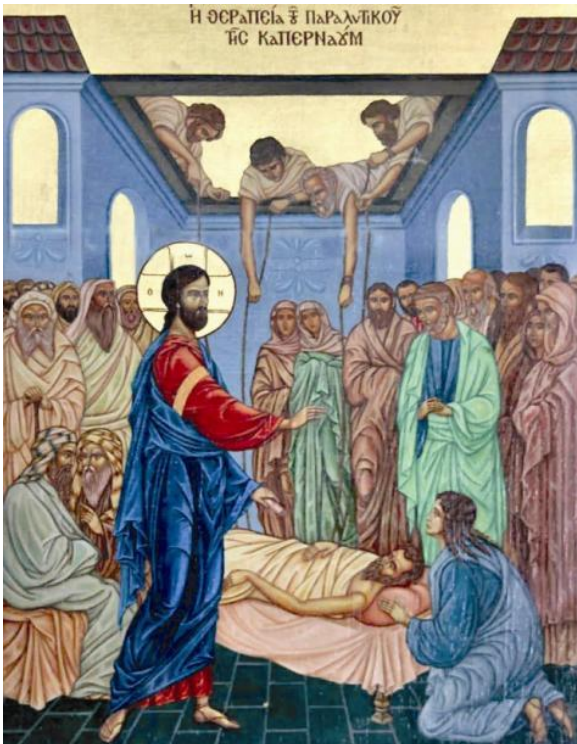


July 19, 2020: The 6th Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the paralytic of Capernaum)

Epistle: Romans 12:6-14:

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully. Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8:



Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.” At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!” Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Arise, take your bed and go home.” Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such power to men.

Two weeks ago, on the Sunday of the healing of the centurion's servant, we've touched on the importance of the intercessory prayer. Then, the centurion was praying to Christ for the healing of his servant who severely ill at home. Here, on this Sunday, we see again how the love and faith of the men who brought the paralytic before the Lord were rewarded with the healing of their friend: **When**

Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man... When we do good deeds we make our faith visible.

It is clear from the gospel reading that the cause of the paralytic's suffering was his sinful state: **“Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”** Together with the forgiveness of sins, the Savior restores the quality of sonship in man: **Take heart, son.** This is exactly the reason for the Lord's coming into the world: to forgive our sins (to reconcile us with our Creator) and to make us the sons of God by grace: **“Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ”** (Gal. 4:7).

Let us, too, make our faith visible by praying for one another and helping those who are going through trying times!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, which limits to 50 (fifty) the number of people attending Church services, we are asking our members to make sure that, for time being, only 1 (one) person from each family attend our Sunday Divine Liturgy.

We apologize for this inconvenience and hope that the restrictions will continue to be relaxed in the near future.

Those who attend, are kindly asked to observe the recommendations of the experts, such as: washing their hands, social distancing, etc.

Thank you all and may God keep us safe!

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

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICK UP

The 2019 Church Directory is now available for those who participated in this project. If your family came to the Hall for a photography appointment or submitted your own family picture (for \$15), then you will receive a Directory.

Have a happy and safe Summer!

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teach us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!