

"...for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found."



"...لأنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا
كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ،
وَضَائِعًا فَوُجِدَ."

SUNDAY MASSES:

Sun. Mar. 15, Sunday of the Prodigal Son,

✠ 10:00 am Mass in English

✠ 11:30 am For Ben Najem offered by the family.

Sun. Mar. 22, Sunday of the Paralytic,

✠ 10:00 am Mass in English

✠ 11:30 am For Albert Farah offered by his wife Marie Farah & family.

WEEKDAY MASSES: @ 6:00 pm Sat. @ 5:00 pm

Thurs. Mar. 19 Feast of St. Joseph

Fri. Mar. 20 For Youssef Abbas & his wife and deceased children and Elias & Mariam Elachkar Nazir & Bernadette Elachkar & family

Sat. Mar. 21 المشتركون بحسنات السبت

OFFERTORY COLLECTION

Mar. 8 \$ 1125.00

SICKNESS: We pray for the sick in our Parish. God grant them a speedy recovery. Persons unable to attend Mass, please contact your pastor for Holy Communion.

FAREWELL PARTY FOR FR. MAROUN

We will be having a going away party for **Fr. Maroun** on Saturday March 21 at 7 :00 pm. Tickets \$ 15 / person and can be purchased at the door.



Congratulations and best wishes to **Ghada Dakhil** who was married yesterday to **Michael Jacobs**. May God the Father pour His blessings upon you as you start your new life together as husband and wife. Congratulations!

PALM SUNDAY CANDLES

decorated candles **\$10 each**
plain candles **\$7 each**

Please see one of the Ladies Altar Society members

SAINT JOSEPH

When we speak of "those who share the faith of Abraham", one of those on the top tier has to be Joseph. To have staked his marriage, life, and reputation on God's word, even when that word seemed incredible, and to have remained steadfast – makes this man's faith an example to all of us.

Not understanding Mary's pregnancy at first, Joseph decided to divorce her as quietly and kindly as possible. But one message from the Lord was all it took to change his plan. Hoping against hope, like Abraham, Joseph believed what God had told him about Mary's unborn baby. Scripture does not say much except that "When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him". Quietly and simply, he did as instructed. Without a moment's hesitation, he jettisoned his own plans and made himself totally available to God.

Who knows what risks Joseph took by obeying the Lord's word to him? Was he in danger of being disowned by his family? Of being thrown out of the synagogue? Of losing his reputation and business? All were distinct possibilities. Yet, whatever the hurdles, we know Joseph met them with complete reliance on God. This is the kind of life-staking faith that Paul speaks of when he says that we are "justified" by faith. Faith that takes risks and remains steadfast in obedience to the Lord can introduce all of us to new horizons of intimacy with God.

As extraordinary as Joseph's situation was, a faith as strong as his is possible for every believer. Faith is a gift that God is eager to give. By faith, every one of us can imitate Joseph. It is a matter of meeting each daily challenge, whether small or great, with an act of surrender to God. By learning to respond without hesitation to God's word, we can come to the same obedience and trust that were so evident in Joseph.

Easter Flowers

As a way of remembering our loved ones in our thoughts and prayers, we offer the opportunity to donate to the 'flower fund' in their honour to decorate our Church. If interested, please fill out this form and put in a plain envelope along with your donation in the offertory basket by April 5– marked 'Flower Fund'

✂-----

In Memory of _____

Donated by _____

Envelope Number _____ Amount _____

Sunday Readings

٢ قورنثس ١٣/٥-١٣

2Corinthians 13:5-13

Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?--unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray God that you may not do wrong--not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. What we pray for is your improvement. I write this while I am away from you, in order that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority which the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brethren, farewell. Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

إخْتَبِرُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ، هَلْ أَنْتُمْ رَاسِخُونَ فِي الْإِيمَانِ. إِمْتَحِنُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ. أَلَا تَعْرِفُونَ أَنَّ الْمَسِيحَ يَسُوعَ فِيكُمْ؟ إِلا إِذَا كُنْتُمْ مَرْفُوضِينَ! فَارْجُوا أَنْ تَعْرِفُوا أَنَّا نَحْنُ لَسْنَا مَرْفُوضِينَ! وَنُصَلِّي إِلَى اللَّهِ كَيْ لَا تَفْعَلُوا أَيَّ شَرٍّ، لَا لِنُظْهِرَ نَحْنُ مَقْبُولِينَ، بَلْ لِكَيْ تَفْعَلُوا أَنْتُمْ الْخَيْرَ، وَنَكُونَ نَحْنُ كَأَنَّا مَرْفُوضُونَ! فَإِنَّا لَا نَسْتَطِيعُ أَنْ نَفْعَلَ شَيْئًا ضِدَّ الْحَقِّ، بَلْ لِأَجْلِ الْحَقِّ! أَجَلٌ، إِنَّا نَفْرَحُ عِنْدَمَا نَكُونُ نَحْنُ ضَعْفَاءُ، وَتَكُونُونَ أَنْتُمْ أَقْوِيَاءُ. مِنْ أَجْلِ هَذَا أَيْضًا نُصَلِّي لِكَيْ تَكُونُوا كَامِلِينَ. أَكْثَبُ هَذَا وَأَنَا غَائِبٌ، لِئَلَّا أَعَامِلَكُمْ بِقَسَاوَةِ وَأَنَا حَاضِرٌ، بِالسُّلْطَانِ الَّذِي أُعْطِيَانِي إِيَّاهُ الرَّبُّ، لِئِنِّي أَنْتُمْ لَا لِيَهْدِمَكُمْ. وَبَعْدُ، أَيُّهَا الْإِخْوَةَ، افْرَحُوا، وَاسْعُوا إِلَى الْكَمَالِ، وَتَسْتَجِعُوا، وَكُونُوا عَلَى رَأْيِ وَاحِدٍ، وَعَيْشُوا فِي سَلَامٍ، وَاللَّهُ الْمَحَبَّةِ وَالسَّلَامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ! سَلِّمُوا بَعْضَكُمْ عَلَى بَعْضٍ بِقَبْلَةِ مَقْدَسَةٍ. جَمِيعَ الْقَدِيسِينَ يَسَلِّمُونَ عَلَيْكُمْ. نِعْمَةُ الرَّبِّ يَسُوعَ الْمَسِيحِ، وَمَحَبَّةُ اللَّهِ، وَشَرِكَةُ الرُّوحِ الْقُدُسِ مَعَكُمْ أَجْمَعِينَ!

Luke 15:11-32

And he said, "There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants."' And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

