



# Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Catholic Church

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## Commemoration of the Faithful Departed January 31, 2016

In the Maronite Liturgy, the commemoration of the Faithful Departed are to be seen in the context of the Epiphany: the mission of all Christians to live faithfully on earth, and then, the destiny of those faithful to the kingdom. Those who have died to this life are on the next stage of their journey to the Kingdom.

The Church has encouraged prayer for the dead from the earliest times as an act of Christian charity, when monastic communities (monks) began to mark an annual day of prayer for the departed members.

In prayer, we stand in God's presence in the company of someone we love, even if that person has gone before us into death.

**O True Hope who never fails, plant the true hope of your resurrection among those who have died and have fulfilled their lives hoping in you. Grant the power of your resurrection to their bodies and the forgiveness of sins to their souls. Lead them into your kingdom that they may be with you. And they will glorify and praise you, O Christ, Your Father, and your living and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen**



(From the Divine Liturgy of the Mysteries - Opening Prayer, Sunday of the Faithful Departed)

## إنجيل القديس لوقا 16

وَرَفَعَ الْعَيْنِي عَيْنَيْهِ، وَهُوَ فِي الْجَحِيمِ يُقَاسِي الْعَذَابَ، فَرَأَى إِبْرَاهِيمَ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ، وَأَعَاذَرَ فِي حِضْنِهِ. فَقَادَى وَقَالَ: يَا أَبَتَ إِبْرَاهِيمَ، إِرْحَمْنِي وَأَرْسِلْ لِعَاذَرَ لِيَبْلُلَ طَرَفَ إِصْبَعِهِ بِمَاءٍ وَيُبْرِدَ لِسَانِي، لِأَنِّي مُتَوَجِّعٌ فِي هَذَا اللَّهَيْبِ. فَقَالَ إِبْرَاهِيمُ: يَا ابْنِي، تَذَكَّرُ أَنَّكَ نَلْتُ خَيْرَاتِكَ فِي حَيَاتِكَ، وَأَعَاذَرُ نَالَ الْبَلَايَا. وَالآنَ هُوَ يَتَعَزَّى هُنَا، وَأَنْتَ تَتَوَجِّعُ. وَمَعَ هَذَا كُلِّهِ، فَإِنَّ بَيْنَنَا وَبَيْنَكُمْ هُوَّةٌ عَظِيمَةٌ ثَابِتَةٌ، حَتَّى إِنَّ الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ أَنْ يَجْتَازُوا مِنْ هُنَا إِلَيْكُمْ لَا يَسْتَطِيعُونَ، وَلَا مِنْ هُنَاكَ أَنْ يَعْزُرُوا إِلَيْنَا.

### The Gospel according to Saint Luke 16:19-31

The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

### What we do in life echoes in Eternity

The rich man lived in great luxury, with every day a feast day. The poor man, Lazarus, longed for the scraps that fell from his table but was denied them. There was a vast gulf between them, a gulf that the rich man could have crossed, but would not. A little later in the story he will show that he knew Lazarus by name, so he was aware of the beggar at his door and even knew his name, but day after day made no effort to bridge the gulf.

Both men died and the gulf between them was fixed for eternity, but with the situation of the two men reversed. The poor man was carried to the 'bosom of Abraham', a place of intimacy with the great common father of both men, while the rich man suffered in Hades.

Each day we make many choices: minor choices or major choices. Through these choices we take responsibility for each of our actions. Then, through the sum total of all these choices, big and small, we gradually and slowly begin to take personal responsibility for the moral direction of our entire lives and to determine our moral identity, who we are.

Over a long period of time we gradually determine whether we are basically just or unjust persons, kind or unkind, truthful or untruthful, honest or dishonest, loving or selfish. It was through a lifetime of actions that each of the two people in the parable had determined who he was before God.

The parable seems to imply that what we do in life on this earth echoes in eternity; Heaven or hell is based on who we have become in this life.

It would be most unwise to take this parable as in any way a literal description of hell. At the same time, it is crystal clear that Jesus saw our moral choices, big and small, as all-important, determining who we are, and having eternal consequences.

## **REMEMBER IT**

My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

**Matthew 16:25**

## **Deacon's Corner**

Have you ever wondered why so much of the Bible is written in parables? Our Lord doesn't use parables to try to confuse us. I believe that He uses parables to better engage us, His followers, into thinking more deeply into His words. He uses parables in hope by "listening" to the Word of God, we will actually "hear" His Word and apply it to our spiritual lives every day.

So I ask you, do you listen to the Word of God? I would say that for the most part, we all do listen. But the real question I pose to you today is, what do you hear? You see, there is a big difference between listening and hearing. We all, since childhood, have listened to the Word of God in some form or another, be it in Church, at home, in school, at bible study or even in our workplace. But how much have we really heard? How much have we taken to heart and used His Word to change our lives and the lives of those around us?

In John 8:12, Jesus said, **"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** Don't hide your faith, don't practice your faith once a week for an hour in Church. Remember, coming to Church on Sunday doesn't make you a better person, what you take with you after being there is what makes the difference. And this is the challenge that will continue with us all the days of our lives. So we must work hard not only to hear His Word, but to live it, profess it, be an example of it starting with ourselves.

## **Mass Intentions for Next Sunday February 7, 2016**

**09:30 Mass: (Feast of St. Maroon): For the Maronite Church in the world.**

**11:30 Mass: Antoon Naffah - Antoinette & Georgette Khoury - Joseph & Olga Mattar (Req. by Pierre & Ann Naffah)**

## Mass Celebration



Commemoration of the Righteous and Just: Page 166  
Anaphora of Saint Sixtus: 856

## Sunday Readings



**Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (*Vigilance for the Day of the Lord*)  
**Holy Gospel:** Luke 16:19-31 (*Lazarus and the Rich Man*)

## Mass Intentions

### 9:30 AM

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*)

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

**Josephine Chaanine Abou Hamad**

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

**Yvonne M Cisarik** (*Req. by Jeanette Struven and family*)

**Lucille and Victor Wretz – Tammer and Mary Caleel -**

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



<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>	Margret Budz	Sam Sweillem (Arabic) Alexandra Sweillem (English)
<b>Ushers</b>	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Tony Boumitri, John Albani, Naji Abyiad, Sami Tabet



# 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.

## ✳ 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 Nahra

✠ George Paul Doucette

✠ Isabel Damuny Shahwan

✠ Lynley M. Garvin

✠ Louise Lucchesi

## **COLLECTION**

**Sunday January 24, 2016: \$ 3,023.00.**

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