

Parish Bulletin

April 2011



"The Just Man shall flourish like a palm tree and like a Cedar of Lebanon shall he grow"

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From the Desk of Father Ghattas:

Our holy synod of the Maronite Bishops, elected a Patriarch after the resignation of his beatitude Mar Nasrallah Cardinal Sfeir. After twenty-five years of leadership the Father of the Maronite Church presented his resignation and His Sanctity, Benedict accepted it. I remember the open letter to the Synod. I was praying that all the members of the Synod would elect a new patriarch and that it would be done in a few sessions. In my mind there are many reasons, one of them being the power of the Holy Spirit who inspires his Church. Through the election he would reveal his will. Actually, it was a great surprise for me and the

whole world that the Maronite Church elected a Patriarch a great one. The new Patriarch is monk that was a return to the main stream of the origins of the Maronite Church. Second he was excellent Pastor in deferent places. He is an excellent communicator. Most and foremost, his beatitude Bechara is a good preachers; most of the Christians of the Middle East recognize his voice, that he is a good shepherd. Personally, I know him how this great man so humble and so kind toward the poor the children and the neglected one. I would like to congratulate our Maronite Church and the Eastern Church in her new leadership that fulfill the Prophecy of Isaiah "The People that waked in darkness have seen a great light On the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death light has blazed forth...."

Announcements

Divine Liturgy: Saturdays 6:00 PM **AND** Sundays 11:00 A.M.

****Every Friday** there are Stations of the Cross and Bible Study at
7:00 P.M**

- **Friday April 15th** Temptation of Jesus
 - **Saturday April 16th** at 7 P.M. Lazarus
 - **Sunday April 17th** Hosanna Sunday; Phil 1:1-13 & John 12:12-22; Tucson Mass at 5:00 PM

Easter Schedule:

- April 18th Holy Monday Arrival in the Harbor; Hebrews 6:1-9 & Mt 21:13-17
- April 19th Holy Tuesday, Arrival in the Harbor; 1Thes 2:13-17 & Luke 13:22-30
- April 20th Wednesday of Job Prayer of the healing Oil; Heb 2:5-12
- April 21st Thursday of the Mysteries; 1Corinthians 11:23-32 & Luke 22:1-23
- April 22 The Great Friday; Hebrews 12:12-21 & John 19:31-37
- April 23 Great Saturday of Light
- April 24 Easter Sunday; Corinthians 15:12-26 & Mark 16:1-8
- April 25 Easter Monday; 1Corinthians 15:1-11 & Mark 16:9-14

Activities:

Parish council Meeting Tuesday at 7:00 pm

- **Sunday School:** We will be having Catechism and Arabic on **April 10th**
- **Talent Show:** Abouna would like to thank all those who helped to encourage our new generation to present their talents this past Sunday. May God bless them all
- **Confession:** As Catholics we are obligated to confess at least once a year. Abouna Ghattas will be hearing your confessions.

Lectors for April:

<u>Date of Reading</u>	<u>Name (Arabic Reading)</u>	<u>Name (English Reading)</u>
Sunday April 10	Liliane Elters	Chris Zalket
Sunday April 17	Sola Elters	Joe Ashkar
Holy Thursday April 21	Aziz Saliba	Yara Boulos
Good Friday April 22 Barakat	George j Elters	Raymond
	Marie Rose Faddoul	Myrna Gorayeb
		Alex Malkoun

THE LAST SUPPER EXPLAINED – HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI

Basilica of St John Lateran

Holy Thursday, April 5, 2007

The Lamb and Temple

Jesus celebrated the Passover without a lamb and without a temple; yet, not without a lamb and not without a temple. He himself was the awaited Lamb, the true Lamb, just as John the Baptist had foretold at the beginning of Jesus' public ministry: "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (Jn 1: 29).

And he himself was the true Temple, the living Temple where God dwells and where we can encounter God and worship him. His Blood, the love of the One who is both Son of God and true man, one of us, is the Blood that can save. His love, that love in which he

gave himself freely for us, is what saves us. The nostalgic, in a certain sense, ineffectual gesture which was the sacrifice of an innocent and perfect lamb, found a response in the One who for our sake became at the same time Lamb and Temple. Thus, the Cross was at the centre of the new Passover of Jesus. From it came the new gift brought by him, and so it lives on forever in the Blessed Eucharist in which, down the ages, we can celebrate the new Passover with the Apostles. From Christ's Cross comes the gift. "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord". He now offers it to us.

