

Nov. 4, 2018: The 22nd 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.'"

The central theme of the Sunday gospel readings during the month of November (with two exceptions) is **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 thereof 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, gives us a glimpse into eternal life, mainly, the two states (conditions) which await us: eternal happiness or eternal torment, on the other.

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/private 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

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Alexandru Mustea**

Sunday Fellowship

In the context of the universal commemoration of the dead, (the Saturday of the souls), there will be general participation for this Sunday's fellowship.

Thank you all very much!



Daylight saving time

**Daylight saving time ends this weekend.
On Saturday night, turn your watch back by one hour.**

PEROGY SUPPER

On Friday, November 9, 2018, the Ladies Auxiliary will organize a Perogy Supper at the Romanian Center, between 4:30 - 7:30 PM.

The "Stained Glass Windows" project

In preparation for the 2019 Church Anniversary (May 26), when our Church will be elevated to the rank of "CATHEDRAL," the Church windows will be replaced with new stained glass windows, made in Romania. Each window has two icon sections (upper and lower) and each icon costs \$2,500. Those who want to sponsor one icon, please talk to Fr. George by November 18. Smaller donations will also be accepted and appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

PICTURE DAY

On Sunday, November 11, group (general, Sunday School, Ladies Auxiliary and Board) pictures will be taken for the 2019 Credinta Almanac.

Come in proper attire!

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Would you like to celebrate the arrival of 2019 at the Romanian Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere?

Then contact Mariana Diaconu: 780-473-6711 or 780-660-4748 (texting only) for tickets (\$110/adults) and \$20/children (7-14) and additional details.

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE

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 for the rest of the year.

We also encourage you to renew your financial pledge and be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!