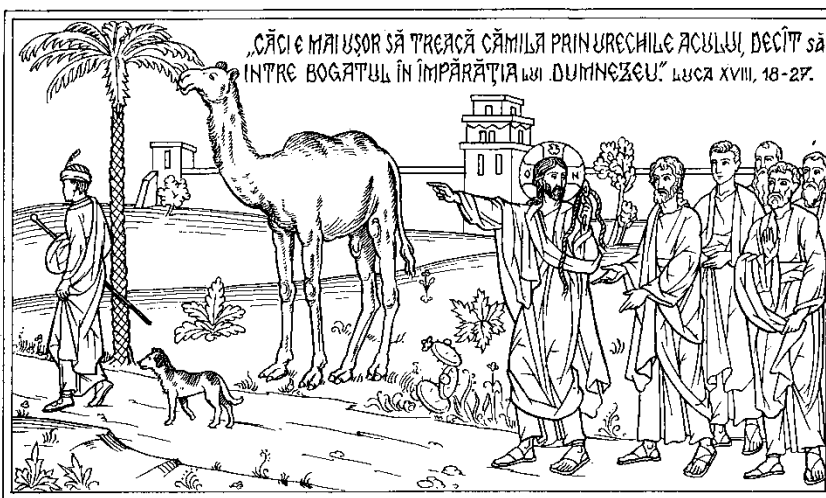


Nov. 24, 2013: The 30th Sunday after Pentecost (Of the rich man – keeping the commandments)

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-16:

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27:



Now a certain ruler asked Him, saying, “Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?” So Jesus said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” And he said, “All these things I have kept from my youth.” So when Jesus heard these things, He said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich. And when Jesus saw that he became very sorrowful, He said, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.” And those who heard it said, “Who then can be saved?” But He said, “The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”

The last Sunday of November closes the series of the gospel readings that have a common theme: the material wealth. Just two Sundays ago, the Lord was approached by a lawyer, who came to test Him, saying: “Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?”

The dialogue evolved to the point where Christ told the beautiful parable of the Good Samaritan.

On this Sunday, the Savior is approached by "a certain ruler," who asked him the same question: "*Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?*"

If we compare the two answers to the same question, we are tempted to think that the same question has two different answers: "*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*' (Luke 10:27), from two weeks ago, and "*Do not commit adultery,*' '*Do not murder,*' '*Do not steal,*' '*Do not bear false witness,*' '*Honor your father and your mother*'", from this Sunday's gospel reading.

Now, the question is: which one of these answers is the correct one? Actually, they both are. They are seemingly different because they were given to two different people, with different mentalities and understanding of the Law. While the first one came to test the Lord and was told that one cannot love God unless one also loves his neighbor as much as he loves himself, which includes having mercy and compassion on him and caring about his condition, the second one came as a compliant with the Law (so he thought), only to learn that he was in fact in total violation of the first commandment: "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...*" When he was told what steps he must take in order to "inherit eternal life:" "*Sell all that you have and distribute to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me,*" he showed his true allegiance, in terms of which god he was truly serving and was devoted to: "*But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.*" He was unable (unwilling) to part with his riches because they had become his god. He had replaced the true God with his own god, his material possessions, thus betraying the true God, committing **spiritual adultery**.

So, let us heed the message conveyed by these gospel readings and open our minds and hearts, responding with compassion and Christian love to the needs of our fellow human beings, following the example of God the Father, who sends His only begotten Son into the world in complete humility and poverty in order to exalt and enrich mankind!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after this Sunday's (November 24) fellowship:

George & Pearl Demchuk
Petre & Loredana Dorobanțu
Marius & Ileana Gavriș

Thank you all very much!

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.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Would you like to celebrate the arrival of 2014 at the Romanian Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere? Then **contact Viorel Ciocan at 780-994-2304** for tickets (\$80/adults and \$15/children 7-14), and additional details.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The traditional annual Christmas Party will be held this year on **December 22** in the main Hall, following the Divine Liturgy and regular fellowship. **As of November 24, 2013,** the preparations for the Sunday School Christmas Party program will begin. **All children are welcome!**

BAKED GOODS FOR CHRISTMAS

Those who are interested to buy baked goods (cozonaci) for Christmas, please contact Psa. Maria at 780-473-0029, to place your order, before December 8.



MEMBERSHIP

At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24, 2013, the decision was made to keep the membership contribution unchanged: \$100/person (\$200/couple).

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

Keep in mind that \$25 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!