The paschal Haggada, the commemoration of God's saving action, has become a memorial of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ – a memorial that does not simply recall the past but attracts us within the presence of Christ's love. Thus, the berakah, Israel's prayer of blessing and thanksgiving, has become our Eucharistic celebration in which the Lord blesses our gifts – the bread and wine – to give himself in them. Let us pray to the Lord that he will help us to understand this marvelous mystery ever more profoundly, to love it more and more, and in it, to love the Lord himself ever more. Let us pray that he will increasingly draw us to himself with Holy Communion. Let us pray that he will help us not to keep our life for ourselves but to give it to him and thus to work with him so that people may find life: the true life which can only come from the One who himself is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen.



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March 15, 2011

Dear Monsignor/ Father,

It is with gratitude to almighty God the Father and to Our Savior Jesus Christ and to the Holy Spirit, that I announce to you the election of His Beatitude Mar Bechara Boutros

al-Rahi, bishop of the Maronite diocese of Jbeil, Lebanon, as the 77th Patriarch of Antioch and all the East for the Maronite Syriac Antiochene Church.

His Beatitude has chosen as the motto of his Patriarchal Service: "Communion and Charity."

The enthronement of the new patriarch will take place at the Church of the Patriarchal Residence of Our Lady of Bkerke, Lebanon on Friday the 25th of March 2011 on the Feast Day of the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary at 10:30 am. He will celebrate the Divine Liturgy of thanksgiving on Sunday March 27, 2011.

I ask you all to accompany the New Patriarch in your prayers and fasting in this Great Season of Lent. May almighty God bless us all and may this election of the New Patriarch be for the glory of God, the up building of the Holy Church and for the good of the people.

Sincerely yours in Chris
Sayedna Robert

April 1 Mary the Egyptian The story of St. Mary of Egypt first circulated among the monastic communities of the Eastern Church in the early sixth century. Cyriacus the Hermit and his disciples found a woman was living as a hermitess in the Jordanian Desert. She told him she had been a famous singer and actress who had sinned and was doing penance in the desert; when they returned she was dead. Around this story was built an elaborate legend that had tremendous popularity during the Middle Ages according to which was an Egyptian who went to Alexandria when she was twelve and lived as an actress and courtesan for seventeen years. She was brought to realize her evil life before an icon of the Blessed Virgin, and at Mary 's direction went to the desert, where she lived as a hermitess for forty-seven years, not seeing a single human being and beset by all kinds of temptations, which were mitigated by her prayers to the Blessed Virgin. She was discovered about 430 A.D. by a holy man named Zosimus, who was impressed by her spiritual knowledge and wisdom. He saw her the following Lent, but when he returned, he found her dead and buried her.

April 23 St. George, a Christian officer in the roman Army, consecrated his life to defend the Church, which is symbolized in icons of him as the daughter of a king, against the attacks of Satan, the dragon. According to the tradition, he was martyred in the third century for his faith in Christ and was buried at Lydda, Palestine. He is the most famous Saint in the East and the West. He is the patron Saint of Beirut, England the army, and the Scouts.

April 29 Catherine of Sienna St. Catherine of Sienna, a Dominican Tertiary (lay affiliate) of the Dominican Order. A native of Siena, Catherine received no formal education. At the age of seven, she consecrated her virginity to Christ despite her family's opposition; in her eighteenth year, she took the habit of the Dominican Tertiaries. As a tertiary, Catherine lived at home rather than in a convent, and she practiced acts of mortification there, which a prioress would probably not have permitted. She is especially famous for fasting by living for long periods of time on nothing but the Blessed Sacrament. In about 1366, Catherine experienced what she described in her letters as a 'Mystical Marriage' with Jesus, after which she began to tend the sick and serve the poor. In 1370, she received a series of visions of Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven, after which she heard a command to leave her withdrawn life and enter the public life of the world. She began to write letters to men and women in authority, especially begging for peace between the republics and principalities of Italy and for the return of the papacy from Avignon to Rome. She carried on a long correspondence with Pope Gregory XI, also asking him to reform the clergy and the administration of the Papal States.

