



# Saint Maron

## Maronite Catholic Church



March 14-15, 2020

# PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON

## FORTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Today as we celebrate the Sunday of the prodigal son, the passage of the gospel exposes the subject of SIN and MERCY. What is the meaning of Sin how can we understand it? And what kind of injuries can it create in the world and how can we obtain the Mercy of God? The Catechism of the Catholic Church enlightens this subject in clauses 1846-1869.

The clause 1849 describes Sin as an offense against reason, truth, and right conscience; it is failure in genuine love for God and neighbor caused by a perverse attachment to certain goods. It wounds the nature of man and injures human solidarity. It has been defined as "an utterance, a deed, or a desire contrary to the eternal law." Yes, Sin is an offense against God: The bible said "Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight." Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it. Like the first sin, it is disobedience, a revolt against God through the will to become "like gods," knowing and determining good and evil. Sin is thus "love of oneself even to contempt of God." In this proud self-exaltation, sin is diametrically opposed to the obedience of Jesus, which achieves our salvation.

"The Gospel is the revelation in Jesus Christ of God's mercy to sinners. Jesus and only he is God's Mercy to us; the

angel announced to Joseph: "You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." When we celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharist, the sacrament of redemption, we know that Jesus gave us Himself under the two species of bread and wine for the forgiveness of our sins; "This is my blood, the blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins and for eternal life."

The Clause 1848 quotes from St. Paul who affirms that, "Where increased, grace sin abounded all the more." 118 But to do its work grace must uncover sin so as to convert our hearts and bestow on us "righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Conversion requires convincing of sin; it includes the interior judgment of conscience, and this, being a proof of the action of the Spirit of truth in man's inmost being, becomes at the same time the start of a new grant of grace and love: "Receive the Holy Spirit." Where we discover a double gift: the gift of the truth of conscience and the gift of the certainty of redemption.

It is precisely in the Passion, when the mercy of Christ is about to vanquish it, that sin most clearly manifests its violence and its many forms: unbelief, murderous hatred, shunning and mockery ...

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches in Clause, 1852 that there are a great many kinds of sins. Scripture provides several lists of them. The

Letter to the Galatians contrasts the works of the flesh with the fruit of the Spirit: "Now the works of the flesh are plain: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger, selfishness, dissension, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God."

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Together let us pray to the Virgin Mary that she helps us ... to walk in faith and charity, ever trusting in the Lord's mercy; He always awaits us, loves us, has pardoned us with His Blood and pardons us every time we go to Him to ask His forgiveness. Let us trust in His mercy!*

*Pope Francis*



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.

Sins can be distinguished according to their objects, as can every human act; or according to the virtues they oppose, by excess or defect; or according to the commandments they violate. They can also be classed according to whether they concern God, neighbor, or oneself; they can be divided into spiritual and carnal sins, or again as sins in thought, word, deed, or omission. The root of sin is in the heart of man, in his free will, according to the teaching of the Lord: "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a man." 128 But in the heart also resides charity, the source of the good and pure works, which sin wounds. However, the Clause 1854 teaches that Sins are rightly evaluated according to their gravity. The distinction between mortal and venial sin, already evident in Scripture, became part of the tradition of the Church.

Mortal sin destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God's law; it turns man away from God, who is his ultimate end and his beatitude, by preferring an inferior good to him. Venial sin allows charity to subsist, even though it offends and wounds it. Mortal sin requires full knowledge and complete consent. It presupposes knowledge of the sinful character of the act, of its opposition to God's law. It also implies consent sufficiently deliberate to be a personal choice... while to receive the Mercy of God we are called to make a true repentance for all our sins and to believe that only Jesus Christ is the Mercy of God for every man and woman in the world.  
Fr. El-Badaoui Habib

### PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The Parish Council meeting will be **Monday, March 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM**. Please make every effort to attend, inform Fr. Habib if you are unable. Thank you.

