

Our Lady of Lebanon Church - Easton

Healing of the Paralytic

Volume 2009, Issues 12

Sunday, March 22, 2009

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Healing of the Paralytic

The miracles of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark establish a direct link between the healing powers of Christ and his divine forgiveness. Clearly the symbolic correlation between sin as weakness and paralysis – and Christ's power to transform us into health – is not missed. For the Church this is expressed in our *Opening Prayer: You granted the paralyzed man the pardon of his faults; and ordered him to carry his stretcher before the crowd, showing us that you bear the sins of all.*

The Church calls Christ Jesus “the *Compassionate Healer*” (*Qolo*), sent from the heavenly Father to heal humanity's sufferings and to pardon our faults.

And she asks him: *O Lord, shape within us your divine love. Call us, O Lord, to penance and heal the pain of our paralysis* Moreover, the Gospel reveals Jesus Christ, not only in his capacity to heal and forgive, but also in his capacity to “disclose the secrets of the hearts.” Thus, the Healer of our bodies and souls is also the reader of our minds and our hearts. The implication here is that the Lord knows what is in the mind and heart of each one of us – for neither our good deeds nor our sins are hidden from him. Let us approach him – that he may heal us and forgive us!

In the *Mazmooro* the Church proclaims with Joy this healing love of Christ echoing from within her: *Pleasant is the voice of the Lord announcing to the paralyzed man “All your sins are forgiven. Rise and go in peace.” Within the Church the Spirit dwells, overflowing from the heart of the Lord.*

We implore you, O Savior, grant us your compassion and forgiveness. During this passage of holy Lent let us re-discover the love of the Lord for us, overflowing – like the living waters – through the heart of his Bride, the Church; may we find healing and peace. Father Steve Bonian, S.J.



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*
- *Men are like computers: hard to figure out and they never have enough memory.*
-



THIS WEEKEND * 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

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

Monday	March 23	6:30 p.m	Rose Keschl by Mr. & Mrs. Lazarus Melan
Tuesday	March 24	6:30 p.m	Kay Howard by Father Paul Damien
Wednesday	March 25	*****	NO DAILY MASS
Thursday	March 26	6:30 p.m	Clarence R. Dick Stahl Jr by Father Paul Damien
Friday	March 27	6:30 p.m 7:00p.m	Rose Keschl (birthday remembrance) by Mr. & Mrs. Edward Geosits & Family Stations & Adoration of the Holy Cross

NEXT WEEKEND * HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN *****

Sat., March 28 – 5:00 P.M. – **Merhej Sassine & wife Anna & son George & granddaughter Jennifer** by family
 Sun., March 29 – 10:00 A.M. – **Kay Howard** by Mr. & Mrs. Alex karam



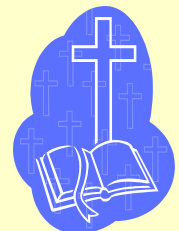
BINGO	CALLER	KITCHEN	PAYOUT
March 24	George koorie	Aziz Koury	Antonios Jabbour
March 31	Rose Sabra	Aziz Koury	Owti Karam Antonios Jabbour

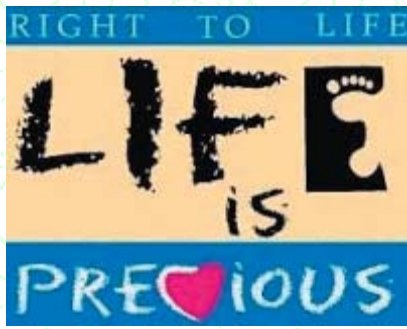
		<p>THANK YOU & GOD BLESS</p>
Collection Saturday, March 7, 2009	\$ 431.00	
Collection: Sunday, March 8, 2009	\$ TBA	
Candles	\$ 92.00	
Parking Income	\$ 1811.50	

Readers

Saturday, March 21	Mona Melan
Sunday, March 22	Alex Karam Jr.
Saturday, March 28	Claire Willard
Sunday, March 29	Rosie Jacob
Saturday, April 4	Sharon John
Sunday, April 5	Abraham jaoude

Scripture Readings
Sunday March 22 , 2009
Healing of the paralytic
 1 Tim 5: 24 – 6:5
 Mk 2: 1-12





Abortion

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



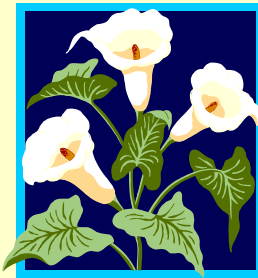
We take a special moment in our day as we pray for all the sick in our parish, the shut-ins, and those recovering from any illness, surgery, or treatments. May the Good Lord touch them with His healing and restore them to a good health of body and soul.

Please remember in your prayers this week: Yasmine Shotel , Mary & John Tony 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.



To St. Monica, Patroness Of Mothers

Blessed Monica, mother of St. Augustine, we give thanks to our Father in heaven who looked with mercy upon your tears over your wayward son. His conversion and heroic sanctification were the fruit of your prayers. Dear St. Monica we now ask you to pray with us for all those sons and daughters that have wandered away from God, and to add your prayers to those of all mothers who are worried over their children. Pray also for us that, following your example, we may, in the company of our children, one day enjoy the eternal vision of our Father in heaven. Amen.



