

Our Lady of Lebanon Church - Easton

CLEANSING OF THE LEPER

Volume 2009, Issue 9

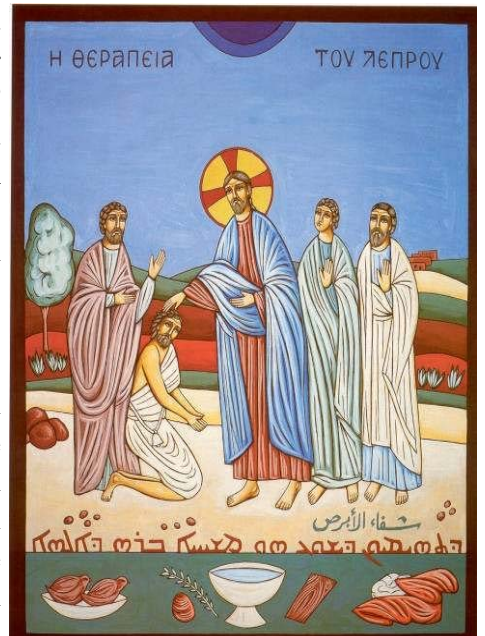
Sunday, March 1, 2009

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REFLECTIONS

Let us consider if there be anyone that has the taint of leprosy in his soul, or the contamination of guilt in his heart? If he has, instantly adoring God, let him say to him: "Lord, if you will you can make me clean." You had long ago cleansed Naaman who committed many crimes, and you had had compassion throughout the ages on an immeasurable number of others who have beseeched you. "You, therefore, if you will, you can make me clean." And the Lord, swiftly stretching forth the hand of his mercy, will say: "I will, be you made clean," as Jesus says it to the one he cleansed of leprosy. The Lord had compassion on this man who believed



in him, who trusted in his power. To him Jesus said: you had believed, you are healed; you had hoped, you are made clean. Forget not what you were, nor what you are now made into. Cease not to give thanks, nor cease to confess the Lord. This also we must do, as often as he has delivered us from some peril, or comforted us in some grief, or infirmity, or sickness, or from any extremity whatsoever. Let us not be ungrateful, nor forgetful of our benefactor, but speedily render him thanks; and let us offer a gift according to our means, to show him honor. For this also the Lord commands. "But go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift which Moses commanded for a testimony unto them." Jesus therefore said to him: "see you tell no man," because of my hidden sweetness. And you, let this be a lesson unto you, whenever you do anything of good, do not seek to be honored for it before men, to be extolled, to be foolishly pleased, as is the way with so many when they do a little good, or have fasted, or given an alms to the poor, or a gift in honor of an altar or in honor of the saints. For these seek to be glorified before men, and to please themselves, losing their reward with God. (Father. B. C)

Words of Wisdom

- *Vote against FOCA*
- *Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ (St. Jerome)*
- *Information not shared is lost*
- *A lot of Kneeling will keep you in good standing*
- *The one thing bigger than my stomach is my appetite*
- *Always rise from the table with an appetite, and you will never sit down without one (William Penn)*



THIS WEEKEND * HEALING OF THE LEPER SUNDAY *****

Sat., February 28 – 5:00 P.M. – Rose Keschl by Katherine Howard

Sun., March 1 – 10:00 A.M. – John & Bargoot Jabour & children Mazel, Helen, Anthony & Jeanette by family
- Marie Hanni (6th year anniversary) by ...

