



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

March 21-22, 2020

HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

A STORY OF FORGIVENESS

Over the past few weeks, we have been listening to the miracles that Jesus performed. Beginning with the Wedding Feast in Cana, the healing of the leper, the healing of the hemorrhaging woman, and the raising of the daughter of the leader of the synagogue who was believed to be dead, they each had one thing in common---their faith in Jesus Christ. We heard this throughout the scripture readings that these people who were suffering humbled themselves, kneeling at the feet of Jesus, and knowing that they were in the presence of God believed that Jesus could cure them and their loved ones; that Jesus was the way for them to find inner peace for their sufferings, and that only with Jesus could they be healed.

Brothers and sisters, in each of the healing miracles we have heard the past few weeks, we know that the people requesting Jesus' help got down on their knees and asked God for His mercy. Sometimes we have to suffer in order to find joy and meaning in our lives. Sometimes we need to feel pain in order to appreciate the happiness in our lives. If we didn't experience the sorrows, pain, sadness and anger we wouldn't appreciate the joy, happiness, and peace in our lives and we would have no need for God in our lives. We

wouldn't need faith in order to get us through the difficult times we encounter.

The question we must ask ourselves right now is how strong is our faith in Jesus? Do we really rely on Him to help us through our difficult times? Do we really believe that "if it is His will" we will be heard and that He will answer our prayers? Nothing is impossible with God's help and mercy. We have heard this throughout sacred scripture and we have seen in the lives of so many people. It is with faith and belief in Jesus that we will be able to continue our lives with peace and harmony with those around us.

When we realize that we have wronged others or others have wronged us, we must let go in order to heal; to find inner peace with ourselves and others. As we walk this journey of Christ's passion, may we find the strength to move on, let go, and find the peace that lies within us. The Season of Lent is our time to recognize our strength with the help and mercy of Jesus Christ and to renew ourselves with one another just as Jesus did when He said "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Let each of us let go, no matter how small or large the hurt may be, and by doing so, this Season of Lent and the sacrifice of our Lord will find its way into our hearts and lives. It is only then that

we will know what inner peace is. This is my prayer for all of us this Lenten Season. God bless all of you.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway. If you are honest, people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.

If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.

For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway."

Mother Teresa

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon | Joseph Abraham, Sub-deacon

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

BISHOP GREGORY ADDRESSES THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear Parishioners of OLOP: As all of you have heard Sunday evening, Governor Baker has issued the latest restrictions regards Coronavirus for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. These restrictions include no more than 25 people gathering for any event, including religious services. This news has left our parishes in Massachusetts to question how we should proceed to minister to the faithful, especially now in your time of need. I informed Bishop Gregory last night about these latest developments and asked for his guidance. He has issued these guidelines for the Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn.

During this time of crisis, the faithful are not obliged to attend Divine Liturgy on Sunday and have been given dispensation. I would like to add to that, if anyone is at risk in anyway, I encourage you NOT to attend Divine Liturgy. You know who you are and this information is readily available on the CDC website. I am also reminded that during the most difficult times in our lives, we feel comfort by attending Church. Bishop Gregory has asked that Divine Liturgy be available for those who would like to attend. For those of you who are NOT at risk and would find solace in attending, you are most welcome. The State of Massachusetts has stated that no more than 25 people may be gathered in one particular place. I can use pastoral prudence as it pertains to this.

Friday Lenten Services will go on as usual. It is my hope that we will soon be offering Live Stream video so that everyone may tune into our services. My main priority is you and the health of your family. We do not want to jeopardize anyone whatsoever. All social gatherings

and coffee hours will be suspended until further notice.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, I know these are challenging times emotionally, spiritually, and financially. But I ask you to remain steadfast resolute in following the guidelines set forth by our officials and to continue to pray for those affected by this virus and those who are working tirelessly to exterminate this virus. Our committee will be meeting this Thursday evening. I will notify you of any new developments as well as how you can long- in to join me with Divine Liturgy and Friday Lenten Services. God bless you and your families.

In Christ,
Fr. Vincent

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Saint Jean-Marie Vianney once said "when we feel the love of God growing cold, let us instantly make a Spiritual Communion. When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall can shut us out from the good God."

