

July 21, 2013: The 4th Sunday after the Pentecost (The healing of the centurion's servant)

Epistle reading: Romans 6:18-23:

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel reading: Matthew 8:5-13:

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?" The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

The gospel reading of this Sunday is a good example of the importance of the intercessory prayer. The centurion puts his job and social position on the line to help his servant, who was *at home paralyzed, suffering terribly*. Not only did he have faith in the healing power of Christ, *just say the word, and my servant will be healed*, but he was also very humble *Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof*.

His faith was praised by our Lord and Savior when He said: *Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith... "Go! Let it be done just as you believed it would."*

When we pray at home and especially when we pray in church for our fellow human beings from everywhere, we bring intercessory prayer to God, imploring him to restore the physical and spiritual health of those dear to us.

May our good and loving God hear our prayer!

Fr. George Bazgan

MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24, 2013, the decision was made to keep the membership unchanged, at \$100/person (\$200/couple). We encourage all our members and supporters to pay their membership as soon as possible so we can complete the various projects during the warm season and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese with the annual dues.

Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

KITCHEN RENOVATION

Our kitchen is in dire need for expansion and renovation. In the fall of 2012 we launched a campaign to fundraise for this important project.

The last estimate for the project came at around \$80,000.

We appeal to all of our members, supporters and friends to give generously towards this major project and support our fundraising events!

All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt and our heartfelt appreciation.

THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU!