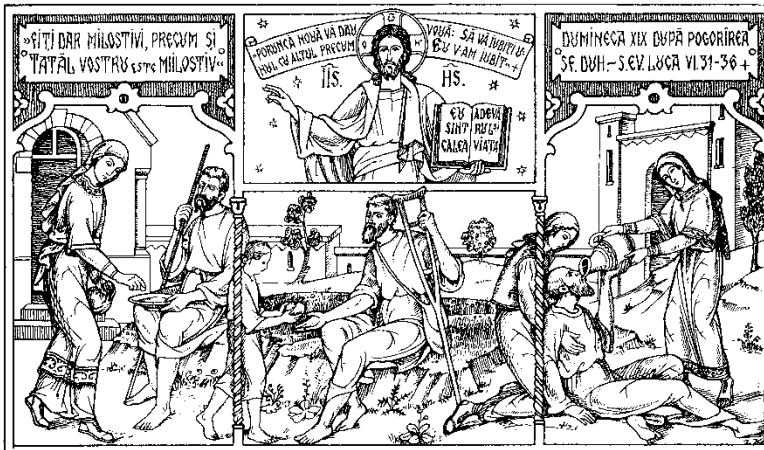


October 4, 2015:

The 19th 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:**

**Morariu Iulian & Cristina
Nanu Claudiu & Irina
Bratu Marius & Alina**

Thank you all very much!

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.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Things we should know

When a woman gives birth, the priest is invited, on the 8th day, to the house for a special "Service after the birth of a child." This service consists of special prayers for the mother and the newly born baby. At the same time, there are special prayers for naming the newly born baby.

On the 40th day after giving birth, the mother comes to church with the baby. The prayers said at this time are for the mother to re-enter the church and be able to receive the Holy Communion. If the baby was baptized up to this point, then the priest reads the prayers for and does the "Churching of the baby." If the baby wasn't baptized, only the first part of this service is done now, the second part being done after the baptism of the baby, who is churched at the same time.

The child cannot receive Communion before Christening.