

Parish Bulletin

March 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:

During this time of year, the Church is living a life of repentance that aims to renew the life of her children. These same children became children of the grace of our heavenly father. Lent is filled with sorrow because it is during this Liturgical season that we proclaim, "we are dust and to dust we shall return". Even though Lent is filled with sorrow, we must also remember the kindness God shown his children by sending his only begotten Son to die for us on the Cross. We as children of the Church must live a life filled with appreciation for what God did to save us. The season of Lent is when we also should be genuinely giving from our hearts to the poor and ensuring the needs of the Church are fulfilled. Specifically, we will be having a special collection for the Charity appeals that support our Eparchy in St. Louis. We must also continue listening to the Word of God through daily meditation and prayer. Concurrently with the season of Lent, as a parish we celebrate that feast day of our Patron St. Joseph. This humble man always prays for us and intercedes his many graces by bestowing the Lords graces upon us. We are blessed here in Phoenix because we are surrounded by a nature that was given to us to enjoy.

Announcements

Divine Liturgy: Saturdays 6:00 PM **AND** Sundays 11:00 AM

- **Sunday March 6th** Divine Liturgy; Entrance of Lent (Romans 14:14-23 & John 2:1-11)
 - **Monday March 7th 7:00 PM** Divine Liturgy; Blessing and Distribution of the Ashes (2Cor 5:20-5:7 & Mt 6:16-21)
- **Sunday March 13th** Divine Liturgy; Cleansing of the Leper (Romans 6:12-23 & Mk 1:35-45)
 - **Saturday March 19th 10:00 AM** Divine Liturgy (Ephesians 3:1-13 & Mt 1:18-25)
- **Sunday March 20th** Divine Liturgy; Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman (2Cor 7:4-11 & Luke 8:40-56)
 - **Wednesday March 23rd 7:00 PM** Divine Liturgy for St. Rafka (2Cor 1:1-7 & Luke 10:38-42)
 - **Thursday March 24th 7:00 PM** Divine Liturgy The Annunciation to Mary (Gal 3:15-38 & Luke 1:26-38)
- **Sunday March 27th** Divine Liturgy; Sunday of the Prodigal Son (2Cor 13:5-13 & Luke 15:11-32)

Friday Prayer Schedule (7:00 PM):

- **March 11th:** Meditation on the Gospel of St. John
- **March 18th:** Experience of the Cross and Love of God
- **March 25th:** Experience of the Discipleship
- **April 1st:** Signs in the Book of St. John and the teachings of Jesus
- **April 8th:** The Eucharist and Resurrection
- **April 15th:** The Mystery of the Word of God

Activities:

- **St. Joseph Feast Day:** We will be having our annual St. Joseph Banquet at the Cedar Club on **Saturday March 19th at 7:00 PM** tickets are still available for purchase from Marie Medawar after mass in the Church hall. We will also be having a special hosting after mass on **March 20th** in honor of St. Joseph
- **Sunday School:** We will be having school on **Sunday March 6th**. There will also be a gathering for the teachers of **Saturday March 11th** followed by dinner
- **Youth:** We will be having our annual Talent Show on **March 27th** following mass, there will be a barbeque of hamburgers and hotdogs with chips
- **Prayer:** There will be a prayer at St. Theresa's Church on **March 15th at 7:00 PM**
- **MYA:** They will be sponsoring an egg cracking contest on **April 24th** following Easter Sunday mass
- **Lunch:**
 - We will be having Falafel sandwiches and french fries on **April 10th** following mass
 - We will be having Chicken Tawook sandwiches and salad on **April 17th** following mass
 - We will be having Mujadara and salad dinner on **April 22nd** following Good Friday prayer
- **Condolences:** Our sympathies and condolences go out to Sam Nassif and his family for the death of his father Farid in Lebanon. May God give Farid Nassif rest and give Sam and the whole Nassif family consol

The Maronite Church will be getting a new Patriarch after the resignation of His Beatitude Mar Nasrallah Boutros Sfeir. After 25 years of way and confusion many people left Lebanon to seek shelter in places like America, Europe, Australia, Canada, Africa and the Arabian Gulf. After years of devastating wars, the Church in Lebanon has received support from the Holy Spirit through activities such as the Synod of the Bishops in Lebanon and the Synod the Middle Eastern Bishops. The Church also started a Liturgical reformation and a Patriarchal Synod.

List of Lectors (Arabic & English)

Sunday March 6th Sola El Ters & Janice Ashkar

Sunday March 13th Rania Karam & Christopher Zlaket

Sunday March 20th George El Ters & Kristianna Faddoul

The Season of Lent

By Fr. Ghattas Khoury

Lent is a joyful journey toward Hosanna Sunday and the Holy Week. This season of graces, is attached more to the Season of Epiphany; the baptism of the Lord and his fasting for forty completed days. After that, Jesus returned to Galilee with the power of the Holy Spirit to expel Demon and establish the Kingdom of God. During Lent the Church present to us Jesus as the Divine Physician, who is yesterday and today forever, present to heal and to release from the bound of sin and Satan.

The presence of Jesus among us, who overcame all temptation, is awesome time. Our condition is similar of the condition of St. Peter after the miraculous fishing. He fell at his knees and said:” Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man”. Lent is time of return to our source; our baptism that is a privilege to become from the household of the Lord. He knows our finitude and our weaknesses. The Apostles of the nation remind us that we are dust. Our destiny is from dust and to dust would return. Also Paul reminds us that “we hold this treasure in earthly vessels that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.”

