

The Danger of Riches

One day, an Indian boy found a large pearl. It represented the fulfillment of all his hopes and dreams. His days of hardship and toil would be over. He would never have to work again. But, when he tried to sell the pearl, his real problems began. Buyers tried to trick him, bandits tried to attack him, and even his friends tried to manipulate him. Possessing great wealth was nothing like he expected it would be, so he took the pearl and threw it back into sea.

The boy in this story is quite a contrast to the young man of whom Jesus spoke in the Gospel reading for this Sunday. Jesus spoke of a young man who desired to be justified by God. He had faithfully kept all the commandments, but Jesus told him that there

was one thing he still needed to do: sell all he had and give to the poor. With that, the young man went away saddened because he was not able to easily part with all his possessions. Jesus then spoke one of His most enduring statements, "It will be easier for a camel to pass through the needles eye, than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." (Matthew 21:24)

What type of hold do our possessions have on us? Are we willing to share what we have with others, including our time, our talents, as well as our treasure? Everything that we have is a gift from God, which must be freely shared with others as a gift. Our Lord Himself tells us, "The gifts you have freely received, now give as a gift." (Matthew 10:8)

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Rich Young Ruler and Christ (Matthew 19:16-26)

ST. GEORGE ROMANIAN CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

EPARCHY OF ST. GEORGE IN CANTON

1123 44TH St NE, Canton, OH 44714

Website: stgeorgeoh.org

Tel: 330-492-8413 FAX: 330-493-9963

Most Rev. John Michael Botean, Bishop - 330-493-9355

Very Rev. Ovidiu Marginean, Rector - 330-492-8413

Very Rev. Iuliu Muntean - 330-493-9355

Fr. Deacon Remus Orian – 330-809-2500

Schedule for Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil Vespers: 6:30 p.m.

Day of Feast: 10:00am and 6:30 p.m.

Confessions: See calendar or at any time by request.

Ann Fosnaught, Secretary 330-492-8413 or annf@rcdcanton.org

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday: Epistle 1 Cor 15:1-11

Gospel Matt 19: 16-26

Next Sunday: Epistle 1 Cor 16:13-24

Gospel Matt 21:33-42

Weekly Liturgy Schedule

Monday 8/24

No Divine Liturgy

Tuesday 8/25

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Joan Oldfield by Fosnaught
Family

Wednesday 8/26

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Sr. Mary Dunn, OSB by Jim and
Esther Dershaw

Thursday 8/27

8:30am Divine Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family

Friday 8/28

8:30am Divine Liturgy: +Doris Albin

Saturday 8/29

No Divine Liturgy

Sunday 8/30

10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Bulletin donated in August 2020 by ...

All scheduled services will be held and can be viewed and prayed with at stgeorge.click2stream.com. Make sure to click on the volume to unmute at the bottom right hand corner. Also, we are every Sunday on St. George Cathedral Facebook.

Sunday Collection: August 16, 2020

Sunday envelopes	\$1,545.00
Donation	\$25.00
Aid to Church in Central and Eastern Europe	\$75.00
Candles	<u>\$63.00</u>
Total	\$1,708.00

Someone lit a candle and prayed for you last Sunday:

In memory of all Zagan Family Members	The Zagan Family
+Husband Dan Cseak	Natalie Cseak
+All family members and angel +Trisha	Del and Sandy
H/S All family members	Del and Sandy
Special Intention for Family	Doru Jacobs
H/S All our sick friends	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S School educators	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Sydney, Gabe, Max, Afina and Sylvia – healthy and successful school year	Dave and Debbie Murari
H/S Stella Lazar and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S Suzie Dragos and Family	Mircea Cristea
H/S Mitzi Fabich and Family	Mircea Cristea
Health and Salvation	Mihai and Elena Florea
Special Intention	Mihai and Elena Florea
H/S Mark Becker	Harry Walsh
H/S Peggy Rowles	Harry Walsh
Special Intention: Hannah Walsh	Harry Walsh
+Doris Albin 8-19-19	Kathy Walsh
+Family	Ileana Hotiu
H/S Parishioners	Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught

H/S Maximilian Fosnaught
H/S John Jacobs
+June Shehee
H/S Getz and Cammel Families
H/S Family
+John, husband
+Charles and +Mary Ardelean
H/S Drew – son-in-law
H/S All Family
H/S Stella Lazar
H/S George Marcu
H/S Veronica Maier

Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught
Doru Jacobs and Ann Fosnaught
Tim Reichel
Tim Reichel
George and Maria Marcu
Suzie Dragos
Suzie Dragos
Suzie Dragos
Suzie Dragos
Suzie Dragos
Suzie Dragos
Mom and Family

+++

Special Announcement:

Please pray for: Carol Hoge, Veronica Maier, Sr. Agnes Scalero, Earl Adkins, End to Corona Virus attack, Clore Family, Georgeta Barcutian, Grace Mary Fein, Barbara Greavu, Connie McAdams, Suzie Dragos, Doris Rotar, Virginia Rogers, Stella Lazar and all who need our prayers.

