



# Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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## Commemoration of the Righteous and Just January 24, 2016

This Sunday, the Maronite Church commemorates the Righteous and the Just. This is actually the traditional Maronite feast in honor of all the saints. The Maronite Church, following its ancient tradition dedicates this Sunday to their memory.

This Sunday and during all next week, we call to mind all the men and women, children of the Church, who have followed the path of justice and righteousness. We remember the prophets, apostles, and martyrs, the hermits, men and women religious, as well as all Christians who have led holy lives.

As our liturgy so often reminds us, they are just in the sight of God because they have patterned their lives on Jesus Christ, the Just One.

They are our models; their prayers and fasting have taught us to fight against sin and temptation.



**Glory to you, Christ, our God, you chose the Just and made them the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the yeast in the bread and the seed in the earth. People witnessed their good works and glorified their Father in heaven. The Righteous and Just were the voice of God in the conscience of men and women. Rebuking the world for sin and calling people to holiness.**

**We ask you Christ, our God, to grant us through their prayers pardon from our sins, sincere repentance and virtuous life. May your Spirit reign in you holy Church; may your peace come into every Church that they be free from strike and dissension. Amen.**

## إنجيل القديس متى 25

" تَعَالُوا، يَا مُبَارَكِي أَبِي، رَثُوا الْمَلَكُوتَ الْمُعَدَّ لَكُمْ مُنذُ إِنشَاءِ الْعَالَمِ؛  
لَأَنِّي جُعْتُ فَأَطْعَمْتُمُونِي، وَعَطِشْتُ فَسَقَيْتُمُونِي، وَكُنْتُ غَرِيبًا فَأَوْيَيْتُمُونِي،  
وَعُرْيَانًا فَكَسَوْتُمُونِي، وَمَرِيضًا فَرَزْتُمُونِي، وَمَحْبُوسًا فَأَتَيْتُمُونِي إِلَى.  
كُلُّ مَا عَمِلْتُمُوهُ لِأَحَدٍ إِخْوَتِي هُوَ لَاءِ الصِّغَارِ، فَلَئِي عَمِلْتُمُوهُ!

### The Gospel according to Saint Matthew 25:31–46

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Amen I say to you whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

### The conflict of Justice and Mercy, Law and Love

**People believed that one is rewarded for good works done on earth. But what does matters, it seems, is the stuff we never thought of.**

What determines our destiny and seals our fate are things to which we never assigned any significance. All that stuff we were doing to look good and win favor or get good point does not matter at all. In the end, it will be something else entirely.

We want Justice to be something clear-cut. We like to be sure that we're right. We want to be certain that we are orthodox; that we have all the answers, and possess the truth, and of course, then we can call the shots. That is why this scene is so surprising. Both sides are astonished that the Son of Man does not share their notion of "Justice" and their idea of balancing the books.

Inconsequential acts of human generosity and compassion that people do without thought of reward or of profit have profound significance for the future as well as for the present. It is not what we get out of it now or ever, that matters. In fact, the things from which we get nothing seem to have the most potential. **Spontaneous acts of reaching out to another human being make the most difference**, not those where the consequences are measured and chosen for the maximum benefit. In the world's eyes, that kind of behavior is folly, but not so in this Gospel.

This is not a program of virtues that gains a reward. But the moment we decide what to do by what we get out of it, we've lost it. It is the **spontaneous acts of human kindness which spring out of a great and noble heart tuned to the presence of Christ are the ones that matter.**

The message is that whenever we give up our rights, our time, even our lives wasting ourselves for others, even for God, then we enter in the company of fools in the eyes of this world but righteous and Just in the eyes of God.

## **REMEMBER IT**

**“Amen I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”**

**Matthew 25:40**

## **Deacon's Corner**

Some years ago while attending the Seminary, I wrote a paper titled; "The Mystery of the Eucharist". I believe that many Catholics today do not fully understand the magnitude of the Eucharist. They think that it is just part of their weekly duty in attending Mass (and, unfortunately, many don't even do that). Most of us continue to miss the point of what is really taking place in the Consecration.

