



March 21th, 2010

502 Seminole Avenue, NE, Atlanta, GA 30307-1418

Rectory: (404)525-2504; Fax : (404) 524-8572

Parish Emergency:

Phone: (202) 829-4779

E-Mail : sjmcc@sjmcc.org ; Web Site: www.sjmcc.org

Father Dominique Hanna, Administrator

Sunday of the Healing of the Blind Man

Abouna Dominique's Corner: Patriarchal Letter

On the Occasion of the 1600th Jubilee of the Passing of Saint Maron (5)

The Lebanese land is “a heritage through which the historical Maronite identity was constituted,” and whatever they do in the world, Maronites remain in need of the land that incarnates their own identity and keeps them attached to their admirable history, the history of holiness, a struggle to survive, and bearing witness to faith and human values. Maronite history has been attached to Lebanon as a land and as a state, the land that takes its worth from its experienced values and civilized existence. The name of Lebanon was tied to the Maronites as “an integral part of its historical and political being; and wherever the Maronite moved, settled, and interacted within new countries, they never forgot the land of origin, the land of Lebanon, which remains in their conscience the land of their ancestors and saints and the symbol of their unity, the Patriarchate.” Also, “preserving the land means safeguarding the identity, and safeguarding the identity means preserving entity and insuring perpetuity.”

The *Apostolic Exhortation for Lebanon* describes Lebanon as the “cradle of a great culture, one of the lighthouses of the Mediterranean; none could ignore the name of Byblos to indicate the beginnings of the alphabet.” In Lebanon Christianity became “an essential element in the culture of the region, and its diverse communities have become a fortune of singularity, and yet at the same time, an obstacle. Nonetheless, its renewal is a common task.”

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DIVINE LITURGIES FOR

Requested by

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2010

5:00 PM James Eric Harman

Readings: 2 Corinthians 10: 1-7 & Mark 10: 46-52

Bob & Ann Hartle

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2010

9:00 AM Elizabeth Rumanes

11:00 AM Malake Bulbekian

Readings: 2 Corinthians 10: 1-7 & Mark 10: 46-52

Mr. & Mrs. Tony Chebib & Family

Remy Bulbekian

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010

5:00 PM For Intentions of the Children of Saint Joseph

Readings: 1 Philemon 1: 1-13 & John 12: 12-22 Palm Sunday)

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010

9:00 AM For Intentions of the Children of Saint Joseph

11:00 AM For Intentions of the Children of Saint Joseph

Readings: 1 Philemon 1: 1-13 & John 12: 12-22 Palm Sunday)

Abouna Dominique's Corner

Christians in general and Maronites specifically have worked to realize two correlative objectives throughout their history:

- establishing Lebanon the state and the entity, safeguarding her, and confirming her perpetuity;
- confirming their Christian presence in Lebanon and playing a major and efficient role within Lebanese society.

As long as the nation has two dimensions, *presence in space* and *continuity in time*, her land is “a mother, who rich or poor, has to be loved.” This is the nurturing land which stores treasures of history after having witnessed historical events, accompanied generations, impressed all who were born in her and embraced them in their old age, so that the successor can tell the predecessor the history he accomplished in his life. Therefore “those who abandon their land by selling it, especially to non Lebanese, abuse the purity of their country and particularly of those who are resting in its earth awaiting the hope of a happy resurrection.”

In spite of our attachment to Lebanon, the holy land and the symbol of Maronite history, Lebanon, who confirms this and justifies it religiously, philosophically, and historically, remains after all “a Pact for a Mission.”

“Lebanon has no right to exist haphazardly, she either has a mission for humanity in the East and the world or she ceases to exist.” This is her historical calling, and that is the meaning of what his Holiness Pope John Paul II described when he said that “Lebanon is more than a country, it is a mission”.

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RELIGIOUS CLASSES

On Sunday @ 9:50 am

COMMUNION CALLS

For Hospitalized, shut-in or suffering from a long illness.
Call the Priest.

ANOINTING

Contact the Priest for the Sacrament of the Sick.

BAPTISM

Baptism & Confirmation arrangements must be made six weeks in advance.

CROWNING

Marriage arrangements must be made at least six months in advance. Bride or groom must be a registered member of the parish. Call the Priest.

