

August 11, 2013: The 7th Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of two blind and a mute)

Epistle: Romans 15:1-7:

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me." For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

Gospel: Mathew 9:27-35:

As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you"; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region. While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed and could not talk was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." But the Pharisees said, "It is by the prince of demons that he drives out demons." Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

Let's take just a moment and imagine a great multitude of people surrounding our Lord and Savior, all the noise and the shouting, etc., and, in the middle of all this, the prayer of the two blind men: "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" This must have gone on for a while, until Christ reached and entered His home in Capernaum. When the blind men are finally face to face with Christ, He asks them: "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" Keep in mind that the Savior never asked anybody the more obvious (human) question: "Do you think you deserve this?"

Although He usually attributes the healing to the person's faith, ("According to your faith let it be done to you"), we know, in fact, that God's healing is the result of both: His mercy and one's faith. So, God's mercy, required initially by the blind men (Have mercy on us, Son of David), is met by their faith: "Yes, Lord," they replied.

May our loving God bestow His mercy on us and grant us faith and trust in Him so that we may also be healed and restored!

Fr. George Bazgan

Holy Virgin's Dormition Fast

**Between August 1-15, the Orthodox Church
observes the Dormition Fast.**

**During the two week fast,
the following services will be held in our church:**

- Fridays, Aug. 2 and 9 at 7:00 PM: Akathist to the Holy Virgin.**
- Saturdays, Aug. 3 and 10, at 5:00: Vespers.**
- Wednesday, August 14, at 5:00 PM: Vespers.**

**Those who want to have their confession heard,
can do so after any of these services.**

MEMBERSHIP

**At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24,
2013, the decision was made to keep the membership
unchanged, at \$100/person (\$200/couple).**

**We encourage all our members and supporters to pay their
membership as soon as possible so we can complete
the various projects during the warm season
and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese
with the annual dues.**

**Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership
goes to the Archdiocese.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Our kitchen is in dire need for expansion and renovation.

**In the fall of 2012 we launched a campaign to fundraise
for this important project.**

The last estimate for the project came at around \$80,000.

**We appeal to all of our members, supporters and friends
to give generously towards this major project
and support our fundraising events!**

**All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt
and our heartfelt appreciation.**

THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU!