



Our Lady of Lebanon

Maronite Catholic Church

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Eighth Sunday of Pentecost Season

Jesus, the Chosen Servant

July 03, 2016

*I am
a servant
of God*



From the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 1:1-11

Brothers and Sisters,

Now there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has freed you from the law of sin and death.

For what the law, weakened by the flesh, was powerless to do, this God has done: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for the sake of sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law might be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the spirit.

For those who live according to the flesh are concerned with the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the spirit with the things of the spirit.

The concern of the flesh is death, but the concern of the spirit is life and peace.

For the concern of the flesh is hostility toward God; it does not submit to the law of God, nor can it; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness.

If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Praise be to God always!

From the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 12:14-21

But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death. When Jesus realized this, he withdrew from that place. Many (people) followed him, and he cured them all, but he warned them not to make him known.

This was to fulfill what had been spoken through Isaiah the prophet:

"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. He will not contend or cry out, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory. And in his name the Gentiles will hope."

This is The Truth, Peace be with you.

BEHOLD MY SERVANT WHOM I HAVE CHOSEN

In everyone's life there are key moments or turning points on which the whole of one's life hinges.

The mounting confrontation between the Pharisees and Jesus was such a decisive event and crisis.

The religious leaders became intolerant because of their prejudice. Nothing that Jesus would do or say from this point on would be right in their eyes. They conspired, not simply to oppose Jesus but to eliminate him.



Jesus met this defiance with courage and determination.

He used the crisis to teach his disciples an important lesson for the kingdom way to success and victory. The only way to glory in God's kingdom is through the cross.

Jesus quoted from the "Suffering Servant" prophecies of Isaiah to explain how he would accomplish his mission, not through crushing power but through sacrificial service.

In place of a throne he would mount the cross and wear a crown of thorns. There is no greater proof of God's love for us. Jesus died not only for Jew but Gentile as well.

Isaiah had prophesied centuries before, that the Messiah would bring justice to the Gentiles. To the Greek mind, justice involved giving to God and to men that which is their due.

Jesus taught his disciples how to behave towards God and towards others. Jesus brings justice tempered with divine love. He does not bruise the weak or treat them with contempt, but rather shows understanding.

He does not discourage the fainthearted but gives encouragement and hope. No matter how hopeless or weak one may be, the Lord Jesus is ever ready to bring his healing love, hope, and encouragement. Do you hope in God and trust in his mercy and justice?

"Lord, strengthen me in your love and hope. Make me an instrument of your hope that I may encourage those who have no hope."

REMEMBER IT

"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved in whom I delight; I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

Matthew 12:18

Deacon's Corner

ONE DAY AT A TIME!

From a secular perspective we make decisions every day that effect our lives as well as those around us. And how much consideration do we give to those decisions regarding others? Do we act out of impulse, perhaps like we did when we were younger or do we consider how our decisions effect those we love, care about, or don't even know? If nothing more, maybe this concept will strike some kind of thought process in each of us that may help us navigate our lives in a more positive way, in a more positive direction!

My upbringing, both my family and schooling has had a very profound effect on who I am today. And don't think for a minute that my road in life has not been laced with potholes and curves! It certainly has, but as I have said so many times in the past, if I am happy where I am today in this exact moment in time, then everything that has taken place in my life was good. Whether at the time I considered it good or not so good, all things have brought me here, and for that I am grateful to God, our Father.

So, as we go through today and tomorrow, first be thankful to God, our Father, for the opportunity to see another day. And then consider the ramifications of those decisions we make and how they affect those around us, but most of all, how they affect our spiritual journey. For He is with us "all the days of our lives" and we should not be hesitant about asking for His help anytime and every day.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday July 10, 2016

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

11:30 Mass: Frank and Yvone Balesh Neumann *(Req. by Salem Rogers)*

Suicide Bombings targeted the Lebanese Christian town of Al-Qaa

A wave of suicide bombings targeted the Lebanese Christian town of al-Qaa, which borders Syria, on Monday June 27. In the early hours, four suicide bombers detonated their explosive belts, followed in the late evening by four other suicide bombings. The attacks are an indicator of attempts by Syrian terror organizations such as Jabhat al-Nusra and the Islamic State (IS) to break the siege imposed on them by Lebanese intelligence and army.



