

Our Lady of Lebanon Church - Easton

Hemorrhaging Women - Prodigal Son Sundays

Volume 2009, Issues 10/ 11

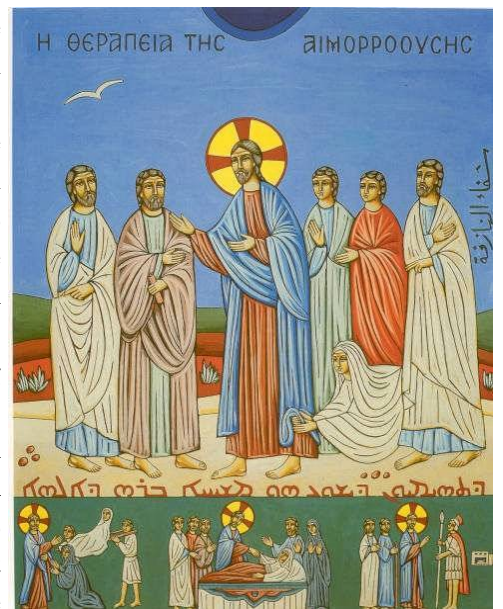
Sunday, March 8 -22 , 2009

Inside this issue:

Questions & Answers	3
Easter Lilies	3
Sunshine	3
Bishop's Appeal	4
MYO Corner	6
Food Drive	6
Gospel reflections	7
Fast & Feast	7
Business in Lebanon	8

Healing of the hemorrhaging woman

The theme of salvation and faith are the major themes of this two-faceted story. Jairus is persuaded that at Jesus' touch his daughter will be "made well" and the woman is convinced that if she touches Jesus' garments she will be "made well." Each time the Greek verb used is **sozo**, which also means "to save." More pointedly, Jesus reassures the woman, telling her, "Your faith has made you well" has "Saved" you. Mark has in mind more than bodily healing. Salvation stands in close relation to faith. Jesus exhorts the father of the girl, "Do not fear, only believe." Furthermore, the evangelist lets it be understood that the narrative of the daughter of Jairus has to do with resurrection. The verb "to raise up" and "to raise," we have seen, are used to describe the resurrection of Jesus. The Christian reader could not fail to grasp the overtones of terms that had already found their way into the vocabulary of the Christian. A confirmation of the theological



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)*

The Return of the Prodigal Son



The *Prodigal Son* is one of the most important teaching parables of Jesus. It was common among Jewish teachers to use comparisons from the daily life of their people to demonstrate how they should live according to the Torah, the Word of God, and his Commandments. This parable may rather be more fittingly called the *Parable of the Merciful Father*, as it demonstrates the compassion of the Heavenly Father in human terms. It is this aspect that Jesus wants to emphasize the most. The Son of God has come to reveal his Father to us so that we may model ourselves according to his compassionate image. Jesus stresses in his teachings how God often prefers compassion to fasting. This is the lesson and the goal for us to strive towards during this season of Lent.



THIS WEEKEND *** *Healing of the Hemorrhaging woman* ***

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

Sun., March 8 – 10:00 A.M. – **Susan Michael & her son Paul Michael** by Mr. & Mrs. Saade Boulos

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday	March 9	6:30 p.m	Anna John by Joseph & Barbara Kassis (St. Theresa Service)
Tuesday	March 10	*****	NO DAILY MASS
Wednesday	March 11	*****	NO DAILY MASS
Thursday	March 12	*****	NO DAILY MASS
Friday	March 13	7:00p.m	Stations & Adoration of the Holy Cross

NEXT WEEKEND 3/14-15 *** *THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL SON SUNDAY* ***

Sat., March 14 – 5:00 P.M. – **Deceased members of the John & Martha Merhi family** by daughter Josephine Melhem

Sun., March 15 – 10:00 A.M. – **Reverend Norman Peter** by Deacon Anthony Koury and Fr. Paul Damien

Monday	March 16	*****	NO DAILY MASS
Tuesday	March 17	*****	NO DAILY MASS
Wednesday	March 18	6:30 p.m	SAINT JOSEPH FEAST - Vigil Mass - Fr. Jean Younes
Thursday	March 19	6:30 p.m	SAINT JOSEPH FEAST - intention: for OLOL parishioners
Friday	March 20	6,30 p.m	Catherine Melan (birthday remembrance) by William & Marissa Cornish & Danielle & Jay Willard

WEEKEND OF 3/21-22 *** *THE HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC SUNDAY* ***

Sat., March 21 – 5:00 P.M. – **Raymond Baurkot** by our friend Joseph Marzuoli

Sun., March 22 – 10:00 A.M. – **Elias & Theresa Bassil** by Mr. & Mrs. Tony Bassil and family



BINGO	CALLER	KITCHEN	PAYOUT
March 10	Badway karam	Aziz Koury & Naomi Shiner	Antonios Jabbour
March 17	Mike Boulos	Rosanne Constantine Jawhara karam & Aziz Koury	Cheffie Melhem Antonios Jabbour

Readers

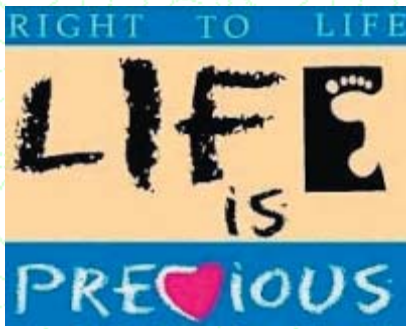
Saturday, March 7	Jeannette Kassis
Sunday, March 8	Maroun koorie
Saturday, March 14	Toni Lynn Melhem
Sunday, March 15	Jennifer Jabbour
Saturday, March 21	Mona Melan
Sunday, March 22	Alex Karam Jr.



ST. THERESA SODALITY



There will be a meeting of the St. Theresa Sodality this Monday, March 9, 2009, following the evening Liturgy and Services. All members are urged to attend.



Abortion

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



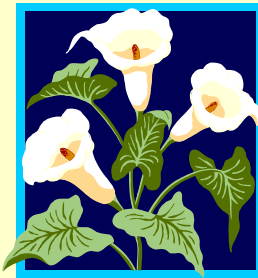
We take a special moment in our day as we pray for all the sick in our parish, the shut-ins, and those recovering from any illness, surgery, or treatments. May the Good Lord touch them with His healing and restore them to a good health of body and soul.

Please remember in your prayers this week: Yasmine Shotel , Mary & John Tony, Nora Daniel, Katherine Howard and karam Simon (Skimo) and Joe M. (our friend)

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:

Is It Enough to Attend Mass to Be Christian?

To be a disciple or follower of Christ, you have to accompany him and share his good and sad moments of his life. It is as if you have a friend and you rejoice at his wedding and saddened at his death. At Christmas we have to attend the Christmas Novena in order to prepare for his joyful coming, at Easter we attend the Stations of the Cross to feel how much suffering he endured, at the Benediction we feel his presence and talk to him about our worries and burdens, at Holy Thursday and Good Friday, we evaluate his sacrifices for our salvation etc,... Mass alone without these rites and services doesn't make us good Christians. Fr. B



EPARCHY OF SAINT MARON OF BROOKLYN

Office of the Bishop

109 Remsen Street

Brooklyn, New York 11201-4212

Tel: (718)-237-9913 Fax: (718)-243- 0444

chancerystmaron@verizon.net www.stmaron.org

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.**



SAINT JOSEPH'S FEAST

The Divine liturgy (Mass) for Saint Joseph's feast will be celebrated by the Reverend Father Jean Younes (assistant pastor of OLOL Cathedral, NY) on Wednesday, March 18th at 6:30 p.m. After mass, all are invited to join the St. Theresa Sodality and enjoy the bake sale and the coffee hour. Thursday, March 19th's mass will be celebrated by Fr. Paul at 6:30 p.m. Happy St. Joseph's feast to all

Missioner Tales

James O'Brien wrote: "The Ay-mara people in the Peruvian altiplano greet you by saying,

"May God give you a nice day." This is mild compared to Quechua people, who often use the ancient greeting inherited from the Inca culture, "Don't be a liar; don't be lazy; don't be a thief." The reply to both is, "The same to you."

Famous Quotes:

- *Never make a defense or apology before you be accused. (King Charles)*
- *We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. (English proverb)*
- *I now perceive one immense omission in my Psychology—the deepest principle of Human Nature is the craving to be appreciated. (William James)*

A Time to Laugh

Southern Grandma on the Witness Stand

Lawyers should never ask a Southern grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, Mrs. Jones, do you know me? She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie; you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you." The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney? She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention, he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I do know him." The defense attorney almost died. The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very low, quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you to the electric chair."

