

January 24, 2016: 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:

**Almășanu Marius & Grațîela
Stoleru Șerban & Mădălina
Vătui Marian & Ana Maria**

The new Fellowship Roster begins on February 14, 2016.

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.

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!

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!