

February 7, 2016: The 16th Sunday after Pentecost (The parable of the talents)

Epistle reading: II Cor. 6:1-10:

"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Gospel reading: Matt. 25:14-30:



"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and

immediately he went on a journey. Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of

your lord.’ He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

It is clear, from the Gospel reading of this Sunday, that every person born on this earth is endowed by their Creator with certain gifts, talents, possibilities, *”to each according to his own ability.”* It is also clear that, at the time of judgement, the reward is bestowed not according to the number of talents (gifts) but according to the effort made by the recipient to identify and multiply those talents (gifts). So, the effort begins with the identification of the talent(s) received and the constant gratitude and thanksgiving shown to God, *”the Giver of all good things.”* We know from other parables that the God-given gifts are not for our exclusive benefit, which would be a selfish way of seeing things. We are responsible to share these gifts with our fellow human beings, making sure that they, too, understand their true source (God) and, as a result, join the chorus of all those who give Him praise and thanksgiving. Seeing things from this perspective, we can say that these talents or gifts are **not given but entrusted to us**, which means that God wants us to be His co-workers in His vineyard, the world.

The fact that *“after a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them”* is an indication of God’s patience with us to do the right thing. It is also a warning of the accountability that each of us will have to give.

While laziness and indifference to the talents entrusted to us will be severely punished *„cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth,’* hard work and the sense of personal responsibility will be rewarded with the divine invitation to inherit the kingdom of God: *„Enter into the joy of your Lord.”*

May we be also be made worthy of hearing His invitation!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

Oancia Ion & Cornelia

Bitea Mioara

Roman Mihaela

Thank you all very much!

Valentine's Supper & Dance

On Saturday, February 13, 2016, there will be a
Valentine's Supper and Dance at the Romanian Center.
Supper will be served at 7:00 P.M.

For tickets (\$40.00 / adults, \$10.00 / children) and details,
see Viorel Ciocan at the Church on Sundays.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Our parish is organizing a 10-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land
between May 27-June 5, 2016. The approximate cost is \$2,500/person.
Those who are interested, please call Fr. George at 780-473-0029.

Spread the word

We make an appeal to all of you, subscribers to our weekly electronic Bulletin, to invite your family members and friends to submit their email address and join the list of our parish subscribers.

This is so we can reach as many people as possible.

Thank you for your help!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors would like to thank all those who paid their membership and honored their financial pledges for 2015!

At the same time, we would like to remind everyone that, based on the decision of the 2015 Annual General Meeting, as of January 2016, the Church membership fee is \$150/person (\$300/couple),

Please keep in mind that \$35 from each membership is sent to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH!

**ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF EDMONTON
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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, February 21, 2016 13:00

AGENDA

- 1. Call the meeting to order and opening prayer.**
- 2. Confirmation of “Notice of Meeting” and quorum.**
- 3. Approval of the Agenda.**
- 4. Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting.**
- 5. Business arising from 2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes.**
- 6. Financial Statements, Membership and Casino Reports by Mrs. Corina Sasu, Treasurer**
- 7. Church Report, by Fr. George Bazgan.**

Committee Reports:

- 8. Property and Maintenance, by Mr. Nicolae Chiosa, Hall Manager.**
- 9. Social, by Mr. Viorel Ciocan.**
- 10. Communications / Public relations report by Ștefan Mocanu.**
- 11. Ladies Auxiliary, by Psa. Maria Bazgan, LA President.**
- 12. President’s report, by Mr. Ion Mieila, Board President.**
- 13. New Business.**
- 14. Adjournment.**