



Our Lady of Lebanon

Maronite Catholic Church

950 North Grace Street, Lombard, IL 60148

Tel: 630-932-9640 / Fax: 630-932-9463

Rev. Fr. Pierre El Khoury Cell: 713-972-2990

www.ollchicago.org

Tenth Sunday of Pentecost Season

Jesus and Beelzebul

July 17, 2016



From the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 12:1-11

Brothers and Sisters,

Now in regard to spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware. You know how, when you were pagans, you were constantly attracted and led away to mute idols. Therefore, I tell you that nobody speaking by the spirit of God says, "Jesus be accursed." And no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit:

To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom;

To another the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit;

To another faith by the same Spirit;

To another gifts of healing by the one Spirit;

To another mighty deeds; to another prophecy;

To another discernment of spirits; to another varieties of tongues;

To another interpretation of tongues.

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

Praise be to God always!

From the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 12:22-32

Then they brought to him a demoniac who was blind and mute. He cured the mute person so that he could speak and see. All the crowd was astounded, and said, "Could this perhaps be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man drives out demons only by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons." But he knew what they were thinking and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and no town or house divided against itself will stand. And if Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself; how, then, will his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. How can anyone enter a strong man's house and steal his property, unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can plunder his house. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters. Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

This is The Truth, Peace be with you.

Beelzebub Or The Holy Spirit?

The conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders of His day intensified to the point of their complete rejection of Him, and His warning to them of what that would mean.

It is one thing to oppose Jesus for not following the rules made by religious leaders, but to say that He is empowered by Satan is another matter altogether.

This section begins with a miracle: Jesus healing a man who was demon possessed and The Pharisees, however, said that He cast out demons by Beelzebub. There follows a lengthy response by Jesus about the source of power in His miracles.



Jesus' argument here is very clear: any kingdom, city, or house that is divided against itself will fall. This would be true of Satan's kingdom: for the prince of demons to be casting out his demons would be folly. So, if Jesus is casting out demons, he cannot be working for Satan.

On the contrary, if Jesus is doing these miracles by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom is coming to them. And Jesus knows full well that He has done these things by the Spirit of God, and if the Spirit of God is at work, then the Kingdom of God has dawned on them—and the King is present.

Jesus talked about the unforgivable sin: He was talking specifically to Pharisees who had personally witnessed his miracle of completely and instantly healing a blind and mute demon-possessed man (Matthew 12:22). Rather than acknowledging the obvious fact that Jesus was exercising divine powers, the Pharisees were so spiritually depraved that they attributed his power to Satan.

Their problem was not blind ignorance, but willful rejection, that deliberate refusal to believe. Blasphemy against the Spirit evidently is not just a one-time offense; rather, it is an ongoing attitude of rebellion – a stubborn way of life that continually resists, rejects and insults the Holy Spirit. This is what makes it, in effect, an *eternal sin*.

Romans 10:9 "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

REMEMBER IT

**Whoever is not with me is against me,
and whoever does not gather with me scatters.**

Matthew 12:30

Deacon's Corner

What do you think when you hear the word heir?

Does it evoke thoughts of wealth handed down through generations? Perhaps it reminds you of someone you loved whose journey was completed on earth. The truth is that not many people inherit a vast estate or receive great gifts from wealthy relatives, at least I know that I didn't. But that is if you look at what someone left you from a monetary standpoint. I know now there is a different perspective that has taken precedent in my life.

I have found that by opening my heart to Jesus and all of His teachings, I have become a co-heir of all of God's immeasurable riches. He wants to be your fullness and abundant supply for every aspect of your life. Think about it! If you need strength, God has all power and gives you energy to complete every task. How about wisdom? He supplies discernment and insight that can cut through even the densest fog of confusion. And how about if you are seeking contentment? God, our Father, gives us peace beyond our human understanding.

Remember most importantly, that material wealth is something that can come and go in our lives. But the inheritance we can receive by trusting and abiding in the Lord is unchanging and can never be depleted. It is up to us to keep that inheritance from Him in our lives. He will never take it away from us but often we set it aside. Abiding in Him and keeping His inheritance in our lives will keep us on the "path to eternal salvation" and I promise you that in the end, we will all receive that big "tip" for keeping Him in our lives.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday July 24, 2016

09:30 Mass: Joseph Shaker (Senior) and Marion Haddad

(Req. by the Shaker Family)

11:30 Mass: 6 Month Memorial of Michael Kassis

(Req. by The Kassis Family)

Mass Celebration



Commemoration of the Resurrection: P. 493
Anaphora of Saint Peter: P. 774

Sunday Readings



Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:22-32

Mass Intentions



09:30 AM

Marion Haddad (*Mr. & Mrs. Emil Haddad*)

11:30 AM

George Feghali

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Joseph and George Estephan Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Youssif and Reem Hattar, Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Robert Antoun	Julie Akouri (English) Gisele Mulcahey (Arabic)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Elie Massoud, John Albani Albert Dakhoul, Sam Sweillem

Announcements

✳ SAINT SHARBEL

Next Sunday July 24, we will celebrate the feast of saint Sharbel!

✳ FEAST OF OUR LADY

On August 14, Our Lady of Lebanon church will celebrate the feast of the Assumption of Virgin Mary into Heaven. (No 9:30 Mass)

10:00 Am: Rosary and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

11:30 AM: Mass and Procession

12:30: Luncheon

✳ MYO GAME NIGHT

On July 22nd, MYO group is hosting a game night in the Shaker Hall from 7 – 9.30pm. All MYO ages 12 and above are encouraged to attend. Pizza and Drinks will be provided. See Tim Mulcahey for more details.

✳ LEBANESE FESTIVAL

The Lebanese Festival - September 9 -10, 2016 - is our major Parish Event and volunteers are needed and are welcome on all committees. If you are interested in getting involved please contact **Rima Antoon** (630-881-7536), **Jackie Tamer** (773-882-7105) or the Parish Office (630-932-9640). Your support through monetary donations, volunteering your time, spreading the word and festival attendance will contribute to the greater good of Our Lady of Lebanon Church.

✳ DABKE GROUP

Children (8-12 years old) and youth (13-17 years old) who would like to participate in the Dabke Group and perform during the Lebanese Festival, may contact the church office or Mrs. Julie Akouri (630-276-8064). Practices will be on Fridays at 7 p.m.

Let us remember

And pray for our Beloved Ones who died during the month of July

† Marion Haddad	† Adele Malouf	† Mabel Nasser	† Mary Danno
† Marie Conway	† Effie Abdo	† Wanda Flach	† Rose James
† George Tamer	† Peter E. Haddad	† Youssef Abboud	† Katherine Garvin

COLLECTION

Sunday July 10, 2016: \$ 2,565.00

*"It's not how much we give
But how much love we put into giving."
(Mother Theresa)*