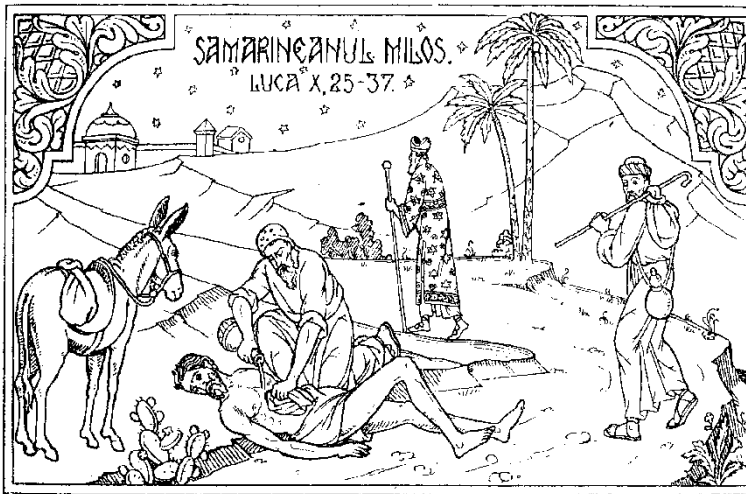


Nov. 16, 2014: The 25th Sunday after Pentecost (The Good Samaritan)

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-7:

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37:



And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and tested Him, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?" So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbor as yourself.' " And He said to him, "You have answered

rightly; do this and you will live." But he, wanting to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Then Jesus answered and said: "A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a certain priest came down that road. And when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. Likewise a Levite, when he arrived at the place, came and looked, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was. And when he saw him, he had compassion. So he went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine; and he set him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. On the next day, when he departed, he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said to him, 'Take care of him; and whatever more you spend, when I come again, I will repay you.' So which of these three do you think was neighbor to him who fell among the thieves?" And he said, "He who showed mercy on him." Then Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

At the beginning of Advent, the Fathers of the Church ordained that the gospel reading be this beautiful parable of the Good Samaritan because Advent marks the time of our spiritual preparation to receive, six weeks later, the visitation of Messiah, the incarnate Son of God, the Good Samaritan who comes to check on the condition of His people and restore man, the masterpiece of His creation to his original dignity.

The dire situation of the man who "*fell among thieves, who stripped him of his clothing, wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead,*" is a very accurate image of mankind's condition when God the Father decided to implement His eternal plan for the salvation and restoration of the entire creation, especially man.

Based on what our Savior says in John 3:16: "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life,*" we understand clearly that the reason for sending into the world of His only begotten Son, was God's infinite love for His creation. It is, therefore, no wonder that the parable of the Good Samaritan was told in the context of the first and the greatest commandment: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.*"

The command "*Go and do likewise,*" given to the teacher of the Law echoes throughout the millennia and is addressed to every generation, including ours, as the beneficiaries of God's infinite love, to imitate Christ, the Good Samaritan and become ourselves good samaritans, stooping over with love and compassion and bandaging the wounds of our fellow human beings just as the Good Samaritan has done.

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Nanu Claudiu & Irina
Morariu Iulian & Cristina
Bratu Marius & Alina**

Thank you all very much!

The new Fellowship Roster will begin on November the 30th 2014.

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

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

Vespers Service

During the Christmas Fast, Vespers will be celebrated every **Saturday at 5:00 PM.**

Following the Vespers Service, Confession will be heard for those who want to prepare for Holy Communion.

Men's Choir

We'd like to revive the men's choir we used to have many years ago. Those who are interested, please call Fr. George (780-473-0029). Rehearsals will be held every week until Christmas.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Would you like to celebrate the arrival of 2015 at the Romanian Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere?

Then **contact Liviu Sasu at 780-489-5381** for tickets (\$100/adults and \$20/children 7-14), and additional details.

MEMBERSHIP

We remind you that the membership contribution hasn't changed in the last few years:

\$100/person (\$200/couple).

We encourage everyone to pay their membership as soon as possible!

Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Educational Session

St. Anthony's Ukrainian Orthodox Parish of Edmonton organizes an educational session "How to Raise Children in a World Where so Many People do not Believe in God."

Guest speaker Fr. Peter Haugen will be speaking about the challenges of raising children in a society where many people don't believe in God. The session is at St. Anthony's (6103 - 172 Street) on **Saturday, November 15th, from 9:00am to 3:30pm.**

The cost is \$20/person, \$30/family, and youth admission free. Lunch, beverages, and snacks are included. Please **contact the church office to preregister, 780.487.2167.**

Things we should know

When a woman gives birth, the priest is invited, on the 8th day, to the house for a special "Service after the birth of a child." This service consists of special prayers for the mother and the newly born baby. At the same time, there are special prayers for naming the newly born baby.

On the 40th day after giving birth, the mother comes to church with the baby. The prayers said at this time are for the mother to re-enter the church and be able to receive the Holy Communion. If the baby was baptized up to this point, then the priest reads the prayers for and does the "Churching of the baby." If the baby wasn't baptized, only the first part of this service is done now, the second part being done after the baptism of the baby, who is churched at the same time.

The child cannot receive Communion before Christening