لوقا ١٥/١١-٣٢

"كَانَ لِرَجُلٍ ابْنَانِ. فَقَالَ أَصْغَرُهُمَا لِأَبِيهِ: يَا أَبِي، أَعْطِنِي حَصَّتِي مِنَ الْمِيرَاثِ. فَقَسَمَ لَهُمَا ثَرْوَتَهُ. وَبَعْدَ أَيَّامٍ قَلِيلَةٍ، جَمَعَ الْابْنُ الْأَصْغَرَ كُلَّ حَصَّتِهِ، وَسَافَرَ إِلَى بَلَدٍ بَعِيدٍ. وَهُنَاكَ بَدَأَ مَالَهُ فِي حَيَاةِ الطَّيِّشِ. وَلَمَّا أَنْفَقَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ، حَدَثَتْ فِي ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ مَجَاعَةٌ شَدِيدَةٌ، فَبَدَأَ يُحْسِنُ بِالْعُوزِ. فَذَهَبَ وَاجَأَ إِلَى وَاحِدٍ مِنْ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الْبَلَدِ، فَأَرْسَلَهُ إِلَى حُقُولِهِ لِيُرْعَى الْخَنَازِيرَ. وَكَانَ يَشْتَهِي أَنْ يَمْلَأَ جَوْفَهُ مِنَ الْخَرْوَبِ الَّذِي كَانَتْ الْخَنَازِيرُ تَأْكُلُهُ، وَلَا يُعْطِيهِ مِنْهُ أَحَدٌ. فَرَجَعَ إِلَى نَفْسِهِ وَقَالَ: كَمْ مِنَ الْأَجْرَاءِ عِنْدَ أَبِي، يُفْضَلُ الْخَبْزُ عَنْهُمْ، وَأَنَا هَهُنَا أَهْلِكَ جُوعًا! أَقُومُ وَأَمْضِي إِلَى أَبِي وَأَقُولُ لَهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا. فَاجْعَلْنِي كَأَحَدِ أَجْرَائِكَ! فَقَامَ وَجَاءَ إِلَى أَبِيهِ. وَفِيمَا كَانَ لَا يَزَالُ بَعِيدًا، رَأَاهُ أَبُوهُ، فَتَحَنَّنَ عَلَيْهِ، وَأَسْرَعَ فَالْقَى بِنَفْسِهِ عَلَى عُنُقِهِ وَقَبَّلَهُ طَوِيلًا. فَقَالَ لَهُ ابْنُهُ: يَا أَبِي، خَطِئْتُ إِلَى السَّمَاءِ وَأَمَامَكَ. وَلَا أَسْتَحِقُّ بَعْدُ أَنْ أَدْعِيَ لَكَ ابْنًا... فَقَالَ الْأَبُ لِعَبِيدِهِ: أَسْرِعُوا وَأَخْرِجُوا الْحَلَّةَ الْفَاخِرَةَ وَالْبَسُوهُ، وَاجْعَلُوا فِي يَدِهِ خَاتَمًا، وَفِي رِجْلَيْهِ حِذَاءً، وَأَثُوا بِالْعِجْلِ الْمُسَمَّنِ وَادْبَحُوهُ، وَلِنَأْكُلْ وَنَتَنَعَّم! لِأَنَّ ابْنِي هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ. وَبَدَأُوا يَتَنَعَّمُونَ. وَكَانَ ابْنُهُ الْأَكْبَرُ فِي الْحَقْلِ. فَلَمَّا جَاءَ وَاقْتَرَبَ مِنَ الْبَيْتِ، سَمِعَ غِنَاءً وَرَقْصًا. فَدَعَا وَاحِدًا مِنَ الْعِلْمَانَ وَسَأَلَهُ: مَا عَسَى أَنْ يَكُونَ هَذَا؟ فَقَالَ لَهُ: جَاءَ أَخُوكَ، فَذَبَحَ أَبُوكَ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ، لِأَنَّهُ لَقِيَهُ سَالِمًا. فَغَضِبَ وَلَمْ يَرِدْ أَنْ يَدْخُلَ. فَخَرَجَ أَبُوهُ يَتَوَسَّلُ إِلَيْهِ. فَأَجَابَ وَقَالَ لِأَبِيهِ: هَا أَنَا أَخْدُمُكَ كُلَّ هَذِهِ السَّنِينَ، وَلَمْ أَحَافِ لَكَ يَوْمًا أَمْرًا، وَلَمْ تُعْطِنِي مَرَّةً جَدِيًّا، لِأَنَّنِي مَعَ أَصْدِقَائِي. وَلَكِنْ لَمَّا جَاءَ ابْنُكَ هَذَا الَّذِي أَكَلَ ثَرْوَتَكَ مَعَ الزَّوَانِي، ذَبَحْتَ لَهُ الْعِجْلَ الْمُسَمَّنَ! فَقَالَ لَهُ أَبُوهُ: يَا وَلَدِي، أَنْتَ مَعِيَ فِي كُلِّ حِينٍ، وَكُلُّ مَا هُوَ لِي هُوَ لَكَ. وَلَكِنْ كَانَ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ تَتَنَعَّمَ وَتَفْرَحَ، لِأَنَّ أَخَاكَ هَذَا كَانَ مَيِّتًا فَعَاشَ، وَضَائِعًا فُوجِدَ."

Next Sunday

1 Timothy 5:24-6:5 Mark 2:1-12