

March 3, 2013: The 34th. Sunday after Pentecost (The Parable of the Prodigal Son)

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20:

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. Foods for the stomach and the stomach for foods, but God will destroy both it and them. Now the body is not for sexual immorality but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God both raised up the Lord and will also raise us up by His power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For “the two,” He says, “shall become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.

Gospel: Luke 15:11-32:

Then He said: “A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.” “And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ “But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry. “Now his older son was in the field. And as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.’ “But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who has devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.’ “And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

Last Sunday, a new season started in the Orthodox Ecclesiastical year: the Triodion, the time to think about our spiritual renewal, the time of repentance, which will be the central theme of Great Lent, our spiritual journey to Pascha. The Publican from the gospel reading of last Sunday stood as a good example for all of us as to the kind of attitude we should have when praying. He acquired God's mercy and forgiveness because he displayed genuine humility and true repentance for his sins ("**God, be merciful to me, a sinner**").

Having spent foolishly all of the goods he had received from his father, the Prodigal son from this Sunday's gospel reading follows the same pattern and, having come to himself, in humility and with a contrite spirit, he prays and says: "*Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.*"

He recognizes the gravity of his sins and therefore he does not ask for a full reinstatement, for full sonship, which he had before, but, in humility he just wants to be accepted within his father's household, *like one of your hired servants.*"

The response of his father, who *had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him*, killed the fatted calf and prepared a great supper in honor of his return, speaks to all of us about the goodness of our loving God and the forgiveness which awaits all those who return to him with humility, repentance and true desire to re-establish our communion with Him.

To learn more, go to church on Sunday!

Fr. George Bazgan

PEROGY SUPPER

MARCH 15, 2013 (4:30 – 7:30 PM)

\$12/ADULTS \$6/CHILDREN (6-12)



ROMANIAN CENTER
9005 – 132 AVE.

The Ladies of our parish are urged to bring something for the **BAKE SALE**.

Thank you for your support!

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 in the first trimester (by the end of March) so we can complete our projects during the warm season and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese with the annual dues.

Keep in mind that \$25 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!