



Our Lady of Lebanon

Maronite Catholic Church

950 North Grace Street, Lombard, IL 60148

Tel: 630-932-9640 / **Fax:** 630-932-9463

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

www.ollchicago.org

6th Sunday of Great Lent: Healing of the Blind Man

March 13, 2016

Lenten Psalm

Psalm 27

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge; of whom should I be afraid?

When evildoers come to devour my flesh, they stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me, my heart does not fear;

Though war be waged against me, even then do I trust.

One thing I ask of the LORD; this I seek:

To dwell in the LORD's house all the days of my life,

To gaze on the LORD's beauty, to visit his temple.

For God will hide me in his shelter in time of trouble,

He will conceal me in his tent; and set me high upon a rock.

Even now my head is held high above my enemies on every side!

I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and praise the LORD.

Hear my voice, LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

"Come," says my heart, "seek his face"; your face, LORD, do I seek!

Do not hide your face from me; do not repel your servant in anger.

You are my salvation, do not forsake me, God my savior!

Even if my father and mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.

LORD, show me your way; lead me on a level path

Do not abandon me to the desire of my foes;

Wait for the LORD, take courage; be brave, wait for the LORD!

إنجيل القديس مرقس 10

بَيْنَمَا يَسُوعُ خَارِجٌ مِنْ أَرِيحَا، هُوَ وَتَلَامِيذُهُ وَجَمْعٌ غَفِيرٌ، كَانَ بَرَطِيمَا، أَبِي ابْنُ طِيمَا، وَهُوَ شَحَاذٌ أَعْمَى، جَالِسًا عَلَى جَانِبِ الطَّرِيقِ. فَلَمَّا سَمِعَ أَنَّهُ يَسُوعُ النَّاصِرِيُّ، بَدَأَ يَصْرُخُ وَيَقُولُ: «يَا يَسُوعُ ابْنَ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي!». فَانْتَهَرَهُ أَنْاسٌ كَثِيرُونَ لَيْسَكَتَ، إِلَّا أَنَّهُ كَانَ يَزِدُّ صَرَاحًا: «يَا ابْنَ دَاوُدَ ارْحَمْنِي!». فَوَقَفَ يَسُوعُ وَقَالَ: «أَدْعُوهُ!». فَدَعَا الْأَعْمَى قَائِلِينَ لَهُ: «ثِقْ وَأَنْهَضْ! إِنَّهُ يَدْعُوكَ». فَطَرَحَ الْأَعْمَى رِدَاءَهُ، وَثَنَبَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى يَسُوعَ. فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟». قَالَ لَهُ الْأَعْمَى: «رَابُّونِي، أَنْ أُبْصِرَ!». فَقَالَ لَهُ يَسُوعُ: «إِذْهَبْ! إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ». وَلِلْوَقْتِ عَادَ يُبْصِرُ. وَرَاحَ يَتْبَعُ يَسُوعَ فِي الطَّرِيقِ.

Gospel according to Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a large crowd. Bartimaeus, a blind man, the son of Timaeus, sat by the roadside begging.

On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me." And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he kept calling out all the more, "Son of David, have pity on me." Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take courage; get up, he is calling you." He threw aside his cloak, sprang up, and came to Jesus. Jesus said to him in reply, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man replied to him, "Master, I want to see." Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.

Reflection

"Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Bartimaeus was desperate for healing, so he boldly called out for what he needed though he was rebuked for doing so. Bartimaeus' neighbors probably found his display of desperation embarrassing and unsettling. Many times in our communities we allow ourselves and others to **suffer in silence**, but in this passage, God shows us that he is not unsettled by our cries, but will respond to them.

Usually when we are stricken with disease, disability, financial hardship or grief instead of calling out to our neighbor or God we hold everything in, choosing silence over the possibility of being rebuked for our pain. Instead of rebuking Bartimaeus, Jesus responds to his cries by asking him what he wants and healing him.

This short passage can teach us a great deal about how to handle suffering in our own lives and the lives of those in our community. God never meant for us to suffer alone and Jesus' response to Bartimaeus shows this. Instead of silencing those in our communities who are crying out for comfort, healing or justice, we should encourage them to respond to the call of Jesus. Bartimaeus shows all of us that we can let our request be made known to God because he hears our cries and will respond to them.

Prayer

God our healer, the one who hears our loud and silent cries, please help us to boldly come to your throne of grace in every time of need. Help us to be a community that allows those in pain to be transparent, help us to encourage our brothers and sisters with the knowledge that even in their pain you are calling them to come and commune with you. Amen.

REMEMBER IT

But he kept calling out all the more,
"Son of David, have pity on me."

Mark 10:48

Deacon's Corner

As I progress in years, I find that I seem to have more decisions to make on a daily basis. Some are emotional, some physical, some financial. But when did we stop and think about the spiritual decisions that we should also be making. When did we ever stop what we are doing and say; "Lord, am I moving in the right direction, am I on the right path for eternal salvation?"

For me the answer is simple. I pray a lot more during Lent. I ask God to have the Holy Spirit come down to empower me each and every day to be a better Catholic, to guide me in my spiritual direction, to lead me in the way He wants me to go. To follow and accept His will in every decision I make and be thankful for His help.