Below is a prayer composed to help us live in communion with one another during this time of social distancing. I invite you to pray this prayer when you feel the need to be in deeper communion with God and others, and to be of service to those who are most in need.

+ Gregory

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

O Divine Ocean of Mercy and Compassion, be with us in our time of trial and difficulties. Today I make an act of spiritual communion with you, the Life-Giving Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At this time I am not able to receive the sacred body and blood of my Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, but I choose to live in union with him and in the unity of the Holy Spirit. I offer my day, my daily life, my joys and

sorrows to you, for those around me, and for the whole world. Be with us O life-giving Triune God, for we know that nothing in this world has power over us. O Lover of all people, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

ملخص العظة

المخلع

شدد البابا فرنسيس على أهمية إدراك الكتاب المقدس وعلى أن نكون رسلاً لكلمة الله. إنجيل اليوم هو تذكير حي لذلك وإضافة لذلك فإن أحداث العالم الحالية تدعونا وتحثنا لتكون رسلاً لمحبة الله. ماذا أعني بذلك؟

يعلّمنا إنجيل المخلع الكثير من الأمور. اليوم أريد أن أركز على أمر واحد. أربعة أصدقاء حملوا المخلع ليوصلوه عند يسوع. أحضره ليشفي وسعوا كثيراً لحدوث ذلك. عرفوا أن باستطاعة يسوع أن يشفي صديقهم. لم يسمحوا لأي عقبة أن تمنعهم من أن يحضره أمام يسوع.

هذا يقودنا إلى السؤال الأهم. إلى أي مدى نحن مستعدون للذهاب لتكون في حضرة الرب؟ كم عقبة سننخطى لتكون مع يسوع؟ وكيف نحضر الآخرين لملاقاة محبة يسوع المسيح؟

الزمن الذي نعيش فيه الآن يجعلنا نتوقف ونتساءل هذه الأسئلة. لمن علينا أن نكون رسلاً لنؤكد كلمة الله؟

علينا أن نبدأ بالمشردين والمظلومين. هل نحن نبشر بمحبة يسوع ونمنحهم الكرامة والأمل من خلال أفعالنا وتعاطفنا؟ ماذا عن الذين ابتعدوا عن الكنيسة والإيمان؟ هل نبحث عن الخراف الضالة التي تاهت لسبب أو لآخر؟ هل نعلمهم أننا موجودون لمساندتهم وأن يسوع بانتظارهم؟ والأقارب الذين اختلفنا معهم لسبب ما، هل نسعى إليهم ونحتضنهم كما احتضن الابن الضال (دون مساءلة!)؟ أم المحتاجين والمرضى، الذين فقدوا إيمانهم بسبب حالتهم؟ هل نتواصل معهم ونشعرهم أنهم ليسوا لوحدهم؟ هل ندعوهم لمعرفة والتماس محبة يسوع لهم؟ أما غير المحصنين، والمعرضين لهذا الفيروس المروع، هل نتواصل مع كبار السن والمصابين؟

رسل كلمة الله هم الذين بأفعالهم وأقوالهم يسعون نحو من هم بحاجة. كل هذا يكون بقيادة إيماننا بيسوع المسيح. إنني أصلي لكل صديق يسعي أن يكون رسلاً لمحبة الله. كلنا مدعون لذلك، فهل نحن عادلون؟ هل بإمكاننا مساعدة أنفسنا والآخرين لتكون في حضرة يسوع لشفاء النفس والجسد؟ كم هو عظيم إيماننا؟ فلنبدأ بتقييم كيف نكون رسلاً لكلمة الله. فلتسعى جيداً لتكون في حضرة الرب فيقول لنا "إيمانك خلصك، إذهب بسلام!"