Sick and homebound: Magdalene Florian (Florida), Alex and Theresa Gonyias (Home), Ann Stimer (Home), Maria Poplacean (Canton Regency Rm.#256), Aurelia Lupsor (Canton Christian Home) Natalie Cseak (St. Joseph, Louisville), Eugene Popa (St. Joseph, Louisville) and Irene Pontones (Chapel Hill Retirement Community)

For holy Baptism contact the parish office at least one month prior to the date requested.

For First Reconciliation contact the parish office when your child turns 7.

For Weddings contact the parish office at least six months prior to the date requested.

To guarantee announcements for the bulletin, they need to be given to the office by Wednesday prior to the Sunday bulletin. Thank you!

To facilitate **accurate counting**, please use separate checks/cash for the special collection, candle and Sunday collection envelopes. Thank you for your attention to this detail!

Please let the office know if you have an upcoming surgery, illness, etc., so we can put you on our prayer list. Thank you!

Altar Candelabrum for August 2020 is donated by **the Craciun Family for the health of Mrs. Georgeta Barcutian and Mrs. Mary Cornea.**

Left Iconostasis Candelabrum for August 2020 is donated by **Earl and Amparo Adkins for health.**

Right Iconostasis Candelabrum for August 2020 is donated by ...

Blessed Virgin Mary Candelabrum for August 2020 is donated **Dave and Debbie Murari.**

If you would like to sponsor a candelabra for any month of the year in honor of a living member or in memory of any loved ones that have passed away, please get in touch with the Church office and Ann will be able to schedule it for you. Thank you for your continuous support of the Church!!!

Prescura for August 2020: Amparo Adkins, Suzie Dragos, Elena Florea, Ann Fosnaught, Maria Marcu, Debbie Murari, Jacqui Oprean, Virginia Rogers, Patricia Wendt, Dodi Zbuka and Psa. Gabriela Marginean.

Announcements

We encourage people to report any past or present suspected inappropriate behavior toward children to the International Research Group where an Administrative Investigator will take your call. The toll free number is 1-877-637-6600 or email them at internationalresearchgroup@csi.com

You may also call:

* Romanian Catholic Diocese of Canton (330-493-9355)

Thank you to Aurel Bosca for spraying the property with weed killer to keep the grounds looking pretty.

Thank you for your generous contributions last week to the Collection for the **Church in Central and Eastern Europe!** We will help restore the Church and build the future in more than 20 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/nationalcollections for more information.

For the sick and homebound, St. George Cathedral offers a **live stream** of the Divine Liturgy which can be found at the following website: stgeorge.click2stream.com. Please make sure that you turn on the sound at the bottom right hand corner of the screen.

Amazon donates a percentage of your purchases to the charity of your choice when you go to smile.amazon.com. As you are shopping online, you can go to choose the St. George Cathedral. Thank you for using smile.amazon.com!

Parish events:

TODAY, St. George Cathedral will host a **curbside Romanian Heritage Festival**. Thank you to all who helped and supported this event!

To Tickle Your Funny Bone ☺

- ★ Tithe if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk.
- ★ The wages of sin are death. Repent before payday.
- ★ Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.
- ★ You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

Word of Life

“God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather whose we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.” USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“How to Build a Culture of Life”

For the Church:

That She may steadfastly proclaim and uphold
the dignity of all human life,
in all stages and circumstances;

Let us pray to the Lord, Lord have mercy.

Happy Birthday! *La mulți ani!!*

Lucy Anderson – August 23rd

Sydney Stoffer – August 24th

Deborah Reichel – August 28th

Meghan Murari – August 28th

Sophia Sousa – August 28th

	Mon 8/24	Tue 8/25	Wed 8/26	Thu 8/27	Fri 8/28	Sat 8/29	Sun 8/30
	Sydney Stoffer's Eutyches,	Translation of the	Adrian and his wife, Abstinence	Ven. Father Poemen.	Meghan Murari's Sophia Sousa's Deborah Reichel Ven. Father Moses Abstinence	Strict fast and +Beheading of St.	Ioana Apan Gheorghe Marcu's Anastasia Wynn's Alexander, John and 13th SUNDAY AFTER
5am							
6am							
7am							
8am							
9am		Liturgy: +Joan Oldfield by Fosnaught Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: +Sr. Mary Dunn, OSB by Jim and Esther Dershaw 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: H/S Magdalene Florian by Family 8:30am - 9:30am	Liturgy: +Doris Albin 8:30am - 9:30am		
10am							Divine Liturgy 10am - 11:30am
11am							
12pm							
1pm							
2pm							
3pm							

THE THREE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS – Matthew, Mark and Luke – all record Christ’s meeting with a rich young man who sought His guidance. The young man (Luke calls him a “ruler”) seeks to know what to do to have eternal life. Christ responds by telling him to keep the commandments. When pressed to be more specific, the Lord begins by listing the Ten Commandments. Then He quotes the Great Commandment from Leviticus, “*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*”

The young man says that he has kept all these commandments from his youth and presses the Lord to tell him what more he should do. The Lord Jesus then attempts to lead him from a stage of merely being obedient to God’s commandments, to one of being in a relationship of love with God.