This time is the time to detachment from the pleasure and luxury life to gaze upon Jesus who returned from the Desert overcame temptation proclaiming the presence of the Kingdom of God. He started to destroy the power of Satan by healing the sick and expelling the evil spirits. Opening of Lent that is considered a fruitful time and living a joyful time as Jesus did during his fasting. It is similar to the joyful ceremony of the Holy Week with Hosanna Sunday, and the Arrival in the Harbor. Both seasons, have an eschatological meaning that we are happy to meet God during our Journey. Also, it is time to increase our faith to live according commandments.

We are before the first sign of Jesus. The social occasion in Galilee helped his disciples to start to believe in him. He revealed his glory before them. This Gospel gives the sinful people hope that the Lord helped people to continue the joy of a wedding, how merciful toward his people who are seeking conversion of the will to observe the commandments of the Lord. The gathering of the people enjoyed the best wine; the disciples observed the first miracle and Mary revealed her unshaken faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus is among us many have a strong faith like Mary. Others, they have the seed of faith. It has the ability to grow, like the disciples who cleave with Jesus Company. Other category, they are enjoying the result of the presence of Jesus. They never bother to ask him to help them to change. Only what they need a good wine. In the same way, most of the people enjoyed the bread and they satisfied their bellies.

With Jesus to the hour of Glory with a stable faith, that the passion and death of Christ would be effective in our life. With Mary his mother, the faithful one who mediated for miracle, Jesus saved the joyful ceremony. As the result, Jesus revealed his Glory and the seed of faith implanted in their hearts.

The sponsor of the miracle was Mary who asked with confidence that Jesus performed the Miracle. She revealed her faith, by saying “do, whatever he asks you to do.” This Woman is a remarkable one because she would be an Hour of Glory, when Jesus entered into his glory. The Faithful Disciple became the Mother of the Remarkable Woman, he became her Son. This disciple became part of his household because of his faith. He became like Mary who sponsor the faith to sow the seeds of faith. As John says “what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you so that you too may have fellowship with us.”

Practically, we enter into the Holy Season. Like the Disciples who accompany Jesus, we seek to increase our faith by meditating in the gospels to have the courage of the faithful that Jesus continues to perform miracles. Also, we are looking to have the conversion of heart. With faith, we believe that the one who transformed the water to wine, a good wine, has the power to transform us, as he transformed his disciples. According to John, the best way to be transformed is to accompany Jesus. We remember the first two disciples, how Jesus transformed them by spending time with him. As the result they left him to call their friends.

According to the Maronite tradition, the Church fasts; she imitates Jesus and follows him in his steps. In the day of His baptism, he heard the voice of the Father saying, “You are my beloved Son.” With joy, Jesus led by the Spirit to listen to the heavenly Father. St. Maron and his disciples heard this voice and they imitated Jesus by living with him in isolated places.

According to Matthew, Jesus went to the deserted place that is the place of the Devil. There, he defeated him and forty days, he returned conquer to destroy his kingdom. He returned to Galilee with the power of the Holy Spirit. Many are the guests who enjoyed the new wine. For example, the one in charge recognized the good wine, but he was not interested to know the source. Also, the servants knew that the jars were full with water, but did not know the result. Only those who accompanied Jesus recognized the power of Jesus.

During Lent, the journey to the Holy Week passes to different station. In the Scriptures, there are many Sundays of healing , the Leper, the hemorrhaging Woman; The experience of the Love of God, the prodigal Son; The power of forgiveness of sins, the healing of the paralytic man, and the healing of the sight, the Blind of Jericho. Lent is time of experiencing the Love of God by living with Jesus. We are seeking to be transformed by his Word as he transformed the water to a wine. With our effort, in holy season that is special days. “Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. As he says “in an acceptable time I hear you and in the day of salvation I accepted you.”

Words of Hope

We are dreaming for a new leader
Leads to the triumph his Church
The dream would come through
With hope and great expectation
The will would be strong as still
With hope if he trusts Jesus
Without hesitation, he claims
His see is similar to the Cross
He would be glorified for his love
The candidate is beloved disciple
Ready to stand next to the Cross
He would be the next Patriarch
The see is not for the ambitious one
Nor for a cower betrayer of people
It is disappointment and hopeless to them:
All who played with politics and deception?
They fear his personality they withdraw
A patriarch charismatic anointed by the Spirit
He speaks with authority without reluctance

انشالله ها المرة بتحقق الاحلام

كلنا منحلّم كيف بيكون البطرك العتيد
بيقودنا من الانهزام الى النصر الاكيد
اذا ايمانو كبير ومحبتو اكبر ورجا وطيد
اذا عندوا ارادي قوي صلبي مثل حديد

واذا ما في عندو بها الدني غير المسيح
ما بينخاف عا الشعب لبقولو دايم سديد
المركز عظيم عالي كتير مثل الصليب
ما بيوصل لعلو الالي التقى بالحبيب

وشرط تاني اساسي؛ اذا محبتوا كانت لهيب
من الموجودين لي تلمذوا من البدايي للحبيب
وهويي على استعداد يرتفع فوق الصليب
بيصير بطرك جديد عا كنيسة بالوقت القريب



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Easter Lilies



During the Easter Season, we would like to decorate Saint Joseph.
It is thoughtful to ask your generosity to purchase lilies the price is \$20.00 each.
For more information, Please, Call Marie Medawar (602) 485-4501

Send a Check or drop it in the basket collection

Name _____

In Memory of _____

Donation _____

Memo Easter Lilies