



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

March 12-13, 2022

SEASON OF GREAT LENT

Sunday of the Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman

"Who is it that touched me?"

Today begins week three of Great Lent. Hopefully by now we have had some time to examine what gets in the way of our relationship with Christ, and hopefully this relationship has grown a little deeper as a result. But even if our Lord seems far away from us, there is still plenty of time for us to reach for His grace!

Reaching out for God's grace is exactly what we hear about in the Gospel today. The hemorrhaging woman had been bleeding for twelve years and throughout this time she visited countless different doctors for help, but none of these doctors were able to put an end to her bleeding. Imagine how exhausted and weak she would have been from constantly losing blood every day for twelve years! She must have been discouraged and weary. Her discouragement wasn't greater than her faith, however, and through faith she turned to the true Doctor, the Divine Physician and healer of bodies and souls. Her faith moved her to action, and she confidently reached for the tassel of Christ's cloak.

This woman was likely a Gentile, and she would have been shunned and considered unclean because of her bleeding. She does not let this prevent her from approaching Jesus, and amidst the commotion of the crowd she goes directly to Him. Like her, we must be tenacious in the spiritual life, and we must boldly reach for the tassels that can

bring us closer to God. I invite you to reflect on the following question this week: what are the tassels in your life, the little things that connect you to the healing divinity of our Lord? In His generosity the Good One gives different tassels to different people, but there are some tassels that we all have access to. The most important of these are the sacraments—the holy mysteries—and prayer.

Even Christ who knows all things was surprised at the boldness of the woman's action. "Who is it that touched me?" He asked, feeling that power went out from Him. How exciting is it to think that we can, in a way, "surprise" our Lord through our acts of faith? The hemorrhaging woman acted so boldly on her faith that she shocked the One who knows all things! Through her faith, she entered into a living relationship with her Lord.

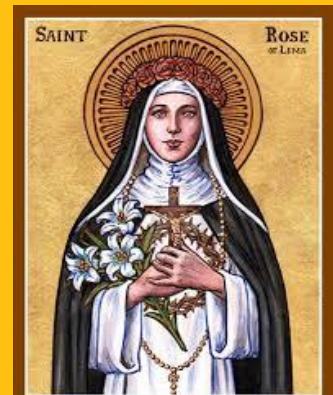
As the hemorrhaging woman shows, faith is a dynamic relationship between Jesus and His people, and we have the freedom to keep this relationship lively and exciting. This relationship is a deep one, as deep as a family bond. When Jesus tells the woman that her faith has healed her, He doesn't call her "woman," but He calls her "daughter." Through her great act of faith, she has indeed become His daughter. Let us reach for the tassels around us, turn to our Lord in faith, and so become His adopted children!

By Seminarian Jacob Wyder

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Without the burden of afflictions, it is impossible to reach the height of grace. The gift of grace increases as the struggle increases."

St. Rose of Lima



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 have heard throughout scripture readings that the people who were suffering humbled

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.

themselves, kneeling at the feet of Jesus, and knowing that they were in the presence of God. They believed that Jesus could cure them and their loved ones. Jesus was the way for them to find inner peace for their sufferings, and only through Jesus could they be healed.

Brothers and sisters, in each of the healing miracles, we know that each of these people requesting Jesus' help got down on their knees and asked God for His mercy.

Sometimes we have to suffer in order to appreciate the happiness in our lives. Sometimes we need to feel pain in order to appreciate the joy in our lives. If we didn't experience sorrow, pain, sadness and anger, we wouldn't appreciate the joy, happiness, and peace in our lives. 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" 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 this in the lives of the people Jesus touched.

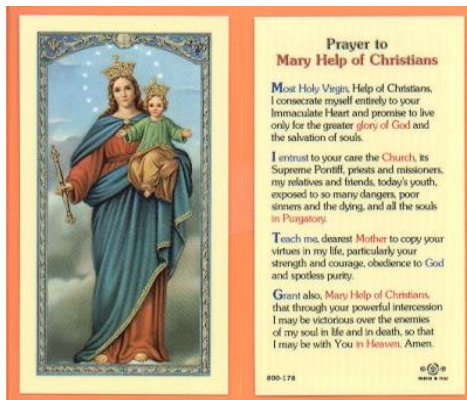
When we realize that we have wronged others or others have wronged us, we must forgive in order to heal; to find inner peace with ourselves and others. As we walk this journey of Christ's passion, may we find the strength to move on, let go, and find the peace that lies within us. The Season of Lent is our time to recognize the strength we can obtain 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 big 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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of March is offered in memory of Steven Espindola requested by Annemarie Espindola. May his soul rest in peace.

MARY HELP OF THE CHRISTIANS



The invocation of Mary as Help of Christians is part of the oldest prayer addressed directly to Mary, the "Sub tuum praesidium," which was found on a papyrus dating, at the latest, from the end of the third century. This prayer was composed at a time of great danger for Christians and for the Church. "Praesidium" is translated as "an assistance given in time of war by fresh troops in a strong manner." Yet, Mary helps of all Christians is not only helpful to those engaged in new wars, She is the bearer of joy, helping to prepare all Christians of good will to receive God's grace and the many gifts of sanctified life.

The feast of Mary, Help of Christians is associated with numerous great events in the history of the Church. The first of these is the great sea battle of Lepanto in 1571, in which Europe was saved from the threat of Islamic invaders. Pope Saint Pius V gave Mary the title:

"Help of Christians," after the victory of the Christian fleet over the Turks on October 7, 1571, and he added this invocation to her litany. In 1683, John Sobieski's Polish troops held out at Vienna against the larger Ottoman army with the Marian prayer, Help of Christians, as their battle cry.

