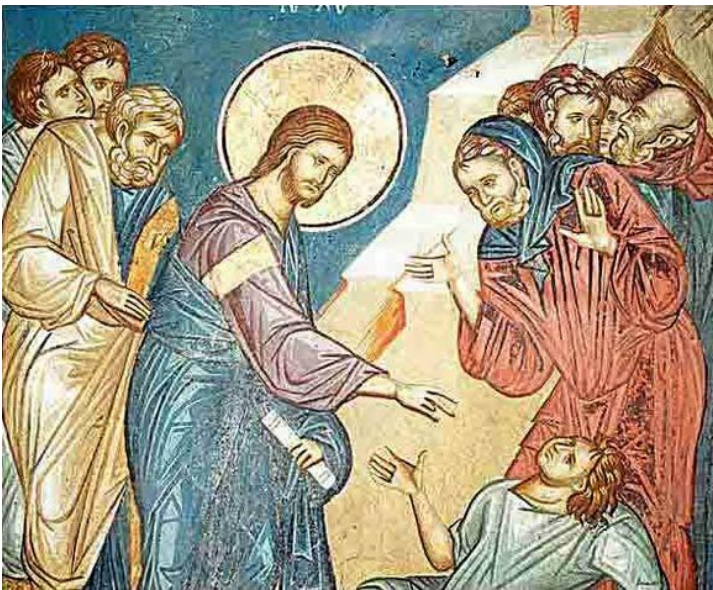


August 29, 2021: The 10th Sunday after Pentecost (The healing of the epileptic)

Epistle: I Cor. 4:9-16:

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23:



And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say

to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

The healing of the epileptic from this Sunday's gospel reading took place right after the Lord's Transfiguration on Mount Tabor. The father of the young man who was an epileptic had come first to the apostles, hoping to gain his son's healing. When the apostles failed, the man came and knelt before the Lord and praying: "*Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely;* We can

only imagine the suffering of this heart-broken father, who is describing in details the severity of his son's fight with the evil spirits: *for he often falls into the fire and often into the water.*

When the young man is brought before Christ, He *rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour.* One should conclude that this evil spirit was reluctant to come out of the young man. However, when the maker of heaven and earth, the Lord of the visible and invisible powers wills, they submit to His command.

Responding to His disciples' question *“Why could we not cast it out?”*, the Savior tells them (and us) what is needed in order to be victorious in the daily spiritual warfare with the evil spirits: **Faith**, **Prayer** and **Fasting**: *“Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”*

Let us acquire these spiritual weapons so that we too, with unwavering **Faith**, persistent **Prayer** and genuine **Fasting**, may be victorious over the evil forces!

Fr. George Bazgan

Vespers

Vespers service, Saturday at 18:00.

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!

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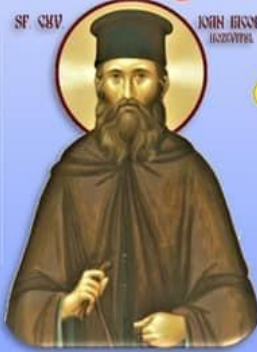
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