



Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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4th Sunday of Great Lent: Parable of the Prodigal Son February 28, 2016

Lenten Psalm

Psalm 91

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
Who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, Say to the Lord:

"My refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

For he will rescue you from the snare of the fowler,
From the destroying pestilence.

With his feathers he will cover you,
And under his wings you shall take refuge;
His faithfulness is a buckler and a shield.
You shall not fear the terror of the night
Nor the arrow that flies by day.

Though a thousand fall at your side,
Ten thousand at your right side,
But it will not come near you,
Because you have the Lord for your refuge;
You have made the Most High your stronghold.

No evil shall befall you, nor shall affliction come near your
For to his angels he has given command about you

That they guard you in all your ways.
Upon their hands they shall bear you up,
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

انجيل القديس لوقا 15

«كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ اصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حِصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَفَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرَوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الابْنُ الصَّغِيرُ كُلَّ حِصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَدَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيْشِ. وَلَمَّا انْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَّثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُجِسُّ بِالْعَوْرِ. فَذَهَبَ وَلَجَأَ إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيُرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَسْتَهْيِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرْوَبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضَلُ الْخُبْزُ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكُ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ إِفْقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَى أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالَقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعَى لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْآبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: اسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحِلَّةَ الْفَاخِرَةَ وَالْبُسُوهَ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأُثْرًا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَأَدْبُحُوهُ، وَلِنَآكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّمُ! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّئًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَأَقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْغُلَّامِ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَحْوَاكُ، فَدَبَّحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَحْدُمُكُمْ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السَّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أُخَالِفْ لَكَ يَوْمًا مَرًّا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَتَنَعَّمَ مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرَوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، دَبَّحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِي فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ نَتَنَعَّمَ وَنَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّئًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ.»

Gospel according to Luke 15:11:32

“A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, ‘Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’ He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Tale of Two Brothers and the forgiving father

Today's Gospel narrates one of the best-known parables in scripture. In response to the complaint of the Pharisees and Scribes that Jesus eats with sinners, Jesus tells a long story about the prodigal son and his forgiving father. The major lesson of this parable is forgiveness.

It is easy to identify with one or all of these three characters: We prefer to put ourselves in the shoes of the generous father. He has been deeply wronged, and his youngest son has been a keen disappointment. And there is more than a hint of disappointment to be found in the eldest son, who complains that he has not gotten proper recognition from the father.

We've also been in the shoes of the penitential son, who returns hat in hand from a wasted life, hoping to begin all over again. If the truth be told, most of us have a hard time imagining ourselves doing horrible things from which we need to repent.

Many of us prefer to be the older brother. We've been good boys and girls throughout life, been well-behaved, worked hard. But why is it that all the wicked people around us seem to prosper? Where is justice in this world?

So we end up with a story in which one person desperately wants forgiveness (the younger son); a second wants to give it freely (the father); and a third resents the easy forgiveness that the undeserving brother gets (the older brother).

Which one am I in the parable?

- **The younger son - selfish & foolish - who is in need of forgiveness**
- **The older son - hardworking & unforgiving - who needs to forgive**
- **The Father - Loving and Merciful - who is eager to reach out to both sons?**

Remember, Jesus was with eating with "sinners" when he told this parable. He was reaching out to people who had made choices in the past that had led them away from God and other people. Jesus was telling the story of God who is constantly inviting us back to a relationship.

The same is true for us. Whether we stand in need of forgiveness, or we need to let go of our bitterness and anger – the Lord searches for us and invites us to rejoice and celebrate with him the gift of new life: For he was lost and has been found.

REMEMBER IT

**"Your brother was dead and has come to life again;
He was lost and has been found."**

Luke 15:32

Deacon's Corner

We all live here on Mother Earth. Many of us experience a tragic moment in life. I know for me, I have experienced what I considered "loss of a loved one" many times over my past seven decades. I know that during those times, we must have faith in God to keep our sight on what is important.

This time of "faith" is very apropos since we are in the Season of Lent. All of the gospels of Lent are based on strong, unquestionable "faith". The kind of "faith" that brings us closer to Jesus Christ. We need to trust the Savior Jesus Christ to get through our time here on earth.

So the question becomes for each of us; do we have the faith shown by Monty Williams (*Basketball Coach - his 44-year-old wife had been killed in a head-on car accident*) in the death of his wife who proclaims her being in Heaven with the Lord. Or do we fall into another category when it comes to our faith? Are we afraid to act because our faith is weak. Are we willing to "thank God" for all that comes into our lives as coming from Him. Remember that every obstacle, challenge, trial, burden or joy, whatever you want to call it comes from God and always gives us the opportunity to strengthen our faith. And as I preached in my homily, with everyone having a different DNA, so too is our level of faith.

