



# Our Lady of Purgatory

## Maronite Catholic Church



March 28-29, 2020

# HEALING OF THE BLIND MAN

### UNITED IN PRAYER

What a surreal two weeks it has been for the world. We have experienced so many different emotions; fear, frustration, anxiety, worry, and isolation, just to name a few. But we must not forget the most important emotion that we and many in the world have relied on and have strengthened more than ever---our faith in Jesus Christ.

Christians all over the world have united in prayer. People of different faiths have united in prayer. With Churches unable to accept the faithful for the wellbeing of everyone we have, perhaps more fervently, turned to a deeper relationship with God. And in an unrehearsed way, we have drawn closer to Jesus.

Even though Jesus knows our fears, concerns, cries, and tears, He draws us in His loving arms to comfort us and to reassure us He has not abandoned us. He shows we are not abandoned by putting people in our lives who are there to help us, support us,

and comfort us. He shows we are not abandoned by helping us believe that we can unite behind a cause that we find ourselves in as one people. He shows we are not abandoned by the love and concern we have, not only for ourselves, but for people who suffer around the world. He shows we are not abandoned when we realize that no matter what nation, race, or religion, we can unite together as one with faith, hope and love.

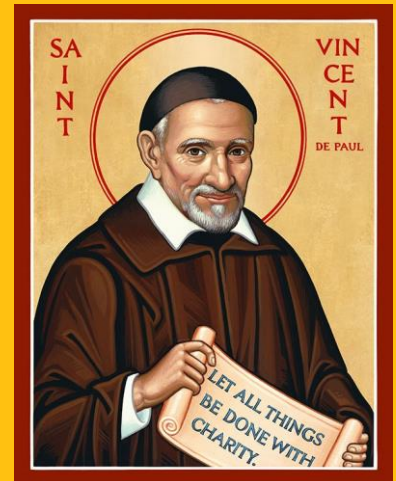
*“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”*

The good that has come out of this tragic Pandemic is that we know Jesus will never abandon us and that through all of this, people from across the world have become friends. May we know Jesus’ love for us. May we always know He will never abandon us. May we continue to pray fervently so that we may always feel His loving embrace—letting us know we are His.

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*“Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping. For what hope is there for us if God should withdraw His Mercy from us?”*

*Saint Vincent de Paul*



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.

## FOOTPRINTS

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed He was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from His life. For each scene He noticed two sets of footprints in the sand. One belonging to Him and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of His life flashed before Him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of His life there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times of His life.

This really bothered Him and He questioned the LORD about it. LORD you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me.

The LORD replied, my precious, precious child, I Love you and I would never leave you! During your times of trial and suffering when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.

<http://www.wowzone.com/fprints.htm>

## ملخص العظة

شفاء الأعمى

مَنْ هو برطيماوس؟ إنه رجلٌ شحاذٌ أعمى، كان يجلس على جنب الطريق في منطقة أريحا وكان يطلب المال. ونعرف أيضًا اسمه. يذكر الإنجيل الكثير من الأعاجيب ولكن في القليل منها تُذكر أسماء الأشخاص الذين شفاهم يسوع. اليوم نعرف اسمه، سوف أعود إلى هذه النقطة لاحقًا.

أسباب عدّة تجعلنا نميّز برطيماوس، أبرزها أن برطيماوس كان مصممًا، كان لديه مهمّة. سمع أن يسوع كان مرًا في أريحا وكان يعرف أن يسوع هو القادر على مساعدته.

كانت طرقات أريحا مقتظة بالناس وكان برطيماوس من بينهم، وراح ينادي "يا أَيْنَ دَاوُدَ أَرْحَمْنِي!". انزعج منه تلاميذ يسوع وأمره أن يسكت لكنه تابع الصراخ "يَا أَيْنَ دَاوُدَ أَرْحَمْنِي!".

هذا الرجل، الذي لا أهمية له عند بعض الأشخاص والمزعج للبعض الآخر، لم يردعه شيء لجذب انتباه يسوع.

وقف يسوع، ونادى برطيماوس ليأتي إليه. هذا الرجل غير المهم والمزعج أصبح مركز الإهتمام.