The entire community bid farewell to five of its members died during 27 June attacks. In his homily the Greek-Melkite Archbishop stressed: "We will remain in this land, knowing that the aim of the bombers is to eradicate Christian presence." He asked government to solve the emergency situation in the refugee camp on the outskirts of the town.

Faysal Aad, Joseph Lebbos, Majed Wehbe, Boulos al-Ahmar and George Fares were laid to rest at the town's cemetery after a highly emotional funeral that was held amid strict security measures.

The funeral had been postponed to Wednesday over security fears, after the town was hit by two waves of attacks on Monday.

Four suicide bombers targeted the town in the pre-dawn attack, killing five people and wounding 15 others, as another four bombers attacked the town in the evening and wounded 13 people. One of the suicide bombers blew himself up in front of the Greek-Melkite church.



St Elias Church AL QAA - Lebanon

According to the faithful the aim of the bombers is to clear al-Qaa from the Christian presence. Dany Awad, vice-president of the municipality, warns: "We are not afraid of anyone. We will stay here, to defend our village, to the end. We are rooted in this sacred land."

Lebanon hosts more than 1.1 million Syrians, a huge burden for the country of four million people. Several Lebanese politicians have warned about the inability of the country to bear this burden and had already called for the closure of borders after security incidents.

53rd Annual NAM Convention

July 6 – 10, 2016, San Francisco Bay Area, CA



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**Blessed by the presence of
Our Maronite Patriarch
Cardinal Mar Bechara Peter Rai,
NAM and the Community of
Our Lady of Lebanon Church
welcome you to the 53rd Annual
Maronite Convention**

San Francisco

One of the Best Places to Visit



Hisham El Hajj

is an award winning Lebanese performer. In 1993, Hisham won the Golden Award in the Lebanese art program 'Studio Al Fan'. Hisham has performed in many concerts and festivals in Lebanon and abroad, and represented Lebanon at the 2004 Francophone in Burkina Faso, Africa. In 2008, Hisham was selected as the Best Arabic Young Singer at the Oscar Festival in Egypt. In 2010, Hisham released his world famous duet "Baladna" featuring the Egyptian singer Amina. The video tells the cultural heritage of both Lebanon and Egypt. This work was a turning point in Hisham's career and led him to win a "Murex d'Or" in 2011 for the Best Arabic Song.

ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, July 7

Evangelical & Classical Concert by
International Artist

Joumana Mdarwar,

Angelic Voices of OLL Children,
Young Lebanese American Singer
Leila Milki

Friday, July 8

Middle Eastern Night
Special performances by
OLL Children, Youth,
and Young Adults.

Tribute to Fairuz by **John Fayyad,**
Nada Khoury, Marc Homsy,
and Lebanese Super Star
Aline Lahood

Saturday, July 9

Entertainment by
Rony Barrak,
and famous Lebanese singer
Hisham El Hajj



Joumana Mdarwar

is one of Lebanon's most popular religious singers. She performs about 50 concerts annually in Lebanon and around the world. She was featured at the Beatification of St. Naamtallah El Hardini in Rome; and at the Canonization of St. Rafqa, the beatification of Abouna Yaaqoub and Brother Estephan in Lebanon. In 1997, Joumana had a special performance in the presence of Saint Pope John-Paul II in Lebanon. Her voice is particularly associated with the music of Joseph Khalifé who composed her best repertory.