Thank you

Many Thanks to Mr. Stephen Constantine for being the first responder to the 2009 Bishop Appeal. May God bless you and reward you many fold.

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."

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," the boy called out. "What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear."

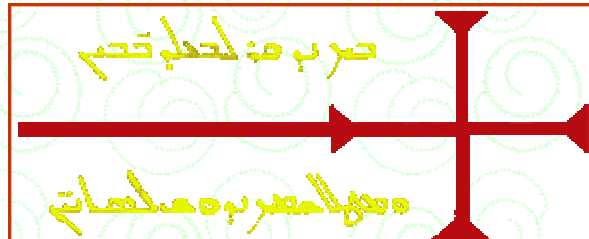
DAY OFF Please be advised that the Rectory's office will be closed on Wednesdays. No phone calls will be answered. For emergencies - Hospital calls - please call Abouna on his cellular.

Lent isn't Fashionable

“Tell my people their wickedness, and the house of Jacob their sins. (Isaiah 58:1)

It's a good bet that Lent will never become fashionable, especially in a consumer society. The dictates of consumerism are: “more,” “take,” “buy,” “own.” The invitations of Lent are: “less,” “give,” “let go,” and “share.” Unlike every other Christian season or holy day, Lent successfully resists the commercialization of faith. Can you imagine sending greeting cards for Lent? “Have a happy conversion of heart.” “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” (illustrated with a little frown face). “I hope your season of repentance is a jolly one.” Could little packets of ashes be marketed as a fashion statement? Anything is possible, but I don't think so. Lent certainly more than Christmas, which has been turned into one long shopping day- draws us to faith in a profound way. Think of how many people show up for Mass on Ash Wednesday. What is it about Lent that seems to set it apart? Lent is one religious time that cannot be turned into a marketing strategy; no one would pay good money for the purifications it proposes.

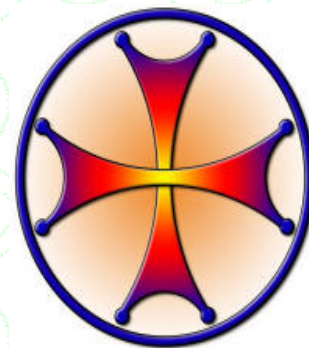
Meditation for Lent: ***Fast & Feast***



Lent is a time to Fast, but also a time to Feast.

Here are a few ways to Fast & Feast:

- 1- FAST from discontent; FEAST on gratitude.
- 2- FAST from anger; FEAST on patience.
- 3- FAST from worry; FEAST on God's providence.
- 4- FAST from lies; FEAST on truth.
- 5- FAST from selfishness; FEAST on compassion for others.
- 6- FAST on laziness; FEAST on enthusiasm.
- 7- FAST from bitterness; FEAST on forgiveness.
- 8- FAST from complaining; FEAST on appreciation.
- 9- FAST from hurtful gossip and judging others; FEAST on Christ's dwelling in them and God's perfect love.



OUR LADY OF LEBANON CHURCH
Maronite Catholic Church

54 South 4th Street
 Easton, PA 18042
 Phone: 610-252-5275
 Fax: 610-252-1737

E-mail: ololchurch@yahoo.com



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

This is how business is done in Lebanon!!

(Conversation between Joseph & his son.)

Joseph: I want you to marry a girl of my choice.

Son: "I will choose my own bride!"

Joseph: "But the girl is Bill Gates' daughter."

Son: "Well, in that case...ok"

(Next Joseph approaches Bill Gates.)

Joseph: "I have a husband for your daughter."

Bill Gates: "But my daughter is too young to marry!"

Joseph: "But this young man is a vice-president of the World Bank."

Bill Gates: "Ah, in that case...ok"

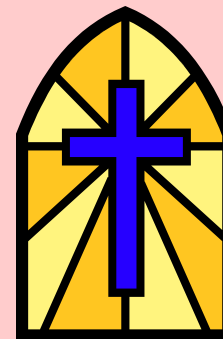
Finally Joseph goes to see the president of the World Bank.

Joseph: "I have a young man to be recommended as a vice-president."

President: "But I already have more vice- presidents than I need!"

Joseph: "But this young man is Bill Gates' son-in-law."

President: "Ah, in that case...ok"



***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.