



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

Sixth Sunday of Resurrection Season Appearance of Jesus in the Upper Room May 01, 2016



The Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 10:1-13

Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on their behalf is for salvation. I testify with regard to them that they have zeal for God, but it is not discerning. For, in their unawareness of the righteousness that comes from God and their attempt to establish their own righteousness, they did not submit to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for the justification of everyone who has faith.

Moses writes about the righteousness that comes from the Law, "The one who does these things will live by them." But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will go up into heaven?' (That is, to bring Christ down) or 'Who will go down into the abyss?' (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead)." But what does it say?

"The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"

For, 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. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. For the scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all, enriching all who call upon him. For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Praise be to God always!

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke 24:36-48

When While they were still speaking about this, he stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." But they were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. Then he said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do questions arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." And as he said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While they were still incredulous for joy and were amazed, he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish; he took it and ate it in front of them. He said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. And he said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

This is The Truth, Peace be with you.

“You are Witnesses . . .”

The gathering of disciples encounter Jesus but again they do not understand what is happening. They are filled with confusion and doubt. Jesus then seeks to explain what is happening by offering them his body, showing them the wounds of the cross.

Next, as he did at the table in Emmaus, he eats a piece of fish. After all, ghosts do not eat, do they? He continues his explanation by opening to them the scriptures to show that everything they have learned and taught before his crucifixion led them to this very moment.

Jesus directly tells the disciples that they are to be witnesses. The disciples are given the content of their message. They are to tell of repentance and forgiveness that will come in Jesus' name.

It is here where we are able to enter the story. We come with our doubts, confusions, fears and misunderstandings. Each week, through the Liturgy, we encounter the risen Christ. In the reciting of the scriptures and the preached word we are offered explanation, proclaiming the good news of what God has and is doing.

We may eat with Christ, breaking the bread of the resurrection in the Eucharist. The Spirit brings enlightenment, opening our hearts and minds, setting our hearts afire. Finally, the exit should be ours for Christ has sent us out into the entire world to be witnesses to this amazing news.

It's not enough that the tomb is empty. It's not enough to proclaim, "Christ is risen!" At some point we have to move from that to experiencing and witnessing the resurrection. Experiencing resurrected life begins with recognizing the risen Christ among us. That is the gift of Easter and it is also the difficulty and challenge described in today's gospel.

That the disciples are witnesses does not mean they now have all the answers. It means they now have the life Jesus wants to give them. They are witnesses based not on what they know, but on who they are, how they live, and their relationship with the risen Christ.

"You are witnesses of these things," he says to us. Tell it. Live it. Become it. The resurrected life is yours. You are witnesses. Open your eyes, your heart, and your mind to the life Christ is offering you. You are witnesses.

REMEMBER IT

*Repentance for the forgiveness of sins,
Would be preached in my name to all the nations.
You are witnesses of these things.*

Luke 24:47-48

Deacon's Corner

I received an email from a friend containing a number of different pictures, each with different inspirational messages. One of the pictures was a billboard which changed phrases every five seconds, each portraying a message as if it was sent from God. Here are a few of the messages. Please think about each of them as coming directly from God!

"Do you have any idea where you are going?"

"Follow me"

"That 'Love your Neighbor Thing', I meant it."

"I loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage."

"What part of 'Thou Shalt Not' did you not understand?"

"Tell the kids I love them"

"Let's meet at My house on Sunday before the game"

"We need to talk"

"Don't make Me come down there"

Jesus had to reveal who He is to His disciples and bring their faith to the place He wants it to be so they can carry His word to the rest of the world. That is why He sent the Holy Spirit to reside in His disciples (and with us) to protect and keep their faith strong. Obviously, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were able to accomplish the Will of the Father. The Holy Spirit directs our journey here on earth. And our goal is to become one with our Heavenly Father.

The one regret I do have is that I feel like I put my spiritual journey on hold for a while some time ago. I do thank God for showing me the light when He did put me back on my road to eternal salvation. The good news is that: God is always available to stand with us and behind us to assist us in getting back on that "path".

Ask God for His help and I assure you that He will be there any time we need Him. He will be there no matter how far off the "path" we stray. For he said: "ask and you shall receive". Begin today, don't let another day pass without including God more fully in your life.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday May 08, 2016

09:30 Mass: Honoring Blessed Mary, our Mother, and all Mothers

11:30 Mass: Honoring Blessed Mary, our Mother, and all Mothers

Mass Celebration



Glorious Resurrection: Page 317
Anaphora of Saint Peter: 774

Sunday Readings



Reading: Romans 10:1-13
Holy Gospel: Luke 24:36-48

Mass Intentions



9:30 AM

Lucille and Victor Wertz – Tammer and Mary Caleel –
Marie Louise Caleel (Req. by Annette Caleel)

11:30 AM

Antoon Naffah-Antoinette & Georgette Khoury –
Joseph and Olga Mattar (Req. by Mr. & Mrs Pierre & Ann Naffah)

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Joseph and George Estephan , Estifan Azzo, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Nabil Zahra	First Communion Class (English)
Ushers	Robert Antoon Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, Elie Massud, Joe Gharib, Nakhoul Nehra

Announcements

✳️ **Feast of Ascension**

Next **Thursday May 05**, we celebrates the feast of the ascension with a Holy Mass at 7 PM.

✳️ **Mother's Day Celebration**

Coming Saturday May 7th at 7 pm is Mother's Day party. Entertainment is by Mr. Andre Antar. The deadline to confirm your attendance is today Sunday MAY 01. For more information, Contact Henry and Mirna Abboud.

✳️ **Graduation Mass**

To all people who have graduated this year or are about to graduate from high school, or college, we would like to invite you to a celebration on Mary 29th at 11:30 Mass. After Mass, we will cut the cake, and enjoy some refreshments in the Shaker Hall (a small gift from the church to congratulate all the newly graduated.) Please contact the office to let us know if you are graduating this year, or fill out the sign-up sheet outside in the foyer, after church. Names must be listed by no later than May 22.

✳️ **Lebanese Festival**

Our Lady of Lebanon Church will host the Lebanese Festival September 9 through September 11, 2016. In preparation of this Major Event, a general Meeting will be held at our Lady of Lebanon **Tuesday May 10, at 7:30 P.M.** All are invited. All are welcome.

Let us remember

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

† Sophie Nahra	† Barcha E. Lebbos	† Agnes Dumit	† Alexander Rash
† John Bomrad	† Rocco Pietrandoomo	† Fouad Amawis	† Eli Joe Jage
† Amelia Lutfy	† J. Herbert Flagh, Sr.	† Fred Guttas	† John Jage
† Naseem Tahel	† Fred A. Malouf	† Reine Charto	† Colette Woods

COLLECTION

Sunday April 24, 2016: \$ 2,561.00

"Generosity is giving more than you can,
and pride is taking less than you need."

(Kahlil Gibran, Sand and Foam)