

**March 31, 2013: SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT**  
**(of St. Gregory Palamas)**

**Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-14; 2:1-3:**

*“You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.” But to which of the angels has He ever said: “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation? Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.*

**Gospel: Mark 2:1-12:**

*And again He entered Capernaum after some days, and it was heard that He was in the house. Immediately many gathered together, so that there was no longer room to receive them, not even near the door. And He preached the word to them. Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise, take up your bed and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”*

On the second Sunday of Great Lent, the gospel message is about faith in action, about visible faith. Many people claim and even boast to have faith. However, when they are challenged to actually prove their faith they don't have too much to say.

Let us look at the four men from today's gospel reading who proved their faith by carrying their fellow human being (the paralytic) on the streets of Capernaum, in order to present him before the Savior. And, when they came to the house where Jesus was, their faith was put to the test: *they could not come near Him because of the crowd*. But strong faith never gives up; it always finds answers. So, instead of turning around and going back home, the four men went through further effort (proof of their faith) and *when they*

*could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.*

The faith of the four men brings about the healing of the paralytic: *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."*

As we continue our spiritual journey to Pascha, let us learn from the four men and help those in need, proving that our faith is not just a statement but a way of life, an example, a light to the world!

**Fr. George Bazgan**

## **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.**

## **LADIES' ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**The Annual General Meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary  
of our parish will be held on  
March the 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013,  
following the Divine Liturgy.**

**ALL LADIES ARE INVITED!**

## **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 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!**