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 21, @ 5:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the deceased members of the Cabral Family (Phyllis, Anthony, Susan, and Amy) requested by Louis and Smitty Cabral. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, March 22, @ 10:30 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Youssef Chedid requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

Monday, March 23, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Rafka)

Tuesday, March 24, @ 12:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Wednesday, March 25, @ 6:00 PM, NO LITURGY

Thursday, March 26, @ 12:00 PM, (Feast of St. Gabriel the Archangel) NO LITURGY

Friday, March 27, @ 7:00 PM, Stations of the Cross/Adoration of the Cross

Saturday, March 28, @ 5:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Lawrence MacAllister requested by Subdeacon Joe Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, March 29, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of St. Cyril of Baalbek) liturgy is being offered for the souls of John and Theresa Saba requested by George Saba. May their souls rest in peace.

INTERCESSION READERS SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 22, 2020	Amal Baroody/Gaby Baroody/Mataya Bark
Sunday, March 29, 2020	Jano Baroudi/Jimmy Kalife/Hiba Chedid

LECTOR SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 21, 2020	Mae Dickinson
Sunday, March 22, 2020	John Barbour/Jano Baroudi
Saturday, March 28, 2020	Rose David
Sunday, March 29, 2020	Mae Dickinson/Halim Choubah

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

This month the wine and bread offerings are in memory of Boutros BouRamia and Milad Chedid by Hyatt Thomas and family. May their souls rest in peace.

Anyone who would like to give an offering in memory of a loved one or for a special intention for the month of September, please see Fr. Vincent. The cost for the month is \$75.00, which covers the cost of the communion bread and wine. Thank you and God bless.

ANNUAL BISHOPS CHARITY APPEAL

Each year the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn appeals to each parish for the annual Bishops Charity Appeal. The money is divided as follows: 30% for priests' retirement, 25% go towards the seminarian's education and boarding, 15% goes toward our endowment fund, 15% goes to Patriarchal liturgical commission and texts, and 15% goes to Lebanon. Each parish in the eparchy is asked to send an amount based on the size of the parish and the ability to raise this money for these much-needed programs. OLOP Church must raise \$3,500.00 from February 24-April 10, 2020. All of you have been very generous in the past and I am confident we will raise the amount requested. Thus far we have collected \$230.00 toward that amount. I thank you for your continued generosity for this worthy cause.



SAINT JUDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BENEFIT

As Lent quickly approaches, it is time for us as a community of faith, to renew our pledge to support the children of St. Jude. It has been now than ten years since we started this outreach with Fr. Jack. We may never know the lives that we have touched but our faith teaches us that God in Heaven knows our hearts and knows that we have not turned away from helping those who cannot help themselves. Let us make this the best year ever for our monthly pledge! Again, it is only \$20.00 a family for an entire year...and if you can give more, it will be welcomed. You may give your donation to anyone of the following people: George Saba, Amal Baroody, Jano Baroudi, or Mae Dickinson. Thank you in advance for your commitment to this worthy cause.

SCHEDULE FOR GREAT WEEK OF LENT

Monday, April 6, Coming to the Harbor, Divine Liturgy at 7:00 PM.
 Tuesday, April 7, Coming to the Harbor, Divine Liturgy at 7:00 PM.
 Wednesday, April 8, Rite of the Lamp, Divine Liturgy at 7:00 PM.
 Thursday, April 9, The Last Supper, Divine Liturgy at 7:00 PM.
 Friday, April 10, Signing of the Chalice, Service at 11:00 AM.
 Friday April 10, Crucifixion of our Lord and Procession, Service at 7:00 PM.
 Saturday, April 11, Saturday of the Light Prayer service, 11:00 AM.

LENTEN NEWS

As we approach the Season of Lent, there are many things that will take place at OLOP. I have outlined what events will be taking place.

Benediction of the Holy Cross/Stations of the Cross every Friday at 7:00 PM.

Good Friday Mercy Meal, April 10, immediately following the Burial of Jesus.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Fernanda Thomas, Hiam Cheiab, Leo Roderick, Anthony (Tommy) Thomas, Rose John, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed DaRocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list please contact the Church office.

EASTER DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, April 11, Easter Vigil will be held at 5:00 PM.

Sunday, April 12, Easter Divine Liturgy will be at 10:30 AM.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR March 14-15, 2020

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,330.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 223.00
Memorial Donation	\$ 250.00
Candles	\$ 98.00
Total:	\$ 1,901.00

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