So let us take this opportunity to look deep within ourselves and see, especially during this Season of Lent, if we can strengthen our faith in God, our Father and carry that strength on throughout the rest of our lives. And if you can do this, I assure you that you will feel better about yourself now and all the days of your lives.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday March 6, 2016

11:30 Mass: Tom and Nabiha Basile – Chuck Basile – Dr. Simon Basile

(Req. Pierre and Ann Naffah)

Our Lady of Lebanon Church
950 Grace Street
Lombard, IL 60148

Soup Supper

Friday, February 26

Following Stations of the Cross at **8 p.m.**

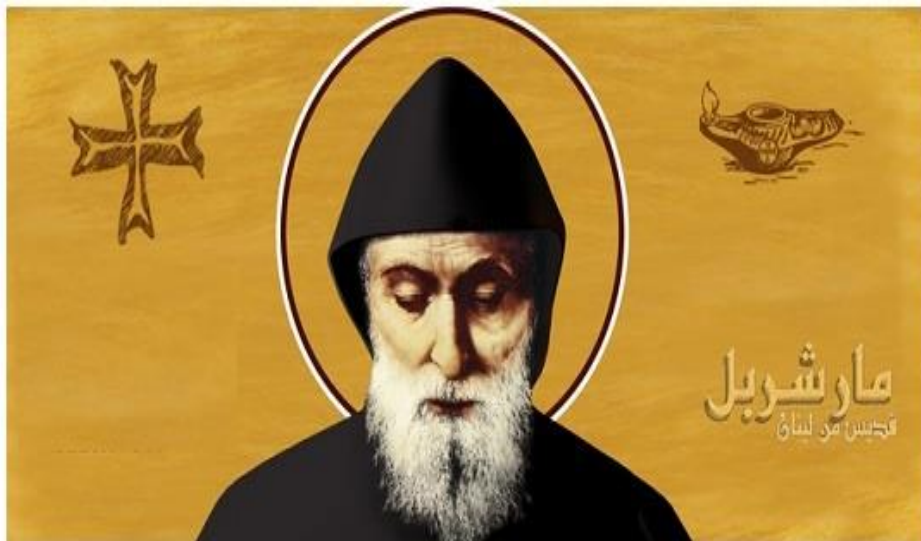
Come enjoy a variety of homemade soups, salads, mjadra, pizza and fruit. Unlimited Refills!

\$10/adult

\$5/children 12 and younger



Sponsored by the MYO



***Saint Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee
3126 - 95th. Street - Sturtevant, WI.***

Sunday, March 6th. 2016 from 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

***\$12.00 for Adult Ticket - \$6.00 for Children
12 years or under***

***Brunch will be followed by
Mass at 5:00 p.m.***



Mass Celebration



4th Sunday of Great Lent: The prodigal son: Page 219
Anaphora of Saint Peter: 774

Sunday Readings



Reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 5-13 (*Examine Yourself*)
Holy Gospel: Luke 15: 11-32 (*The prodigal son*)

Mass Intentions



11:30 AM

40 days Memorial: Michael Kassis (Req. by The Kassis Family)

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	CCD Children (English)
Ushers	Robert Antoon Frank Kermend	Tony Boumitri, William Harb, Steven George, John Albani,

Announcements

✳ Palm Sunday Candles

The Maronite Youth Organization are selling decorated Candles for Palm Sunday.

✳ **Stations of the Cross:** All Fridays of Great Lent, Mass is celebrated at 7 P.M. and Stations of the Cross at 7:30 P.M., followed by a potluck.

✳ Easter Bake Sale

Our annual Easter Bake sale fundraising event is on Sunday, March 20th. To pre-order go to our website (ollchicago.org) or pick up a pre-order flyer. All pre-Orders need to be submitted no later than March 9th, 2016. We appreciate your generosity, your donations and your support. For more info please call **Mrs. Ferial Massud (630) 841-3896**.

✳ Parish Lenten Retreat

Pope Francis has declared this Holy Year of Mercy, and he called all Catholic parishes to dedicate March 5th as a day of prayer, and confession. Our parish will host a Lenten retreat for all our parishioners on March 5, 2016 from 10 AM – 2 AM. The theme of our Spiritual Retreat is “**Remembering God’s Mercy**.” Sig-up Sheets are available in the Narthex.

Let us remember

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

† Anton Kattany	† Leila Saadeh Sweilem	† Angelina Lombardo	† George Albert
† Jorge Ruiz	† Eva Wintergeast	† Jacob P. Schuck	† Libby Hajje
† David Gage	† Abraham Rayyan	† Monroe Bouzide	† Sarah Thomas
† Elsie Be-Hannesey	† Margaret Tamer	† John S. Nemeah	† George Owen
† Eleanor Haddad	† Antoine Khoury	† Ralph J. Lutfy	

COLLECTION

Sunday February 21, 2016: \$ 1,896.00

Other Donations: \$ 900.00

Lent is a Time of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving!