

INTENTION(S) FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY (MASS):

Today: (1 February): Repose of Jean Araj, by Family

08 February: Repose of the Father of Georges Houaichane (died in Lebanon), by son George

15 February: Repose of Dany Fares, by Family

PLEASE NOTE: Priests everywhere are grateful for the offerings made to them for praying the Divine Liturgy (Mass). If making out a check, please write it directly to Father's name (listed above). Thank you!

FROM LAST WEEK

PLEASE USE PARISH PHONE NUMBER FIRST: In an effort to keep down the use of precious parish cell phone minutes, you are kindly asked to try the parish phone number first when trying to contact Aboona: 813-886-7413. When he is home, he will answer this number. If he is out, he will have the service forwarded to his cell. Thank you.

HELP WITH ROSTER: We are making progress with updating our parish roster (list), but we still need your help. We still do not have complete information about the names below. Either they have not responded by using the forms; or they have changed data; or they have moved away. If you see your name in the list below, or if anyone has contact information on any of these, kindly contact parishioners Nancy Nichols @ 727-687-2238 or at nlottie@gmail.com; or Amira Ishak @ 813-695-4644 or amira_isaak@yahoo.com, or the parish office @ 813-886-7413 with at least a current home or cell phone number or email **THIS WEEK**. Thank you!-

- 1 Abouchruch, Chaker
- 2 Aboujaoude, Rafic
- 3 Andraos, Elie
- 4 Awad, Jihad
- 5 Ayyoub, Elias
- 6 Bedran, Elie
- 7 Chibani, Saade
- 8 Choefati, Youssef
- 9 Choueifati, Elie
- 10 Daoud, Hanna
- 11 Domeika, Thomas
- 12 Elias, Mike
- 13 Estephan, Wassim
- 14 Faddoul, Chafic
- 15 Farah, Chaker
- 16 Fraifer, Natalie
- 17 Gabriel, Peter
- 18 Gerges, Georgette
- 19 Haddad, Marwan
- 20 Hajje, Elias
- 21 Helou, Bassam
- 22 Kendlaft, Gaby
- 23 Kerbage, Tarek
- 24 Khouri, Badwi
- 25 Khoury, Abdallah
- 26 Kordis, Maya
- 27 Makdessi, Albert

- 28 Mehanna, George
- 29 Moubarak, Kisra
- 30 Najem, Diana
- 31 Nasr, Akram
- 32 Nichols, Paul
- 33 Nichols, Sayed
- 34 Saba, Fadi
- 35 Saba, Walid
- 36 Saidi, Henry
- 37 Saliba, Sharbel
- 38 Salloum, Saba
- 39 Samaha, Steve
- 40 Saydi, Toni
- 41 Seller, Peter
- 42 Seoud, Tony
- 43 Sfeir, Adib
- 44 Sfeir, Edward
- 45 Shamon, Jimmie
- 46 Shidiac, Joe

Shiner, Rona

NEW

SODALITY ROSARY: Saturday, 7 February, at **6:00 pm**. **PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE!**

FATHER MITCH PACWA, S.J. will celebrate the Liturgy next Sunday, 15 February 2009. Fr. Mitch is an expert on the Bible and has a regular program on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN). He also has permission to celebrate the Liturgy of our Maronite Church. He is coming to Tampa to speak at the Jesuit High School. Please pass this word on to all you know will be interested.

PASSED ON TO THE LORD: We mourn the loss of the father of George Houaichane and the mother of Joseph Nahas, both of whom passed away recently overseas. Mat God rest them with the Saints!

CAMECT (Christian Arab and Middle Eastern Churches Together), **Telelumiere-Noursat**, and the **Chaldean Catholic Church** are sponsoring an International Symposium under the theme *Christianity in the Middle East: Ancient Yet Ever New*. It will take place Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22, 2009 in Detroit, Michigan. The Symposium will highlight the contribution Christians make in their culture and society of the Middle East. Presenters include the Papal Representative to the United Nations, the Most Reverend Celestino Migliore, as well as several bishops and experts, among them, Bishop Roland Abou Jaoude, the Maronite Patriarchal Vicar. The Telelumiere Board USA, Canada and Lebanon will also be present. All are invited to this symposium. Please visit the website of CAMECT at www.camect.org for other information.

CARDINAL RIGALI'S WASHINGTON PROLIFE TALK: This was sent by Bishop Gregory to all of our parishes: <http://archphila.org/rigali/cardhom/vigilforlife.htm>. Please download and read!

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: \$2120.00 (includes a generous \$500.00 donation, and 3 calendars sold)

Next Week's Scripture Commentary for the Sunday of the Righteous and Just

After the memorial of deceased bishops and priests, the Church remembers the deceased righteous and just, children and boast of the Church, because they have incarnated the Kingdom in their lives in the most beautiful manner. For this reason, the Church presents them to faithful men and women as living examples and intercessors. These are: Mary, Mother of God; the prophets; apostles; martyrs; confessors; the righteous and just, i.e., saints and chosen ones, “those on his right,” countless crowds of those who have been sanctified in a sphere of love and great effort for the sake of Jesus, Redeemer and Lord.

First Reading: *Hebrews 12:18-24*

This selection summarizes the history of salvation in two phases. The first phase is the Old Testament. Set on Mount Sinai, in a cosmic atmosphere, with terror and trembling, separation and distance from God, with a terrified and trembling intercessor, Moses, and a weak people who do not carry out God’s command. Next, the New Testament, on the Mount of the new and heavenly Jerusalem, in a intimate atmosphere, with a festive assembly and a spiritual communion that is personal and collective, with a new intercessor, Jesus, who assembles all the faithful and unites them to God through blood better than that of Abel the just. He is the premier witness to and martyr of faith, who conquered death by his faithful witness, which, even after his death, is still unshaken and for ever alive. The application to the Righteous and Just is clear and direct in the passage, since it mentions “the Church of the firstborn enrolled in heaven.” In addition, it includes all the faithful saved by the blood of Christ Jesus on earth and heaven, children of the ideal and universal Church, the living and especially the departed.

The Gospel: *Matthew 25:31-46*

This passage is a prophetic description of Judgment Day, particular to Matthew. With it the discourse on the Last Things (that is, at the end of the world) reaches its zenith. Christ is the shepherd, the king, and the judge. He sits on the throne of his glory and judges all people according to the works of mercy that they did or did not perform. All that is done to any person in need is done to Jesus himself! The judgment therefore confirms what people do in this present time, and plants eternity into the middle of time, transforming all human initiatives, no matter how small. Offering a cup of water or not can create decisive history and an eternal choice! The required criteria for those leaving this earthly dimension consist of the six humanitarian initiatives: feeding the hungry, giving the thirsty to drink, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, and visiting the ill and the one who is in prison. Our attitude determines both our judgment’s sentence and worthiness to mingle in the assembly of Righteous and Just.

Lord, help us through the prayers of your Saints, especially the Lady Mary!