

July 28, 2013: The 5th Sunday after Pentecost (the healing of the 2 demoniacs)

Epistle: Romans 10:1-10:

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: "The person who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that is by faith says: "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?'" (that is, to bring Christ down) "or 'Who will descend into the deep?'" (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Gospel: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:1:

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. "What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?" Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs." He said to them, "Go!" So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men. Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region. Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town.

The two demoniacs from today's gospel reading represent the state (condition) of mankind at "the fulness of time," when Christ came into the world. The 2 men were physically alive but were living among the dead: *two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him*. The demons acknowledge the presence of the Son of God and they know that His mission is the destruction of evil forces: *"What do you want with us, Son of God?" they shouted. "Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?"*

The liberation of the 2 demoniacs is just the prelude of the great work of Christ, who came to liberate mankind from the bondage of the evil one.

May our Lord and Savior liberate and save all of us who worship Him!

Fr. George Bazgan

Holy Virgin's Dormition Fast

**Between August 1-15, the Orthodox Church
observes the Dormition Fast.**

**During the two week fast,
the following services will be held in our church:**

- Fridays, Aug. 2 and 9 at 7:00 PM: Akathist to the Holy Virgin.**
- Saturdays, Aug. 3 and 10, at 5:00: Vespers.**
- Wednesday, August 14: Vespers.**

**Those who want to have their confession heard,
can do so after any of these services.**

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!