

# Sts. Peter and Paul Maronite Catholic Church, Tampa, Florida

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Fr. Anthony J. Salim, Administrator

## SUNDAY OF HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

Today's Bible Readings: 2 Cor 7:4-11; Lk 8:40-56

8 March 2009

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

**Today, 08 March:** Repose of Antoine Elias Yazbek (1<sup>st</sup> Cousin of Naji Adwan and died in Lebanon), Mr./Mrs. Naji Adwan

**Sunday, 15 March:** Repose of Adele Ferzli, Mother of our parish account, George Ferzli, by Son George and his wife Elham. Adele died in Lebanon.



**Lent, 2009: Reflect, Repent, Renew, Revive, Rejoice**

### FROM LAST WEEK

**FRIDAY DEVOTIONS:** In response to several people who like to attend our Friday Services, we will pray the Western-rite Stations of the Cross, followed by the Maronite Veneration of the Cross



**BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL:** You know that each year our bishop asks all the Communities of our Eparchy to assist him in the work of the Eparchy. This year he is asking us for \$500.00. I hope that we can indeed meet this goal, and not have to dip into our savings. Sayedna's letter is inserted into this Bulletin.

### NEW

**LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION:** \$1705.00

**FATHER AWAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH TO 1 APRIL:** You are reminded that Father will be on a biblical study tour in Egypt for two weeks, beginning 17<sup>th</sup> March. One of the priests from St. Lawrence Church will cover on Sunday, 22 March; and Fr. Jorge Perales will cover Stations of the Cross on Friday, 27 March, and Divine Liturgy (the Mass) on Sunday, 29 March. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be **NO STATIONS of the CROSS on Friday, 20 March—no one was available for this date.**

### Next Week's Scripture Commentary for the SUNDAY OF PRODIGAL SON

This Sunday is the only one, among all other Sundays of Lent, that does not remind us of a miracle Jesus did. Rather it is a parable, the parable of the Prodigal Son. It is the climax of the first three weeks of Lent, a cycle that focuses on practicing repentance through fast, vigilance, prayer, almsgiving and charity. It is also the middle of Great Lent at the same time. God our Heavenly Father doesn't want anything on earth except our conversion to him and our eternal salvation with him!

**First Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:5-13**

In this selection, the Apostle urges the faithful to examine themselves to see whether they are firm in the faith in Jesus Christ, so that they won't be rejected, unaccepted, and fail the test! The Apostle Paul is more like the father in the parable of the prodigal son, because he doesn't want anything other than the good of his faithful children, especially during their absence from him. Our Father also desires that his children will live in love and peace, and strive to the perfect participation in the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

**Gospel: Luke 15:11-32**

After the parable of the lost sheep and the parable of the lost coin, Luke is the only one to mention the parable of the lost son. These three parables are the response of Jesus to the complaints of the Pharisees and scribes about him, because he was welcoming the sinners and eating with them. The younger son takes his share of his father's estate and sets off for a distant country, away from the sight of his father and brother. There, he squanders all his money and becomes a hungry hired worker, unclean among the swine. Coming to his senses and discovering his sin, he decides to go back to his father, full of regret and asking for pardon. His father restores to him his perfect status as a son: This is the meaning of the finest robe, the ring, and sandals, and slaughtering the fattened calf. This is how God treats every sinner who repents! The older son refuses to enter the house and participate in the joy of the father, so his father must come out, plead with him to come in, and he listens to all his objections about his brother. Despite the words of the other son, the father insists that the older come in and accept his brother; otherwise he too will lose his true status as a son! This is also how God treats every human who considers himself or herself righteous before God, who, the Pharisees and scribes, refuses the repentance of his sinful sibling.

**LITURGICAL NOTE**

**This healing story in the Maronite Lenten Cycle is the only one that does not involve a physical healing, yet it is a significant healing nonetheless. It is certainly reflected in the *qolo* (hymn) that is chanted by us during this Lenten Season: "I Yearn for Your Pardon, O Lord." The ancients saw a more intimate connection between spiritual healing and physical cures. That is why this famous story, found only in the Gospel of Luke, is so central to our Lenten reflections.**

**In addition to the individual healing that comes about in the younger son we see the true COMMUNITY DIMENSION as the son is restored to his rightful position in the household, something he had lost by his irresponsible activity while away from home. For us today this means that even when our relationship to the people in the Church is ruptured, Christ can heal that breach, thus making us whole again.**