

## June 7, 2015: The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Of all Saints)

**Epistle: Hebrews 11:30-40; 12:1-2:**

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were encircled for seven days. By faith the harlot Rahab did not perish with those who did not believe, when she had received the spies with peace. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

**Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38; 19:27-30:**



*“Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. Then Peter answered and said to Him, “See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?” So Jesus said to them, “Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.*”

In the Orthodox Church, we believe in the Communion of Saints that is the unending dialogue between us, the visible Church, and the invisible/heavenly Church, constituted of all those who have found favor before God.

The saints are those who throughout history have put their lives in the service of God and their fellow human beings, and by so doing, have very often paid the ultimate price.

If we read carefully the above words of St. Paul to the Hebrews, we have an idea of the kind of the unthinkable and brutal violence launched upon those who dedicated themselves to God. And these are just those who lived before the coming of the Lord into the world.

What about the apostles, the martyrs, the confessors and many others who have suffered similar deaths during the many centuries of persecution in the New Testament?

Again, what can we say about those who have suffered lengthy imprisonment, torture, starvation, humiliation and death in the Communist gulags? They are indeed the ones who confessed Christ before men and, as a result, have received "*a hundredfold, and inherited eternal life.*"

May all of them be an inspiration to us!

**Fr. George Bazgan**

## **Sunday Fellowship**

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

**Manolache Constantin & Jeni  
Toma Richard & Lil  
Shelemey Paul & Darline**

**The new Fellowship Roster will begin on August 9, 2015.**

**Those who are not on the list and want to participate,  
please call Fr. George at 780-473-0029.**

**Those who are on the list and do not want to continue,  
please do the same!**

**Thank you all very much!**

## **Garage Sale**

**Our Garage Sale, held last weekend, has been a great success.  
Many thanks to all donors, organizers and volunteers (too many to mention) for  
another successful fund raising event!  
The net profit was about \$4,000.**

**Thank you all!**

## **Saints Apostles Fast**

**Between June 8 -29 the Orthodox Church observes Saints Peter and Paul Fast.  
On Saturdays, June 13, 20 and 27, there will be Vespers Service at 5:00.  
Following the Vespers, Confession will be heard.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish,  
asking them to pay their membership as soon as possible.  
This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial  
obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**