

OUR SUNDAY BIBLE READINGS

This Sunday highlights the second topic in the Season of the Cross, the expectation of the 2nd Coming of the Lord, through vigilance and spiritual perseverance, unceasingly, and remaining faithful to the service entrusted to us by the Lord, like the faithful and prudent servant!

First Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

The Lord Jesus hadn't been precise about the time of his Coming, but he commanded vigilance, and the Apostle warns those who are awaiting an imminent Coming of the Lord. The Lord's Day comes like a thief, or like labor pains besetting a pregnant woman; but the one who is faithful is awake, a person of the day: one who puts on faith, hope, and charity, and is not overtaken by that surprising day! That one is ready for the Day, and waits with joy for the meeting face to face with Christ. This is a subject of mutual encouragement among the believers!

Gospel: *Matthew 24: 45-51*

In this parable the faithful and prudent servant is the community's leader, whose task is to distribute food. This is the fundamental and the most important thing. This is why he has to do all that the community needs materially and spiritually. This "food" must be a reference to the teaching of the Word and the Eucharist, which are among the most important tasks of Church leaders. If he uses his task and responsibility for his personal interest, and becomes overtaken by his selfishness and neglects the duty of his job, his punishment would be to be cut from the community and assigned to the place where there will be "wailing and grinding of teeth"!

SERVANTS ARE FORTUNATE IF THEIR MASTER COMES AND FINDS THEM DOING THEIR JOB (v. 46)

AND NOW, A WORD FROM THE NEW PRIEST:

Dear Community:

I want to thank you all for the nice welcome you gave me on my first Sunday with you. I also extend my thanks for the welcome you gave to my brother Steve and his wife Josie and her sister Carol. It is good to be here, and I really look forward to serving you in the coming months. We will celebrate some of the most important Feasts of the Church Year together, such as next Christmas, St. Maron's Feast Day, Lent, Hosanna Sunday (Palm Sunday), Easter and possibly Pentecost.

There is a lot to be done. I have seen this already in the first week and a half here. I will try to build on the good work of your previous priests, and hope that the combined efforts will pay off. You have built the material portion (the church), and we have hopes for the property next door (the rectory); but building up the next part—the Church of the people's hearts and minds—is the next task. With your help, and the help of Our Lady, of

St. Maron and of Saints Peter and Paul, our patrons, we can do it!
God bless you!



(over)

A SUMMARY OF WHAT WAS DONE SINCE 1 OCTOBER:

- 1 Moved into rectory and began organizing housekeeping things that had been left undone**
- 2 Reviewed all aspects of the community, people and property, with the good help of Fr. Jorge**
- 3 Had 2 meetings with the Parish Advisory Pastoral Council (PAPC); one to welcome me, and one last Wednesday to review my agenda for future work. Micha will be providing a monthly summary of the Council meeting Minutes from now one for you to review. Agreed to meet monthly from now on the 2nd Tuesday of the month**
- 4 Moved Verizon Internet service to the house, where I intend to set up a study. The “bundling” of services gives us more for our money and costs us about \$40.00 less per month**
- 5 Got cell phone service, paid for by the Community: 813-843-1933**
- 6 Changed signatures on bank accounts**
- 7 Activated a 2nd (of 3) printer/copier/scanner units and installed it in the rectory**
- 8 Visited with our First Communion Class**
- 9 Visited 2 homes**
- 10 Rented a vehicle for a week, until Council and I finish discussions about what we want to do about providing a car for me**
- 11 Began a series of weekly commentaries on the Sunday Bible Readings for the Bulletin**



PROCEEDS FROM THE RECENT FUNDRAISER were good, and were deposited.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1 “Chance” Benefit to be held next Friday, as advertised
- 2 Halloween Party on the 25th (details to come)
- 3 Beginning of New Church Year in November (details to come)
- 4 Rosary Society meets at 7 pm at the Church on 1 November

ANYBODY HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND? Please call the rectory at 813-886-7413 and speak to Father or leave a message.

HELP WITH WEEKLY BULLETIN: Is there anyone who might be interested in helping to compose the weekly bulletin with me? You must have a good grasp of American English and have computer skills, especially with Microsoft Word.