

Nov. 1, 2020: The 22nd Sunday after Pentecost (The rich man and poor Lazarus)

Epistle: Gal. 6:11-18:

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31:



There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.' "Then he said, 'I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.' Abraham said to him, 'They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' And he said, 'No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' But he said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.'"

The central theme of the Sunday gospel readings during the month of November (with two exceptions) is **material wealth**.

As we embark on our discussion about this subject matter, we should be reminded of the fact that **wealth in itself or lack thereof does not determine one's fate in the life hereafter**. The determining factor as to where one spends eternity is how one acquires and uses the material wealth or how one conducts himself (herself) while at the other end of the spectrum.

In the parable of the rich man and poor Lazarus, our Lord and Savior emphasizes what we've just stated above, on one hand, and, gives us a glimpse into eternal life, mainly, the two states (conditions) which await us: eternal happiness or eternal torment, on the other.

By using his wealth exclusively for his own benefit ("*There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day*"), the rich man ignored the needs of his fellow human beings, contributing thus to the creation of the unsurpassable gulf (chasm) between him and them ("*between us and you there is a great gulf fixed*"), which will come to haunt him into eternity.

Speaking of eternity, the gospel reading is telling us that after death, there will be a personal/private judgment, based on which everyone will receive their reward: eternal happiness in paradise (*Abraham's bosom*) or eternal torment (*in Hades*).

Another thing worth noticing is that after death the soul has to capacity to know (recognize) other people: "*And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*"

The overall message of this gospel reading is that it is here and now, in this life, that we must acquire the good deeds of mercy, compassion and Christian love in order to spend eternity in paradise (Abraham's bosom) instead of the place of torment (Hades).

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Service Attendance

Due to the continuing State of Emergency, which limits 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!



Daylight saving time

**Daylight saving time ends this weekend.
On Saturday night, turn your watch back by one hour.**

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!

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!