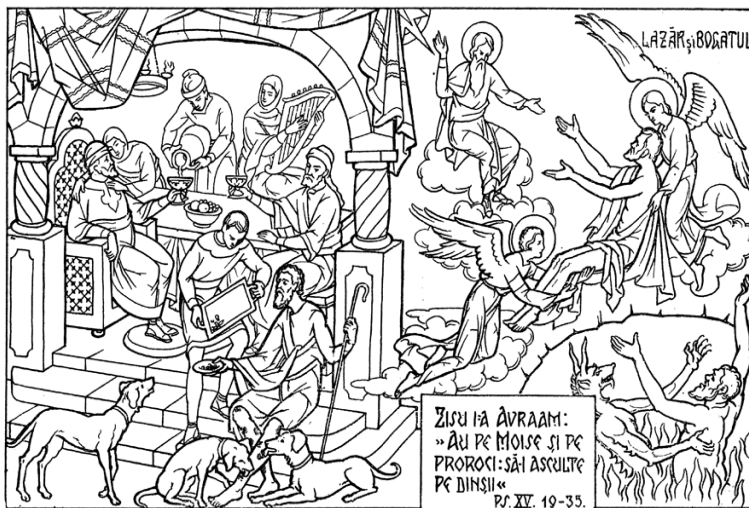


## Nov. 3, 2013: The 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (The rich man and poor Lazarus)

### Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18:

*See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.*

### Gospel: Luke 16:19-31:



*There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich*

*man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And*

*he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"*

Except for the Sunday that precedes the beginning of Advent, when the gospel reading is about the parable of the Good Samaritan, all the other Sundays during the month of November have the same theme: **material wealth**.

As we embark on our discussion about this subject matter, we should be reminded of the fact that **wealth in itself or lack of it does not determine one's fate in the life hereafter**. The determining factor as to where one spends eternity is how one acquires and uses the material wealth or how one conducts himself (herself) while at the other end of the spectrum.

In the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus, our Lord and Savior emphasizes what we've just stated above, on one hand, and, on the other, He gives us a glimpse into eternal life, mainly, the two states (conditions) which await us: eternal happiness or eternal torment.

By using his wealth exclusively for his own benefit ("*There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day*"), the rich man ignored the needs of his fellow human beings, contributing thus to the creation of the unsurpassable gulf (chasm) between him and them ("*between us and you there is a great gulf fixed*"), which will come to haunt him into eternity.

Speaking of eternity, the gospel reading is telling us that after death, there will be a personal judgment, based on which everyone will receive their reward: eternal happiness in paradise (*Abraham's bosom*) or eternal torment (*in Hades*).

Another thing worth noticing is that after death the soul has to capacity to know (recognize) other people: "*And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*"

The overall message of this gospel reading is that it is here and now, in this life, that we must acquire the good deeds of mercy, compassion and Christian love in order to spend eternity in paradise (Abraham's bosom) instead of the place of torment (Hades).

**Fr. George Bazgan**

## **Sunday Fellowship**

**In the context of the universal commemoration of the departed ones, which is observed this Saturday, Nov. 2 (the Saturday of the souls), there will be a general participation for this Sunday's, (Nov. 3) fellowship.**

**Thank you all very much!**

## **PEROGY SUPPER**

On Friday, Nov. 8, 2013, the Ladies Auxiliary will organize a Perogy Supper at the Romanian Center, between 4:30 – 7:30 PM.

At the same time, there will be a Bake Sale.

We invite all the ladies of our parish to prepare something for the Bake Sale and bring to the Hall on Thursday evening, Nov. 7, between 6:00 - 8:00 PM.

## **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!**