

## August 4, 2013: The 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the paralytic of Capernaum)

### Epistle: Romans 12:6-14:

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

### Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8:

*Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Arise, take your bed and go home." Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such power to men.*

Two weeks ago, on the Sunday of the healing of the centurion's servant, we've touched on the importance of the intercessory prayer. Then, the centurion was praying to Christ for the healing of his servant who severely ill at home. Here, on this Sunday, we see again how the love and faith of the men who brought the paralytic before the Lord were rewarded with the healing of their friend: *When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man...* When we do good deeds we make our faith visible.

It is clear from the gospel reading that the cause of the paralytic's suffering was his sinful state: *"Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."* Together with the forgiveness of sins, the Savior restores the quality of sonship in man: *Take heart, son.* This is exactly the reason for the Lord's coming into the world: to forgive our sins (to reconcile us with our Creator) and to make us the sons of God by grace: *"Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"* (Gal. 4:7).

Let us, too, make our faith visible by praying for one another and helping those who are going through trying times!

**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: 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!**