



Our Lady of Lebanon

Maronite Catholic Church

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Sixteenth Sunday of Pentecost Season

Parable of the Pharisee & Tax Collector

August 28, 2016



From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:18-27

Brothers and Sisters,

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us:

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God;
For creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord
But because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free
From slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now;
And not only that, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,
We also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.
For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope.
For who hopes for what one sees?
But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.

In the same way, the Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness;
For we do not know how to pray as we ought,
But the Spirit itself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.
And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit,
Because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

Praise be to God always!

From the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke 18:9-14

He then addressed this parable to those who were convinced
Of their own righteousness and despised everyone else.

"Two people went up to the temple area to pray;
One was a Pharisee and the other was a tax collector.

The Pharisee took up his position and spoke this prayer to himself,
'O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity,
Greedy, dishonest, adulterous or even like this tax collector.
I fast twice a week, and I pay tithes on my whole income.'

But the tax collector stood off at a distance and would not even raise his eyes to heaven
But beat his breast and prayed, 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.'

I tell you, the latter went home justified, not the former;
For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
And the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

This is The Truth, Peace be with you.

Humility is the Crown of all Virtues

In our gospel reading, both Pharisee and a tax collector went to the temple to pray. But the two prayed differently.

The Pharisee claimed to be generous, honest, just. He said that he is not like the rest of humanity and he bragged that he fasted twice a week and paid his tithes faithfully.

On the other hand, the tax collector was so ashamed to lift his head, beat his breast and asked for mercy, mercy for a poor sinner. The tax collector did not dare claim who he was but only begged the Lord for His mercy.

If we reflect on the message of the gospel, we may identify ourselves in one of the characters of the gospel. What is our prayer? What is our attitude when we pray to God?

Do we pray like the Pharisee in the gospel who prejudged the tax collector?

Some people are just like the Pharisee, pretending to be always right

And that all the others are not like him.

But there are also people who, like the tax collector, ask with all humility for God's mercy.

Who is justified in the gospel? The humble will be exalted while the proud will not be humbled. Have we thought of who are we before the Lord? We are not equal with our God.

Do we pray with a humble heart?

Do we ask God for his mercy and love?

Or do we impress God with who we are and what we have?

Do I pray to God? What is the first thing I say to God when I pray?

Do I pray for others? Where do I pray? Do I go to Church regularly?

Do I recognize the goodness and the mercy of God? Do I ask God's mercy?

Am I at home in God?



REMEMBER IT

Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled,
And the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

Luke 18:14

Deacon's Corner

Today let's look at the "evil one" who is continually in our lives no matter how hard we work to keep him out.

Do we call upon our Shepherd to watch over and protect us?

Do we ask Our Lord and Savior to "keep the evil one out of our lives"?

Do we strive every day to become more "in tune with the ways of my Shepherd?"

God, our Father, has made us all shepherds and also sheep:

We are shepherds to each other, members of our families, co-workers in the workplace, even to strangers on the street. For I believe that we all have a responsibility to each other to live and preach the Word of God to each other.

And as long as we live the best we can and work hard to maintain a relationship with Our Lord, I am convinced that God, our Father, will always be there as our Shepherd to protect us from the wolves of the world.

So as we go on in our lives, let us always make a concerted effort to be a shepherd and a sheep: A shepherd to those around us by helping to guide them in the Way of the Lord and protect them as best we can by helping them (and ourselves) to overcome the wolves as we see them every day.

Also, as a sheep, always keep asking God, our Father, to protect us and keep us, now and all the days of our lives. Remember, He is always ready to help us, all we have to do is ask! So what is holding us back? Why do we put off 'til tomorrow that which we can do today?

So the advice I can give to all of you is "do not put off 'til tomorrow that which you can do today".

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday September 04, 2016

09:30 Mass: Richard and Laurice Balesh Leonetti *(Req. by Salem Rogers)*

11:30 Mass: Tom & Nabiha Basile – Chuck Basile – Dr. Simon Basile
(Req. by Pierre & Ann Naffah)

Mass Celebration



Commemoration of the Resurrection: P. 428
Anaphora of Saint Peter: P. 774

Sunday Readings



Reading: Romans 8: 18-27
Holy Gospel: Luke 18: 9-14

Mass Intentions



09:30 Mass

Richard and Laurice Balesh Leonetti
(Req. by Rogers Salem)

11:30 Mass

**40 days Memorial for Samira Antoniades
And for Georgette, Khalil and Therese Tarazi**
(Req. by Elias Tarazi and Family)

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	Cheryl Blum	Terese Stout (English) Edgar Loutfallah (Arabic)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, ELie Massud, Naji Abiad, Stephen George

Announcements

✳ **Maronite Catholic Education (MCE)**

We started taking Registration for the new Catechetical Year 2016-2017. Catechism classes will commence on Sunday September 18th from 10:20 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. To register your Children or for more details, see Subdeacon Tom Podraza or Mrs. Diala Chahoud.

✳ **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.

All Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:30 AM, and Fridays at 7 pm the ladies in our community will meet together and prepare the food for the festival.

✳ **Festival General Meeting**

A mandatory meeting for all festival volunteers will be held on Thursday September 8 at 7 PM.

Let us remember

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

✠ Joseph Abraham	✠ Carmen Tano	✠ Edward G. Khalaf	✠ Nicholas Coury
✠ May Jage	✠ Elie Gossan	✠ John Paul Nemeh	✠ Rose Joseph
✠ Norma Gattas	✠ Margaret Gilaty	✠ Catherine Najehton	✠ Helen Coury
✠ Nicholas Dandan	✠ Hannie Haddad	✠ Edward Witterson	✠ Tamino Kattany
✠ Georgette Tarazi	✠ Salma Haddad	✠ Edward Khalaf	

COLLECTION

Sunday August 21, 2016: \$ 3,618.00

The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation.

(Corrie Ten Boom)