



# Saint Maron

## Maronite Catholic Church



February 29-March 1, 2020

# HEALING OF THE LEPER

## THE SEASON OF LENT

Today we celebrate the second Sunday of the Lenten season which is the Sunday of the leper. Have you ever been shunned\escaped or ostracized? Ever been excluded for your accent or skin color, nationality, gender or poverty, religion or politics, caste or family? If so, I want you to try to connect with that experience for a few minutes, to try to understand what it meant to be a leper in Jesus' day, so you can observe how Jesus treated this remarkable leper. Leprosy in Biblical times was a terrible sickness. It may have described what is known today as "Hansen's Disease," the word probably included other skin diseases, it was considered incurable, and those diagnosed with leprosy were banned from society. "The person with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face, put a bell around his neck and cry out, 'Unclean! Unclean!' As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp" and those suspected of leprosy were kept isolated until their diagnosis was confirmed (Leviticus 13:5) (Leviticus 13:45-46). To the rabbis, the cure of a leper was as difficult as

raising a person from the dead.[4] In all Biblical history only two people had been cured of leprosy -- Miriam, who had leprosy for seven days as a punishment for speaking against Moses' leadership (Numbers 12:9-15), and Naaman, general of the army of Aram, an heathen from Damascus (2Kings5).

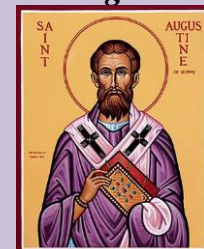
This passage tells us that as Jesus has left Capernaum and is on one of his preaching tours through the towns of Galilee. A leper who is far advanced with leprosy disease came to Him for healing. The leper will be beaten if he doesn't strictly observe the rules to keep his distance from "normal" people, at least six feet, and some people will throw dirt and stones at him if he is twice that distance. So now, all of a sudden, he rushes across the street to where Jesus is standing, and falls down with his face to the dust before him, the leper begs, not even daring to look up, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." When you think about it, his statement is a remarkable statement of faith. Here is a man who states his belief that Jesus can do what only Elijah could do -- heal a leper. It isn't a matter of ability, the leper is saying. It is a matter of will. Jesus is ABLE to heal him, the man boldly states. Is he WILLING to? The leper voices a question that many of us have today.

We know theoretically that Jesus is able to heal; after all, he is the Son of God. But most of the time we don't extend to the hardest situations: to cancer, to multiple sclerosis, to chronic heart failure. We hope rather than know. We hope and plead and bargain with God. But the leper goes a step further than the rest of us. He said, "Lord, if you want to, you can make me clean," After that, Jesus begins to stoop down and reach out his hand. He extends his fingers until they mingled with the palm of his

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"Fasting cleanses the soul, raises the mind, subjects one's flesh to the spirit, renders the heart contrite and humble, scatters the clouds of concupiscence, quenches the fire of lust, kindles the true light of chastity."*

St. Augustine



Fr. El-Badaoui Habib MLM, 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.

hand rest on the unclean leper's head. Luke records, "Immediately the leprosy left him." A dramatic and instant transformation has taken place in him. I see him looking up now into Jesus face, and Jesus' hand that was on his head has slipped down to the side of his once leprous face, touching ex-leper's black beard.

The leper is healed! The Greek word used is *katharizo*, literally, "make clean, cleanse, purify." In an instant the man is physically healed and spiritually cleansed. Then Jesus gave him a strange command saying, "but go show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." Jesus who most of the times broke the Mosaic Law, we see him here upholds it. Lepers who no longer display symptoms must be declared clean by the health inspector of the day, a priest. Moreover, there are specific sacrifices that must be offered (Leviticus 14), then, the leper may be welcomed back into society. The priest of our time is the person who by the power of the Holy Spirit that dwelt on him on the day of his ordination, is the man who can make us clean, purified and free from sin if we come to Jesus asking for forgiveness. Let us pray, Lord, sometimes I feel like the leper who rushed to Jesus and bowed low at his feet. "If you want to, Lord, you can make me whole." That is my prayer. I don't doubt your desire or your ability to make me whole. Now I ask that you would continue to work your wholeness in my entire life, body, soul, and spirit. Transform me. Touch me. Say to me, "I want to, be whole." Thank you, Lord. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen. "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Amen.

Fr. El-Badaoui Habib

## SPRING FORWARD



Please set your clocks forward one hour on **Sunday March 8, 2020**. It is time to spring forward.

## SECOND COLLECTION BISHOP LENTEN APPEAL

During the Lenten season we will have a second collection every Sunday to help collect the amount needed for the Bishop's Appeal. This Annual Eparchial Appeal will be for the support of the seminarians, the ministries, the retired priests, Lebanon & the Middle East, and the Eparchial Endowment. Thank you for your generosity!

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Friday, March 6, @ 6:30 PM** will begin the Lenten services with the Stations of the Cross and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us every Friday during this holy season of Lent.

## FESTIVAL GENERAL MEETING

We will have a general festival meeting on **Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM** in the Church Hall. We are inviting everyone who is interested in volunteering this year. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to join us so we can plan another successful festival.

