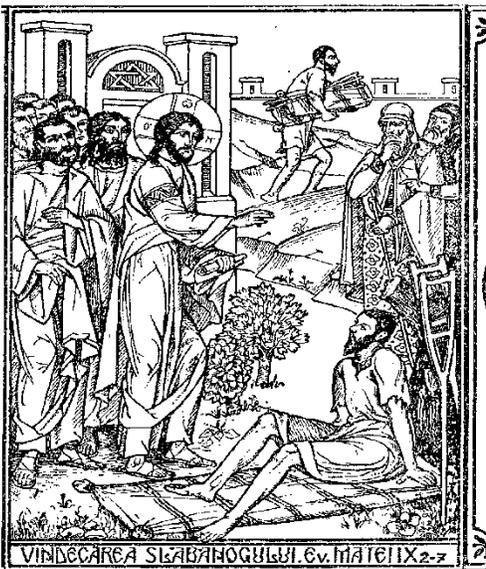


July 20, 2014: The 6th Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the paralytic of Capernaum)

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8:



Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Arise, take your bed and go home." Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such power to men.

Two weeks ago, on the Sunday of the healing of the centurion's servant, we've touched on the importance of the intercessory prayer. Then, the centurion was praying to Christ for the healing of his servant who severely ill at home. Here, on this Sunday, we see again how the love and faith of the men who brought the paralytic before the Lord were rewarded with the healing of their friend: *When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man...* When we do good deeds we make our faith visible.

It is clear from the gospel reading that the cause of the paralytic's suffering was his sinful state: *"Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."* Together with the forgiveness of sins, the Savior restores the quality of sonship in man: *Take heart, son.* This is exactly the reason for the Lord's coming into the world: to forgive our sins (to reconcile us with our Creator) and to make us the sons of God by grace: *"Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ"* (Gal. 4:7).

Let us, too, make our faith visible by praying for one another and helping those who are going through trying times!

Fr. George Bazgan

SUMMER SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES

Due to the fact that Fr. George will be away between July 2 and August 1, there will be some changes regarding our Church services.

The church will be open every Sunday and Fr. Deacon Severian will serve the Akathist at 10:00 AM.

For any emergency, please call Fr. Mircea at 780-456-7737.

Have a pleasant Summer!

The families in charge of the fellowship during the month of July have been rescheduled for October-November.