HOLY ORDERS

If you would like to serve God by preaching the Word of God, by celebrating the Sacraments and by serving those in need, you may have a vocation to the priesthood. Why not speak to a priest today or contact the Vocations Office @ 404-525-2504

Miscellaneous Events & Announcements

Welcoming Deacon Vincent Farhat: This weekend starting Friday 19th, Deacon Vincent Farhat of Our Lady of Lebanon Seminary will be with us. He will preach on Friday and Sunday on his journey of discernment that led him to enter the seminary.

Altar Servers Holy Week and Easter Training: This Saturday March 20th, the altar servers will meet at the Church at 11:00 am in preparation for Holy Week celebration. All boys who have received their First Communion are welcome to attend.

Stations of and Benediction with the Cross: Every Friday of Lent @ 7:30 pm, Saint Joseph will pray the Stations of the Cross with the Benediction. The service will be followed by a Lenten Supper.

MYO Church Cleaning-up Day: The MYO will be having a church clean up day on this Saturday, March 20th starting at 9:00 AM. All MYO members are expected to participate for service hours. Participation also counts towards eligibility for going to the MYO Retreat. Each member needs to bring a yard tool (rake, broom, etc.) and work gloves. Wheel barrows are also needed. Parents are also encouraged to participate by supervising and helping with some of the chores. Let's all help to get our church ready for Palm Sunday and Easter by working together. Lunch will be provided.

Bishop's Appeal 2010: A second collection will be taken every Sunday during the Season of the Great Lent until Sunday, April 4th. This Collection is for the Eparchial Charities Appeal which is divided as follows: 30% priests' retirement fund, 25% seminary, 15% endowment fund, 15% Patriarchal liturgical commission & texts, 15% Lebanon. Our goal is to raise \$ 3000.00. Until now we have collected \$ 1695.00, so we still need \$ 1305.00. We thank you for generosity and financial support.

Helping Haiti: The Maronite Youth Organization clothing drive to assist the children of Haiti ends this Saturday, March 20th.

Bake Sale: The Ladies Altar and Rosary Society of St Joseph will hold their spring bake sale on Palm Sunday March 28th from 10 am to 2 pm. Please plan on getting your traditional Easter goodies like pistachios, walnuts and date maamool, and much more other wonderful delights prepared by our own folks. There will also be zaatar and meat pies available to be purchased for breakfast on that day. This is the ladies first fundraiser of the year, please be supportive for the benefit of St Joseph Church.

Easter Egg Hunt: Saint Joseph Maronite Church will hold it is annual Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday March 4th after the 11:00 am liturgy. We are in need of bags of candies to fill up more than 2000 plastic eggs. For donations please see Dany Dagher or Father Dominique.

Congratulations

The Parish family of St. Joseph would like to welcome into the Church Roman Paul Zogby who was baptized Sunday, February 7th, 2010. Baby Roman surrounded by family and friends received the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. May the presence of Christ and the Holy Spirit in Roman Paul's life enable him to lead an Holy Catholic life protecting him from all harm.



BISHOP'S APPEAL	
COLLECTIONS:	
February 21	\$ 459.00
February 28	\$ 494.00
March 7	\$ 487.00
March 14	\$ 255.00
March 21	
March 28	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 1695.00
OUR GOAL	(\$ 3000.00)

During these difficult economic times, Fr. Dominique would like to thank you for your generosity and continuous dedication to Saint Joseph. May God reward you hundredfold.



- For our military; that the Lord may give them strength and courage. May the Lord help them protect and defend the rights of the innocent. Watch over their loved ones while they are far from home. When they are in harm's way, protect them from injury; We pray to the Lord.
 - That we might put our faith in the Lord when we ourselves or family members are confronted with an unexpected pregnancy; We pray to the Lord.
 - That this church community may not judge women who have had abortions but rather encourage to seek forgiveness and healing ; We pray to the Lord.
 - That we may live out our vocation to be ambassadors for Christ by spreading the message that each human life is sacred; We pray to the Lord.
 - For the sick, the suffering and the elderly of our community, especially **Eva Solomon, Almas Tanory, Francois Khalil, Tony Rouhanan, Jeff Faded, Josphine Dahdah**, We pray to the Lord.
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