

September 17, 2017:

The Sunday after the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20:

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. "But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Mark 8:34-38:



When He had called the people to Himself, with His disciples also, He said to them, "Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? For whoever is ashamed of Me

and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

The invitation addressed by our Lord and Savior to follow Him, in today's gospel reading, comes in the context of the Feast of the Elevation of the Holy and life-giving Cross: *"Whoever desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me."*

Last Sunday, our Lord Jesus Christ told us that the reason for His voluntary and redeeming Passion was God's infinite love for mankind: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."*

In other words, He carried His own Cross to Golgotha (although He had no sin) out of love for us. His supreme sacrifice is supposed to stir a desire within us to be with Him, to follow Him, to follow His example. Every person comes to Christ from a different direction, from their own world and condition, carrying their own cross, enduring their personal Golgotha, but the motivation is the same for everyone: our (burning) desire to be with Him and our (genuine) willingness to respond with our own level of love to His infinite love. This desire and willingness can be sustained only by understanding and knowing what the true priorities of our life are, by a constant reminder about the invisible (spiritual) aspect of our being, which is of a much more importance than the visible (material) one: *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*

By accepting and embracing (not trying to escape or avoid) our personal Golgotha with faith and love, we should reach a point where we can say with the Apostle Paul, in today's Epistle reading: *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Arsenie Gavriș**

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Gavriș Marius & Ileana
Tănăsoiu Horia & Camelia
Dorobanțu Petre & Loredana**

Thank you all very much!

THE NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR

On September 17, 2017, the New Sunday School year begins. Following the Divine Liturgy, a special service of invocation will take place for the students and their teachers. The curriculum for the Sunday School has been approved by the Religious Education Commission of the Archdiocese. The program is structured on three groups:

Group A: 4-7 years, teacher: Gabriela Luca Damian

Group B: 8-12 years, teacher: Veronica Ciocan

Group C: 13-18 years, teacher: Ileana Gavris.

All children are welcome to join the program and the parents are asked to register their children with the teacher of their respective group

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
Luminița Ștefănescu at 780-424-2437, or
Mariana Diaconu at 780-660-4748 (texting only).

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
21st 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

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

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"

Other honoured guests include:

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



A. Registration:
rorthodoxyouth@gmail.com

**B. Arrival/Departure –
transportation (from/to
airport):**

Person in charge:

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

pr.vasileaileni@yahoo.ca

Cell #: 1.647.400.59.10

2. Tudor Stroescu (ROYA):

1 Email: tudorstro@gmail.com

Cell: 1.204.227.34.89

Financial (registration)

Person in charge:

a. Fr Petre Busuioc, contact:

b. Cell: 1.905.924.23.24

c. Email: fbusuioc@gmail.com

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

**d. 'BISERICA SF. STEFAN
CEL MARE**

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

f. 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 during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

We also encourage you to **renew your financial pledge** and be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!