

August 25, 2013: The 9th Sunday after Pentecost (Jesus walks on the water)

Epistle: I Cor. 3:9-17:

For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building. By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34:

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

Having fed more than 5000 people in the wilderness with only five loaves and two fish, the Lord sent the disciples to the other side of the sea and He went up into the mountain to pray. His prayer was intense and long, until the fourth watch of the night. While their Master was praying, the disciples were trying to survive, being caught in a terrible storm: *But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.* As if this wasn't a bad enough predicament, the disciples see a ghost-like appearance coming toward them, which magnified their fear: *And they cried out for fear.*

To their surprise and joy, they hear the calming voice of their Master: *"Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."* Peter wanted to verify the reality of Christ's presence and

said: *“Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.”* Shortly thereafter, Peter himself was part of this miraculous walking on the sea, at the invitation of Christ: *“Come.”*

As long as his faith was unwavering, Peter had no problem defying the "natural" laws. However, when he began to doubt, he started to sink into the sea and he reacted like any one of us in time of peril, crying out for help: *“Lord, save me!”* Not only was he saved by the mighty hand of Christ, but the other disciples were also spared a certain death when He calmed the sea: *And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased.*

The gospel reading of this Sunday teaches us a valuable life lesson: stay steadfast in your faith when the tide of the sea of life and the winds are threatening our life, believing wholeheartedly in Christ our Savior who is inviting us to Him (*“Come!”*) and is only one prayer away from extending His saving arm to pull us from sinking into despair and doubt.

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after this Sunday (August 25) fellowship:

**Keith & Elisabeth Harrison
Cătălin & Livia Latiş
Dan & Diana Tapoveţi**

Thank you all very much!

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SEASON

On September 15, 2013, the New Sunday School season will begin. Following the Divine Liturgy, a special service of invocation will take place for the students and their teachers.

We are very blessed and thankful to have highly qualified teachers who are dedicated to provide the best religious education for our children.

The parents are warmly advised to bring their children on a regular basis to the Sunday School Program.

Things we should know

When a woman gives birth, the priest is invited, on the 8th day, to the house for a special "Service after the birth of a child." This service consists of special prayers for the mother and the newly born baby. At the same time, there are special prayers for naming the newly born baby.

On the 40th day after giving birth, the mother comes to church with the baby. The prayers said at this time are for the mother to re-enter the church and be able to receive the Holy Communion. If the baby was baptized up to this point, then the priest reads the prayers for and does the "Churching of the baby." If the baby wasn't baptized, only the first part of this service is done now, the second part being done after the baptism of the baby, who is churched at the same time.

The Harvest Festival

**The second edition of the Harvest Festival will be held
on September 28, 2013, at the Romanian Center.
This is a fundraising for two major projects: a new roof
over the main Hall and the kitchen renovation.**

**We extend our invitation to all of our members
and supporters to participate in this event!**

Tickets are \$50.00/adults and \$15.00/children (7-14 years)

Please call Viorel Ciocan at (780-994-2304) for tickets!

Thank you for your support!