### 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 20, @ 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.

### FISH FRY

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

### SAINTS PETER AND PAUL CEMETERY

John Turrline, area director of Catholic Cemeteries, will be at our parish on **Sunday, March 29, 2020** 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.

### MYO SHAANINI CANDLES

Our MYO are decorating Shaanini Candles and they will sell them on **Sunday, March 22, 2020**. Thank you in advance for your continuous support for our MYO.

### PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH

Palm Sunday brunch will be on **April 5**, immediately following Divine Liturgy. Tickets will be on sale beginning Sunday, March 22. Adults are \$15.00 and children 12 and under are \$10.00. There will be a visitor coming to see the children once again. Hope to see you all there.

### WOMEN'S DAY REFLECTION & RETREAT

Saint Anthony Church in Danbury, CT is hosting a women's day reflection and retreat on **Saturday, September 26, 2020**. The guest speakers will be Bishop Gregory Mansour and Mrs. Kathleen Keefe. For more information please contact Saint Anthony's Parish Office at 203-744-3372.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Stations of the Cross**, Friday, March 20, 2020 @ 6:30 PM.
- **Healing Mass**, Sunday, March 22, 2020 @ 11:00AM.
- **Fish Fry**, Friday, March 27, 2020 following Stations of the Cross.
- **Eucharistic Adoration**, Friday, April 3, 2020 @ 9:30AM.
- **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 Good Friday Service @ 7:00 PM.
- **Lebanese Festival**, from Friday, May 29, 2020 to Sunday, May 31, 2020.

## DIVINE LITURGIES

**Saturday, March 14, @ 6:00PM**

**Sunday, March 15, @ 11:00AM** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Stavro Jabra requested by Simon and Zeina Topalian and family. May his soul rest in peace. Also, liturgy is being offered for the souls of Bassam Isawa (1-year anniversary) and Ziad Choli (2-years anniversary) requested by their family. May their souls rest in peace.

**Tuesday, March 17, @ 9:00AM, (Feast of St. Patrick)**

**Wednesday, March 18, @ 6:00PM, (Feast of St. Cyril of Jerusalem)**

**Thursday, March 19, @ 6:00PM (Feast of Pope St. Joseph the Virgin)** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Josephine Rudolph requested by her daughters. May her soul rest in peace.

**Friday, March 20, @ 6:30 PM, STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

**Saturday, March 21, @ 6:00PM** liturgy is being offered for the souls of Matthew Mockewich and Frank Caruso requested by Marlene Mockewich. May their souls rest in peace.

**Sunday, March 22, @ 11:00AM** liturgy is being offered for the soul of Marie Makhlof requested by George Dib and Manal ElHajal and families. May her soul rest in peace.

## 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

On **Friday, April 3, 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.

## 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.

## 2020 NATIONAL MARONITE CONVENTION

St. Anthony of Padua Church in Cincinnati, OH and NAM are preparing for a dynamic and memorable National Maronite Convention on July 8-12, 2020. Registration is now available. All information needed for the convention including registration and hotel is on the website [www.namnews.org](http://www.namnews.org).

## HELP WANTED

Full-time job for a responsible, pleasant, mature woman (age 60+) to be a live-in companion, homemaker, and assistant to my mother who is mobile and mentally alert. This job offers a private room in our home in Philadelphia, PA, meals, and a monthly salary. If you are interested, please call Rita at 215-858-4007.

## 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.

## WEEKLY COLLECTION FOR March 7-8, 2020

<b>Collection</b>	<b>\$ 1,863.00</b>
<b>Bishop's Appeal</b>	<b>\$ 2,578.00</b>
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 4,463.00</b>

## IN OUR PRAYERS

Please keep in your prayers Sue Flacco, Joe Maglio, Marie McCrea, Kathy Dale, Suzanne Haney, 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, Yasmine Myers, Joey Gdowick, Francis Joseph Kerns, Samer Chokeir, 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 God to bless them with good health so that they may join us in the



*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

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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