



Saint Maron Maronite Catholic Church



November 16-17, 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT TO ZECHARIAH



ZECHARIAH AND HIS DOUDTS

“I am Gabriel, who stand before God. I was sent to speak to you and to announce to you this good news. But now you will be speechless and unable to talk until the day these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled at their proper time.” Luke 1:19b-20

Wow, in describing the impact of this statement, here are a few descriptive words: Powerful, authoritative, definitive, shocking, humbling, overwhelming and divine. “I am Gabriel, who stand before God!” How many people can say that? Gabriel, being a celestial being is one of the few. It’s interesting to contrast the conversation of Zechariah and Gabriel with the one that Mary has with Gabriel. Their responses to Gabriel seem similar, but Gabriel

reacts to each of them in completely different ways. To Mary, Gabriel offers a simple explanation upon her request for more information: “How can this be?” she says. Gabriel responds, “The Holy Spirit will overshadow you...” But, in the case of Zechariah, the Angel does not give an explanation. Instead, Zechariah is struck mute for his failure to believe. Though these reactions of Mary and Zechariah may seem similar on the surface, it’s clear that their hearts are quite far apart. For Mary, our Blessed Mother, her question was asked in perfect faith. She heard Gabriel speak and she believed. But faith seeks understanding and so Mary, in her perfect faith, sought to understand the mystery that was being presented to her. Gabriel responds with a brief insight and Mary is grateful for that. Zechariah responds to the angel, “How shall I know this?” In other words, he admitted to not “knowing” these words to be true. Faith is knowledge of the clearest form and Zechariah failed to have faith. Therefore, he was struck mute as a sign that, without faith, there is nothing to speak. Reflect, today, upon your own faith. Is it pure and eager to assent to all that God reveals? Are you ready and willing to believe all that God speaks to you? Though you

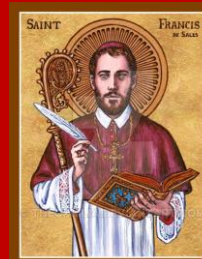
may not receive His word through the direct mediation of an angel in visible form, you are privileged to have God speak to you constantly through these angelic advocates. When they speak, do you listen and respond with the faith of our Blessed Mother’s? Or, like Zechariah, do you hesitate and doubt the revelation?

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2018/12/18/zechariah-and-his-doubts-2/>

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Naturally we all have an inclination to command, and a great aversion to obey; and yet it is certain that it is more for our good to obey than to command; hence perfect souls have always had a great affection for obedience, and have found all their joy and comfort in it.”

*Saint Francis of Sales,
Doctor of the Church*



Fr. El-Badaoui Habib, Pastor | Fr. David Fisher, Weekend Assistant

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OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm.

DIVINE LITURGIES

Saturday, November 16, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of St. Matthew the Evangelist)

Sunday, November 17, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Gregory the Wonderworker) liturgy is being offered for the soul of June Mackes requested by the Akkari family. May her soul rest in peace.

Tuesday, November 19, @ 9:00 AM,

Wednesday, November 20, @ 6:00 PM,

Thursday, November 21, @ 6:00 PM, (Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple)

Friday, November 22, @ 9:00 AM,

Saturday, November 23, @ 6:00 PM, liturgy is being offered for the soul of Debra Rummel requested by her family. May her soul rest in peace.

Sunday, November 24, @ 11:00 AM, liturgy is being offered for Lebanon and the Lebanese people. May God protect them always.

ST. SHARBEL CHURCH BAKE SALE

The ladies sodality of Saint Sharbel Church in Somerset, NJ are sponsoring a Thanksgiving Bake Sale on November 23 & 24. You can pre-order your Lebanese pastries from now until November 17 online through the website www.saintsharbelnj.org or by contacting Amal at 732-718-6993 or Almaza at 732-227-1202. To make it easier on everyone who's interested, St. Sharbel Church offered to deliver all our orders to the church hall on Saturday, November 23, 2019 and you can pick up them you're here that day.

BIBLE STUDY

We will have bible study with Fr. David Fisher on **Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 7:00PM** in the church hall. Hope you can join us.

