

October 8, 2017: The 20th Sunday after Pentecost (The raising of the son of the widow of Nain)

Epistle: Gal. 1:11-19:

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went to Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Gospel: Luke 7:11-16



Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother. Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

Two large crowds came face to face near the gate of the city of Nain: one that was following our Lord Jesus Christ, eager to hear His divine words and to receive His healing power, and the other, compassionately following a distraught widow, on the way to bury her *only son*.

In other words, the Son of God, the giver of life came face to face with Death, the taker of life. Having compassion on this poor woman, the Savior says: *“Do not weep.”* Then, to prove one more time to those who refused to believe that He is indeed the Son of God, *He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, “Young man, I say to you, arise.” So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.*

This is one of only three miracles performed by Christ upon the dead. The other two are the raising of the daughter of Jairus and the raising from the dead (after four days) of Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary. By performing these type of miracles, Christ shows that death doesn't have the last word when it comes to man's existence. The Master of life and death is God, who gives life and who sent His only begotten Son into the world to liberate man from the grasp of death and offer him the chance to inherit eternal life. The eyewitnesses of this miracle understood this when they said: *“God has visited His people.”*

It is now our turn to believe in the infinite power of Christ our Savior who voluntarily tasted and defeated death in order for us to make us partakers of life eternal!

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Alexander Ștefănescu
Alexandru Mustea**

Sunday Fellowship

**In the context of the Thanksgiving weekend, this Sunday
there will be a Pot-Luck lunch.
Please, bring something!**

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!