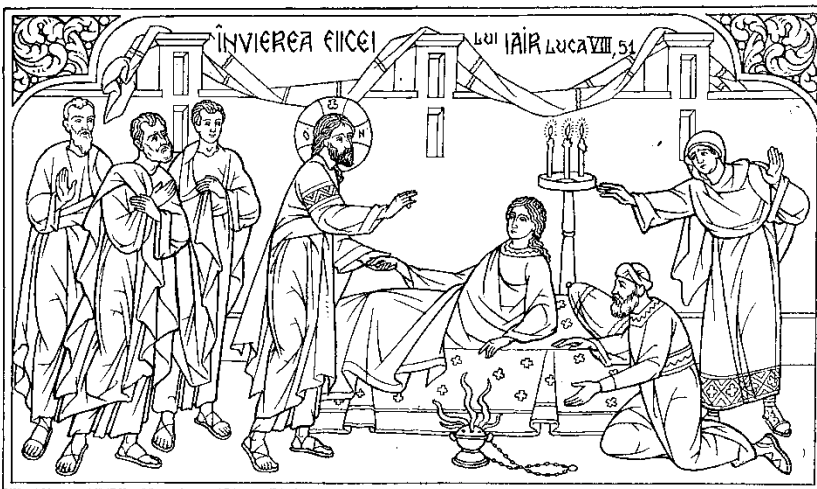


**Nov. 8, 2015: The 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
(The raising from the dead of the Jairus' daughter)**

**Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22:**

*For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.*

**Gospel: Luke 8:41-56:**



*And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying. But as He went, the multitudes thronged Him. Now a woman,*

*having a flow of blood for twelve years, who had spent all her livelihood on physicians and could not be healed by any, came from behind and touched the border of His garment. And immediately her flow of blood stopped. And Jesus said, "Who touched Me?" When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" But Jesus said, "Somebody touched*

*Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.” Now when the woman saw that she was not hidden, she came trembling; and falling down before Him, she declared to Him in the presence of all the people the reason she had touched Him and how she was healed immediately. And He said to her, “Daughter, be of good cheer; your faith has made you well. Go in peace.” While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue’s house, saying to him, “Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher.” But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, “Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.” When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, “Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping.” And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, “Little girl, arise.” Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.*

Three weeks ago, the gospel reading of the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Pentecost, related to us the raising from the dead of the widow's son from Nain. Based on all four gospel accounts, our Lord Jesus Christ performed only three miracles upon those who had departed this life. The third one was the raising of Lazarus, the brother of Maria and Martha.

Given the major impact of such a miracle upon the eyewitnesses (and not only), we can justly state that the limited number of raisings from the dead was due to the fact that Christ did not want people to believe in Him (God) out of fear, but out of their free will and conviction.

For a ruler of the synagogue (Jairus) to make such a public display of humility and faith (*"and he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying"*) was not only extraordinary but downright dangerous. By so doing, he put his job and his social position on the line.

On the way to Jairus' house, Jesus performed another miracle upon a woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years and whom no physician could help. What's interesting about this, is the fact that Christ explains how a miracle actually takes place: *“Somebody touched Me, for I perceived power going out from Me.”* This "power" going out of Him is what we call the uncreated energy of Christ God in response to one's faith. Although many people would touch Him (*"Peter and those with him said, “Master, the multitudes throng and press You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”*), the woman's touch was motivated by her firm belief in the healing power of Christ: *“Somebody touched Me.”* The emphasis is not on "somebody," but on "touched." This wasn't an accidental or uninterested touch, but an intentional, emotional and faith motivated touch.

Both these miracles, as well as all others related in the Gospels are Messianic signs and proof of the Lord's divinity, manifested upon the people with compassion and infinite love.

**Fr. George Bazgan**

## Sunday Fellowship

On the occasion of the universal commemoration of those who have fallen asleep, this Sunday's Fellowship will be **general participation**.

Thank you all very much!

## NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Would you like to celebrate the arrival of 2016 at the Romanian Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere?

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

## 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 for the rest of the year.

Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

## **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.**