Do we really understand that the bread and wine are truly transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ? This means that the living, breathing Jesus Christ is in the Blessed Sacrament. In our Mass before Communion, the priest says; "I am the Bread of Life, whoever eats me in faith, inherits life". This says it all. This shows that Jesus Christ can be with us at all times here on earth. Be with us every minute of every day. Remember, there is no limitation to Christ's power, as our God, which He exercises through His real presence in the Eucharist. The only limitation is our own weakness of faith or lack of confidence in His almighty love for us.

So the challenge for me, and probably for many, is to recognize the enormous love that Jesus Christ makes available to us through the Eucharist. Because of our own human limitations, nothing we could ask of Jesus is more than a blink of His eyes, for He is all-powerful and waits for us to ask of Him for the graces He makes available to us. And for me, the best way to receive His love and grace is through the Eucharist.

## **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday January 31, 2016**

**09:30 Mass:** The deceased of the Shaker Family *(Req. by the Breit Family)*

**11:30 Mass:** 1 year anniversary Leila Saadeh Sweillem *(Req. by the Sweillem Family)*

Josephine Chaanine Abou Hamad *(Req. by Elie Abou Hamad and Roula Chartouni)*

Lucille and Victor Wretz – Tammer and Mary Caleel -

Marie Louise Caleel *(Req. by Annette Caleel)*

## Mass Celebration



Commemoration of the Righteous and Just: Page 157  
Anaphora of Saint Sixtus: 856

## Sunday Readings



**Reading:** Hebrews 12:18-24 (*The Mountain of Fear and the Mountain of Joy*)  
**Holy Gospel:** Matthew 25:31-46 (*The Son of Man Will Judge the Nations*)

## Mass Intentions

### 9:30 AM

**Jeanette Mattar & Abdo Daou** (*Req. by Dr. Ray and Laure Daou*)

### 11:30 AM

**40 days Memorial: Karim Tenn** (*req. by the Tenn Family*)

**Georgette Kalache Ojajme** (*Req. By Milad and Enas Kalache*)

**Munir Haddad** (*Req. By Khaled and Wafaa Fanek*)

**Michael Kassis** (*Req. by the Kassis Family*)

**Dr. Simon Bassil** (*Req. by Pierre and Ann Naffah*)

**Josephine Chaanine Abou Hamad** (*Req. by Elie Abou Hamad and Roula Chartouni*)

**Leila Saadeh Sweillem** (*Req. by the Sweillem Family*)



<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	Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Yasmina Mulcahey, Ramez Sayegh
<b>Readers</b>	Nabil Zahra	Dr. Nadia Haddad (Arabic) Dr. Zeina Abboud (English)
<b>Ushers</b>	Robert Antoon Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, Henry Abboud, Tony Boumitri, Stephen George

# Announcements

## ✳ 2015 Contribution Statements

Annual 2015 contribution statements will only be sent out upon request. Please fill out the form below and return it in the collection basket or by mail.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Envelop # \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## ✳ MYO Origins of Christianity Study

Our MYO will take partake in a 10-part series study on the origins of Christianity thru its persecution, rise, and ideological schisms. This lesson plan will cover the period from the Great Flood all the way into the 20th Century in ten - 1 hour courses. All MYO are asked to attend each Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., until March 13.

## ✳ Christian Formation Study and Discussion

We would like to invite you to a Christian formation study and discussion. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday January 26, at 7:30 pm in the Shaker Hall and the Topic is the Challenges of our faith in the modern Societies. For more information contact **Sam Sweillem (847-942-4270)**.

## ✳ Married Couples Encounter

Join us for a Married Couples Encounter to be held at our parish. Our first session will take place on Saturday, February 13th at 7 p.m. The topic will be '**Rediscover Your Partner**' and will include a wine and cheese party in the Shaker Hall. Married couples are welcome to register by contacting **Kira Haddad at (630) 841-1081** or by signing up in the Church Narthex.

## Let us remember

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

† Helen Shaker

† Elizabeth Shaker

† Sophia Shaker

† Joseph V. O'Neil

† Sarah Malouf

† Michael Jabour

† Albert Hopsy

† Barbra Nabra

† George Paul Doucette

† Isabel Damuny Shahwan

† Lynley M. Garvin

† Louise Lucchesi

## **COLLECTION**

**Sunday January 17, 2016: 2,481.00.**

Thank you for supporting your church and May God bless you!