SHAWARMA SUNDAY

As a fundraiser to help in the transportation expenses for our MYO who are going to the Christmas retreat in Connecticut, we will have Shawarma Sandwiches on **Sunday, November 24, 2019** following Divine Liturgy. Please mark your calendars. Thank you in advance for your continuous support to our MYO.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Fall Hafli Beef and Beer Dance to the Oldies Night**, Saturday, November 30, 7:00 PM – Midnight. Hot roast beef and roast pork sandwiches, beer, and DJ Gio, playing oldies but goodies music. Please reserve your tickets by November 17, 2019.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CEMETERY

John Turrslime, area director of Catholic Cemeteries, will be at our parish on Sunday, December 8, 2019 immediately following Divine Liturgy. He will be here to answer and help anyone who is interested in cemetery plots at Sts. Peter and Paul. As you may know, an area of that cemetery has been reserved for the parish of St. Maron and St. Sharbel. I know this may be unpleasant for many to think about, however, John is here to help in this process. Also, there will be a discounted price for those who are interested of 30% off the price of the plots.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Linda DiBernardo, Patty Reynolds, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Martha Simon Casella, Minarva Labbad, Dante Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, Anthony Leuzzi, Carol Krestos, Gladys Dalcourt, Denise Furey, Chucky Simon, Michael Winter, Kevin McCrea, Kevin Khoury, Mirta Ruiz, Tina Grassi, Rita Impo, Lisa and Henry Schaffer, Jade Kellam, Marion Thomas Branca, Francesca Impo, Raja Kaldany, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Roseann Anthony, Elaine Nader, Eddie Gussin, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Aminee Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeyr, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Helen Freedenberg, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al Sawa, Rose De Jesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, Angel Salerno, Dennis McGiney, and Bonnie Sabatini. We ask Almighty God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the Church and give glory and thanksgiving to God. Please notify the Church office of any family member who is ill so that we may remember them in our daily prayers and on our altar of intentions.

WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR November 9-10, 2019

Collection	\$ 1,144.00
2nd Collection	\$ 250.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 89.00
Total:	\$ 1,483.00

First Reading

Romans 4:13-25

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans. Your blessing father...

Brothers and Sisters:

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, 'I have made you the father of many nations') in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become 'the father of many nations', according to what was said, 'So numerous shall your descendants be.' He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith 'was reckoned to him as righteousness.' Now the words, 'it was reckoned to him', were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Praise be to God always.

فصل من رسالة القديس بولس إلى أهل رومة

يا إخوتي، الوعد لإبراهيم أو لنسله بأن يكون وارثاً للعالم، لم يكن بواسطة الشريعة، بل بالبر الذي ناله بالإيمان. فلو كان أهل الشريعة هم الوارثين، لأبطل الإيمان، وألغى الوعد؛ لأن الشريعة تسبب غضب الله؛ وحيث لا شريعة، فلا تعدي للشريعة. لذلك فأهل الإيمان هم الوارثون، لكي تكون الوراثة هبة من الله. وهكذا تحقّق الوعد لكل نسل إبراهيم، لا للنسل الذي هو من أهل الشريعة فحسب، بل أيضاً للنسل الذي هو من أهل الإيمان، إيمان إبراهيم، الذي هو أب لنا أجمعين؛ كما هو مكتوب: «إني جعلتك أباً لأمم كثيرة». فأبراهيم الذي آمن بالله هو أب لنا أمام الله، الذي يهدي الأموات، ويُدعو غير الموجود إلى الوجود. وقد آمن إبراهيم راجياً على غير رجاء، بأنه سيصير أباً لأمم كثيرة، كما قيل له: «هكذا يكون نسلك». ولم يعضّب بإيمانه، برغم أنه رأى، وهو ابن نحو

مئة سنة، أن جسده مائت، وأن حشاً سارة قد مات. وبناء على وعد الله، ما شك ولا تردّد، بل تقوى بالإيمان، ومجدّد الله. وأيقن ملء اليقين أن الله قادر أن يُنجز ما وعد به. فإذ ذلك حسب له إيمانه برّاً. ولم يكتب من أجله وحده أنه «حسب له برّاً»، بل كتب أيضاً من أجلنا، نحن الذين سيحسب لنا برّاً، لأننا نؤمن بالذي أقام من بين الأموات يسوع ربنا، الذي أسلم من أجل زلاتنا، وأقيم من أجل تبريرنا. والتسبيح لله دائماً.