In June of 1376, Catherine went to Avignon herself as ambassador of Florence to make peace with the Papal States, but was unsuccessful. She impressed the Pope so much however, that he returned his administration to Rome in January of 1377. During the Western Schism of 1378, she was an adherent of Pope Urban VI, who summoned her to Rome where she lived until her death in 1380

A Man came From a Far Country

By Fr. Ghattas Khoury,

John Paul II will be beatified May 1,2011

The Evangelist John says “there was much else that Jesus did: if it were written down in detail, I do not know or suppose the whole world would hold all the books that would be written.” From where do I have to start, from his difficult life, from his philosophy, Theology, Art, Poetry, life as Minister, Priest, Bishop, Cardinal, or Pope. Through these talents and brilliant mind, there is a mystery that comes from Jesus, who came from a far country, and whose life ended on the Cross. Before His death, he forgave his enemies, as John Paul did in his life. Since his election, when he presented himself to the People saying with perfect Italian language, “I came from a far Country”. A columnist replied, “Yes, he came from Galilee.” The people saw in him, the powerful Jesus who charmed the people.

Since his Childhood, Carol Wojtyla, was his name before his election to be the Pope of Rome. His body holds the stigmata of the suffering Jesus, when he lost his earthly mother. He gave his life to the Heavenly Mother of Jesus, who knows how to be near the Cross of her only Son. She led him to a right path, during his difficulties. He decided to join the priesthood, to carry the message of hope to his oppressed people. When Nazism terrified Europe, his country was a victim of its atrocity. After that, Communism trapped Poland, when he was ordained priest. He consecrated himself to the one who was crucified to be an innocent oblation on behalf of a sinful humanity. With hope, the young priest, enflamed the hearts of his hopeless people. His bishop sent him to Rome for further studies. There, with rigor, he studied St. Thomas Aquinas and studied Saint John of the Cross-, and his Mystical Theology. He did his researches in Spanish language, his dissertation in Latin, and his discussions in French. After four years of learning, He returned to Poland to invest his brilliant talents in the services of his people. To move from town to town, he used a horse-cart. He was teaching the kids, taking care of different parishes with a special care for the youth. This brilliant personality was presented to the universal Church, when he was appointed auxiliary Bishop of Krakow, then the Archbishop of the same city. With his deep spirituality and his experiences, the Archbishop of Krakow, was very active in the Vatican II committees. Many of the Council cods have his finger prints. Since then, Archbishop Wojtyla started to enclose the Laities to be in charge of Parish Councils, Pastoral Councils and other committees. With his vision, he trained his people to take responsibilities. Further these activities were the seeds of freedom that would blossom, and erase the dictatorship of Communism without shedding blood.

Archbishop Wojtyla has been identified with the one who came from Galilee for many reasons. First of all, he has the courage of Peter. Also, the new Pontiff repeated what Jesus told his disciple on the boat, “do not be afraid”, and after His resurrection, “peace be with you, do not

be afraid.” Second, he had the courage of the Martyrs; with it, he faced the dictators using the convictions of the Prophet. With his message, and his courage, the people identified him with the One Who came from Galilee, with his power in “words and deeds”. Therefore, wherever he went, they recognized him, and welcomed him, “ in the name of the Lord,” as welcomed was Jesus from Galilee, When he entered to Jerusalem.

The Man of a smiling face was also a man of sufferings and difficulties. With the courage of martyrs, he persevered to the end. The Lord has anointed him to carry to the suffering people the message of hope and forgiveness. This scholar man and theologian presented to the world the suffering and the courageous Jesus. Similar to him, he faced death with courage. He never used violence against violence, but the Theology of Saint John of the Cross- was guidance to face the time of darkness with hope and offense with forgiveness. How did this courageous man forgive the one who shot him? The answer is, He answered violence with forgiveness. He became the symbol of reconciliation when he steadfastly asked for forgiveness of the passed mistakes that the Catholic Church felt guilty about. (Until now no one exchanged forgiveness with others for their mistakes.)

