



Our Lady of Lebanon

Maronite Catholic Church

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5th Sunday of Great Lent: Healing of the paralytic

March 06, 2016

Lenten Psalm

Psalm 25

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul, my God, in you I trust;
Do not let me be disgraced, do not let my enemies gloat over me.
Make known to me your ways, LORD; teach me your paths.
Guide me by your fidelity and teach me, for you are God my savior,

Remember your compassion and your mercy, O LORD,
Remember no more the sins of my youth;
Remember me according to your mercy,
Because of your goodness, LORD.

The LORD shows sinners the way,
He guides the humble in righteousness,
And teaches the humble his way.

All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth.

For the sake of your name, LORD, pardon my guilt, though it is great.
My eyes are ever upon the LORD, he frees my feet from the snare.
Look upon me, have pity on me, for I am alone and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart; bring me out of my distress.
Look upon my affliction and suffering; take away all my sins.

إنجيل القديس مرقس 2

عَادَ يَسُوعُ إِلَى كَفَرْنَاحُومَ. وَسَمِعَ النَّاسُ أَنَّهُ فِي الْبَيْتِ. فَتَجَمَّعَ عَدَدٌ كَثِيرٌ مِنْهُمْ حَتَّى غَصَّ بِهِمُ الْمَكَانُ، وَلَمْ يَبْقَ مَوْضِعٌ لِأَحَدٍ وَلَا عِنْدَ الْبَابِ. وَكَانَ يُخَاطِبُهُمْ بِكَلِمَةِ اللَّهِ. فَأَتَتْهُ بِمُخْلَعٍ يَحْمِلُهُ أَرْبَعَةُ رِجَالٍ. وَبِسَبَبِ الْجَمْعِ لَمْ يَسْتَطِيعُوا الْوُصُولَ بِهِ إِلَى يَسُوعَ، فَكَشَفُوا السَّقْفَ فَوْقَ يَسُوعَ، وَنَبَشَوْهُ، وَدَلُّوا الْفِرَاشَ الَّذِي كَانَ الْمُخْلَعُ مَطْرُوحًا عَلَيْهِ. وَرَأَى يَسُوعُ إِيمَانَهُمْ، فَقَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: «يَا ابْنِي، مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ!».

وَكَانَ بَعْضُ الْكَتَبَةِ جَالِسِينَ هُنَاكَ يُفَكِّرُونَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ: لِمَاذَا يَتَكَلَّمُ هَذَا الرَّجُلُ هَكَذَا؟ إِنَّهُ يُجَدِّفُ! مَنْ يَقْدِرُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَحْدَهُ؟. وَفِي الْحَالِ عَرَفَ يَسُوعُ بِرُوحِهِ أَنَّهُمْ يُفَكِّرُونَ هَكَذَا فِي أَنْفُسِهِمْ فَقَالَ لَهُمْ: «لِمَاذَا تُفَكِّرُونَ بِهِذَا فِي قُلُوبِكُمْ؟ مَا هُوَ الْأَسْهَلُ؟ أَنْ يُقَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: مَغْفُورَةٌ لَكَ خَطَايَاكَ؟ أَمْ أَنْ يُقَالَ: قُمْ وَاحْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ وَامْشِ؟

وَلَكِي تَعْلَمُوا أَنَّ لَابْنَ الْإِنْسَانِ سُلْطَانًا أَنْ يَغْفِرَ الْخَطَايَا عَلَى الْأَرْضِ؟»، قَالَ لِلْمُخْلَعِ: لَكَ أَقُولُ: قُمْ، احْمِلْ فِرَاشَكَ، وَادْهَبْ إِلَى بَيْتِكَ!. فَقَامَ فِي الْحَالِ وَحَمَلَ فِرَاشَهُ، وَخَرَجَ أَمَامَ الْجَمِيعِ، حَتَّى دَهَشُوا كُلُّهُمْ وَمَجَّدُوا اللَّهَ قَائِلِينَ: «مَا رَأَيْنَا مِثْلَ هَذَا الْبَتَّة!».

Gospel according to Mark 2:1-12

“A man When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it became known that he was at home. Many gathered together so that there was no longer room for them, not even around the door, and he preached the word to them.

They came bringing to him a paralytic carried by four men. Unable to get near Jesus because of the crowd, they opened up the roof above him. After they had broken through, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.”

Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves, “Why does this man speak that way? He is blaspheming. Who but God alone can forgive sins?” Jesus immediately knew in his mind what they were thinking to themselves, so he said, “Why are you thinking such things in your hearts?

Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, pick up your mat and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth” — he said to the paralytic, “I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home.”

He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone.

They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this.”

“Pick up Your Mat and Go Home”

Today on the fifth Sunday of Great Lent, the Church opens before us the well-known page of the Holy Gospel about the cure of a paralytic man. Four men were carrying a stretcher with this sick man but when they came up to the house where the Savior was, they couldn't enter because of the crowd. However, despite this, they didn't step back but climbed up the roof with the stretcher, stripped the roof and lowered the stretcher into the room.

Let's think who were those people carrying the stretcher:

The Holy Gospel doesn't say that they were relatives: the children of the sick man, a mother, a father, brothers, but it simply said that there were four of them. They were simply his friends, maybe – neighbors. They did their best not for themselves but for the sick man.

After all, not every man will try to climb up the roof of somebody else's house, strip it, lift the stretcher with a sick man there and lower it. We can imagine how inconvenient and hard it was. But at any price they wanted to get into where Christ was.

