

Please note that these commentaries are for the Bible Readings for next week, the beginning of the Maronite Liturgical Year, known as the Consecration of the Church. They are printed here so that anyone wishing to prepare for next Sunday's Readings and reflect on them during the week may do so.

First Reading: Heb 9:1-12

This New Testament Letter seems strange at first glance, as it is addressed to the "Hebrews." But it is in fact addressed to people who grew up as Jews but were converted to Christianity. Therefore it should not surprise us that the language is that of the Temple in Jerusalem and of Jesus as the "High Priest." The purpose of the whole Letter is to show that whereas God was working through his first Chosen People, the Jews, for many centuries, he chose in time to use the Only Divine Son, Jesus, to fulfill the work God began.

Gospel: Mt 16:13-20

The foundation of the Church on which it firmly stands, is Jesus. He is not only the awaited Messiah; he is in fact the Divine Son of God and Lord of the Universe. He created the Church on the Faith of Peter and the Apostles. Peter is thus called "Rock," and on that Rock of Faith the Church has been not only established but lives on. We who are privilege to be called Believers must live up to the challenge of believing and living according to the Gospel each day. It is fitting, therefore, that our Liturgical Year begins with the dramatic story of Peter's profession of faith.

Peter said: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God"

Cell phones off before you enter church!

OUR CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY was a big success, with about 60 children wearing beautiful and colorful costumes. The weather was perfect, and everybody—children and parents—had a good time visiting with each other. The event also made a profit of \$622.00 clear. This money will be used for the Children's Christmas Party. Our thanks, as always, go to Lina, Leila and Micha (and helpers) for a job well done!

CHURCH PICNIC, 23rd NOVEMBER: Our Church Picnic will be held on this date. Location and details will be announced soon. For questions you may contact our events organizers: Lina Fraifer @ 813-927-1236, Micha Nahhas @ 813-995-9510, or Leila Menassa @ 813-971-5526.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS: Please note that next weekend you must adjust your time pieces to Eastern Standard Time (EST). Please make every effort to adjust to this so that you can arrive at the Church BEFORE 11:30am, so that we can start our worship to God on time.

ANYBODY HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND? Please call Father at 813-886-7413

or leave a message.