

Please note that these commentaries are for the Bible Readings for NEXT WEEK, the Sunday of the Annunciation to Zechariah. 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.

Our Maronite Church worldwide formally begins the preparation for the Celebration of the Birth of Jesus the Messiah (in six Sundays) with this weekend's commemoration of the story of the angel and Zechariah. During these six week's let us pay attention to how God worked in the lives of faith-filled people, and their response to the Divine.

First Reading: Rom 4:13-25

This famous Reading from Paul speaks of several important themes. Two of these are 1) faith as central to the life of the a believer in God, particularly in the idea of God that Jesus revealed; and 2) the analogy (example, "type") Paul draws between the miracle of having a child in Abraham's and Sarah's old age and the same in the lives of Zechariah and Elizabeth.

Gospel: Lk 1:1-25

Doubt has long played a part in the faith response to God. On the pre-Christmas Sunday of the Revelation to Zechariah—the husband of Elizabeth the kinswoman of Mary—we see Zechariah standing before the high altar of God and doubting the angel-messenger's message to him. Zechariah's "punishment"— being mute—is only temporary, until God's message would finally be revealed through the birth of his and Elizabeth's son, John the "Forerunner."

NEW:

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (PAPC): 11 November, 7:00 p.m.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: \$1,387.00. We now need about \$2100.00 each week to pay our bills. Can you give more EACH WEEK to support our parish? Hint: If you only give \$1.00 in the collection, ask yourself what \$1.00 will buy today.

LITURGY (MASS) FOR THE REPOSE OF PIERRE GEMAYEL: will be prayed on Sunday, 23 November. May God rest him with the Saints!

FROM LAST WEEK:

CHURCH PICNIC, 23rd NOVEMBER (3RD Annoucement): Our Church Picnic will be held on the grounds in front of the parish house, immediately after the Divine Liturgy (Mass). This will be a covered-dish picnic; however, **meat and drinks will be provided by the parish. These will include chicken, hamburgers and hot dogs. You may bring and share whatever you like.** As in previous years, **donations will be accepted to cover the costs of the picnic and to raise money for our Church.** Also, a sign-up sheet will be distributed for items you can donate to the picnic. Lina Fraifer will prepare a flyer for this event. For questions you may contact: Lina Fraifer @ 813-927-1236, Micha Nahhas @ 813-995-9510, or Leila Menassa @ 813-971-5526.

NEW CAR (2ND Announcement): Our Community has purchased a new car for the use of the Parish Priest. It is a 1999 Lincoln Town Car (Executive Series). It is in excellent shape; had only one owner and has only 56,000 miles on it. We paid only \$5,343.00 for this car, which included tags, registration and delivery fees. We had the money in our savings to make the purchase outright. To complete the deal, we had to purchase auto insurance, of course. This was done from Geico.

CONTINUING RECTORY ORGANIZATION (2ND Announcement): Last Tuesday Lina Fraifer helped Father sort out items that had been left in the rectory from a rummage sale that was held before Father Anthony arrived. These were all donated things that were not sold, and most of them were inexpensive toys for children. These made good donations to Good Will; and Father took them there this week. The reason for this was to make space in that room of the rectory for Father to set up a study (office). A BIG thanks to Lina, who, along with others, is always willing to work hard for this Community!

GIVEAWAY ITEMS (2ND Announcement): There were some items from the rummage sale which are perfectly good and may possibly be used by anyone who is interested in them. They are stored in the rectory, and if you are interested in any of the items, give Father a call. He will keep these items for three weeks, after which they also will find their way to Good Will. **REVISED LIST:**

- 1 One pair of men's large sized slippers
- 2 Two brackets for hanging
- 3 A solid brass soap dish
- 4 Super laser link IR device

WATER DISPENSER IN KITCHEN AREA OF THE CHURCH (2nd Announcement): The water dispenser has not been in use recently. We are grateful to parishioners who usually replace the water containers for us. However, Father himself investigated how this was to be done and replaced the water dispensers himself, because he wanted to learn the process of what needed to be done. Between him and others, we hope that we can continue to offer water for parishioner use. **YOU ARE ASKED TO USE THE PAPER CUPS PROVIDED ON THE TOP OF THE DISPENSER AND TO BE CAREFUL IN USING WATER AT A MINIMUM.**

ANYBODY HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND? Please call Father at 813-886-7413 or leave a message.

Yesterday is history,
Tomorrow is a mystery,
Today is a gift.
That's why it's called: The Present.