



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

August 20-21, 2022

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

REFLECTION ON MOVING PAST DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

Pope Francis has said there is “no point” in people going to church if they do not follow the teachings of the Bible in their daily lives.

The head of the Catholic Church took a stand against what he termed “Christian parrots”, who talk a lot about their religion but don’t do good deeds.

“If I say I am Catholic and go to mass, but then don’t speak with my parents, help my grandparents or the poor, go and see those who are sick, this does not prove my faith, there’s no point,” he told young residents of Guidonia, a village near Rome.

“Those who do this are nothing but Christian parrots – words, words, words,” said the Pope, according to Italian newspaper *La Stampa*.

“Christian faith is expressed with three things: words, the heart, and the hands.” Canon law requires Catholics to go to church “on Sundays and other holy days of obligation” and to abstain from work or other business that would inhibit their worship on those days.

During his conversation with the parishioners, Pope Francis also said it could be difficult to forgive people when they have hurt you, or even, in some cases, committed crimes against you.

“It’s difficult, I knew an old woman who was strong, bright, whose husband used to hit her. You should always forgive but sometimes to forget is difficult,” he said, according to *La Stampa* and a more detailed report on the website *Famiglia Cristiana*.

“When you’re at war with someone, your heart is wounded by hate and hostility, and those wounds can hurt, but you need to forgive them and not go to that person to forgive them like an enemy.

“Forgiveness needs to be given with the heart, even if you don’t say it out loud, by treating that person as if nothing had happened.”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/pope-francis-catholic-church-no-point-if-you-dont-believe-in-it-help-the-poor-christian-parrots-a7529631.html>

I share this reflection from Pope Francis because many of us struggle with moving forward after we are confronted with difficult situations. Oh, how it hurts, even after many months or years. And this hurt can, many times, cloud our thoughts and make us read into situations that normally we would have never read before. At times we blame others for circumstances we are in because perhaps we may feel like it is their fault that we are in that situation. What did I do or say to make this person react to me in that manner? Why do people always pick on me---I didn’t do anything to deserve this.

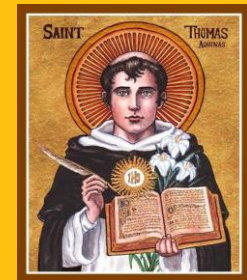
I am a firm believer that there are always two sides to a story. And in between lays the truth, for the simple reason that when we have a problem with others, the smallest and most insignificant word or action is magnified 10 times more because of our distrust and disdain for others. We all want to believe we are right. We all want to believe that our accounts are the correct ones because we can validate our perception as the only valid one.

And there is no need to talk about it with each other because “I am right!”

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.”

St. Thomas Aquinas



Now how do we get past this idleness and stalemate? “Likewise, you younger members, be subject to the presbyters. And all of you, clothe yourselves with humility in your dealings with one another, for: God opposes the proud but bestows favor on the humble. So humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you. Be sober and vigilant. Your opponent the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for [someone] to devour. Resist him, steadfast in faith, knowing that your fellow believers throughout the world undergo the same sufferings. The God of all grace who called you to his eternal glory through Christ [Jesus] will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you after you have suffered a little.” **1 Peter 5:5-10**

How do we explain our trials and tribulations? Is this the will of God? We have our answer in the passage

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

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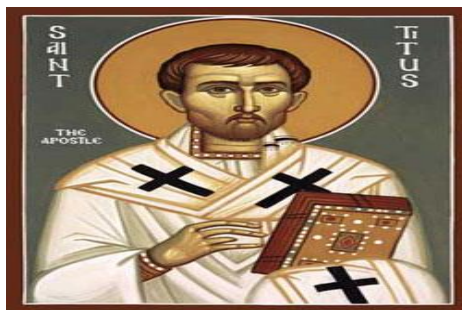
OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

stated here. "Your opponent, the devil, is prowling around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." That is what the devil does. He wants to interrupt God's goodness in His creation. That is his main goal---to cause division among God's people. The only unity the devil is in favor of is the unity of division and the destruction of the people of God. Once we recognize this and see it for what it is, only then can we move past the division that we are faced with.

Pope Francis leaves these following words as his last words in this reflection. ***"Forgiveness needs to be given with the heart, even if you don't say it out loud, by treating that person as if nothing had happened."*** For many of us these words don't make that much sense. How can we forgive with our hearts and act as if nothing ever happened? The answer is simple. If we realize that there are two sides of a story and in between lays the truth, it is much easier to get past this hurt we feel by acknowledging that perhaps both parties had a hand to play in the devil's work. That not one person is always right. That our perception of a situation can be tainted by a dislike we may have for others. And it is at that moment that healing and forgiveness can begin to take root.

If someone who you feel has hurt you have invited you to talk about it, take them up on that offer. And if you don't want to do that forgive with the heart by treating that person as if nothing ever happened. Take that from Jesus who was and always will be the epitome of this quote. God bless all of you.

FEAST DAY OF SAINT TITUS



A disciple and companion of St. Paul to whom the great saint addressed one of his letters. Paul referred to Titus as "my true child in our common faith". Not mentioned in the Acts of the Apostles, he was noted in Galatians where Paul writes of journeying to Jerusalem with Barnabas, accompanied by Titus. He was then dispatched to Corinth, Greece, where he successfully reconciled the Christian community there with Paul, its founder. Titus was later left on the island of Crete to help organize the Church, although he soon went to Dalmatia, Croatia. According to Eusebius of Caesarea in the Ecclesiastical History, he served as the first bishop of Crete. He was buried in Cortyna (Gortyna), Crete; his head was later translated to Venice during the invasion of Crete by the Saracens in 832 and was enshrined in St. Mark's, Venice, Italy.