## FISH FRY

During the Lenten Season we will have two "Fish Fry" dinners on **March 13 and 27** following the stations of the Cross at 6:30 PM. Tickets will be \$12.00 per platter which will include fried fish, french fries, coleslaw, dessert, and sides. Please mark your calendars.

## DIVINE LITURGIES

**Saturday, February 29, @ 6:00 PM,**

**Sunday, March 1, @ 11:00 AM, (Feast of St. Domnina and St. Afdokia)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Labibie Sholi requested by Khalil Raie and family. May her soul rest in peace.

**Tuesday, March 3, @ 9:00 AM, (Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Katharine Drexel)**

**Wednesday, March 4, @ 6:00 PM,**

**Thursday, March 5, @ 6:00 PM,**

**Friday, March 6, @ 6:30 PM, STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Saturday, March 7, @ 6:00 PM, (Feast of the 7 young Men of Ephesus)**

**Sunday, March 8, @ 11:00 AM,** Liturgy is being offered for the Starr and Bittner families requested by Barbara Dahdah-Anderson and family. May their souls rest in peace.

## EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

On **Friday, March 6, 2020** we will have Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM followed by Eucharistic Adoration. Please come and spend some time in prayer in the presence of our Lord.

## HEALING MASS

On **Sunday, March 22, 2020 @ 11:00AM,** we will celebrate a Healing Mass with the intercession of St. Sharbel. May Almighty God hear our prayers through the intercession of St. Sharbel and grant us the gift of healing!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Festival General Meeting**, Monday, March 2, 2020 @ 7:00 PM.
- **Eucharistic Adoration**, Friday, March 6, 2020 @ 9:30AM.
- **Stations of the Cross**, Friday, March 6, 2020 @ 6:30 PM.
- **Fish Fry**, Friday, March 13, 2020 following Stations of the Cross.
- **Healing Mass**, Sunday, March 22, 2020 @ 11:00AM.
- **Fish Fry**, Friday, March 27, 2020 following Stations of the Cross.
- **Palm Sunday Brunch**, Sunday, April 5, 2020 following Divine Liturgy @ 11:00 AM.
- **Bake Sale**, Sunday, April 5, 2020.
- **Good Friday Lenten Dinner**, Friday, April 10, 2020 following the Great Friday of Crucifixion Service @ 7:00 PM.
- **Lebanese Festival**, from Friday, May 29, 2020 to Sunday May 31, 2020.

## DABKE SIGN UP SHEET

In preparation for our Lebanese Festival we will have a Dabke Sign Up Sheet in the Church Hall. Please Sign up your Children / Youth so Claudine and Fadia can prepare for the Dabke show of the festival.

## RICE BOWL

CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This simple cardboard box is a tool for collecting Lenten charities. Each family is asked to take one box from the back of the church to collect their Lenten donations throughout the Lenten Season and return it to the Church office by Easter. Thank you in advance for your participation.

## MYO/MYA LENTEN RETREAT

The MYO/MYA Regional Lenten Retreat day will be on **Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM** at Saint John Paul II Maronite Catholic Church at Immaculate Conception, (199 North Broadway Sleepy Hollow NY 10591). The fee is \$25.00 donation per person. Teens (ages 12-18) and young adults (19-35) from the neighboring Maronite parishes in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania are welcomed to join. If you are interested in participating in this retreat, please notify your MYO advisor or the Church office.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR February 22-23, 2020


<b>Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,152.00</b>
<b>Ash Monday</b>	<b>\$ 406.00</b>
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 68.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 3,126.00</b>

## SEEKING CAREGIVER

Seeking the right person, who is a mature female, to take care of our 92 years old mother, in exchange for free room and board. (South Philadelphia area). Please email to: [ninamontrose.1@gmail.com](mailto:ninamontrose.1@gmail.com) or call 215-462-9669, for details and information. References and background check required.

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Sue Flacco, Joe Maglio, Marie McCrea, Kathy Dale, Donna Maglio, Nicole Giordano, Peter Perri, Neil Bohley Sr., Luke Farrell Jr., Linda DiBernardo, Patty Reynolds, Joan Speck, David Joseph Cook, Eddie Tayoun, Minarva Labbad, Dante Panichi, Dennis Strelchuk, 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, Lucy DiLuce, Cat Niven Glaze, Laurent Chidiac, Tom Hart, John Hart, Fadi Jaber, Joseph Realdine, Emily Stone, Elaine Nader, Eddie Gussin, Lisa Alestra, John Nader, Aminee Skaf, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeyr, Kathy Newman, Rita Arrigale, Maryann Bratton, Renee Sahar, Sister Nahida Al-Sawa, Rose DeJesse, James Cordisio, Stacey Fuentes, Debbie Freedenberg, Noel Andjuhar, Angel Salerno, Dennis McGiney, and Bonnie Sabatini. We ask Almighty



*Save the Date*  
Thursday, October 1, 2020

Join us for the  
*Eleventh Annual Benefit Dinner for  
The Eparchy of Saint Maron*

At The Water Club, New York  
Details to follow



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.

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