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.**



ST. THERESA SODALITY

The St. Theresa Sodality would like to warmly thank everyone who baked, donated or supported their bake sale in any way during the feast of Saint Joseph. May God bless you for your unfailing generosity in assisting our charities!



Saturday Choir

We are looking for volunteers to start a Saturday Choir. Volunteers are kindly requested to sign up their names and to provide us with their phone numbers or emails. Forms are available at the church doors. Always remember that by singing you will praise the Lord in a double way: first by your voice and second by your words.

A FRIEND

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

A Time to Laugh

Mysterious Number 710

Yesterday I was having some work done at the car dealer. A woman came in and asked for a seven-hundred-ten. They all looked at each other, and the Mechanic asked, "What is a seven-hundred-ten?" She replied, "You know, the little piece in the middle of The engine. I lost it and need a new one. It had always been there." The mechanic gave the woman a piece of paper and a pen and asked her to draw what the piece looked like. She drew a circle and in the middle of it wrote 710. He then took her over to another car which had the hood up and asked, "Is there a 710 on this car?" She pointed and said, "Of course, it's right there." The mysterious 710 was not other than the word OIL written on the lid and shown upside down.

2009 MYO Retreat

The 2009 MYO conference will be in Ligonier, PA from July 21 to July 26 for all youth between the age of 12 and 18, including 2009 high school graduates. The conference will be hosted at the Antiochian Village Retreat and Conference Center .

The cost will be \$ 350 per participant (quadruple occupancy). Registration is due by May 15.

for more information and details please visit the MYO official website:

[www. Maroniteyouth.com](http://www.Maroniteyouth.com)

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.



REQUIEM

Our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences go to the families, friends, and relatives of **Clarence R. Dick Stahl Jr. and Kay Howard** who passed away this past week . May the Lord grant eternal rest to their souls , and may He grant comfort and consolation to all those who mourn their death, specially our beloved sisters; Naomi karam Koerwitz and Marlene Bedway. May all the faithful departed rest in Peace.

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.”

BAPTISM



Congratulations to Sleiman and Karen Zogheib for the Baptism and Confirmation of their first born child Joseph Edward Zogheib. On behalf of all of us at OLOL parish we would like to welcome our new brother Joseph into the family of God.

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.

Lenten Meditation: Prayer Is Childlike, Not Childish

“Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually.” (Psalm 105:4)

The prayer of little faith is where you hold fast to the concrete of the present situation in order to win a certain security. In prayer of little faith, you aim at getting what you ask for, any way you can, instead of being directed toward the person who might or might not be able to make that wish come true. The man or woman of little faith prays like a child who wants a present from Santa Claus, but who becomes frightened and runs away as soon as he gets his hands on the package. He would rather have nothing more to do with the old bearded gentleman. All the attention is on the gift and none on the one who gives it. It's as though you were putting on blinders and your spiritual life is reduced to a beeline toward what you want.

Lord, most of my life prayer has meant begging for gifts I want. Teach me to focus on you, the giver of gifts.

Easter Prayer: Repentance

“No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the cross.

No one is beyond the help of the prayer of Christ.

His prayer brought benefit to the multitude that raged against him.

How much more does it bring to those who turn to him in repentance.” (St. Leo the Great)

Gospel Reflection: Healing of the Paralytic

“One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by, and the power of the Lord was with him to heal.” (Luke 5:17-26)

It can be discouraging to compare our lives with that of Jesus because we fall so far short of being what he was. But in today's gospel, Jesus is distracted. Now that is something with which we can all identify. Distractions are the bane of our existence. When we are praying, our minds wander seemingly of their own accord. Too often when we are with friends, we long for solitude. Then when we have our longed-for solitude, we wish we were with friends. When we are busy, we wish for tranquility; when we are tranquil, we think of things we should be doing. I forget who said it but I have taken great comfort in the saying, “When we are praying and distractions come, we should not fight the distractions because they are God's way of telling us what should be the subject of our prayer.” Distractions are God's way of breaking into our monologues to make sure that he is heard. In today's gospel, Jesus has decided to teach but his Father wants him to heal, so Jesus' mind wanders. Jesus does not fight the distraction but smoothly moves from teaching to healing. Advent is a good time to pay more attention to our distractions and to see them as God's way of correcting the course of our day.

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

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www.mountlebanon.org

You can find us also at:

www.catholicweb.com church ID : 55071

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.

Good Advice

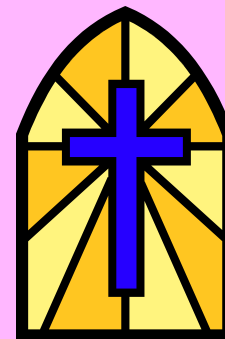
Light tomorrow with today! —Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Don't part company with your ideals. They are anchors in a storm. —Arnold Glasgow

Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground. —Theodore Roosevelt

If you want work well done, select a busy man – the other kind has no time. —Elbert Hubbard

None of us knows what is ahead ... The important thing is to use today wisely and well, and face tomorrow eagerly and cheerfully and with the certainty that we shall be equal to what it brings. —Channing Pollock



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.