



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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**New Sunday
April 03, 2016**



إنجيل القديس يوحنا 20

بَعْدَ ثَمَانِيَةِ أَيَّامٍ، كَانَ تَلَامِيذُ يَسُوعَ ثَانِيَةً فِي الْبَيْتِ، وَثُومًا مَعَهُمْ. جَاءَ يَسُوعُ، وَالْأَبْوَابُ مُغْلَقَةً، فَوَقَفَ فِي الْوَسْطِ وَقَالَ: «السَّلَامُ لَكُمْ!». ثُمَّ قَالَ لِثُومًا: «هَاتِ إِصْبَعَكَ إِلَى هُنَا، وَأَنْظُرْ يَدَيَّ. وَهَاتِ يَدَكَ، وَضَعَهَا فِي جَنْبِي. وَلَا تَكُنْ غَيْرَ مُؤْمِنٍ بَلْ كُنْ مُؤْمِنًا!». أَجَابَ ثُومًا وَقَالَ لَهُ: «رَبِّي وَإِلَهِي!». قَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «لَأَنَّكَ رَأَيْتَنِي آمَنْتَ؟ طُوبَى لِمَنْ لَمْ يَرَوْا وَآمَنُوا!».

Gospel according to John 20:26-31

Now a week later his disciples were again inside and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, although the doors were locked, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not doubt, but believe." Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."

Seeing and Believing

Today, the Gospel of John presents the relation between seeing and believing. It shows the meaning of believing after having seen, and believing without having seen the risen Christ.

On the first day, Jesus appeared to his disciples in the absence of Thomas. The Gospel focus on seeing: **Jesus showed ... The disciples saw**. The disciples tell Thomas, "We have SEEN the Lord." Thomas refused to believe that Jesus is risen, unless he sees him with his own eyes. Thomas makes the non-negotiable term: Without seeing there is no believing.

Now after one week, Jesus appeared to the disciples in the presence of Thomas. Jesus turns to Thomas and addresses him: "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand and place it in my side, and do not be unbelieving but believing." With a giant step he moves from the state of unbelieving to the state of believing and he responds with an astonishing confession of faith: "My Lord and my God."

Christ addresses him with a remark and a beatitude: "Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed (Jn. 20:29)." This beatitude which presents a different type of faith, namely a faith not depending on visual experiences: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Who are the recipients of such a blessing? The Christians who were born years after the resurrection who have not seen the risen Lord with their own eyes but relied on the eyewitness of the other disciples. They are blessed because they believe in the risen Lord without the assistance or proof of personal visual experience.

Seeing is important but it is not just the physical experience but an encounter with the risen Lord - being in sense-contact with Christ as a firm basis for truly believing in him.

REMEMBER IT

**“Blessed are those who have not seen
and have believed.”**

John 20:29

Deacon's Corner

"We can all be better today than we were yesterday, but not as good as we can be tomorrow."

I firmly believe that God, our Father, has a plan for each and every one of us. But that doesn't mean that I will experience happiness in every moment of my life, for there will always be some sadness in it also. And how do we deal with two extreme opposites in our lives? For me, I guess I don't much question happiness when it occurs in my life, I do try to remember to always "thank God" for it whenever it occurs. On the other hand, when sadness occurs, can I muster the courage to also "thank God" whenever it occurs? That is the tough part. That is where the most important thing in our own personal spiritual journey should be called in to play. And that is FAITH IN THE LORD.

"According to Your Will" that is something very challenging to accept. I have asked myself many times; "why did this happen to me, what did I do, Lord, to deserve this?" And perhaps, the same has happened to you and you might have asked the same questions. But this is where our FAITH IN THE LORD comes in and should take over.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday April 10, 2016

9:30 Mass: The Deceased of the Shaker Family (Req. by the Breit Family)

11:30 Mass: Mansour Hanna Akouri (Req. by the AKouri Family)

Mass Celebration



New Sunday: Page 386
Anaphora of The Twelve Apostles: 754

Sunday Readings



Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 11-21 (*Ministry of Reconciliation*)
Holy Gospel: John 20: 26-31 (*Appearance to Thomas*)

Mass Intentions



10 Years Anniversary for Joseph Shaker, Sr.
(Req. by the Shaker Family)

11:30 AM

10 Years Anniversary for Joseph Shaker, Sr.
(Req. by the Shaker Family)

**Habib & Matilde Naffah – Mgr. John Naffah - Marie Naffah –
Dr. Bechara & Elide Naffah** (Req. by Mr. & Mrs Pierre & Ann Naffah)
The deceased of Abboud and Brakhia Families (Req. by Akel Family)
Minnie Bohakel (Req. by Bohakel Family)
For the recovery of George Talej (Req. by Dr youssif and Leila Akel)

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Joseph and George Estephan, Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Yasmina Mulcahey, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Nabil Zahra	Josiane Dandan (English) Gisele Mulcahey (Arabic)
Ushers	Robert Antoon Frank Kermend	William Harb, Tony Boumitri John Albani, Sami Tabet

Announcements

✳ The senior group will meet on Friday April 8, 2016: Mass at 11:30 and lunch at 12.

Let us remember

and pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of April

† Joseph Shaker Sr.	† Joseph Basil	† Mary Ann Sirbeck
† Joseph Allen	† Julia A. Saad	† Atena Hanna
† Minnie Bohakel	† Dr. Issam Kaddourah	† Gurken Israelian
† Charles Jage	† Jack Markwell	† Anice Anthony Shababy
		† John Deeham

COLLECTION

Good Friday: \$ 2, 937.00

Easter Sunday: \$ 7,321.00

Easter Bake Sale: \$ 14,322.00

MYA - Carnations: \$ 832.00

May our gracious Lord bless each of you a hundredfold
for your love and care and generosity.