The feast itself was first proclaimed on 24th May in 1815, on the first anniversary of Pope Pius VII when he returned to Rome from exile after being abducted by Napoleon. In the middle of the nineteenth century, devotion to Mary, Help of Christians spread quickly in response to the perceived threat to the papacy of the Italian republican movement. While military victory and support of the papacy are the dominant images surrounding this feast, they are not the only ones.

The title Mary – Helper has its origin at some time in the Middle Ages and is found in Marian prayers well before 1571 (Lepanto). Mary's intercession at the Wedding feast at Cana, Mary at the foot of the cross being presented as the mother of the Church are also powerful illustrations that Christ gave His Mother to be a help to all Christians.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intension. Anyone who would like to offer the sanctuary candle for a loved one or special intention, this will be offered each week. An offering of a \$10.00 donation is appreciated.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Tuesday, March 15, we will gather for Eucharistic Adoration at 6:00 PM. This is an opportunity to spend some time with Jesus and ask for His help. Mark your calendars and please join us for this beautiful service.



LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday March 12, @ 4:30 PM (Feast of Pope Saint Gregory the Great). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Malvina and Joseph David requested by family. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Amy Cabral requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday March 13, @10:30 AM Healing of the Hemorrhaging Woman (Feast of Saint Theophanes). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Georgette and Samir Sawaya requested by Zakhia and Hiba Chdid. May their soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of John and Theresa Saba requested by George Saba. May their soul rest in peace.

Monday, March 14, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Euphrasia). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light Convent.

Tuesday, March 15, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of saint Benedict).

Wednesday, March 16, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of the first Council of Constantinople Saint Papas).

Thursday, March 17, @ 7:00 PM, Arabic Liturgy (Feast of Saint Patrick).

Friday, March 18, @ 7:00PM, Benediction/Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 19, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Joseph the Virgin, The Spouse). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Laurence McAllister requested by Subdeacon Joe Abraham and Carol Ann Maslanka. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Tavares requested by Dan and Helena Tavares and family, May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Deceased members of Saba family requested by Annmarie Espindola. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, March 20, @ 10:30 AM, Parable of the prodigal Son (Feast of Saint Photina the Samaritan). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Chedid requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Angela Scorza-Anderson, Terry Amsden, Lisa Mello-Frost, Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Lesleigh Farhat, Nicholas Awad, Natalya Sarkis, Joe Reid, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Leo and Ida Roderick, Theresa John, Laurette BouRamia, Annie Peter, Jeannie Francis, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Ed Da Rocha, Edmond Salameh, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

LECTORS FOR MARCH 2022

Saturday, March 12,
Rachel Higgins/Intercession: Anna Higgins

Sunday, March 13,
Joan Mello/Jano Baroody

Saturday, March 19,
Carol Maslanka

Sunday, March 20,
Mae Dickinson/Gaby Baroody

Saturday, March 26
Smitty Cabral/intercessions: Mariam Uwanogho

Sunday, March 27
Jean Barbour/Halim Choubah

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 3/14-3/19/22

Monday:

1 Timothy 4:9-16
John 8:21-27

Tuesday:

2 Corinthians 8:1-9
Matthew 23:1-12

Wednesday:

Galatians 2:1-7
Matthew 17:10-13

Thursday:

Galatians 1:1-10
Luke 17:20-37

Friday:

Romans 3:1-7
Luke 12:16-21

Saturday:

Ephesians 3:1-13
Matthew 1:18-25

"CALLING ALL RECIPES!!!"

Please help us display our beautiful parishes "Legacy Through Food" cookbook. If you have a recipe (or ten) you would like to share, OLOP Education Foundation would love to hear from you!

IT IS VERY IMPROTANT THAT WE RECEIVE THESE RECIPES BY APRIL 15, SO THAT WE CAN HAVE THEM READY FOR THE MAHRAJAN!

We are hoping to include your favorite Lebanese, American, and children's cherished dishes as well. We would appreciate if you attach any stories and pictures about your family's recipes or traditions to be included with your recipe.

Any format will do. You may email Leilah Moses Silveira at leelee8878@comcast.net or Annemarie Espindola at saba.ase@comcast.net or Sarah Thomas Hitchings at sa.thomas@me.com with any recipes, stories, pictures, or questions. All proceeds benefit the OLOP Education Foundation. Cookbooks are planning to be sold at the 2022 Mahrajan, Christmas Bazaar, and throughout the 2022 holiday season. Sahtain and thank you.

WEEK OF March 5-6, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,245.00
Second Collection	\$ 124.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 20.00
Bishop's Appeal	\$ 750.00
Ash Monday	\$ 331.00
Ash Monday lunch	\$ 75.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 39.00
Candles	\$ 69.00
Total	\$ 2,673.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEELY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

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Milad Maalouf

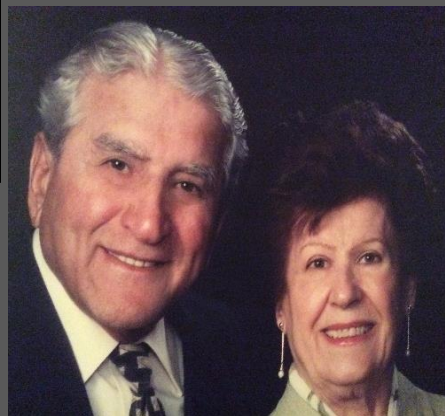
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*How empty life is without you.
Your Love and Patience has made us into who we are today. Your Guidance has set our path in life. We Miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day*

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