Aline Lahood

studied singing and dramatic art. She acts in TV, plays and directs short films. She won the international prize at the Megahit festival in Turkey. In 2006 she starred in Elias Rahbani's musical "Jawharat Al Aalam" in Qatar. In 2009, she performed with the Caracalla dance group at Baalbeck International Festival. She won the Murex d'Or 2013 for best performance as an actress and singer at Casino du Liban. In 2014, she joined the third season of the French edition of *The Voice*. Aline impressed the judges during the blind audition with her superb rendition of "Khedni Maak" from the repertoire of her mother, the Lebanese singer Salwa Al Katrib.



Rony Barrak

is a famous Lebanese composer and musician renowned for his great talent with the darbuka. At the age of 17, Rony won the Gold Medal on LBCI in competition for talented young musicians. He has performed with some of the biggest names in Jazz, and has played with philharmonic orchestras all over the world. His style encompasses a broad range of music, mixing Latin music, jazz, funk, and percussion. He has a passion for developing new projects which has allowed him to play during live performances of video game music.



Leila Milki

is a singer, songwriter, and pianist from the Bay Area. She is a dynamic and multilingual performer who integrates her classical piano training with her Middle Eastern roots to create thoughtful instrumentation, engaging melodies, and heartfelt harmony. She is a USC Renaissance Scholar who is pursuing her musical passion full-time, striving to translate her artistic expression into an accessible platform for emotional and social empowerment.



John Fayyad, Nada Khoury, Marc Homsy

are devoted to singing for charities and humanitarian causes by performing Lebanese music. Nada and Marc are graduates of the Lebanese Academy of Fine Arts in interior design, and John is a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist. They enjoy bringing happiness to the under-privileged by performing songs that evoke happy memories from Lebanon. John, Nada, and Marc will perform a Tribute to Fairuz at the NAM Convention.

Mass Celebration



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

Sunday Readings



Reading: Romans 8: 1-11
Holy Gospel: Matthew 12:14-21

Mass Intentions



09:30 AM

The Deceased of the Sfire Family

11:30 AM

George Fares who died in AL Qaa attack - Dounia & George Chahoud who were injured & All Those who died or been injured in AL Qaa village. We pray also for Fadwa, Hanan & Melya Chahoud & Anwar Chamoun *(Req. by Diala Chahoud)*

Habib & Matilde Naffah – Mgr. John Naffah - Marie Naffah – Dr. Bechara Naffah & Elide Naffah *(Req. by Pierre & Ann Naffah)*

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	Nabil Zahra	Diala Chahoud (English) Sami Daniel (Arabic)
Ushers	Robert Antoun Frank Kermend	Henry Abboud, Sami Tabet Nakhoul Nehra, Steven George

Announcements

✳ **Luncheon with the Patriarch**

The Order of St. Sharbel is sponsoring a luncheon on July 9 during the NAM Convention. The lunch will take place at the Hyatt Hotel in San Francisco from 1:15 pm- 3:15 pm. The Patriarch will be joining us for this luncheon. The lunch is open to all attendees. The cost of the ticket is \$50.00. Please RSVP to the luncheon chair Mireille Ayoub at mireilleayoub@gmail.com

✳ **Lebanese Festival**

The Lebanese Festival - September 9 -11, 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.

✳ **Dabke Group**

Children (8-12 years old) and youth (13-17 years old) who would like to participate in the Dabke Group and perform during the Lebanese Festival, may contact the church office or Mrs. Julie Akouri (630-276-8064). We will start practicing the week after July 4th. Practices will be on Fridays at 7 p.m.

Let us remember

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

† Marie Conway	† Adele Malouf	† Mabel Nasser	† Mary Danno
† Katherine Garvin	† Effie Abdo	† Wanda Flach	† Rose James
† George Tamer	† Peter E. Haddad	† Youssef Abboud	

COLLECTION

Sunday June 26, 2016: \$ 2,362.00

*"It's not how much we give
But how much love we put into giving."*

(Mother Theresa)