So, in conclusion, let us finish this Season of Lent in a positive way. Let's be MORE FORGIVING, MORE MERCIFUL, LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR A LITTLE HARDER AND GIVE MORE TO THOSE IN NEED. After all, when Lent comes to its final week-end at the end of Holy Week, we celebrate the Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave so much for us, we can certainly say Thank You to Him by giving back a little more this year than we have in the past. Do this and I promise you that the culmination of Lent will make each of us happier with our spiritual life.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday March 20, 2016

9:30 Mass: Edward Jage (Req. by Bill & Cheryl Blum)

11:30 Mass: Fred J. Balesh - Dennis & Elvire Balesh Cisarik
(Req. by Salem Rogers)

Moral Duties Concerning Voting

The Bishops of the United States issue a statement
calling Catholics to faithful citizenship:

We encourage all citizens, particularly Catholics, to embrace their citizenship not merely as a duty and privilege, but as an opportunity to participate in building the culture of life.

Every voice matters in the public forum. Every vote counts. Every act of responsible citizenship is an exercise of significant individual power. We must exercise that power in ways that defend human life, especially those of God's children who are unborn, disabled or otherwise vulnerable. We get the public officials we deserve.

Their virtue—or lack thereof—is a judgment not only on them, but on us. Because of this we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest.

For every right there is a corresponding duty. And so we also have a duty to vote. The Catholic Church even speaks of a moral obligation to vote. We also have a duty to inform ourselves about issues so as to vote conscientiously. Everyone guides his or her choices by something. For Catholics, that something should be the teachings of Christ and his church.

Two teachings in particular are meant to impact all aspects of an individual believer's life, which in turn should impact all aspects of public life.

The first is respect for human life and dignity from womb to tomb, as they say. **The second is a commitment to the common good,** where individual well-being is linked to and personal sacrifices are made for the good of the whole society.

These teachings lead us to acknowledge that everyone has a right to what is needed to live in dignity: productive work, fair wages, food, shelter, education, health care, protection from harm, and the right to migrate when these things are unavailable in one's homeland – we might disagree about how people access these things, but not about whether all people have a right to them.

And fundamental to all human rights is the right to life. If we don't defend the right to life, advocating for other human rights doesn't make sense. Respect for human life and dignity and a commitment to the common good is a case of both/and, not either/or.

There will never be a perfect candidate, but that's no excuse not to vote, which would let some other force or voice fill the vacuum left by opting out. Rather, choose the candidate who will do the least harm, or has potential to do the most good.

Tuesday March 15, 2016
Presidential Primary Election and State Primary Election Day

Mass Celebration



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Anaphora of Saint Peter: 774

Sunday Readings



Reading: 2 Corinthians 10: 1-7 (*Sins and Judgement*)
Holy Gospel: Mark 10:46-52 (*Healing of the Blind Man*)

Mass Intentions



9:30 AM

The Deceased of the Shaker Family (Req. by the Breit Family)
And all the founders of Our Lady of Lebanon Church

11:30 AM

Archbishop Francis Zayek & Maurice Zayek (Req. by Laure Zayek)
William Shibley (Req. by Joseph Feghali)

Schedules	9:30 A.M. Mass	11:30 A.M. Mass
Altar Servers	Joseph and George Estephan, Andres Ballines, Leila Nehra	Estifan Azzo, Cassandra Chahoud, Yasmina Mulcahey, Ramez Sayegh
Readers	Cheryl Blum	Tonia Khoury (English) Sam Sweillem (Arabic)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Ed Kneip, Henry Abboud, Amir Geha, Marc Cortbawi

Announcements

✳ Daylight Saving

Sunday, March 13, 2016, **2:00 AM** Daylight Saving time starts: clocks are turned **forward** 1 hour.

✳ **Stations of the Cross:** Next Friday is the Last Friday of the Season of great Lent, Mass is celebrated at 7 P.M. and Stations of the Cross at 7:30 P.M., followed by a potluck.

✳ BAKE SALE

Our annual Easter Bake sale fundraising event is on Sunday, March 20th. To pre-order go to our website (ollchicago.org) or pick up a pre-order flyer. We appreciate your generosity, your donations and your support. For more info please call **Mrs. Ferial Massud (630) 841-3896**.

✳ Palm Sunday candles

After Mass, the Youth group will be selling decorated Candles for Palm Sunday.

✳ Altar servers Training

All Altar servers at our lady of Lebanon Church will have a training session in preparation of Holy week and Easter after 11:30 Mass on March 13, 2016.

✳ Holy week Celebrations

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday (washing feet) & Good Friday: Liturgy at 7:00 PM

Saturday March 26: 10:30 AM – 2 PM Easter Egg Hunt and Egg coloring (Lunch: Pizza)

Easter Sunday March 27: Midnight Mass – 9:30 Mass and 11:30 Mass.

Let us remember

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

✠ Peter Dumit
✠ Maurice Zayek
✠ Robert Basil

✠ Louis Haddad
✠ Dixie Lee Haddad
✠ James C. Bomrad

✠ Nabiha Farris
✠ Mary Bouzide
✠ Fredia Saige

COLLECTION

Sunday March 06, 2016: \$ 3,138.00

Lent is a Time of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving!