

Nov. 27, 2016: 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 fellowship:**

**Mieila Ion & Marieta
Rinchița Eugen & Geta
Zerfass Daniel & Flory**

If you use the kitchen and the stove, clean them up, please!

Thank you all very much!

Special Services during Advent

During the Christmas Fast, we'll have
Vespers, 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 2017 at the Romanian
Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere?

Then contact Viorel or Veronica Ciocan, on Sundays,
at the church, for tickets (\$100/adults and \$20/children 7-14)
and additional details.

Bake Sale

On December 9 and 10, the Ladies Auxiliary
will organize a BAKE SALE.

All of our ladies are kindly asked to bring their baked goods
to the Hall on Thursday, Dec. 8, between 5-7 PM.

Thank you very much!

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The traditional annual Christmas Party will be held on December 18 in the main Hall, following the Divine Liturgy and regular fellowship. As of November 20, the preparations for the Sunday School Christmas Party program have begun. 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 11.



MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership as soon as possible.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations until the end of the year.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

The Sermon on line

The Sunday's Sermon is being posted on line.
To access it, go to our parish's website (bisericaedmonton.org),
click on "Multimedia" and then on "Audio."

Spread the word

We make an appeal to all of you, subscribers to our weekly electronic Bulletin,
to invite your family members and friends to submit their
email address and join the list of our parish subscribers.

This is so we can reach as many people as possible.

Thank you for your help!

A Christian's conduct in Church

Before I begin to address the topic of „church conduct,” it is important to address the question „Why do we come to church?”

We come to church on Sundays (the Day of the Lord) in order to reaffirm our vocation as liturgical beings, to continue our spiritual growth and to strengthen our communion with Christ and His Church which began when we were accepted into the community of the faithful through the Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Eucharist (Communion).

For an Orthodox Christian, attending the Divine Liturgy is not only a privilege but an obligation as well. It is a privilege in as much as we, as members of the visible Church are called to bring the Eucharistic elements (bread and wine), be part of their transformation into the Body and Blood of Christ and then, partake of them in the form of the Holy Eucharist, all this in the context of the Divine Liturgy, the highest form of prayer we can offer to God. It is also our obligation to attend the Divine Liturgy, obeying thus one of the commandments of the Church.

In order to benefit the most from our presence in Church we must keep in mind a few rules:

- 1. Come to Church on time (before 10:00) in order to participate in the entire Divine Liturgy.**
- 2. If the service is already in progress, you must stop and see what is going on. If you came in during the Scripture readings (Epistle or the Gospel), you should wait at the back of the church until the reading is over and then, quietly, take your seat.**
- 3. Pick up the liturgical book and follow closely the service, reading all of the prayers.**
- 4. During the Divine Liturgy you are not allowed to talk to other people. You can do that at the end, during the fellowship.**