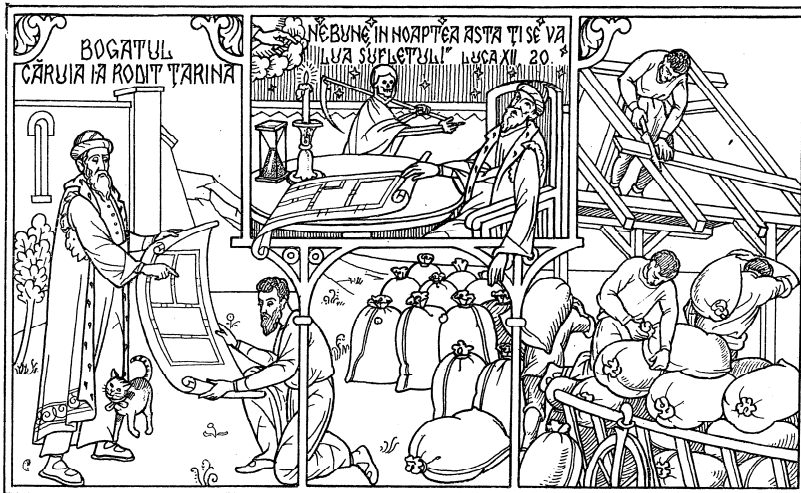


## Nov. 23, 2014: The 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Of the rich fool)

### Epistle: Ephesians 5:8-19:

*For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*

### Gospel Luke 12:16-21:



*Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater ones, and there I will store*

*all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' "So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."*

This Sunday's gospel reading is the perfect lesson on how dangerous material wealth can be for some people. Since this rich man's old barns were still full with crops from the previous year's harvest (*'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'*), it is obvious that he never thought about sharing, at least his surplus, with the poor. It would have been much cheaper and more beneficial for him and his fellow human beings had he decided to give away the old crops and use the old barns in which to store the new crops.

The constant desire to acquire wealth can very easily turn into obsession and anxiety. When this happens, one loses his/her discernment and the sense of real value and purpose in life. The person becomes confused, unable to see the needs of others; his concentration/obsession is on himself only: *"And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry."*

The reason the Church Fathers ordained these Sunday gospel readings in the month of November which share the theme of material wealth is because we are supposed to get ready to meet, at the end of the Christmas Fast, Messiah, the only begotten Son of God, who comes in total humility and poverty so those who "have ears to hear" might embrace His message and heed his advice to get *"rich toward God."*

**Fr. George Bazgan**

### **Sunday Fellowship**

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

**Oancia Ioan & Mariana**

**Bitea Mioara**

**Roman Mihaela**

**Thank you all very much!**

**The new Fellowship Roster will begin on November the 30<sup>th</sup> 2014.**

## 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!**

## **Things we should know**

When a woman gives birth, the priest is invited, on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 40<sup>th</sup> 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**