Gospel Reading

Saint Luke 1:1-25

The Apostle Writes:

Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day

these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

This is the truth. Peace be with you.

من إنجيل القديس لوقا

بما أن كثيرين أخذوا يرتبون رواية للأحداث التي تمت عندنا، كما سلمها إلينا من كانوا منذ البدء شهود عيان للكلمة، ثم صاروا خداماً لها، رأيت أنا أيضاً، أيها الشريف تيوفيل، أن أكتبها لك بحسب ترتيبها، بعدما تتبعها كلها، منذ بدايتها، تتبعاً دقيقاً، لكي تتيقن صحة الكلام الذي وعظمت به. كان في أيام هيرودس، ملك اليهودية، كاهن اسمه زكريّا، من فرقة أبيّا، له امرأة من بنات هارون اسمها إليصابات. وكانا كلاهما بارّين أمام الله، سالكين في جميع وصايا الرب وأحكامه بلا لوم. وما كان لهما ولد، لأن إليصابات كانت عاقراً، وكانا كلاهما قد طعنا في أيامهما. وفيما كان زكريّا يقوم بالخدمة الكهنوتية أمام الله، في أثناء نوبة فرقة، أصابته الفرعة، بحسب عادة الكهنوت، ليُدخل مقبس هيكّل الرب ويحرق البخور. وكان كل جمهور الشعب يصلي في الخارج، في أثناء إحراق البخور. وتراءى ملاك الرب لزكريّا واقفاً من عن يمين مذبح البخور، فأضطرب زكريّا حين رآه، واستولى عليه الخوف. فقال له الملاك: «لا تخف، يا زكريّا، فقد استجيب طلبك، وأمرأتك إليصابات ستلد لك ابناً، فسمه يوحنا. ويكون لك فرح وأبتهاج، وتفرح بمولده كثيرون، لأنه سيكون عظيماً في نظر الرب، لا يشرب خمراً ولا مسكراً، ويمتلئ من الروح القدس وهو بعد في حشا أمه. ويزد كثيرين من بني إسرائيل إلى الرب إلههم. ويسير أمام الرب بروح إيليا وقوته، ليزد قلوب الآباء إلى الأبناء، والعصاة إلى حكمة الأبرار، فيهيئ للرب شعباً معداً خيراً إعداداً». فقال زكريّا للملاك: «بماذا أعرف هذا؟ فإني أنا شيخ، وأمرأتي قد طعنت في أيامها!». فأجاب الملاك وقال له: «أنا هو جبرائيل الواقف في حضرة الله، وقد أرسلت لأعلمك وأبشرك بهذا. وما أنت تكون صامتاً، لا تغد أن تتكلم، حتى اليوم الذي يحدث فيه ذلك، لأنك لم تؤمن بكلامي الذي سيقم في أوانه». وكان الشعب ينتظر زكريّا، ويتعجب من إنطائه في مقبس الهيكل. ولما خرج زكريّا، لم يكن قادراً أن يكلمهم، فأدركوا أنه رأى رؤيا في المقدس، وكان يشير إليهم بالإشارة، وبقي أبكم. ولما تمت أيام خدمته، مضى إلى بيته. وبعد تلك الأيام، حملت امرأته إليصابات، وكنمت أمرها خمسة أشهر، وهي تقول: هكذا صنع الرب إليّ، في الأيام التي نظر إليّ فيها، ليزيل العار عني من بين الناس! حقاً والأمان لجميعكم.

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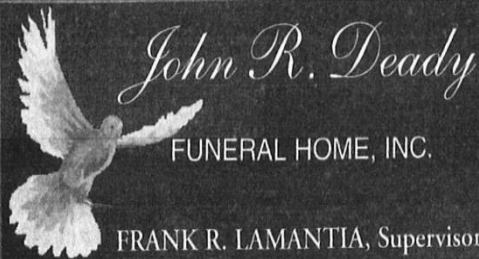
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