of the Church have wisely decided to give us the opportunity to stop, on the third Sunday of Lent, rest in the shade of the Tree of life (the Cross), ponder and continue our journey with renewed determination and faith.

The Cross, the instrument of Christ's victory over death and the evil forces, is a reminder of the fact that, on one hand we should understand our Lenten journey and even our entire life in the context of Christ's suffering on the Cross, and that in order to receive the light of Resurrection we must carry our own cross, experience our personal Golgotha, on the other hand. In other words, there is no Resurrection without the Cross.

This is why the gospel reading of this Sunday begins with the Lord's invitation: *“Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.*

The purpose of our Lenten journey is to cleanse ourselves spiritually and physically as part of our preparation for the voluntary and redeeming Passion of our Savior and His third day Resurrection, aware all the time that the soul is the most valuable part our being, as the Lord teaches us today: *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Mieila Ion & Marieta
Rinchița Eugen & Geta
Zerfass Dan & Flory**

Thank you all very much!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership before 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!

GARAGE SALE

On May 27- 29, 2016, our parish will organize a Garage Sale.

Donations are accepted every Sunday between 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM
or call to make other arrangements:

Psa. MARIA BAZGAN: (780) 473-0029; MARIANA DIACONU: (780) 473-6711

MARIETA MIEILA: (780) 439-9310; GABRIELA DINCA (780) 497-1326

Thank you very much!

Food Collection

A food drive is ongoing in our parish.
Please bring nonperishable foods and deposit them
at the entrance of the church.

"Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on earth"
(Psalm 41:1-2).

THANK YOU!

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.

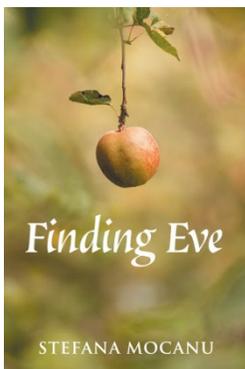
Thank you for your help!

Our Family

We would like to add something new to our website. All members and supporters are asked to send in a picture of their family, with the names of all members. All pictures will available under this category: *Our family.*

Thank you for your participation!

New Romanian Book Author



Ştefana Mocanu, our Church member, has written a book, *Finding Eve*, 336 pages, published by Friesen Press.

Ştefana's debut novel captures a blend of romance, family, relationship, loss and triumph and riveting suspense.

Those who want to purchase it, please click on the link below.

Congratulations, Stefana!

<http://www.friesenpress.com/bookstore/title/119734000029592462/Stefana-Mocanu-Finding-Eve>