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday	March 2	6:30 P.M	Helen Melhem by Mr. & Mrs. Saade Boulos
Tuesday	March 3	6:30 P.M	Anna John by Joseph & Barbara Kassis
Wednesday	March 4	*****	*****
Thursday	March 5	6:30 P.M	Catherine Melan by Charlotte Assise
Friday	March 6	6:30 P.M	James Coleman by the Karam Family (one week)

NEXT WEEKEND * HEALING OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN SUNDAY *****

Sat., March 7 – 5:00 P.M. – Joseph Stevens (anniversary mass) by children & grandchildren

Sun., March 8 – 10:00 A.M. –



BINGO	CALLER	KITCHEN	PAYOUT
March 3	Mona Melan	Aziz Koury Susie karam, Louise Jacob	Antonios Jabbour Muncy Farhat



Collection: Saturday, February 14, 2009	\$ 614.00
Collection Sunday, February 15, 2009	\$ 495.00
2nd Collection - Worldwide Charities	\$ 203.00
Candles (January & February)	\$ 270.00

**THANK YOU
&
GOD BLESS**

Readers

Saturday, Feb. 28:	Marie Hanni
Sunday, March 1	Marc Bou Jaoude
Saturday, March 7	Jeannette Kassis
Sunday, March 8	Maroun koorie
Saturday, March 14	Toni Lynn Melhem
Sunday, March 15	Jennifer Jabbour



ST. THERESA SODALITY

There will be a meeting of the St. Theresa Sodality this Monday, March 2, 2009, following the evening Liturgy and Services. All members are urged to attend.

Scripture Readings

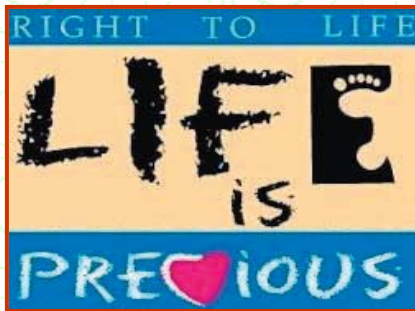
Cleansing of the Leper Sunday

Rom 6: 12-23

Mk 1: 35-45



DAY OFF Please be advised that the Rectory's office will be closed on Wednesdays. No phone calls will be answered. For emergencies - Hospital calls- please call Abouna on his cellular.



Abortion

Abortion is never right. In every abortion there are two deaths, the baby and the heart of the mother. (Fr. Jack Spaulding)



We take a special moment in our day as we pray for all the sick in our parish, the shut-ins, and those recovering from any illness, surgery, or treatments. May the Good Lord touch them with His healing and restore them to a good health of body and soul.

Please remember in your prayers this week: Yasmine Shortel, Mary & John Tony, Nora Daniel, Joan Daniel and karam Simon (Skimo)

SUNSHINE

It has been brought to my attention that many shut-ins and people in nursing homes desire to have company once in a while. For this reason, we call upon all of you if you are interested to be a part of a Sunshine Committee which consists of the ministry of visiting the elderly and nursing homes and bringing a smile to those who are lonely and longing for someone to talk to. If you have the time to serve on this committee, please contact the rectory at (610) 252-5275. This ministry will help all of us grow in humanity and the love of God and our neighbors.

EASTER LILIES



Dear Parishioners and Friends:

Every Easter the church looks beautiful decorated with the flowers donated from your hearts to the Blessed Mother. We are accepting donations for the purchase of Easter flowers in memory of your loved ones through Thursday, April 2. please Include your donation in an envelope with your name, and the names to be listed "In Memory of..." Make your check payable to: OLOL Church – Memo: Easter Flowers, and mail to the church or deposit in the offering basket. Thank you in advance.

Question & Answer:

Am I a Practicing Catholic?

It is not enough to be a Christian by name. God gave everyone of us life and talents and commanded us to use them. On Saturday and Sunday, the days of the Lord, it will not do us any good to sit on the recliner and watch TV or find any futile excuses not to come to church. One hour a week is not a "wasting time" when we spend it with the Lord. We have to thank the Lord for His graces He bestowed on us and our family members. The Lord is watching us and the church community is waiting for us to lift each others' spirit. Praying together at the church –where the Blessed Sacrament is kept– is better than praying alone or not to pray at all. Togetherness brings us closer to the heart of God, who taught us to pray saying, "Our Father" and not "my Father" who are in heaven. On the other side, three elements form a church: building, priest, and parishioners. Without any of these elements, the church doesn't function properly. Parishioners have the duty to support each other, the building, and the priest who is serving the altar and maintaining the building to be used for their happy and sad occasions. --Fr. Bakhos



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

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Lent 2009

Prot. No. 086/1/09

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Every year I appeal to you to assist in our many Eparchial services. Over the years you have responded generously because you know that together we can do so much more than we can separately. As persons and parishes we are more effective when we work together so that good things happen in the name of Christ.

