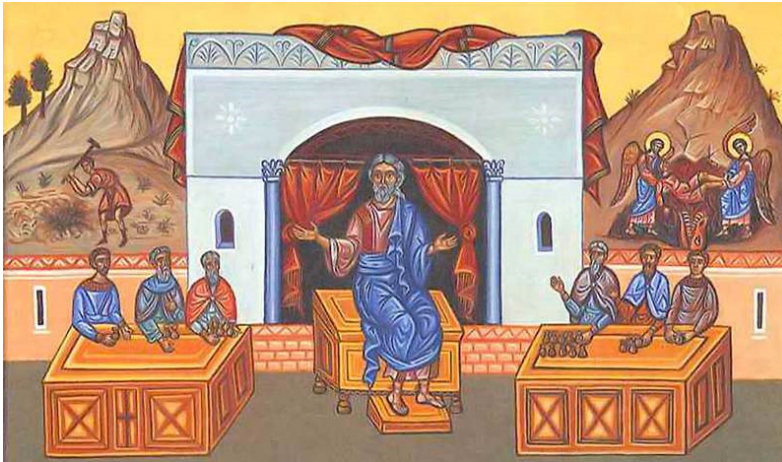


December 1, 2019: The 16th Sunday after Pentecost (The parable of the talents)

Epistle reading: II Cor. 6:1-10:

"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation. We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things."

Gospel reading: Matt. 25:14-30:



"For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. Then he

who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. "So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' "Then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, I knew you to be a hard

man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’ “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents. ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

It is clear, from the Gospel reading of this Sunday, that every person born on this earth is endowed by their Creator with certain gifts, talents, possibilities, *”to each according to his own ability.”* It is also clear that, at the time of judgement, the reward is bestowed not according to the number of talents (gifts) but according to the effort made by the recipient to identify and multiply those talents (gifts). So, the effort begins with the identification of the talent(s) received and the constant gratitude and thanksgiving shown to God, “the Giver of all good things.” We know from other parables that the God-given gifts are not for our exclusive benefit, which would be a selfish way of seeing things. We are responsible to share these gifts with our fellow human beings, making sure that they, too, understand their true source (God) and, as a result, join the chorus of all those who give Him praise and thanksgiving. Seeing things from this perspective, we can say that these talents or gifts are **not given but entrusted to us**, which means that God wants us to be His co-workers in His vineyard, the world.

The fact that *“after a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them”* is an indication of God’s patience with us to do the right thing. It is also a warning of the accountability that each of us will have to give.

While laziness and indifference to the talents entrusted to us will be severely punished *„cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth,”* hard work and the sense of personal responsibility will be rewarded with the divine invitation to inherit the kingdom of God: *„Enter into the joy of your Lord.”*

May we be also be made worthy of hearing His invitation!

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Corbu Arkin Gabriel
Ștefănescu Alexander**

Sunday Fellowship

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

**Pîrvu Lucian & Mirela
Samoilă Vasile & Lenuța
Sterea Stelian & Elena**

Thank you all very much!

Special Services during Advent

During the Christmas Fast, we'll have
Vespers, every Saturday at 5:00 PM.

Following the Vespers Service, Confession
will be heard for those who want to
prepare for Holy Communion.

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The traditional annual Christmas Party will be held
on **Saturday, December 21, at 5:PM,** following the Vespers.

**The Sunday School children and the children from the
Romanian Dance group of the Canadian-Romanian Society will
present the program, followed by the arrival of Santa.**

All children are welcome!

NEW YEAR'S PARTY

Would you like to celebrate the arrival of 2020 at the Romanian Center, in a traditional Romanian atmosphere?

**Then contact Mrs. Mariana Diaconu: 780-473-6711
or 780-660-4748 (texting only) for tickets (\$120/adults
and \$15/children 7-14) and additional details.**

No refunds after December 8.

BAKED GOODS FOR CHRISTMAS

**Those who are interested to buy baked goods
(cozonaci) for Christmas, please contact
Psa. Maria at 780-473-0029 to place your order
before December 15.**



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!

 **ESCUTV** prezintă
L'ESPRIT ROUMAIN À MONTRÉAL

NU UITA CĂ EȘTI ROMÂN
Concert extraordinar de
ZIUA ROMÂNIEI RECITAL DE COLINDE
EDMONTON 8 Decembrie, 5 PM



Nicolae FURDUI-IANCU

Tudor FURDUI-IANCU

Ansamblul CRAI NOU - Alba-Iulia

St John Cultural Centre 10611-110 Ave NW

Rezervări:

Monica's Hair Design 780 893 6154

Andra Szabo 780 904 0390

Maria Bob 780 904 0275