

## Oct. 22, 2017: The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the demoniac of Gadarenes)

### Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10:

*But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

### Gospel: Luke 8:26-39:



*Then they sailed to the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And when He stepped out on the land, there met Him a certain man from the city who had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, do not torment me!” For He had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For it had often seized him, and he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness. Jesus asked him, saying, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion,” because many demons had entered him. And they begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss. Now a herd of many swine was feeding there on the mountain. So they begged Him that He would permit them to enter them. And He permitted them. Then the demons went out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the lake and drowned. When those who fed them saw what had happened, they fled and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what had happened, and came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed. Then the whole multitude of the surrounding region of the Gadarenes asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear. And He got into the boat and returned. Now the man from whom the demons had departed begged Him that he might be with Him. But Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your own house, and tell what great things God has done for you.” And he went his way and proclaimed throughout the whole city what great things Jesus had done for him.*

The gospel reading of this Sunday describes the sad situation of man when Christ came into the world. Not only spiritually but physically, man was in dire need of divine intervention. The demoniac from Gadara is representative of this terrible situation: he *"had demons for a long time. And he wore no clothes, nor did he live in a house but in the tombs."* He was no longer a sociable human being, interacting with his fellow human beings; he was living among the dead: *"he lived not in a house but in the tombs."* This man's identity had been stolen by the evil spirits, who now had total control over him: *"What is your name?" And he said, "Legion," because many demons had entered him."* It is not the man who responds to Christ's question, but the evil spirits. His daily life was a continuous torture, a living hell: *"he was kept under guard, bound with chains and shackles; and he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness."*

By granting the evil spirits their wish, to enter the herd of swine, Christ our Savior liberates the demoniac from the captivity of the "legion," and restores his dignity and his sanity both spiritual and physical. Instead of finding a fierce and evil tormented person, the people from the city found him *"sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind."*

This is the place for a normal person: at the feet of Jesus, clothed in the garment of forgiveness, physically and mentally healed and restored.

**Fr. George Bazgan**

### Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Alexander Ștefănescu  
Alexandru Mustea**

### Sunday Fellowship

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

**Sasu Liviu & Corina  
Bob Marian & Maria  
Pâslaru Ciprian & Gabriela**

**Thank you all very much!**

## **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!**

## **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**

On **November 11, 2017**

a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be offered by our parish in honor of all volunteers who worked in different capacities during the past year.

**Supper will be served at 7:00 PM.**

**Please bring your family!**