And Christ saw their faith in this effort and diligence. And the main thing that He saw was, of course, the love towards this man. They were fussing not about themselves but about him, they were waiting for his cure and believed that only the Lord Jesus could save this man who lay on the stretcher as a dead man.

This is a story about a lame man whose friends believed that Jesus could heal him. At last they found a way to get their friend before Jesus by opening the roof and letting him down by ropes attached to his bed. But Jesus didn't heal the man's lameness — he forgave his sins.

Jesus asked them a question, “Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk?’” Both statements would be impossible for anyone but God. If Jesus had authority to make the lame walk by merely uttering the word, then he also had authority to forgive sins, because the power to do either was in God's domain, not man's.

Before we go to God asking for things, we ought to go to Him confessing our sins and asking for forgiveness. Take some time to think of your sins and mistakes, ask God to help then rise and go visit God in the sacrament of Confession... confess your sins. Thank God our Father that he made forgiveness possible because of the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

REMEMBER IT

**When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,
“Child, your sins are forgiven.”**

Mark 2:5

Deacon's Corner

Forgiveness is the perfect topic to write about especially during this time of Lent. It is most appropriate for us to ask the Lord, our God, for forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So let me ask you, how is Lent going for you? Have you been able to make the sacrifices you had planned some weeks ago? Have you done a little something extra this Lent to help in your spiritual growth?

One of the two main commandments given to us is "to love our neighbor as ourselves". And I believe that forgiveness falls into many categories, such as asking for forgiveness for our own faults, as well as giving forgiveness to those whom we feel have wronged us be it our family, friends, business associates and even strangers on the street. They all fall under the category of "neighbor". As such, forgiveness can be a "remedy" for our sins.

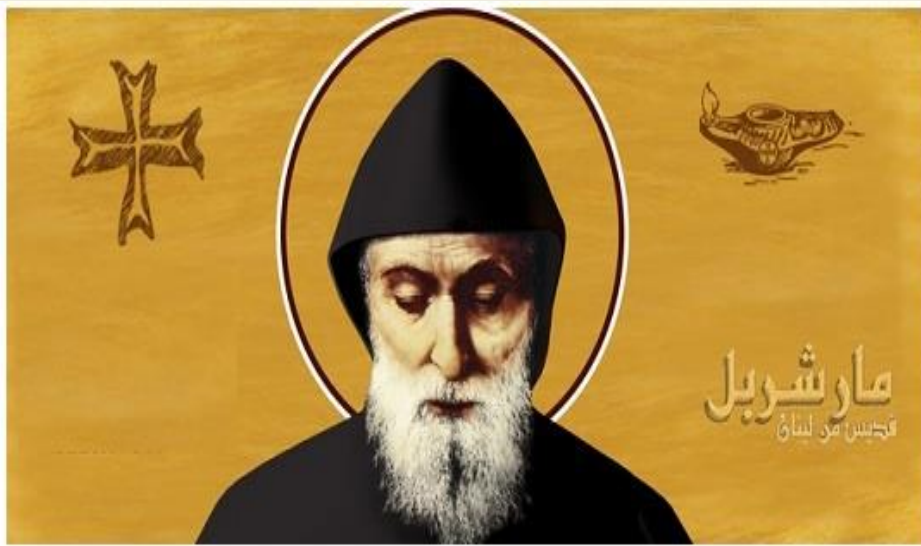
Just think about it, when we are sick, we seek a "remedy" from a physician. Or when our car is broken, we seek a "remedy" from a mechanic. Or when our sewer pipes are blocked, we seek a "remedy" from a plumber, and the list goes on and on. But where do we go to seek a "remedy" for our spiritual challenges? Who do we call upon to "remedy" the times we listened to the evil one on our left shoulder who constantly tells us to do wrong?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is the most under-utilized Sacrament of the seven available to us. And even when we do use it, we just continue to go out and sin all over again. So when we leave the confessional after saying the Act of Contrition, remember the words; "I firmly resolve with the help of thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin."

We must ask for God's forgiveness every day, we must say "I'm sorry" and mean it by trying not to continue to stumble into the same place we are sorry for being in. Remember always that God, our Father is available 24/7. He never takes a day off and will never put you on hold or send you to voicemail when you call upon Him. Don't wait, do it now and I assure you that you will experience joy and happiness now and into the future.

Mass Intentions for Next Sunday March 13, 2016

9:30 Mass: **The Deceased of the Shaker Family** (Req. by the Breit Family)
And all the founders of Our Lady of Lebanon Church



***Saint Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee
3126 - 95th. Street – Sturtevant, WI.***

Sunday, March 6th.2016 from 1:00 -4:00 p.m.

***\$12.00 for Adult Ticket - \$6.00 for Children
12 years or under***

***Brunch will be followed by
Mass at 5:00 p.m.***



Mass Celebration



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Anaphora of Saint Peter: 774

Sunday Readings



Reading: 1 Timothy 5:24-25 ; 6:1-5 (*Sins and Judgement*)

Holy Gospel: Mark 2:1-12 (*Healing of the Paralytic*)

Mass Intentions



11:30 AM

Tom and Nabiha Basile – Chuck Basile – Dr. Simon Basile
(Req. Pierre and Ann Naffah)

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	Lilian Hanna	Diala Chahoud (English) Nabil Sayegh (Arabic)
Ushers	Nabil Zahra Frank Kermend	Elie Massoud, John Albani, Sami Tabet, Naji Abiad

Announcements

✳ **Stations of the Cross:** All Fridays 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. All pre-Orders need to be submitted no later than March 9th, 2016. 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 February 28, 2016: \$ 2,377.00

MYO Soup Supper: \$ 765.00

Lent is a Time of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving!