



## **Our Lady of Lebanon**

### **Maronite Catholic Church**

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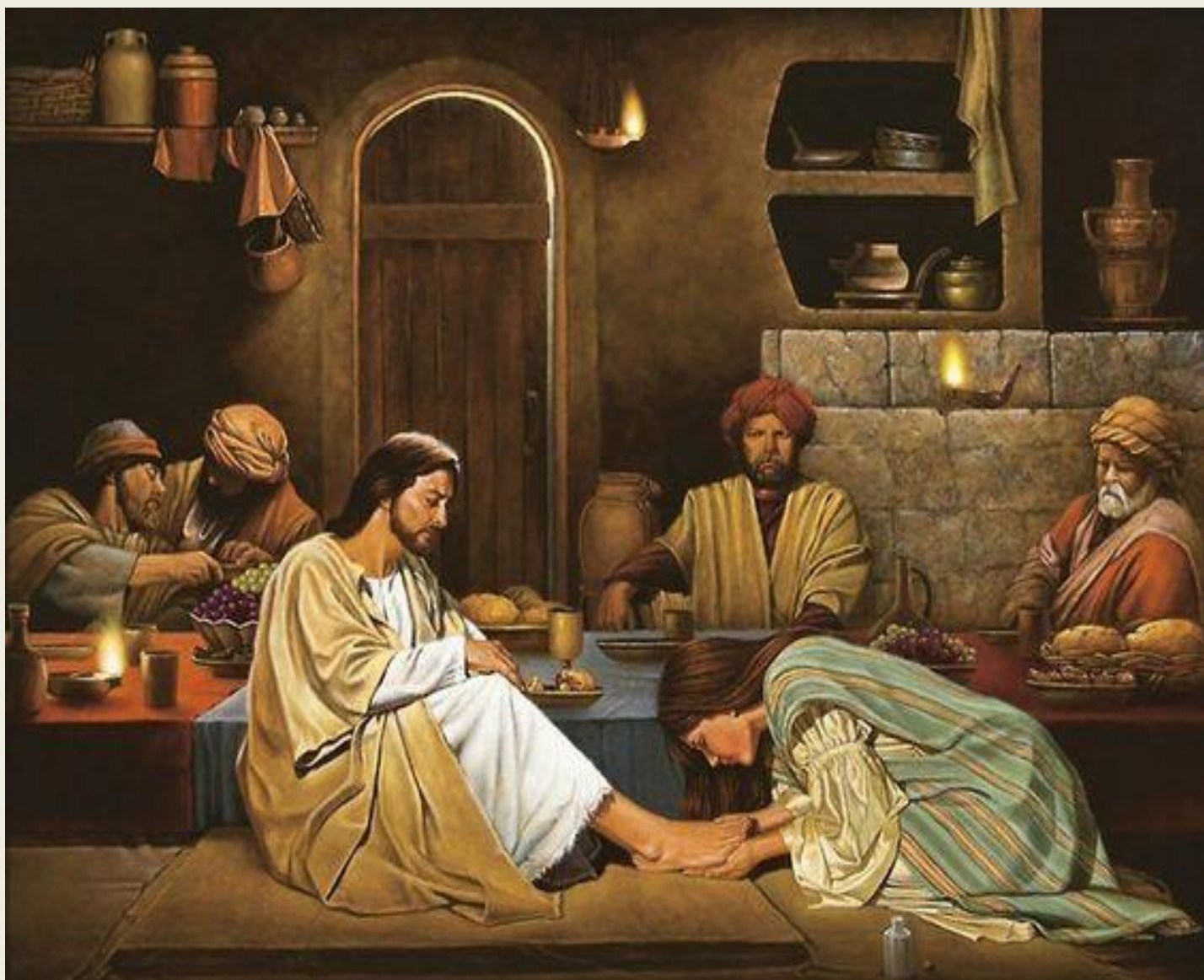
Rev. Fr. Pierre El Khoury Cell: 713-972-2990

[www.ollchicago.org](http://www.ollchicago.org)

## **Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost Season**

### **Repentance of a Sinful Woman**

**August 21, 2016**



## From the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians 1:1-10

### Brothers and Sisters,

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, remembering you in our prayers, unceasingly calling to mind your work of faith and labor of love and endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ, before our God and Father, knowing, brothers loved by God, how you were chosen.

For our gospel did not come to you in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and (with) much conviction. You know what sort of people we were among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, receiving the word in great affliction, with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. For they themselves openly declare about us what sort of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and to await his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus, who delivers us from the coming wrath.

**Praise be to God always!**

## From the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke 7:36-50

A Pharisee invited him to dine with him, and he entered the Pharisee's house and reclined at table. Now there was a sinful woman in the city who learned that he was at table in the house of the Pharisee. Bringing an alabaster flask of ointment, she stood behind him at his feet weeping and began to bathe his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and anointed them with the ointment. When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him that she is a sinner."