عندما ناداه يسوع، قام برطيماوس بأمر مُلفت... أمرًا قد لا يعني لنا شيئًا.

نرى الكثير من المشردين والمحتاجين في شوارع نيو بدفورد ومناطق أخرى. لكل هؤلاء المتسولين والمشردين شيء مهم جدًّا لهم خصوصًا في أيام الشتاء --- وهو معطفهم.

طرح الأعمى رداءه وركض نحو يسوع. الشيء الوحيد الذي يملكه وغطاء الأمان، أصبح غير مهمّ له. ماذا يخبرنا هذا الأمر عن برطيماوس؟ رداءه، الذي هو أعظم ممتلكاته، لم يعد مهمًا. وضع نفسه في عهدة يسوع المسيح. وعندما سأله يسوع "مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟" أجاب "رَأبُونِي، أَنْ أَبْصِرَ!".

سمعتموني أقول أن هناك أمر لافِت يجعلنا نميّز برطيماوس. كلنا نصبح عميًّا في بعض الأحيان؛ في حياتنا العائلية أم في

عملنا أم في كنيستنا. الكثير من الأمور تحجب نظرنا فلا نرى بوضوح. عندما نظر يسوع لإيمان برطيماوس، قال له "إِذْهَبْ! إِيمَانُكَ خَلَّصَكَ".

أعجوبة برطيماوس مختلفة عن الأعاجيب الأخرى التي حققها يسوع. قال يسوع لبرطيماوس أن يذهب ولكنه لم يذهب بل تبع يسوع في طريقه حتى الصليب. لهذا السبب عرفنا اسمه. اختلف برطيماوس عن الآخرين الذين ذهبوا في سبيلهم، أمّا هو فمجد يسوع عندما تبعه. يسوع يسأل كلُّ مَنْ "مَاذَا تُرِيدُ أَنْ أَصْنَعَ لَكَ؟" ماذا ستكون إجابتنا؟ ماذا نريده أن يحقق لنا؟

البعض منكم يتذكر موسيقى "Godspell"، إحدى الأغاني تقول:

"يا إلهي العزيز  
ثلاثة أمور أصليها  
أن أراك بوضوح  
أن أحبك كثيرًا  
أن أتبعك عن قرب  
يوماً بعد يوم"

أتمنى وأصلي أن خلال زمن هذا الصوم المجيد، مع اقترابنا من آلام وقيامه يسوع المسيح، أن تكون إجابتنا ليسوع كالآتي:

- يسوع، أطلب أن تساعدني بأن أحب الآخرين كما أحببتني.
- يسوع، أطلب أن تساعدني بأن أسامح الآخرين كما سامحتني.
- يسوع، أطلب أن تشفيني من كل ما يبعدني عنك.
- يسوع، أطلب أن تفتح عيني، كما فتحت عيني برطيماوس، فأتبعك إلى الأبد.

نتعلم، من الذي لا نكثرث لهم، كيف نتبع المسيح، كيف نسلم أنفسنا للمسيح وكيف نحب ونتبع المسيح. فلتفتح أعيننا كمثل برطيماوس، فنرى بوضوح محبة ورحمة المسيح.

## LITURGY INTENTIONS

**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.

**Saturday, April 4, @ 5:00 PM, (Saturday of the Raising of Lazarus)** liturgy is being offered for the souls of Michel and Anna Magaletta, Sr., Michele Jr., and Baldassare Magaletta requested by Joann, Anthony, and Lorraine David. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, April 5, @ 10:30 PM, (Palm Sunday)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Youssef Chedid requested by his family. May his soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## 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.**

## WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

*This month of April, 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 \$1,063.00 toward that amount. I thank you for your continued generosity for this worthy cause.

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Please know that confession is available before liturgies. You may also call to set up an appointment.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR March 21-22, 2020

<b>Sunday Collection</b>	<b>\$ 414.00</b>
<b>Bishop's Appeal</b>	<b>\$ 345.00</b>
<b>Donation</b>	<b>\$ 350.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ ,109.00</b>

## SCHEDULE FOR GREAT WEEK OF LENT

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

## EASTER DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, April 11	Easter Vigil	5:00 PM
Sunday, April 12	Easter Divine Liturgy	10:30 AM

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