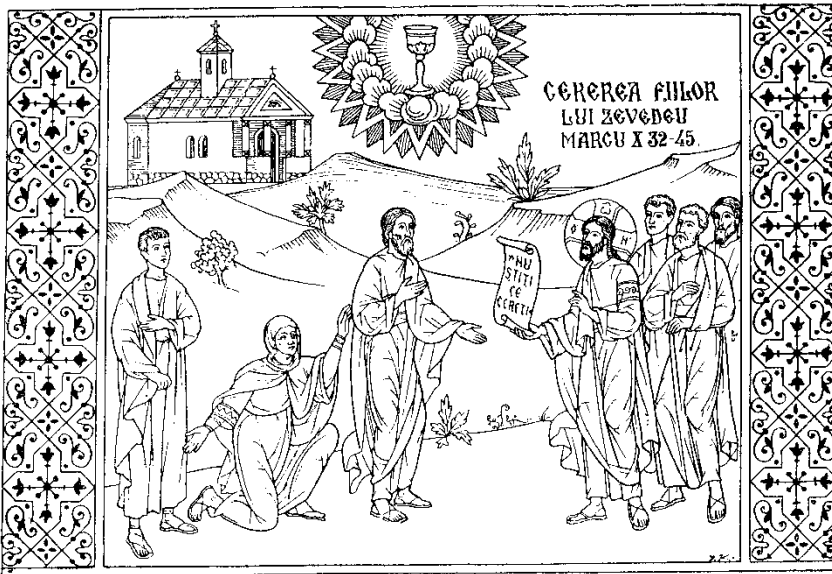


March 29, 2015: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Of St. Mary of Egypt)

Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14:

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Gospel: Mark 10:32-45:



Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will

condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their

great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Last Sunday, the Savior announced for the first time, since the beginning of Great Lent, His voluntary and redeeming Passion: *“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”*

Today, one week before His triumphal (and last) entry into Jerusalem, He begins to be more detailed about the last chapter of His public ministry, preparing His disciples for the upcoming events: *“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”* As you can see, not only does He give precise details about His Passion, but He even foretells His betrayal *to the chief priests and to the scribes.*

The apostles were still hoping that their Master came to establish a worldly kingdom, hence the request from James and John for a place of honor in such a kingdom: *“Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”*

Their request brings about another revelation, this time concerning the way these two disciples (and all of them, save John) would complete the last days of their life: *“You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;* Even such a personal revelation escapes the grasp of the disciples. The squabble that ensued among the apostles indicates that their minds were set rather on things of this world than on humility and personal sacrifice. It was at this point that Christ began to give them, in a more direct way, a lesson on humility and sacrificial love, making Himself the prototype of such selfless and loving example: *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

May our good and loving Lord give us the spirit of humility, understanding and sacrifice!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Apostol Alexandru & Georgeta
Bacivan Milan & Cornelia
Stoica Emilian & Simona**

Thank you all very much!

CHURCH SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:

Fridays at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VIRGIN.

Saturdays at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.

CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.

Sundays at 10:00 AM: DIVINE LITURGY.

ROYA MEETING

A meeting with the Youth of our parish is scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 2015 at 1:30 PM.

All of our young people (13-25 years) are invited to attend this first meeting of the ROYA (Romanian Orthodox Youth Association).

SEE YOU ON MARCH 29!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership before Easter.

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!

HUDSON'S BAY The Giving Day

The Giving Day is taking place on Thursday, April 2, 2015 in all Hudson's Bay stores. It is a one-day shopping event designed to help charitable and non-profit organizations in Hudson's Bay communities raise awareness and funds through the sale of The Giving Day tickets to their members.

On April 2, 2015, ticket holders will be treated to an exclusive discount, special events, contests and more at Hudson's Bay!

Tickets are \$5 each with 100% of the proceeds retained by each organization.

Tickets can be purchased from the Church from Corina Sasu and Gabriela Luca-Damian.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Food Collection

Once again, a food drive is under way in our parish.

Please bring nonperishable foods and deposit them at the entrance of the church.

"Blessed is he who considers the poor; The Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on earth" (Psalm 41:1-2).

THANK YOU!

SPRING CLEANING

On Saturday, April the 4th, beginning at 9:30 AM, a general Spring Cleaning will take place. This includes the inside as well as the outside (weather permitting) of the Church complex.

Volunteers are needed!

FISH DINNER

On April 5, 2015 (PALM SUNDAY), following the Divine Liturgy, the traditional FISH DINNER will be held in the main Hall.

**Free admission;
Donations will be collected at the table.**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

GARAGE SALE

The Romanian Orthodox Church will be hosting a Garage Sale:

- Friday, May 29 2015: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM.
- Saturday, May 30 2015: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
- Sunday, May 31 2015: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

*This is a fundraising event with proceeds going towards the kitchen renovation.
To make this event a success, we NEED your help!*

ITEMS NEEDED :

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).

ADULT CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).

TOYS /ELECTRONIC GAMES/OTHER ELECTRONICS.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT.

SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE.

TOOLS.

GARDEN ITEMS.

MISCELLANEOUS (BOOKS, CHINA, DECORATIVE ITEMS, JEWELRY,
PURSES, VASES, etc.).

Donations will be accepted between May 3 - May 24, every Sunday

from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM (or call to make other arrangements).

NOTE: *This event requires a large number of volunteers to sort, price and advertise so please let us know if you can lend a hand.*

For further information, to make a donation or to volunteer, please contact:

- Psa. MARIA BAZGAN: 780-473-0029
- MARIANA DIACONU: 780-473-6711
- MARIETA MIEILA: 780-439-9310
- GABRIELA DINCA: 780-497-1326

Thank you very much!

On Mixed Marriages

Living in a pluralistic society, such as ours, has its share of advantages and challenges as well, especially for the young people.

When it comes to mixed marriages, the Orthodox parents and their children need to know what the position of the Church is. Based on the teaching of the Orthodox Church, mixed marriages must meet the following conditions:

1. The non-Orthodox party must be a Christian. This means that that person must have been or must be baptized (before the wedding service) in one of the other two Christian denominations: Catholic or Protestant. Of course, we would prefer that such a person be baptized in the Orthodox Church.

Therefore, an Orthodox person cannot marry a non-Christian in the Orthodox Church.

2. The wedding service must take place in an Orthodox Church and be officiated by an Orthodox priest. Just because the wedding takes place in an Orthodox church does not mean that the non-Orthodox party becomes Orthodox. This is done only as a favor to the Orthodox party.

3. The children resulted from this union must be baptized and raised/educated in the Orthodox Church.

Should an Orthodox person enter a marriage union with a non-Christian, such a person must understand that by so doing they have forfeited their right/possibility to receive Communion and be a Godparent at a Christening or a Wedding.

For further details, please talk to the priest.

Fr. George Bazgan