Jesus said to him in reply, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Tell me, teacher," he said. "Two people were in debt to a certain creditor; one owed five hundred days' wages and the other owed fifty. Since they were unable to repay the debt, he forgave it for both. Which of them will love him more?" Simon said in reply, "The one, I suppose, whose larger debt was forgiven." He said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then he turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your house, you did not give me water for my feet, but she has bathed them with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but she has not ceased kissing my feet since the time I entered. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she anointed my feet with ointment. So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence, she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little." He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." The others at table said to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

**This is The Truth, Peace be with you.**

## "Do You See This Woman?"

Seeing Jesus and his deeds leads some to believe, but others not. The Gospel of Luke uses "seeing" as a metaphor for the ability to perceive and respond properly to Jesus.

What Simon sees in the woman and her interaction with Jesus determines how Simon sees Jesus himself. Simon is clear about what he sees: she is a sinner and Jesus is not a prophet.

The story continues with Jesus confronting Simon about his mistaken perceptions. Jesus does not engage in lengthy discourses about the realm of God, but rather tells a parable.

Then comes the real test: will Simon "get" it? Jesus turns to the woman, but says to Simon, "Do you see this woman?"

Jesus then recounts what he saw the woman do. The purpose of this recitation is not so much to accuse Simon for what he did not do. The focus is: Does Simon persist in seeing the woman as a sinner, or is he able to reinterpret her actions?

Jesus articulates his own conclusion, attempting to persuade Simon to see as he sees: she has been forgiven much and now shows great love. The parable and the conclusion make the same point: much love follows much forgiveness.

Is Simon persuaded to adopt this perspective? Can he let go of seeing the woman as a sinner and see, rather, her great love? Can he see Jesus as a prophet and a special agent of God's forgiving love? Can he see himself as one in need of forgiveness as well? We don't know.

Like all good parables, the story is open-ended. It remains for us to finish. It invites us to take up the challenge presented to Simon and to be converted to Jesus' way of seeing.

"Do you see this woman?" what is it that we see?



### **REMEMBER IT**

**So I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven;  
Hence, she has shown great love.**

**Luke 7:47**

## Deacon's Corner

### "You only get what you pay for"

God sent us His only begotten Son to live, suffer and die an excruciating death here on earth. Why? So we can have eternal life. So we don't have to suffer and die an excruciating death here on earth.

Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price on our behalf. His suffering and death on the Cross gave us the road to salvation. He gave us the keys to "His house". And He did this knowing that "you only get what you pay for".

Unfortunately, some find it too difficult to abide by this path. Not because we don't know any better, not because we think there is a better way to "His house". But, I believe, it is strictly because we allow the evil one into our lives more often than we should, many times without even knowing it.

Every decision we make in life always has an alternative direction. We are guided by our guardian angel on our right shoulder and the evil one on our left. Both telling us the direction to follow. And unfortunately, too many times we listen to our left shoulder. Too many times we make a decision that will lead us in the wrong direction. Because, you see, the evil one is always ready to give you "free" advice also. The challenge we have is; "who do we listen to?"

The best advice I can give is slow down a bit in making decisions. Do it consciously. Remember the evil one wants us to make quick hasty decisions. Decisions that more than likely will impact our lives in a negative way. Our Lord and Savior is just the opposite. He says; "be discerning in your decisions, take your time and seek my wisdom".

So let's keep our right ear open and put a filter on our left ear and I promise you that the decisions you make will give you more peace and happiness than you ever could have imagined.

### **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday August 28, 2016**

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

**11:30 Mass: 40 days memorial for Samira Antoniaides**

**And for Georgette, Khalil and Therese Tarazi *(Req. by Elias Tarazi and Family)***

## Mass Celebration



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

## Sunday Readings



Reading: 1 Thessalonians 12:9-15  
Holy Gospel: Luke 7:36-50

## Mass Intentions



### 09:30 Mass

**Dennis and Elvire Balesh Cisarik** (*Req. by Rogers Salem*)

### 11:30 Mass

**40 days for Michael Sabella and Nouha Shwayhat  
And All The deceased of Rafidia and Sabella Families**

(*Req by Joe and Lucy Rafidia*)

**Boulos Mikhael Ziadé** (*Req by Tony Ziadé*)

<b>Schedules</b>	<b>9:30 A.M. Mass</b>	<b>11:30 A.M. Mass</b>
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Joseph and George Estephan Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Youssif and Reem Hattar, Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Ramez Sayegh
<b>Readers</b>	Margret Budz	Diala Chahoud
<b>Ushers</b>	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, Sami Tabet, John Albani, Stephen George

## Announcements

### ✳ **Maronite Catholic Education (MCE)**

Today, we start to take 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, please see Mrs. Diala Chahoud after Mass.

### ✳ **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 14, 2016: \$ 4,220.00**

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

**(Corrie Ten Boom)**