We train our seminarians (5 of them) and support our retired priests (13 of them), develop programs and catechetical texts for our children and youth. We have programs for our deacons and subdeacons and help our Missions. We are preparing translations of our Liturgical texts.

We assist our Patriarch and Bishops in Lebanon to reach out to the poor, we began a solid program of financial accountability and transparency in the Chancery and in every parish and institution.

We do all of this and more, because of your confidence and generosity; yet we have so much more to do. Please open your hearts, once again, even during these hard times, to help your Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn to fulfill her God-given imperative to make known the face of Christ in the world. Your donation to our annual appeal is greatly appreciated and much needed.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Gregory J. Mansour

GJM/cm

2009 Bishop Appeal Assessment
For our parish is \$ 6000.00

The Diocesan Appeal is at the same time a free will donation and a Christian duty. It is about extending our hand and help our bishop to cover the many expenses needed to run our Diocese. The first and most important task of the bishop is to pay the tuitions of our new seminarians who will be ordained to replace our current pastors when they die. This is the key of our continuation, if we don't help in preparing the future priests, how can we keep the doors of the churches opened? Besides this task the bishop has to pay secretaries to run his office and keep the diocese in good order and also he has to help the new missions in USA and the mother church in Lebanon. God blessed us with many gifts, let us share part of it for the glory of God and the enhancement of our Church. **We are asking every family to donate their Easter Obligation of \$35 so that we can pay our share toward our diocese. May God reward you many folds.**



Every moment comes to you pregnant with a divine purpose, time being so precious that God deals it out only second by second. Once it leaves your hands and your power to do with it as you please, it plunges into eternity, to remain forever what you made of it.

Bishop Fulton Sheen

Condolences

The pastor and the parishioners of Our Lady of Lebanon Church, offer their heartfelt sympathy to our parishioner Samira Melhem on the loss of her grandfather Youssef Hayek. And we also extend our deepest sympathy to Emile Karam for the loss of his Brother's son in law James Coleman in Australia. May the Almighty God grant repose of the soul to our beloved departed and we extend the parish's condolences to Samira and Emile's families in their time of sorrow.

New "Communities: Easton " documentary this Sunday on PBS 39 WLVT



In case you haven't heard yet, **PBS-39** is unveiling its next documentary this coming Sunday night, March 1 on **WLVT**. It will air at 7 p.m. with an encore performance at 8:30 in case you missed the first airing or just want to see it again. So far the non-profit local public broadcasting channel has profiled the cities of Allentown and Bethlehem, and the town of New Hope for its Communities documentary series. This time it's Easton's turn. LVCVB is proud to be an underwriting sponsor of this documentary, as well as the Allentown and Bethlehem ones. Members of our staff and board of directors will be at the PBS studios atop South Mountain on Sunday night as we man the phones during the pledge drive. So please watch, and better yet make a pledge of support to this important organization. And you'll receive a copy of the documentary on DVD for your donation.

A Time to Laugh

They mean business

Little Zachary was doing very badly in math. His parents had tried everything... Tutors, Mentors, flash cards, Special learning centers. In short, everything they could think of to help his math. Finally, in a last ditch effort, they took Zachary down and enrolled him in the local Catholic school. After the first day, little Zachary came home with a very serious look on his face. He didn't even kiss his mother Hello. Instead, he went straight to his room and started studying. Books and papers were spread out all over the room and little Zachary was hard at work. His mother was amazed. She called him down to dinner. To her shock, the minute he was done, he marched back to his room without a word, and in no time, he was back hitting the books as hard as before. This went on for some time, day after day, while the mother tried to understand what made all the difference. Finally, little Zachary brought home his report card. He quietly laid it on the table, went up to his room and hit the books. With great trepidation, his Mom looked at it and to her great surprise, Little Zachary got an "A" in math. She could no longer hold her curiosity. She went to his room and said, "Son, what was it? Was it the nuns?" Little Zachary looked at her and shook his head, no. "Well, then," she replied, was it the books, the discipline, the structure, the uniforms? "WHAT WAS IT ALREADY?" Little Zachary looked at her and said, "Well, on the first day of school when I saw that guy nailed to the plus sign, I knew they weren't fooling around.

Children Bingo night

We will have a children Bingo night on Saturday February 28, 2009 at 6:30 pm. Prizes, Food and beverages will be provided for the children by the MYO.

**Talent Show**

The MYO will be sponsoring a talent show on Saturday, March 21, 2009 @ 7:00 p.m. in the church hall. Snacks and refreshments will be available. Each child is allowed three talents at the show. All children who are interested in being in the talent show must sign-up by 3/14/09 with Rhonda Elias @ 610-905-050. Thank You !!

MYO / Lent Dinner

The MYO /MYA will be hosting another meatless dinner this year. The meatless dinner will be held on Friday, March 27, 2009 in the church hall @ 5:00 p.m. A formal menu will follow. Anyone who would like to make donations is to contact Rhonda Elias or Peter Koorie.



On behalf of the **Holy Name Society**, we would like to thank all who participated in making our first party on Valentine's day a success, including those who helped in the kitchen, those who decorated the hall, those who made donations and, of course, those who attended. Thank you and God Bless you all. The net profit after all donations was **\$6,187.00**. Our upcoming meeting which is always scheduled after mass on the second Sunday of each month - would be **Sunday, March 15, 2009**. We are always open to accepting new members to join our society, in that they could contact Alex Karam or any other member of the society.

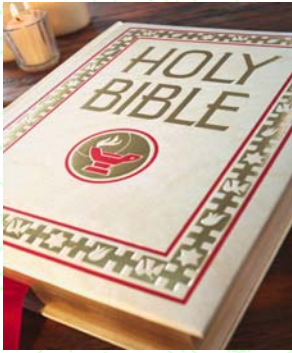
FOOD DRIVE

"The children of our CCD classes will be conducting a food drive again this year to commemorate the holy season of Lent. All parishioners are encouraged to bring in food items for this collection. Please bring only canned or boxed items - no glass jars please. These donations can be placed in the vestibule at the entrance of the church hall any time the hall is open. All donations will be given to the ProJeCt of Easton Food Bank based in St. John's Lutheran Church in downtown Easton. If you'd like to make a large donation of food or have questions, you may contact Marta Gabriel at 610-504-0541. Thank you for supporting the less fortunate in our community during this holy season."



MYO / MYA annual retreat will be held this year at Our Lady of Lebanon Cathedral in Brooklyn, NY, on March 6-7, 2009. The retreat will be given by Fr. Jean Younes, Fr. Geoffrey Abdallah and Fr. Jim Root. The theme will be: "**Obsessed or Possessed**". It will focus on various forms of addiction from drugs and alcohol to internet use. You must register with Rhonda Elias or Peter Koorie before March 1st. For more info and details check our website: www.mountlebanon.org

