

December 3, 2017: 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."

For the second time in as many Sundays we witness, through the gospel reading, the power of the simple and concise prayer: *"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* Last Sunday we learned how the ten lepers, praying the same prayer, were cleansed of their terrible disease.

In the gospel reading of this Sunday, we learn again 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 him to be silent, but 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 going by and pray with persistence, asking for the divine mercy: **"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:**

**Baboş Costel & Camelia
Bazgan Maria & Fr. George
Bazgan Napolion & Valeria**

Thank you all very much!

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Alexander Ştefănescu
Alexandru Mustea**

WEBSITE ANNIVERSARY

**The Website of our church celebrates 5 years since it was
launched (Dec. 2012).**

**Heartfelt appreciation to MR. ŞTEAN MOCANU who created it,
maintains and continues to improve it with inspiring
dedication and professionalism!**

Special Services during Advent

During the Christmas Fast, we'll have:

The Akathist, Friday at 7:00 PM.
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 10.



Bake Sale

On December 15 and 16, 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. 14, between 5-7 PM.

Thank you very much!

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The traditional annual Christmas Party will be held
on December 17, following the Divine Liturgy and regular
fellowship (POT-LUCK). 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 (\$100/adults
and \$20/children 7-14) and additional details.

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!



Images of Faith, Hope, & Beauty

Ukrainian Canadian Icons, Iconostasis, and Paintings

December 6 - January 28, 2018

Enterprise Square - West Gallery

10230 Jasper Ave, Edmonton, AB

Gallery hours: 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays

Closed December 25 & 26 and January 1 & 2

Free Admission