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

This is the first Banns of Marriage for Brandon Marini and Victoria Thomas who will be married September 10, 2022. If anyone knows of any reason that these two should not be married speak now or forever hold your peace.

CCD REGISTRATION TO BEGIN

As we enjoy the summer break with our families and friends, it is also time to prepare for the beginning of our CCD Program this Fall. We have begun to prepare a wonderful program for our children. As we begin to transition to our new home, our CCD program can now be offered in a facility that will entice this program to flourish and to offer our children the tools that will help them understand the importance of having God in their lives and to understand His great love for us.

CCD classes will revert to Sunday mornings after 10:30 AM Divine Liturgy. The Church Hall will provide all the necessary ingredients to allow the parents to gather for coffee and pastries while their children are having classes. The children will also be able to gather to enjoy other children in the parish. We will also provide snacks for the children during their class.

I am sure that I need not inform the parents of the importance of our CCD program. In this ever-changing secular world, it is the Church's obligation and priority to help our children understand and implement the teachings of Jesus. These teachings begin with you and we, the Church, are here to support and guide your efforts.

I pray that all of you who have children will take advantage of this opportunity. This is a commitment on your part, but a commitment that is vital and necessary in educating our children in the faith. Please be sure to sign your children up for our program. Blessings to all of you.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for Thomas David requested by Mariam David and family. 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.

WINE AND HOST OFFERINGS

The altar bread and wine for the month of August is offered in memory of Mansour Barbour requested by family. May their souls rest in peace.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Anthony of the Desert Church
300 N. Eastern Avenue, Fall River, MA 02723

Lebanese Mahrajan Food Festival

Friday, August 26th ~ 5pm to 11pm
Saturday, August 27th ~ Noon to 11pm
Sunday, August 28th ~ 11am to 7pm

Hookah
Live Entertainment
Alcoholic Beverages
Authentic Lebanese Food and Pastry
Children Area

St. Anthony of the Desert Maronite Catholic Church
Website: <http://sao.church/>
Phone: 508-877-2624

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 20, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Bernard, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of John and Sofie Kalife, and for the souls of Thomas and Christine David requested by Rafic Abi Ramia. May their souls rest in peace.

Sunday, August 21, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Samuel the Prophet). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of Alphonzo, and Mabel Gabello (FM). May their souls rest in peace.

Monday, August 22, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Symphorian). Maronite Sisters of Christ the Light convent.

Tuesday, August 23, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of Saint Isaac of Nineveh). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Thomas David requested by His wife Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Wednesday, August 24, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Eutyches of Sebastia).

Thursday, August 25, @ 7:00 PM, (Feast of Saint Titus). Arabic Liturgy.

Saturday, August 27, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Biyameen the Hermit). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Patricia Morin requested by Diane and Michael LeBlanc. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, August 28, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Moses the Ethiopian, feast of Saint Augustine, Doctor of the Church). Welcome Into Your Kingdom Liturgy. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Rouhana Rouhana requested by OLOP (40-Day mass). May his soul rest in peace.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Angela Scorza-Anderson, Renee Helmer, Terry Amsden, Lisa Mello-Frost, Ziad Al-Ghoubry, Natalya Sarkis, Joe Reid, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Peter Helmer, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Leo Rodrick, Theresa John, Laurette Bou Ramia, 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.

The Lebanese Mahrajan features **LIVE ENTERTAINMENT** including:

- Folkloric Dance & Belly Dancing
- Homemade Lebanese & American Cuisine & Pastries
- Children's Games & Activities
- Raffles, Hookah, and Souvenirs
- Free Cooking and Belly Dancing Classes!

LABOR DAY WEEKEND
145 Amesbury Street Lawrence, MA 01841

Friday 9 / 2 from 6PM to 1AM featuring Michel Rmeih
Saturday 9 / 3 from 5PM to 2AM featuring Salah Elkurdi
Sunday 9 / 4 from 12PM to 12AM featuring Chris Hawat

for more info: 978-685-7233
www.stAnthonyLawrence.org | Facebook: Saint Anthony Lawrence

CONFESSION

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

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF 8/22-8/27/22

Monday:

Acts of the Apostles 27:1-4,8a,14-15,
18-21a,22-26
Luke 12:54-59

Tuesday:

Acts of the Apostles 23:23-35
Luke 12: 22-31

Wednesday:

Acts of the Apostles 21:1-2a,5-6b,
9-13,17-21
Luke 12:32-34

Thursday:

Acts of the Apostles 24:27-25:12
Luke 12: 35-40

Friday:

Acts of the Apostles 25: 13-14a,22-27
Luke 12: 42-48

Saturday:

Acts of the Apostles 26:1-2a,6-10,12-19
Luke 12: 49-53

LECTORS FOR AUGUST 2022

Saturday, August 20,

Carol Ann Maslanka

Sunday, August 21,

Ann Dupre/Hiba Chdid

Saturday, August 27,

Mae Dickinson

Sunday, August 28,

John Barbour / Rana Choubah

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson)

WEEK OF AUGUST 13-14, 2022

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,738.00
Donations	\$ 500.00
Memorial	\$ 350.00
OLOF Fund	\$ 250.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 30.00
Candles	\$ 63.00
Total	\$ 2,931.00

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

SAVE THE DATE

OCTOBER 6, 2022

Eparchy of Saint Maron of Brooklyn

13th Annual Benefit Dinner in Manhattan

The Water Club

Details to follow

SOLAVIE

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Joseph & Marie Kenyon

Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.

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