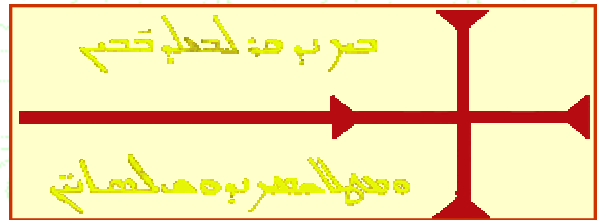
Gospel Reflection



When Jesus lived, leprosy was not just an incurable physical ailment: it amounted to social and religious death. Moreover, it was viewed as the severest sentence that God passed on the sinner. Isaiah depicts the guilty people of God as lepers, and he uses this imagery also to describe the mysterious servant who expiates Israel’s sin. The meeting between Jesus and the leper thus becomes highly significant. Impurity meets up with the “Holy”; the outcast meets the Servant, Himself a future outcast; leprosy which defiles comes into contact with the one who makes pure. Here sin confronts its choicest victim, evil its cure. In the person of this leper the Savior touches and purifies the whole sinful world. Thus, in spite of the injunction to secrecy, the religious authorities to which Jesus sent the man He had just cured should have recognized that the Messiah had come and that through Him the social outcasts and the living-dead had rehabilitated.

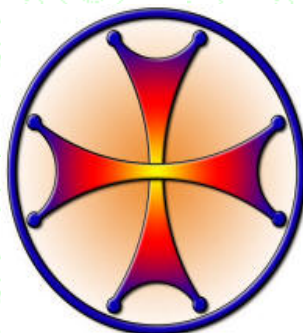
In differing degrees the lepers of today are the various outcasts of our society. These are the incurable invalids we shut away in hospitals and forget about; they are those who live on the margins of our society in subhuman conditions, and the others rejected by our society for one reason or another. We must learn from Jesus. Each of us is leprous; each of us has a hidden uncleanness, which we need to reveal to Jesus, in order to obtain healing and wholeness from Him and to be readmitted into the society of the saved. Once we have been touched and cleansed, we must proclaim God’s Word and, following Jesus’ example, welcome in their human dignity those who before were

REQUEST: Kathy Lynch would like to know if someone could give her information (history) about her great grandparents *Anthony & Catherine Sar* & children. Kathy’s Email is : krandle1453@sbcglobal.net



A FRIEND

On Sunday, Feb 22nd the Parish Council, the Building Committee and the Financial Committee had their first joint meeting for the year 2009. Many topics were discussed during this meeting. Among the topics were building’s maintenance & repairs, 2009 financial report, hall rental and other issues that will be published later.



When we honestly ask ourselves which person in our lives means the most to us, we often find that it is those who, instead of giving much advice, solutions, or cures, have chosen rather to share our pain and touch our wounds with a gentle and tender hand. The friend who can be silent with us in a moment of despair or confusion, who can stay with us in an hour of grief and bereavement, who can tolerate not knowing, not curing, not healing and face with us the reality of our powerlessness, that is a friend who cares. -- Henri Nouwen

OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH**Maronite Catholic Church**

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We are on the internet at:

www.mountlebanon.org

You can find us also at:

www.catholicweb.com church ID : 55071***Lenten Fish Fry all you can eat***Sponsored by the *knights of Columbus* Council # 345

St. Jane Frances de Chantal – Father Farrell hall

Friday, March 13th (serving 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm)

Adults \$ 8.00, Seniors - \$ 7.00 Children 4 to 12 - \$ 4.00

(children < 4 – free) Carry-outs available for \$ 8.00

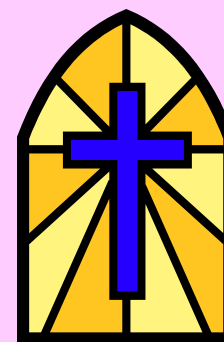
For further information or tickets call

Walt Evancho@ 610-438-5112

Or Ken Haney @ 610-330-2917

Wisdom: Indian Legend

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youth's rite of passage? His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own. The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man! Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm. We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, our Heavenly Father is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us. When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him.

***Stations
of the Cross***

Every Friday during Lent, we will celebrate the Mass at 6:30 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Cross.

Indulgences

The Church encourages the faithful to practice this devotion, and has granted a plenary indulgence to those who piously exercise the way of the cross, preferably when it is done in a Church or any place where the stations have been placed with Church approval. ("Enchiridion of Indulgences," No. 63).

The conditions are to walk from station to station while meditating the sufferings of Our Lord. Those who cannot do it in such manner may still gain a plenary indulgence by meditating on the Passion and sufferings of Our Lord for at least half hour.