With the blossoming of the seeds of freedom, John Paul II, was similar to Jesus Christ, who by His death abolished the Wall of Division between the Gentiles and the Jews. With his convictions, he prepared the people to have courage before the boot of dictatorship. They called his revolution “the white revolution for freedom.”

For Lebanon, He had concern to save Lebanon from the Civil War, or the wars of others. His correspondences and speeches express his concerns about the Future of the Country of the Cedars. Since his election, he started to support the Country of the Cedars by calling for reform inside the Maronite Church in 1986. He called for a Synod for Lebanon. Many times, the Pontiff asked to visit. They were not sure if the Head of the Catholic Church would be safe. His visit in 1997 was successful especially among the youth. To them, he gave the decrees of the Synod, and relayed to them the future of their Country. Recently and not far from the stadium where a Pontifical Liturgy was held, the Lebanese youth have started their Cedar Revolution.

John Paul II is, always, a priest. He was the same, as a Bishop, Archbishop, Cardinal and Pope. By rising higher to have more responsibilities, Carol Wojtyla never changed his identity as a priest in the image of the High Priest, Jesus Christ. Never the pressing crowds, and the flashes of the Cameras and the medias, disturbed his tranquility in the time of prayers. He was similar to the Eternal Priest, by raising praise and thanksgivings, day and night. Like Jesus Christ, Prayer was part of his daily life; as he said, it is raising the heart and the mind to God. He had the gift of prayer. More than that, the Holy Eucharist is a center of all prayers. To him, there was no difference, whether Mass was in Saint Peter or “en plain air”. Finally, his devotion to Mary is remarkable, and through her, he had a great admiration to the Woman.

At the Highest office in the Church, Pope John Paul II, presided with love, and always acted as a sinner dependent on the mercy of God. He considered himself a sinner who needed to repent and confess his sins.

This Great Man has a weak body. In his old age, he agonized on the Cross-of suffering. His agony was a bridge to cross this life to the life to come. His love was the passport to cross the borders of nations. Even though, He was a linguistic, he speaks different languages fluently; his most perfect language was love. It is international love that he used perfectly.

Finally, the legacy of John Paul II was great, as the Evangelist says, “there was much to say of him.” But most effective was probably the first word at the day of his

election: "do not be afraid". Pray for us to keep this treasure of life. Let Jesus give us your courage to carry it to the generations to come. This sort of verse is similar to the "mustard seed." It has the power to crack the iron curtains of hatred and animosity to establish peace on earth.

Program of the Activities during the Holy Week and Easter Sunday

Saturday April 16, 2011, Lazarus Sunday

10:00- 1:00 pm Egg Hunt and Lunch; 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Hosanna Sunday April 17, 2011

11:00 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of the Branches and procession

12:30 Lunch Chicken and Salad; Bake Sale St. Rafka's Ladies Guild

Holy Monday & Tuesday, April 18 & April 19, 2011

12:00 noon Liturgy; 7:00 pm Evening Prayer

Holy Wednesday Job Wednesday April 20, 2011

7:00 pm Prayer over the oil (ritual of the Candle) and Blessing with Cross

Holy Thursday of the Mysteries April 21, 2011

Washing the Feet and Liturgy

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; Vigil until midnight

Great good Friday, April 22

6:00 pm Austerity dinner of Mujadra and Eggplant prepared by Ladies guild

7:00 pm Adoration of the Cross and procession; Collection for the Holy Land

Holy Saturday of Lights; 12:00 noon Prayer of Forgiveness

Easter egg Cracking, 7:00 pm Vigil and Confession

Easter Sunday April 24, 2011

11:00 am Easter Liturgy rite of Peace and distribution of flowers

Easter Monday April 25, 2011 Liturgy at 9:00 am

Friday April 29, 2011; 4:00 pm Second Confession for the First Communion

New Sunday May 1, 2011 First Communion

***Your Contribution to St. Joseph is supporting our plan to develop the Place of
Worship and develop our friendship center for our future generations***