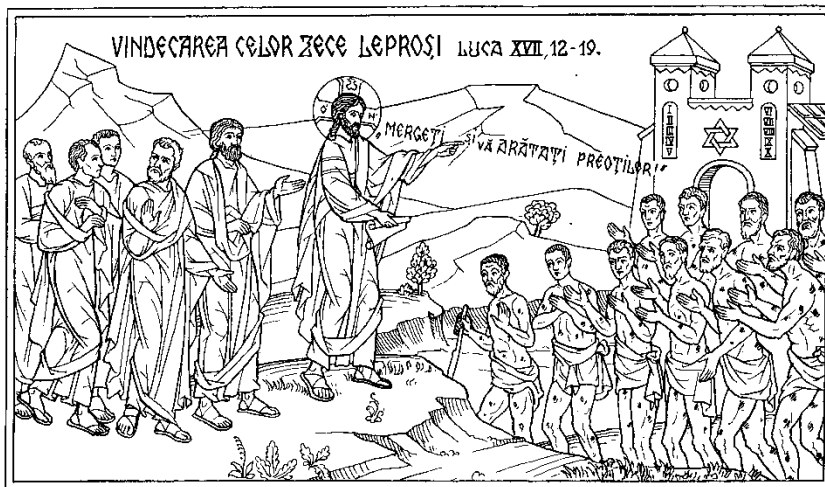


January 17, 2016: The 29TH Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the 10 lepers)

Epistle: Col. 3:4-11:

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory. Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

Gospel: Like 17:12-19:



Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.

The theme of this Sunday's gospel reading is **gratitude**. Although this is a real story, the actual encounter between Christ and the ten lepers, its moral is as valid today as it was two thousand years ago and throughout the ages ever since.

St Luke relates to us that although all ten lepers who, according to the rules of the time had to leave their families and communities and live in isolation, prayed with the same intensity ("*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!*") and, as a result, received the same gift of healing, only one of them proved to be a man of character. And what's more interesting, this man wasn't even part of the "chosen people" but a Samaritan, a "*foreigner.*" He alone returned to his benefactor and thanked Him.

It is important to notice that this man didn't come back to thank his benefactor in a casual manner (the way we do it so often with a cold "thanks"); he "*fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks,*" which means that he engaged in an act of adoration and praise, a liturgical act.

When we show our gratitude to God for all the blessings He gives us on a daily basis **we are the ones** who actually benefit from this. We turn toward our benefactor, the merciful and loving God and, just like the cleansed Samaritan, reaffirm our role and vocation as liturgical beings.

As Orthodox Christians, we do this every day as individuals as part of our private prayers and collectively, as a community, when we come to partake in the Eucharistic celebration, on Sundays and Feast days.

Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Neamtu Marius & Simona
Negreanu Lucian & Camelia
Stefanescu Florin & Luminita**

The new Fellowship Roster begins on February 14, 2016.

Thank you all very much!

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 \$35.00 from each membership is sent to the Archdiocese.

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for
February 21, 2016, after the Divine Liturgy.**

On the Agenda:

Financial and other committee's reports.

Members in good standing will be able to vote.

All are invited to attend.

PLEASE, PLAN TO ATTEND!