



## **Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church**

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### **Ninth Sunday of Pentecost Season Jesus in Nazareth July 10, 2016**



## **From the Second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 5:20-6:10**

### **Brothers and Sisters,**

So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Working together, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For he says: "In an acceptable time I heard you, and on the day of salvation I helped you." Behold, now is a very acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

We cause no one to stumble in anything, in order that no fault may be found with our ministry; on the contrary, in everything we commend ourselves as ministers of God, through much endurance, in afflictions, hardships, constraints, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, vigils, fasts; by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, in a holy spirit, in unfeigned love, in truthful speech, in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness at the right and at the left; through glory and dishonor, insult and praise.

We are treated as deceivers and yet are truthful; as unrecognized and yet acknowledged; as dying and behold we live; as chastised and yet not put to death; as sorrowful yet always rejoicing; as poor yet enriching many; as having nothing and yet possessing all things

**Praise be to God always!**

## **From the Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke 4:14-21**

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit,  
and news of him spread throughout the whole region.

He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up,  
and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day.

He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down,  
and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.

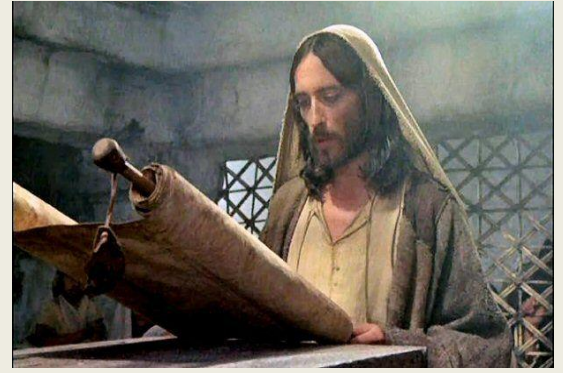
He said to them, "Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

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

## EYES FIXED ON JESUS

I love the drama of this scene. In some ways, it has become the manifesto of mainline Christianity.

Jesus comes home. He goes to his home worshipping community, as he must have done countless times as a young one. He's handed the scroll. He opens the scroll to just the right place. He reads. He hands it back to the attendant. He sits down. Everyone stares at him waiting for what is to come next.



There's an intensity here. Jesus is on a mission, but the people of his hometown are also expecting something. My guess is that the people were expecting something, but they had no idea what that something was.

Don't we all go to church expecting *something*? But, do any of us really take the time to articulate what that something is?

Some, I suppose, expect to hear a good sermon. Not too long, not too short. Some expect to sing a nice (i.e. familiar) hymn or song. Some expect to be welcomed, and to see people we know. We expect when it's all over that we'll have a cup of coffee.

But, how many of us go to church *really* expecting the Spirit of God to actually show up? Do we expect news so good that it might shatter the despair of the poor? Do we expect release, recovery, and the ending of oppression? And, do we really want all of that to begin with and nothing that will rock the boat?

In any case, the people of Nazareth weren't ready for the anointing presence of the Holy Spirit to come in with their small-town-boy-made-good when they got up that morning for synagogue. After he makes his little declaration that the prophecy of Isaiah had come to fulfillment in their presence — they got angry and sent him packing.

It makes me wonder: Do we go to church looking to fulfill our own expectations? Or, do we come ready and open to see God's expectations manifest themselves before our very eyes?

### **REMEMBER IT**

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind.

**Luke 4:18**



### "DO WE THANK GOD DAILY FOR THE BLESSINGS HE HAS BESTOWED UPON US?"

I give thanks to God, our Father, many times during each day He has given me. And I don't mean for just the grandiose things that take place in our lives, but just for being able to get up in the morning and spending another day with family, friends and even people we meet for the first time every day. This has become an important part of my daily routine, i.e. "giving thanks to God for the blessings in my life". Do not take for granted the simple things in your life that allow you to be who you are?

My "thanks" are for everything that has taken place during every day. Not just the good things that we might ask God for through prayer, but also for being able to get out of bed in the morning and participate in another day.

I am sure that sometimes you might not be happy with all of the things that take place during any given day. Some things might bring joy and some sadness, but all that takes place is good if we are happy with where we are by the time we lay our heads down to sleep. No matter what happens, we must realize and accept that all that happens in our lives is according to His WILL, not of our own choosing. And that is easy to accept when joy and happiness comes our way, but more difficult when things don't necessarily go the way we wish.

So I encourage you Just sit down during the day and find some quiet time, pray to God for peace and set your mind to remember the positive times in our lives that hold so much meaning for us. And let us always remember to say "thank you, God" each and every day for all of the blessings He has bestowed upon us.

### **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday July 17, 2016**

**09:30 Mass:** **Marion Haddad** *(Mr. & Mrs. Emil Haddad)*

**11:30 Mass:** **George Feghali** *(Req. by Joseph Feghali)*

## **Mass Celebration**



**Commemoration of the Resurrection: P. 493**  
**Anaphora of Saint Peter: P. 774**

## **Sunday Readings**



**Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10**  
**Holy Gospel: Luke 4:14-21**

## **Mass Intentions**



### **09:30 AM**

**The deceased of the Shaker Family**  
*(Req. by the Breit Family)*

### **11:30 AM**

**Frank and Yvone Balesh Neumann**  
*(Req. by Salem Rogers)*

<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	Michael Procaccio (English) Nabil Sayegh (Arabic)
<b>Ushers</b>	Robert Antoun Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, Henry Abboud John Albani, Amir Geha

## Announcements

### ✳ **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.

### ✳ **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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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

✝ Marion Haddad

✝ Marie Conway

✝ George Tamer

✝ Adele Malouf

✝ Effie Abdo

✝ Peter E. Haddad

✝ Mabel Nasser

✝ Wanda Flach

✝ Youssef Abboud

✝ Mary Danno

✝ Rose James

✝ Katherine Garvin

### **COLLECTION**

**Sunday July 03, 2016: \$ 2,430.00**

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

**(Mother Theresa)**