

October 1, 2017:

## The 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (The Sermon on the Mount - love your enemies)

**Epistle: II Cor. 11:31-33, 12:1-9:**

*The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities. For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me to be or hears from me. And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*

**Gospel: Luke 6:31-36:**



*And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. “But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil. Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful.*

The gospel reading of this Sunday starts with what is generally known as "**the golden rule of Christianity:**" *And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ came into the world not only "to fulfill the Law" of the Old Testament but also to take it to a new level, based not on revenge but on sacrificial love, which became the "new Law" the Law of the New Testament. In the Sermon on the Mount, which this gospel reading is a part of, Christ explains how the New Law is different from the Old Law (see Matthew 5:21-48). He explains how "an eye for an eye" from the old Law becomes "turn the other cheek" and "*love your enemies*" in the new Law.

Those who embrace the New Law become part of a new people, a new nation, a new Israel, guided not by the Law of Moses but by the new Law proclaimed by Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Just as the Law of the New Testament is different from (better than) the old Law, so are all those who constitute the new people, the new nation: "*But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back.*"

By coming into the world, our Lord Jesus Christ reopened the gates of paradise, of the Kingdom of God, which is now the promised reward for those who follow in the footsteps of our Savior: *But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High.*

**Fr. George Bazgan**

## **Sunday Fellowship**

**The following families are scheduled to look after  
this Sunday's fellowship:**

**Dinică Ștefan & Suzana  
Jurgea Eugeniu & Nicoleta  
Mocanu Ștefan & Adriana**

**Thank you all very much!**

**Altar boys for this Sunday:**

**Matthew Cotfasa  
Arsenie Gavriș**

**The Harvest Festival**

**This year's Harvest Festival will be held  
on September 30, 2017, at the Romanian Center.  
This is a fundraising for the kitchen renovation.**

**We extend our invitation to all of our members  
and supporters to participate in this event!**

**Tickets are \$50.00/adults and \$15.00/children (7-14 years)**

**For tickets call:**


**Mariana Diaconu: 780-473-6711 or 780-660-4748 (texting only).**

**Luminita Ștefănescu at 780-424-2437**

**Thank you for your support!**

**Youth Conference of Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas**  
**between 6-9 October at Fair Havens Ministries, Beaverton, Canada.**



 **ROYA FALL RETREAT** 

Understanding and Overcoming  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges for the  
Christian Youth

October 6-9, 2017  
Thanksgiving (CA)/Columbus Day (US) Long Weekend

Fair Havens Ministries  
Beaverton, Ontario, Canada

Cost: \$160CAD / \$125USD

For Registration email:  
[rorthodoxyouth@gmail.com](mailto:rorthodoxyouth@gmail.com)

Schedule will include workshops, discussions, and  
conferences on various topics, group activities, as  
well as an administrative session on the  
organization of ROYA.

Other honoured guests include:

Metropolitan Nicolae  
Bishop Ioan Casian  
Fr. Siluan Sandor  
Fr. Atanasie Popescu  
Fr. Nicolae Clempus  
Fr. Theodore Paraskevopoulos

The main speaker will be  
**Dr. Virgiliu  
Gheorghe**

- PhD in bioethics
- Practicing biophysicist
- Vice-president of the  
Institute of Psychosocial  
Research and Bioethics in  
Bucharest
- Coordinator of the scientific  
section of the magazine  
"Familia Ortodoxa"
- Author of several volumes  
including  
"The Effects of Television  
on the Human Mind"  
"Pornography, 21st Century  
Disease"



**Registration:**

[rorthodoxyouth@gmail.com](mailto:rorthodoxyouth@gmail.com)

**Arrival/Departure –  
transportation (from/to airport):  
Person in charge:**

**Fr Vasile Aileni (primary contact):**

[pr.vasileaileni@yahoo.ca](mailto:pr.vasileaileni@yahoo.ca)

Cell #: 1.647.400.59.10

**Tudor Stroescu (ROYA):**

Email: [tudorstro@gmail.com](mailto:tudorstro@gmail.com) Cell:

1.204.227.34.89

**Financial (registration)**

**Person in charge:**

**Fr Petre Busuioc, contact:**

Cell: 1.905.924.23.24

Email: [fbusuioc@gmail.com](mailto:fbusuioc@gmail.com)

**Checks to be filled/sent to until  
October 3rd to:**

**BISERICA SF. STEFAN CEL  
MARE**

**Address: 261 Bloor St. E, Oshawa  
(Ontario) L1H 3M3**

**Memo: ROYA RETREAT**

**Each parish is expected to send at  
least one representative!**

## **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!**