Christ tells the young man what must happen “*If you want to be perfect*” (v. 21): he must give his wealth to the poor and follow Jesus as He went from place to place proclaiming the kingdom of God. The Lord offered this inquirer the chance to join the company of His disciples, to show that he preferred life with Christ to enjoying his possessions. The young man declined.

What Does It Mean to Be Perfect?

The Lord has held out this goal of “perfection” before, in the Sermon on the Mount. Being “perfect” seems an impossible task if we think it means absolute perfection without any fault or stain. In the Greek of the New Testament (and our Liturgy), however, to be “perfect” or to be “complete” might best be translated “to be all that we

were meant to be:” living in the light of the Lord, walking in His way. Jesus pushed His hearers to go beyond the commandments to arrive at a more godly way of life.

The Lord then contrasted regard for God with attachment to one’s belongings. They will ever be competing for a person’s devotion; as Christ tells His listeners, “*Where your treasure is there your heart will be also*” (Mt 6:21).

The path to perfection, as Christ teaches, begins with making a choice between following Him and devoting oneself to enjoying the things of the world. As He said so clearly, “*No one can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon*” (Mt 6:24).

Do I Serve Mammon?

Most of us do not think that we are “serving mammon.” We may even look down on the obviously greedy or on people driven by addictions. Yes, there are people who “serve” money, drugs or sex. They may be slaves to alcohol or tobacco. We don’t believe that we are controlled like that.

We may not be overly driven to making inordinate amounts of money, but we should consider that dependency on mammon takes many forms. We should become more conscious of how many of this world’s riches we feel that we “need,” that we “can’t do without,” from our morning coffee to the latest smart phone. We don’t physically need these things; it is our ego that requires

them. Is this not another form of serving mammon?

To reflect on just how our ego may be tied to the things of this world, consider how difficult it is to fast for any length of time: how much we feel the loss of a favorite food and to what lengths we go to find a pleasing substitute... and how happy we are when the Fast is over.

In addition, “mammon” can also include the non-material wealth of this world: power, prestige or social position. How do we feel when another is promoted over us, receives a bigger bonus or a more lucrative assignment. Serving mammon takes many forms and they all interfere in some way with our relationship to God.

The Fathers on the Power of Mammon

When St John Chrysostom commented on this Gospel passage, he noted that being devoted to the things of this world did not make you free. “The rich man is a slave, being subject to loss, and in the power of everyone wishing to do him harm” (Homily 46 on Matthew). Serving mammon is a form of slavery.

In another place, Chrysostom said, “If you see someone greedy for many things, you should consider him the poorest of all, even if he has acquired everyone’s money. Be accustomed to judge poverty and affluence by the disposition of the mind, not by the substance of his possessions. Serving mammon is a kind of poverty. As some people today phrase it, “What you own, owns you.”

A century before and on another continent, St Cyprian of Carthage had said much the same thing. “The property of the wealthy holds them in chains... which shackle their courage and choke their faith and hamper their judgment and throttle their souls. They think of themselves as owners, whereas it is they rather who are owned: enslaved as they are to their own property, they are not the masters of their money, but its slaves.”

Asceticism and the Pursuit of Perfection

The choice between serving God and mammon is at the heart of Christian asceticism, where making that choice is lived and experienced on a daily basis. It is most intensely observed by monastics, but also by Christians living in this world, married or single. A person living an ascetic life tries to distance himself or herself from being tied to the passing pleasures of the world so as to be more open to following Christ and living the life of God.

People often consider life with God as something of the world to come. It is clear to most people, even in the wider society, that our earthly attachments have no place in heaven. A recent installment in Dan Piraro’s widely syndicated cartoon strip, *Bizarro!* makes this point. Two long-time residents of heaven are observing two younger ones. “Most of the new arrivals seem incapable of conversation,” the eldest notes. “They just stare at their hands in despair,” trying to text, but there are no electronic devices in heaven!

Yes, there are no cigarettes, no movies, no alcohol in heaven. To be without them would surely frustrate someone who has made enjoying these things the focus of life. Thus some Christian thinkers have observed that to be in heaven without the object of one’s passions would actually be to dwell in hell.

But the differences between this age and the age to come are not really the point. Life with God, transformation into the image of God, begins *now*, with baptism. That life is meant to be experienced in ever deeper ways as we mature in the Christian life here, as well as in the life of the age to come. The Christian seeks to avoid anything which can captivate our minds and, at best, distract us from that relationship to God. Following Christ is meant to be the real source of our joy here on earth, as well as in the world to come. Serving Christ in worship and ministering to Him in the needy should be our joys, rather than obligations to be gotten through as quickly as possible. The Christian life, to paraphrase St Catherine of Siena, is meant to be “heaven all the way to heaven.”

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost



In What Is Our Joy?