

December 2, 2018: **THE 31ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**
(The healing of the blind man of Jericho)

Epistle reading: I Tim. 1:15-17:

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen."

Gospel reading: Luke 18:35-43:



"Then it happened, as He was coming near Jericho, that a certain blind man sat by the road begging. And hearing a multitude passing by, he asked what it meant. So they told him that Jesus of Nazareth was passing by. And he cried out, saying, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be brought to Him. And when he had come near, He asked him, saying, "What do you want Me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Receive your

sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight, and followed Him, glorifying God. And all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God."

Christendom is preparing to receive the greatest gift offered by God the Father to the whole world: His Only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Since the beginning of the Christmas Fast since the beginning of the Christmas Fast the Orthodox Church announces every Sunday, at the Matins service, the unfathomable mystery of the Lord's Incarnation, inviting her faithful to get ready for the great Feast: ***"Christ is born, glorify Him. Christ from heaven, go to meet Him. Christ on earth, be lifted up..."*** What the Church is telling us is that we shouldn't miss any opportunity to strengthen our communion with God and benefit from His mercy and divine blessings.

In the gospel reading of this Sunday, we learn about God's healing power conferred upon those who know how to pray. We also note some of the contrasts that existed in the society of that time, contrasts that are also present in our society: the blind man was poor ("*a certain blind man sat by the road begging*") in terms of material things but rich in faith and hope in God's mercy; although he was blind, he was able to feel/see the presence of the Lord and to understand the importance of the opportunity presented to him.

The persistence of the blind man paid off. He wasn't deterred by those who wanted to silence him, but he cried even louder: "*Then those who went before warned him that he should be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"*"

The main conclusion of this story is that we should use the opportunity presented to us here and now (this time and the life we have) to feel the presence of the Lord who is passing by and pray with persistence the prayer of the heart and mind: "**Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me!**"

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Sasu Liviu & Corina
Bob Marian & Maria
Pâslaru Ciprian & Gabriela**

Thank you all very much!

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Alexander Ștefănescu
Alexandru Mustea**

DECEMBER 1ST MEETING

On Saturday, Dec. 1st. at 11:00 AM, on the Alberta Legislature grounds, a peaceful Meeting (civil action) will take place in honor of the NATIONAL DAY of ROMANIA and THE CENTENNIAL OF THE GREAT UNION of Dec. 1st. 1918.

For details, contact Mrs. LIVIA LATIS (780-932-1030), email: livialatis91@gmail.com

Special Services during Advent

During the Christmas Fast, we'll have:

Vespers, every Saturday at 5:00 PM.

Following the Vespers Service, Confession will be heard for those who want to prepare for Holy Communion.

BAKED GOODS FOR CHRISTMAS

Those who are interested to buy baked goods (cozonaci) for Christmas, please contact Psa. Maria at 780-473-0029 to place your order before December 16.



Bake Sale

On December 14 and 15, the Ladies Auxiliary
will organize a BAKE SALE.

All of our ladies are kindly asked to bring their baked goods
to the Hall on Thursday, Dec. 13, between 5-7 PM.

Thank you very much!



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The traditional annual Christmas Party will be
held
on Saturday, December 22, at 6:PM, following
the Vespers.

The Sunday School children and the children
from the Romanian Dance group of the
Canadian-Romanian Society will present the
program, followed by the arrival of Santa.

All children are welcome!

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Would you like to celebrate the arrival of 2018 at the Romanian Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere?

Then contact Mariana Diaconu: 780-473-6711
or 780-660-4748 (texting only) for tickets (\$110/adults
and \$20/children 7-14) and additional details.

Sorry, no refunds after December the 5th!

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership as soon as possible.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations for the rest of the year.

We also encourage you to renew your financial pledge and be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

A Christian's conduct in Church

Before I begin to address the topic of „church conduct,” it is important to address the question „Why do we come to church?”

We come to church on Sundays (the Day of the Lord) in order to reaffirm our vocation as liturgical beings, to continue our spiritual growth and to strengthen our communion with Christ and His Church which began when we were accepted into the community of the faithful through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist (Communion).

For an Orthodox Christian, attending the Divine Liturgy is not only a privilege but an obligation as well. It is a privilege in as much as we, as members of the visible Church are called to bring the Eucharistic elements (bread and wine), be part of their transformation into the Body and Blood of Christ and then, partake of them in the form of the Holy Eucharist, all this in the context of the Divine Liturgy, the highest form of prayer we can offer to God. It is also our obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy, obeying thus one of the commandments of the Church.

In order to benefit the most from our presence in Church we must keep in mind a few rules:

- 1. Come to Church on time (before 10:00) in order to participate in the entire Divine Liturgy.**
- 2. If the service is already in progress, you must stop and see what is going on. If you came in during the Scripture readings (Epistle or the Gospel), you should wait at the back of the church until the reading is over and then, quietly, take your seat.**
- 3. Pick up the liturgical book and follow closely the service, reading all of the prayers.**
- 4. During the Divine Liturgy you are not allowed to move around or talk to other people. You can do that at the end, during the fellowship.**
- 5. Out of respect for the most important part of the Divine Liturgy, please refrain from walking in front of the Altar after the procession with the Holy Gifts.**