

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

Today: Repose of Jean D'Arc Nahas, By Nahas Family

Sunday, 08 March: Repose of Antoine Elias Yazbek (1st 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



HOUSE CLEANING, CHURCH CLEANING: Just as your own homes need regular cleaning, so God's House and the priest's house. Would you consider making an contribution of \$50.00 once a month **OVER AND ABOVE YOUR WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION** to pay a cleaning lady for 5 hours of work? Your contribution would be very much appreciated!

SACRAMENTAL REGISTER UPDATED: For the last week or so Father has been seeing to it that the book (register) in which the Holy Mysteries ("Sacraments") was complete. There were some gaps in the record, and two couples had not received certificates of Baptism and Chrismation. These were sent. Also, the Index in the front of the register was updated. Usually a parish secretary would do these tasks.

NEW

PARISH ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAPC) ELECTIONS NEXT WEEK: Please note that next week we will hold our annual elections for people you think best to advise the Priest on Community matters. The goal will be to retain a couple of members from the current Council, to insure continuity; to elect a certain number, and Father will appoint the balance—to make a total of seven (7) members. All of this is done according to the Guidelines set by the Bishop's Office.

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.

MONEY MATTERS . . .

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.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION: \$982.93

YOUR PRESENCE IS MISSED AT WEEKLY LITURGY! YOUR SUPPORT IS ALSO MISSED. IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN WITH US FOR ONE OR TWO WEEKS CAN YOU MAKE UP YOUR WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION? IT TRULY HELPS! MAY GOD BLESS YOU.

THINK ABOUT THIS QUOTE from the author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren:

God wants us to practice on earth what we will do forever in eternity.

Next Week's Scripture Commentary for the SUNDAY OF THE HEMORRHAGING WOMAN

On this Sunday, the Church reminds us of the healing of a woman with a hemorrhage and teaches us that faith is the entrance to a true Christian life: that the woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years has believed and has been healed by touching Jesus' cloak because his wonderful power brought back to her strength and life, and she became the model of a faithful person assured of salvation.

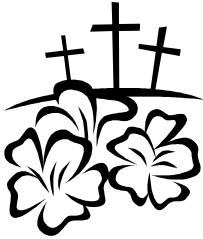
First Reading: 2 Corinthians 7:4-11

This selection expresses the joy of St. Paul and his great encouragement by the arrival of Titus carrying good news from the faithful ones in Corinth, who repented after reading the severe letter that Paul had sent to them. They have opened their hearts to grace and come back to their normal relationship with Paul, after they had been locked up in the darkness of their arrogance and selfishness and after they had rejected both Paul and the Gospel. The application is clear to the situation of the hemorrhaging woman. She had been confined to her house by the Law of Moses. She was rejected by the Law, being viewed as unclean and sinful, and prevented from mingling with the community of the people of God! How great her joy when the Lord healed her, exalted her faith and praised her in front of the entire crowd!

The Gospel: Luke 8:40-56

This Sunday's Gospel selection of the healing of the hemorrhaging woman, after the story of the healing of the leper last Sunday, is probably based on the fact that leprosy in the flesh and hemorrhage in the blood are both viewed according to the Law as physical and spiritual diseases. A skin disease like leprosy was a contagious disease that prevented the afflicted person from mingling with people. Both diseases are symbolic of a sinful and weak humanity, heading toward death and perdition. Comparing the two healings shows that Jesus alone has the absolute authority to heal a human being, made of flesh and blood, whatever the disease is! The healings occurred when Jesus touched the leper and when the hemorrhaging woman touched the tassel of Jesus' cloak. This is also a reference to the Holy Mysteries, which have simultaneously a concrete aspect and a

spiritual, hidden, purifying and sanctifying power.



LITURGICAL COMMENTARY: This Gospel is interesting both in itself and as it used by the Maronite Sunday Lenten Cycle. In itself we are presented with a double miracle story, the cures of two females, one old and one young. They represent two aspects of the Paschal Mystery in this way: As Jesus causes the old woman's blood flow to cease, it won't be long before he sheds his own blood on the Cross and dies. As he raises the young girl to life, to the amazement and happiness of her parents, he will also be raised from the dead, to the amazement and joy of his new family of faithful brothers and sisters in the Faith. We admire the wisdom of our Maronite ancestors who placed this completely appropriate and inspiring Gospel into Lent.